

# CHAPTER 06

## 1900 – 1909

<u>Category Heading:</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>Demographics</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Corporate Businesses</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Bios of Notable Citizens</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Chinese Notable Citizens</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Japanese Notable Citizens</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>1906 Earthquake</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Ducks</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Alvarado Grammar School</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Social, Civic, &amp; Religious Orgs</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Memorable Events</b>	<b>76</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

\* **DEMOGRAPHICS** \*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Introduction / 1860 Table / 1870 Table / 1880 Table / 1890 Does Not Exist / 1900 Table*

### **Introduction:**

We have reached a point where it is time to pause and take a look back. The year 1900 marks the 50-year anniversary of the founding of Union City, and the 49<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of New Haven/Alvarado. The first fifty years saw that the people from the northern European countries, the British Isles, and Americans from the east that were generally the most successful and powerful families of the town of Alvarado. This included foreigners from northern Europe (Germany, Scandinavia, Britain, Canada and Northern Ireland). Many of the early influencers of Alvarado were from the Midwest and Eastern U.S., but most were of British, Northern Irish, and northern Europe descent.

Most of the northern Europeans were represented by two Protestant faiths in Alvarado, the Methodists, and the Presbyterians, each of which opened their churches in Alvarado by 1860. The Catholics opened their church in 1863, and they were represented by the Mexican, Republican Irish, Portuguese, and eventually, those immigrants from southern Europe. Early on there was a Mormon influence brought on by the evangelism of John Horner, but that slowly faded away as John Horner became less of an influence in Union City.

The first year Alvarado was included in the U.S. census was the year 1860. The 1860 census was a pretty crude affair. The census did not include a category for the relationship of the persons living in the same household to the head of the household. This meant that sometimes you had to use your best judgment, or go forward to 1880, where you would hopefully find the relationships in a household (for

example the usual relationship in a household is the head, then the wife, son, daughter, father, mother, in-laws, or maybe even a domestic servant or hired hand).

Another problem in the 1860 census was the nativity of the person enumerated, and the nativity of that person's parents. The nativity of the person enumerated is plainly stated in the 1860 census, but his or her parent's nativity is not stated. Therefore you do not know if the person is of German heritage, Nordic heritage, etc.

This same problem existed in 1870, there was no explanation of the relationships of persons included in a household, and there was no nativity of the parent's of the person enumerated. So for the first two censuses, it was difficult to assign a person's heritage with the information given.

To determine a person's descent, or heritage, I used the following format:

- 1)** A person is foreign born if they, or their mother or father, were foreign born. That means that I treated the first generation children of foreign born parents in the U.S. as a person of foreign descent. If the person being enumerated was born in the U.S., then the country of origin of this person is the country in which the parents were born. If both parents of a person were born in the U.S., then the person is of U.S. (American) descent.
- 2)** Persons who are born in the U.S. of foreign parents, with a mother and father both foreign born, but of different countries, the person's descent goes to the country of the father.
- 3)** If one parent is U.S. born, and the other foreign born, then the descent is that of the country of the parent that was foreign born.
- 4)** A person whose parents were both born in the U.S. is considered to be of U.S. descent.

Below is a table of persons in the Alvarado Census of 1860, and their birth origin. The background of early Alvarado citizens was made up from persons from Canada, Britain, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, and Scandinavia. Those born in the U.S. from two American parents numbered roughly about 50%.

### **1860 Table**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PCT.</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>9.3%</b>
<b>Holland</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
<b>Norway</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>Portugal/Azores</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>49.0%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The 1860 Census listed only the country of birth and did not include the parents' country of birth, as would happen in later Censuses. In this case I had to interpolate the children of foreign born. Because of this the U.S. born of U.S. parentage is much higher than it should have been.

The large landowners in Washington Township at this time were the recipients of the large Mexican land grants, with one exception; that particular land grant which came to be known as "The ex-Mission Land Grant." This was a 30,000-acre land grant in the middle of Washington Township, made up of some of the finest farmland in Southern Alameda County (and the state of California). This land was stripped from the Mission San Jose by the legislature for the last minute transfer of title just before the treaty that ended Mexican-American War.

The ex-Mission lands were the first to be opened for settlement due to their dubious title. Elias Beard and John Horner, farmed a majority of the 30,000 acres of the ex-Mission lands. In Alvarado the land south of the Alameda Creek to the Sanjon de los Alisos (roughly running through Cabrillo Park) was owned by Tomas Pacheco and Augustin Alviso. The land north of the Alameda Creek was part of the Arroyo de la Alameda land grant given to Jose de Jesus Vallejo.

Most of the early names of the Alvarado pioneers were of English, German, Scandinavian, Mexican and Irish extraction. Those from Ireland were split between the Irish Republic (Catholic), and Northern Ireland (largely Protestant).

The majority of the wealth held in early Alvarado (other than Mexican Land Grantees) was among the people of northern Europe and Canada. The Irish Catholics were coming to the U.S. in great waves to escape the great potato famine of the late 1840's and early 1850's, and they subsisted in the U.S. as common laborers for the men and domestics for the women.

### **1870 Table**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PCT.</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>11.5%</b>
<b>Holland</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>Norway</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Portugal/Azores</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>16.2%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>27.3%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

They came for the gold rush, especially those from the east coast. Most were of modest education, with an occasional college educated professional. Most had caught the gleam of gold in their eye. But they soon learned that the big finds had already played out, or the land was already claimed. So, many drifted from the gold fields to become shopkeepers, tillers of the soil, and entrepreneurs, using what wealth they had in their pockets to buy tracts of raw farmland.

The 1870 Alvarado area census grew by 228 people in the decade of the 1860's; 229 of these came from the Chinese and the Portuguese. From 1 person in the 1860 Census, the combined population of Portuguese and Chinese grew to over 31% of Alvarado's population by 1870.

The most difficult situation Alvaradan's faced was the sudden influx of non-whites from the orient. Their foreign culture, and their willingness to work for less money than the Portuguese and Irish laborers disturbed the locals.

The early Portuguese came to the Bay Area from whaling ships, as there was a large Portuguese presence on the East Coast in the whaling areas. From here they settled in the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), and then the Bay Area. The earliest jumped whaling ships to locate here. Like the Irish Catholics, who were barely subsisting in their native land, they were undereducated (especially those from the Azores), where times were hard.

Likewise the Chinese were also undereducated, and worked for the lowest wages of the three classes mentioned here. For the large farmers, the salt industry, and the beet sugar industry, these people supplied a ready and willing workforce and were welcomed by the enterprises that required an unskilled and a less educated workforce.

### **1880 Table**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PCT.</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>Chile</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>25.3%</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Holland</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Norway</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Portugal/Azores</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>30.7%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>14.6%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The 1880 Census was the first census to show the nativity of the father and mother of the person being enumerated. This makes the 1880 census the first Census that is accurate as to the descent of nationalities.

Again, the Chinese and Portuguese led the town in population growth. The Chinese and Portuguese population grew from 31% of the population in 1870, to 56% of the population in 1880. All other nationalities remained rather constant.

There was also, at this time, a fully formed Chinese enclave that existed within the town of Alvarado, between the Catholic Church and the Grammar School on the north side of Smith Street. The section was lined with a number of small Chinese shops that catered to the Chinese population of the outlying areas. Among the number of Chinese that lived within Alvarado were merchants, restaurateurs, gambling parlors, there were a few houses of ill repute, and probably some opium dens as well. The bulk of the Chinese lived in the outlying areas near the salt flats, where they worked for the salt companies, or they lived near the farms where they were employed.

The Portuguese were the largest single nationality in Alvarado. They continued to arrive in Alvarado, most with not much more than the clothes on their back. They were a thrifty lot, working for wages, and saving every penny they could.

By the 1880's, 48 of the Portuguese about Alvarado were able to buy a farm of their own. It was said by the large landowners who sold small farm lots in Washington Township that they would rather have seen a Portuguese approach them with money in hand to buy land, than have a railroad go past their front door, as many of the immigrant Portuguese overpaid for their land.

### **1890 Table:**

No copies of the 1890 Census exist as a fire destroyed all copies.

### **1900 Table:**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct.</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Norway</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Portugal/Azores</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>40.0%</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Swiss</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>15.2%</b>
	<b>1,832</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The 1900 Census for Alvarado jumps up to 1,832 persons from 1,031 the decade before. The number in the 1910 Census drops down to 1,214 persons. The reason for this is that in the 1880 Census there were only 5 Enumeration Districts covering the eight towns in Washington Township. So outlying parts of Newark, Centerville, Alviso, and parts of Decoto were also included with Alvarado in 1900. In 1910 several more enumeration districts were added to bring towns closer in line with the school districts.

In the 1900 Census the first thing that jumps out at you is that 40% of the Alvarado Census population were immigrants from Portugal/Azores, or were first generation children of immigrants from Portugal/Azores.

Although the Portuguese were the largest single bloc of immigrants, they were the part of Alvarado that came here with little or no wealth, and little in the way of education, especially those from the Azores. As a political force or civic force they had little influence, except for the purchasing power their base provided. The initial priority of the Portuguese was to build a stable home life for their families.

In the census year 1900 two Asian blocs of immigrants were going in different directions. One was losing its presence, and the other showed up for the first time in our census. The Chinese population had dropped from 261 persons in 1880, to 157 persons in the 1900 Census. The Chinese population would continue to dwindle in the twentieth century until 1940, (the last U.S. Census released), when the census showed a mere 12 Chinese living in the Alvarado Census area.

However, as you peruse the business section of Alvarado you will notice that there is a large Chinese merchant section on Alvarado's north side of Smith Street. While the Chinese national laborers began to dwindle away, the Chinese merchants and resort section of Chinatown stayed strong. It was the Chinese laborers that melted away, as first started by the Alvarado sugar mill that stopped employing Chinese laborers in the 1890's.

The newcomers to Alvarado during this Census were the Japanese, who numbered 169 persons in 1900, up from zero in 1880. The Japanese would continue to increase in population during the twentieth century, seemingly taking the place of the Chinese who began to leave Alvarado.

The family names of the early Alvarado pioneers that continued to hold considerable influence in Alvarado at the beginning of the twentieth century were:

August May, Jr.	F.B. Granger Family	Harvey Family
McKeown Family	Patterson Family	Whipple Family
Edwin Hawley	Charles Nauert	William Jung
Hellwig Family	Daniel Jackson	Fred Wiegman
Emery Family	Ralph Family	Farley Family
E. A. Richmond, Sr.		

About this time, the Dyer family began to lose influence in Alvarado. The sugar mill was sold to the Alameda Sugar Co., and Eb Dyer for the first time did not own stock in the Alvarado mill. Eb H. Dyer, and his nephew H.P. Dyer, went into the business of constructing sugar mills. They opened a corporate office in Cleveland Ohio, under the management of H.P. Dyer; and Eb Dyer maintained his own office in his Alvarado home. Ephraim Dyer had moved out towards Livermore. E.H. Dyer would design and

build sugar factories throughout the U.S., based on their model that they had perfected in Alvarado.

Several Portuguese beneficial and social societies had been founded in Alvarado. These societies brought together the Portuguese population of Alvarado, which began to coalesce into an economic, political, and social force in the town of Alvarado in the decades to come.

These Portuguese societies would bring the Portuguese community together. It was in the participation of these Portuguese benevolent societies, and the Catholic Church, which united the Portuguese people of Alvarado, as well as those in the East Bay. But this was still in its infancy at this time in Alvarado, and would really grow with the building of the new Catholic Church in 1926.

The political power (what little there was in Alvarado) was kept by wealthier families mentioned above. The county had a supervisory panel that distributed taxpayer money to the unincorporated areas, and for this the Alameda County Board of Supervisors relied upon the input from key members of the community and input from the various Chambers of Commerce, although any citizen of the county could petition the board as an individual.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **CORPORATE BUSINESSES** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

*Sugar Mill / Salt Industry / Geo. Tay Stove Foundry / Bank of Alvarado*

**SUGAR MILL:**

The Alameda Sugar Co. started the new millennium with eyes to further expand outside of Washington Township and southern Alameda County. During the past decade the mill at Alvarado had expanded into Pleasanton and Livermore, but now the sugar mill was looking to expand into Stanislaus County, and the counties around the Sacramento Delta. The plant had recently doubled its capacity and was looking to expand to keep its mill running at full capacity.

The sugar mill kicked off its 1900 campaign on Monday, August 27th. The mill prepared for a big crop by adding to its shed and warehouse rooms, and making other necessary improvements that required a force of carpenters to work all summer long to complete. A cattle shed 350 feet long, which accommodated 200 head of cattle was built.

The 1901 campaign saw the beets from Tehama County (about 35 miles SW of Red Bluff) come in first on August 8th. A large number of men and teams were employed for two or three months gathering, hauling, and loading them on cars for shipment to the factory at Alvarado. The crop was estimated at 15,000 tons, and the farmers shipped about 10 carloads of beets daily. This was followed two weeks later by the beets from Pleasanton. There was an enormous amount of beets from Pleasanton, and it was expected that it would run through the holidays, which would be the largest run in years. When the sugar mill completed the season's run it proved to be one of the best it had ever had.

During 1902, the season ran until late January, used about 67,000 tons of sugar beets, and produced about 14,500,000 pounds of sugar. The price of beets for several years had been \$4.50 per ton delivered at the mill, and this item alone generated over \$301,000 for farmers.

There were nine sugar refineries in California at the beginning of 1902. The largest was the Spreckels Refinery in Spreckels, which could handle 3,000 tons of beets per day. The plant in Alvarado was the fifth largest in California and could handle 800 tons a day.

At this time there was a sugar trust being formed by powerful interests on the east coast. With the success of the sugar beet as a major player in the production of crystallized sugar, there were individuals who wanted to control this rising industry.

In financial circles the belief prevailed that the Alameda Sugar Company was going to be taken into the sugar trust. That a deal was being made in the stock of the company was openly announced, but an effort was made by the brokers handling the transactions to conceal the identity of those interested. Sutro & Company, of San Francisco, was commissioned to gather in the outstanding stock.

At the end of March 1903, came the announcement that an important deal in the stock of the Alameda Sugar Company had been made. It had been rumored that the Sugar Trust would absorb the plant. The stock was a good dividend payer, the investment averaging about 13 per cent per annum in dividends.

The Sugar Trust soon had complete control of the Alameda Sugar Co., which meant that the Trust was becoming all-powerful on the Coast. The hand of the Trust was seen in the closing of the California-Hawaiian refinery at Crockett, after Ritter and Spreckels had been fighting each other for years. Not a single employee was to be found at Crockett, and the works was closed tighter than a drum.

By April 14, 1904 the price of refined sugar had been raised in the East, and the west coast would follow suit. The price was now 6¢ per pound. At the same time there had been a falling off of price of the raw material, which is natural when the Trust is in the saddle. The aim of the Trust was to buy raw material low and sell the refined product high.

The 1903 season saw the Pleasanton area produce finest beets that they have ever had for the Alvarado sugar mill. They delivered 43,819 tons of beets at \$4.75 per ton. The value of the beet crop to Pleasanton farmers was \$208,140.25.

The year 1904 saw the Alvarado mill contemplating the use of Modesto for the raising of sugar beets. George Gray, a representative for the company was in Modesto sending specimens of the soil in this region to the chemist of the company's factory at Alvarado for analysis.

The Alameda Sugar Company of Alvarado received a high honor in February 1905, when it won a gold medal for its product at the St. Louis World Fair and International Exposition. This brought international attention to our sugar mill in Alvarado. In October of 1905, the Alvarado mill took home a gold medal from the Portland Exposition for beet sugar, alcohol, and showing the manufacture of sugar from beets.



In the fall of 1905, George Gray, field representative for the sugar mill, spent a few days in Woodland, and was co-incidentally making inquiries as to the adaptability of Yolo County soil to the culture of the sugar beet, he visited a number of farmers between Woodland and Davis. The purpose of his visit was to investigate soil and climatic conditions with a view of ascertaining whether or not Yolo County could produce a good quality sugar beet.

Mr. Gray was favorably impressed with Yolo County. He got a promise from a number of farmers who would plant from one to five acres of beets this season as an experiment. The company would furnish the seed free of charge, also the necessary implements for seeding and cultivating. There was no doubt among residents of long experience here that there was plenty of land in the county that was well adapted to the successful cultivation of sugar beets. Nevertheless, the results of this experiment undertaken by Mr. Gray were carefully watched.

The 1905 sugar beet run at the Alvarado mill proved to be an unusually short run, with the mill closing on Friday, December 1, 1905.

In February 1906 George Gray had five sacks of sugar beet seeds, a beet seeder, and a deep tilling plow forwarded to Woodland to begin the experiment of beet raising in that area. Mr. Gray said Woodland farmers should bear in mind that Mr. Gray, and the Alvarado Company he represents, would not only pay them rent for so much of their land as they may use in experimenting, but they will also pay for the cultivation. Later in the year George Gray visited the Woodland site to view the progress of the 70-acre experimental site there. Beets from this experimental site were recently shipped to Alvarado for analysis and the samples were found to be satisfactory.

But the Alvarado mill did not have the area all to itself. The Alvarado mill had serious competition for farmers and beet acreage in delta area in the form of a beet sugar mill at Hamilton City, near Chico. Late in 1906, the Hamilton City plant had a representative in the Woodland area contacting farmers with the intent to have 400 acres of beets under contract in the area.

Then in March of 1907, there was a rumor that the operations of the Alameda Sugar Company in Yolo County were in the nature of an experiment, and that if the results were satisfactory, the Alvarado sugar company would establish a big beet sugar factory in Yolo County.

E. C. Burr, a major stockholder in the Alameda Sugar Company, and George Gray, agricultural agent for the corporation, were in Woodland in July 1907. They took a look at the Cache Creek district (between Woodland and Lake Berryessa). They were both well pleased with the result of one season's operation in Yolo County. They said that the crop was as large as it was in any other county in the state, and the quality was excellent. Success this season would make it comparatively easy to materially increase the area that will be planted to beets next season. The farmers have been furnished with conclusive evidence that beets were a surer crop than wheat, and also more profitable.

In the fall of 1907, George Gray began a horse and mule purchasing expedition for the Alameda Sugar Company at Woodland. Sixteen head of large workhorses were purchased outright, but Mr. Gray would return to Woodland later and purchase some mules. He would pay \$200 for 1,200 pound mules.

By February 1908, the company had leased several large tracts of land, and was seeding them on its own account. A number of farmers had also contracted to plant tracts of beets, which would amount to about 2,000 areas this year.

For the 1909 beet-raising season the Alameda Sugar Company placed the following ad in the *Woodland Daily Democrat*:

Advanced Prices for Sugar Beets:

ALAMEDA SUGAR COMPANY

Offers for the Season of 1909

1<sup>st</sup>: A flat rate of \$5.00 per ton.

2<sup>nd</sup>: A percentage contract commencing with \$4.10 for a 13 percent beet and increasing 2½ cents for each additional 1/10 of saccharine contained.

In both contracts above: Seed furnished at 10¢ per pound. Planters furnished free of charge.

Full particulars furnished at:

OFFICE: H.S. Jewett, 518 Main Street, Woodland

Telephone: Main 57 December 2, 1908

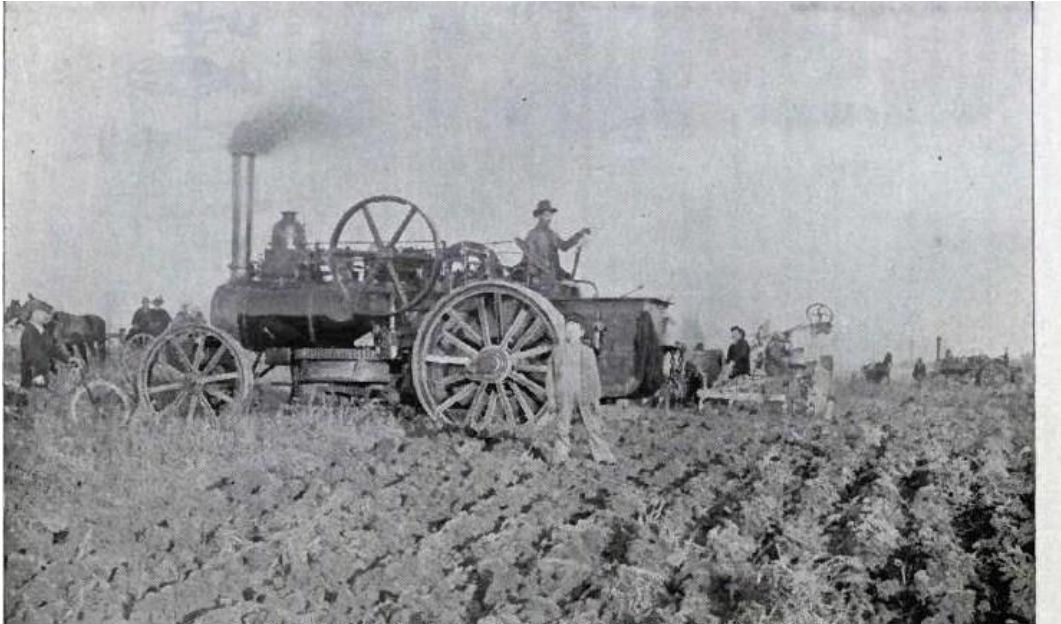
By April 1909 the sugar beet industry was gradually but surely increasing in Yolo County. There were two companies contracting for acreage, the Sacramento Valley Company, whose plant was located in Hamilton City, and the Alameda Sugar Company whose plant is located in Alvarado. The Alameda Sugar Company expected contracts to cover a much larger acreage than was planted last year.



**A drawing of a 1902 Fowler Steam Plough attached to a balance plough. Note the drum under the belly of the traction engine. The drum is loaded with a cable that can be released to free wheel in one direction and then locked as a take up spool to pull the balance plough forward. At the opposite end of the row is another steam plough attached to the rear of the plough. The balance plough is v-shaped with one end riding in the air as the plough is pulled forward. When the end of the rows are reached the rear gang is lowered and the steam plough at the opposite end of the field then pulls the plough forward.**

The Alameda Sugar Company began digging beets on the August 30, 1909, in Woodland, and shipping them to the factory at Alvarado on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The Alvarado sugar company had steam plows on site ready to begin digging.

The Alameda Sugar Company started its big steam plows on the Nelson Ranch (about 5 miles north of Woodland, east of I-5).



**Double Traction Engine System of Steam Ploughing for Sugar Beets.**

As operated on the Rancho de Halle, Alameda County, Calif. The method delivers remarkable results in increased tonnage and richness of beets. Two tractors at opposite ends of the field pull the plough back and forth via a cable strung on drums below the belly of the traction engines. The tractors employ a balance plough which can furrow in the same direction going forward or back without the necessity of having to turn the plough around.

These new steam powered beet-plowing plants, which cost \$25,000 apiece, had sixty-horse power engines. The plows were hauled back and forth across the field by means of cables. They could dig six rows at a time, and the daily capacity was about 20 acres. The work was done clean and effectively. It was not necessary to go over the same ground twice.

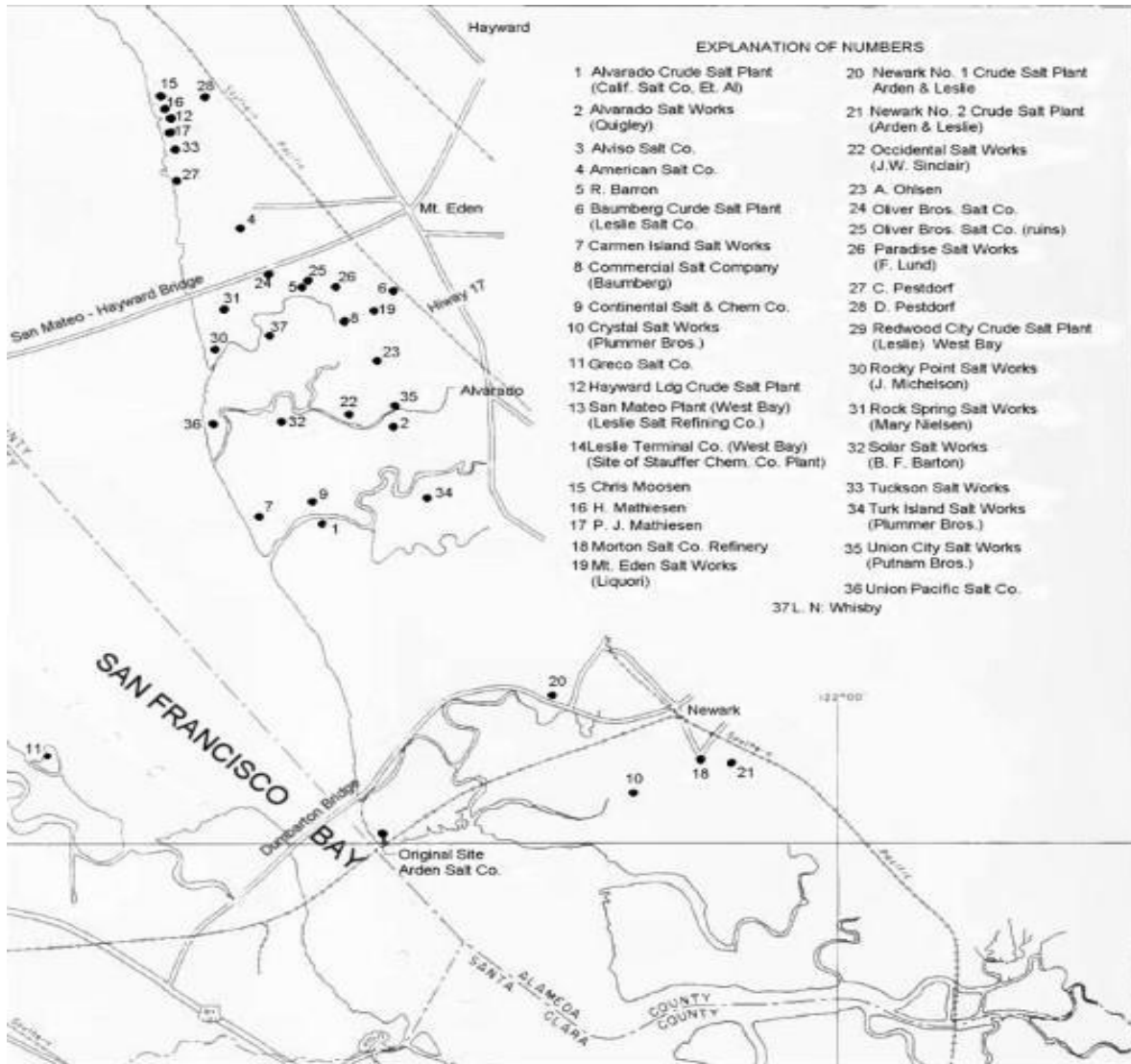
The great power of the engines, and the peculiar design of the plows enabled them to go to depths of twelve or fourteen inches if necessary, and for this reason this method is a great improvement over hand plowing.

The lower part of the beet contains the most sugar. With the steam plow it was possible to get the entire beet, but in hand plowing much of the best part of the beet is lost.

## **SALT INDUSTRY:**

*Maps of the Salt Industry about Alvarado / California Salt Co. / Continental Salt & Chemical Co. / Leslie Salt Refining Co. / Turk Island Salt / Leslie-California Salt Co. / Oliver Salt Co. / Arden Salt Co. / Federal Salt Co., National Trust*

## **Maps of the Salt Industry about Alvarado:**

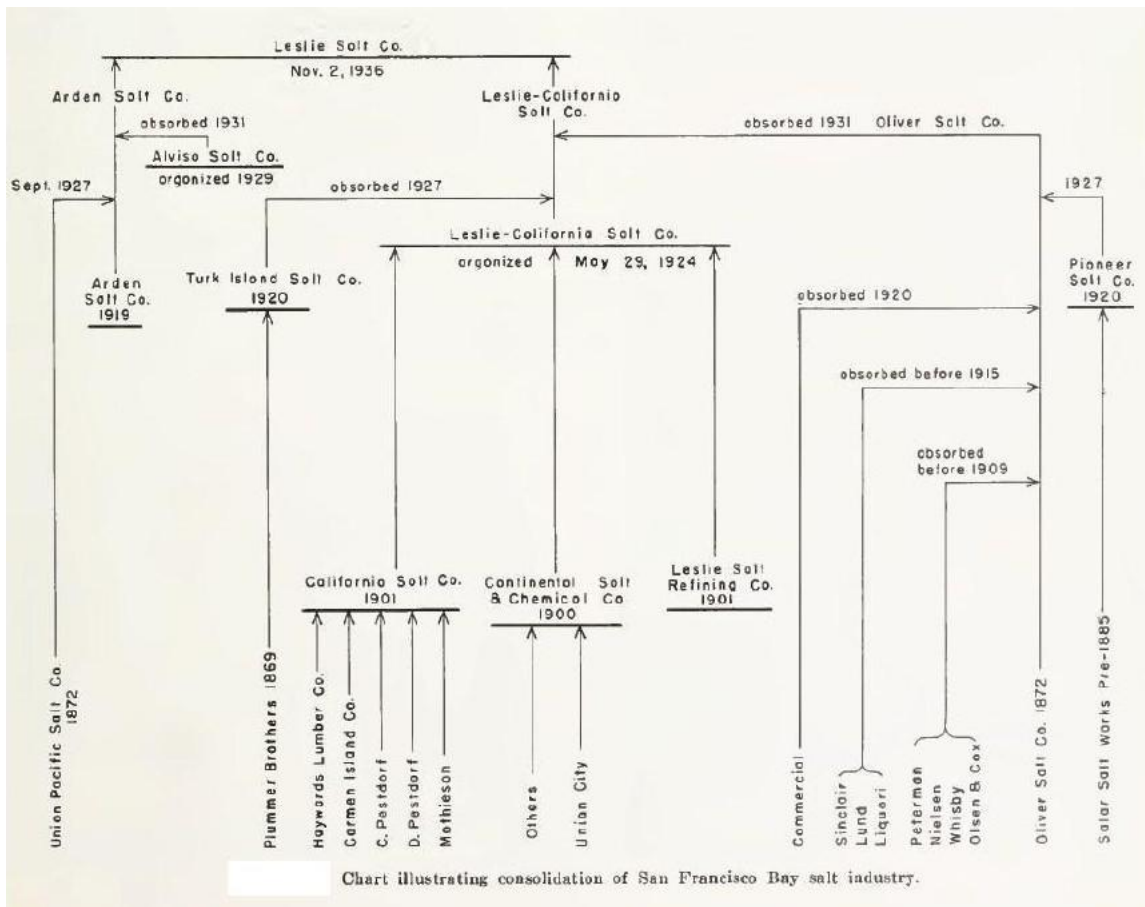


This is a map showing the salt industry in the East Bay before the turn of the century. The upper third of the map shows the companies that were manufacturing salt north of the San Mateo Bridge on-ramp.

Below the San Mateo Bridge on-ramp are the salt companies about Mt. Eden. Below the salt works of A. Ohlsen (number 23) are the various salt works west of Alvarado. The furthest south of the Alvarado Salt Works was the one at Turk Island (number 34 on the map). The Turk Island Salt Works was just about due west of the end of today's Dyer's Street and Union City Boulevard.

Newark's salt companies were located south of the Newark No. 1, Crude Salt Plant, Arden & Leslie (number 20 on the map). But almost all of these plants would disappear over the course of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century through consolidation.

The chart below shows how and when this consolidation came about.



The illustrations on the previous pages, and the information in this section, were taken directly from William Ver Planck's 1958 book *"Salt in California,"* by the Division of Mines.

In 1900, New York interests formed the Federal Salt Company with the objective of gaining control of the entire San Francisco Bay salt crop. This objective was achieved in 1902, but the monopoly did not survive for another year.

The series of events that eventually lead to the consolidation of nearly all the Bay area's salt-producing capacity into one organization began with the founding of three new salt producers. They were the California Salt Company (Alvarado), formed in 1901; the Continental Salt and Chemical Company (Alvarado), organized in 1900; and the Leslie Salt Refining Company, established in 1901 (in San Mateo)."

### **The California Salt Company:**

President W. G. Henshaw and Manager H. C. Coward built a plant south of Coyote Hills Slough and west of the Coyote Hills, where salt had never been produced before. The land was obtained from the Dumbarton Land and Improvement Company, a subsidiary of A. Schilling and Company (San Francisco), which had purchased most of the marshland between Coyote Hills Slough and the Santa Clara County line as a speculative investment.



In addition to the new plant, which produced its first crop in 1902, the California Salt Company acquired a number of existing works. They included the Carmen Island Salt Company on the Bayshore north of Coyote Creek, which employed 71 men in 1899; the Hayward Lumber Company's works north of Hayward Landing, and small parcels of salt land near Hayward Landing that belonged to D. Pestdorf, C. Pestdorf, Peter Mathieson, and others.

In 1917 the California Salt Company had 6,000 acres in production and employed 90 men. The operation included two crude salt plants southwest of Alvarado, a third near the Hayward Landing, and a vacuum refinery of 100 tons daily capacity 3 miles southwest of Alvarado on Coyote Hills Slough.

### **Continental Salt and Chemical Company:**

Organized in 1900, they built a salt works north of Coyote Hills Slough. It included the former Union City Salt Works of the Putnam Brothers, as well as additional land to the west. With 1,100 to 1,200 acres in production in 1919, the plant had a yearly capacity of about 30,000 tons.

Although there was no vacuum refinery, the plant contained a number of unusual features, including covered storage for an entire year's crop. The salt may have received a preliminary wash at harvest time, but the principal treatment was carried out in a plant of 200 tons per day capacity, as it was required for shipment. The processing included washing with cold and hot brine, drying, and screening. Another innovation, which has played a key role in the modernization of the Bay area salt industry, was the revolving pick loading machine.

### **Leslie Salt Refining Company:**

Leslie Salt was one of the first salt producers on the west side of San Francisco Bay, and was established June 25, 1901. The principal plant was about a mile south of San Mateo in an area that following World War II had been filled in and covered with houses (Foster City). A second plant near Redwood City was in operation in 1908, but was closed in 1909. A vacuum refinery began production at the San Mateo plant in January 1910. Production at this time was about 25,000 tons per year, mostly refined salt obtained from 1,850 acres of marshland.

### **Turk Island Salt Company:**

Turk Island was the name applied in the 1920's, to the Alvarado plant of the Plummer Brothers, which was east of the California Salt Company refinery near Coyote Hills Slough. The Plummer Brothers were pioneer producers, who built the Crystal Salt Works west of Newark in 1864, and the Turk Island plant in 1869. The Crystal Salt Works was operated continuously by the Plummer family until it was closed in 1925. The Turk Island plant, however, was leased in 1920, possibly to the California Salt Company, and operated separately until 1927. In that year the Leslie-California Salt Company leased the plant and combined it with its other operations.

### **Leslie-California Salt Co.:**

The California Salt Company, the Continental Salt and Chemical Company, and the Leslie Salt Refining Company joined forces on May 29, 1924, and were combined as the Leslie-California Salt Company.

### **Oliver Salt Company:**

Andrew Oliver, who was born in Sweden, and went to sea at the age of 15, came to California about 1854. In 1872, after a period spent at mining and farming, he purchased 120 acres of salt land near Mount Eden.

Here he settled and brought his family. In the years following, Oliver gradually increased his salt holdings, and twice rebuilt the original salt plant. When he died in 1890, his estate included not only the salt works of 15,000 tons annual capacity, but also a lumberyard, a gristmill, and interests in dairy farming, and poultry raising.

These enterprises Mrs. E. A. Oliver, his widow, carried on for many years with her oldest son, Adolph, as general manager of the salt works. The three younger sons held other positions. The salt works continued to prosper. In 1909 the E. A. Oliver Salt Company included, in addition to the original holdings, the neighboring Mount Eden Salt Works of H. L. Petermann, the Rock Springs Salt Works of Mrs. Mary Nielsen that she had inherited from her father, Peter Michelson, the L. N. Whisby works, and the Ohlsen and Cox works.

By 1915, the Oliver property included the Occidental Salt Works of J. W. Sinclair, the Paradise Salt Works of F. Lund, and salt land that had belonged to the Liguori family. About 1920 the Commercial Salt Company of James Baumberger was absorbed. All were small salt works that dated from the pre-1900 period.

In September 1927, the Oliver Salt Company purchased the Pioneer Salt Works of B. F. Barton that had been in operation since at least as early as 1885. This plant, near the mouth of Alameda Creek, was originally known as the Solar Salt Works; and it was not until some years after Barton's death that the name Pioneer Salt Works was used.

After 1920, the owner of the Solar Salt Works was the Pioneer Salt Company, an organization that had previously marketed the output of the Solar Salt Works. The Oliver Salt Company in the 1920's, had an annual capacity of about 30,000 tons of crude salt produced from 1400-acres of land. The Leslie-California Salt Company leased the Oliver Salt works late in 1927, and purchased the property in 1931.

The company was now able to consolidate its widely scattered operations. The separate units around Alvarado were combined and rebuilt into two crude salt producing plants, the Baumberg plant north of Coyote Hills Slough, and the Alvarado plant south of it. These two plants included the greater part of the land occupied by the 19th century salt works. Thereafter all refining was done at the Alvarado plant, which had been rebuilt in 1924 following a fire; and no salt was produced at San Mateo after 1930. The small and isolated Hayward Landing plant was closed about 1925.

### **Arden Salt Company:**

Meanwhile, A. Schilling and Company organized the Arden Salt Company and produced the first crop in 1919. Like the California Salt Company in 1901, the Arden Salt Company built a new plant in virgin territory, and a comparable expansion of the salt industry followed.

Land was obtained from the affiliate, Dumbarton Land and Improvement Company. The first comparatively small plant was at Dumbarton Point, and the evaporating ponds probably did not extend north of the present Dumbarton highway. Expansion,

however, was rapid, and about 1923 the crystallizing ponds and washer were moved to the vicinity of Jarvis Landing. This salt works had 4,000 acres of evaporating ponds. Late in 1926, the Arden Salt Company built a second crude salt plant, initially of 5,000 acres, south of Newark and obtained the first crop from it in 1928.

In September 1927, the Union Pacific Salt Company was purchased. This old plant seems to have changed but little since the 1880's, and the wooden-floored crystallizing ponds were in use as late as 1920. The Arden Salt Company did not operate it after 1929.

Another addition to the Arden Salt Company came in 1931, with the purchase of the Alviso Salt Company. Owned by the same interests that had been backing the Continental Salt and Chemical Company, it occupied the marshes of Santa Clara County from Alviso to Mayfield (Palo Alto today). The plant had belt conveyors and barges for transporting the salt at Alviso, which was used for a single year in 1929. Eventually the washer was dismantled, and the pond system was joined with that of the Newark number two plant.

By 1935, the Arden Salt Company's output approximated the combined production of all the other salt producers in California. On November 2, 1936, the Leslie Salt Co. was incorporated, and took over the assets of the Leslie-California Salt Company, and the Arden Salt Company. A further consolidation of the salt plants was now possible. The ponds of the old California Salt Company at Alvarado were joined with those of the Newark number one plant, while the old Union Pacific Salt Company land was in part added to the Baumberg plant. With the completion of a new washer and refinery at Newark in 1941, the Alvarado refinery was closed and dismantled. Some of the equipment, including three of the vacuum pans, was moved from Alvarado.

### **Federal Salt Company, National Trust:**

Today there is little of the salt industry to be seen near Alvarado except a vast expanse of concentrating ponds. The sun and the wind silently are at work give but little hint of the salt works that once clustered in this area, nor of the modern salt industry carried on at Baumberg and Newark.

During the year 1900 the salt industry in Alvarado began to suffer the same fate as the sugar industry. National trusts were formed back east, and they eagerly bought up salt supplies to control the salt industry.

Alvarado found itself facing this possibility in November 1900, when representatives of the National Salt Co. (the large eastern trust) were in town quietly buying up all the salt produced around Alvarado. Their hope in doing so was to monopolize the industry, raise prices, and make a killing. But the producers around Alvarado stood firm, and held out for higher prices for their product.

In December of 1900, an agreement was placed on record whereby John A. and C. A. Plummer transferred the Crystal Salt Works and the Turk Island Salt Works to the salt trust known as the Federal Salt Co. The former salt plant consisted of 219 acres near Newark, and the latter plant of 205 acres was near Alvarado. The agreement was to last five years with a no compete clause against the Plummer's.

By the end of December 1900, it was announced that The Federal Salt Company had acquired complete control of the salt industry in Alameda County, and of the entire



output west of the Rocky Mountains. The headquarters of the company would be in San Francisco, and one of the first acts was the issuance of a list quoting the price of salt to the trade at about double former rates.

"This should not increase the cost to the consumer;" said the firm, "for it represents only about one-half of the retailers' profits. Heretofore, we have made nothing and the retailers have made it all; now we will be in a position to divide with them. Everything will be consolidated and operated by the Federal Salt Company. As that company is subsidiary to the National Salt Company, the salt output of the United States will be controlled, practically, by one management."

People in Alameda County were very much interested in the talk about the salt trust that is "to control the salt of the earth." To show how ridiculous such a proposition was, some statistics were collected on the subject, and as meager as they were, they were sufficient to prove that the possibility of such an octopus was so remote as to be not even within reason.

In the first place, nearly all saline lands, such as those in the Alvarado district, can be converted into salt preserves, thus practically throwing the entire coast line open for competition in the event of an hour of need. In addition to this limitless resource, many of the states contain vast deposits of salt so pure that about all that is necessary to cut and market it.

By July of 1902, the Continental Salt and Chemical Company was the only salt company near Alvarado that was not controlled by the salt trust.

### **GEORGE TAY STOVE FOUNDRY:**

The flag at the Alvarado Foundry floated at half-mast near the end of February 1905, because of the sudden death of Oscar Jerome Backus, Vice President of the George H. Tay, Co. Mr. Backus died suddenly in his home in Oakland. Mr. C. R. Nauert, Manager of the foundry was one of the pallbearers at the funeral.

On October 1, 1905 a notice in the *Oakland Tribune* announced that the foundry, building, building, patterns, and machinery at the Geo. Tay Foundry in Alvarado, were for sale. The plant was being shut down, interested parties were instructed to contact: M. D. Merritt, 1022 Lincoln Street, Oakland California.

### **THE BANK OF ALVARADO:**

Alvarado was a thriving little town after the turn of the century, as were all the little towns in Washington Township. But they all lacked something for which they had to travel to conduct business. That was a financial institution to take care of their finances. Depending on where you were located in Washington Township, you either had to travel to Hayward, Oakland, or to Santa Clara County to conduct your financial affairs.

On January 25, 1902, it was announced that there was a plan to open a state bank in Alvarado. On the night of January 22, 1902, W.H. Layson, I.V. Ralph, F.B. Granger, F.P. Hellwig, and Mrs. P. Hellwig signed a subscription paper \$2,500 each, and it was expected that the balance would be subscribed before February 1, 1902.

All the names on the subscription list were well-known in the Alvarado area except for the Rev. W.H. Layson, a Los Angeles cleric, who came to Washington Township to marry the widow of George W. Patterson.

The subscribers were notified to meet on the night of January 25, 1902, for the purpose of organizing and preparing for incorporation. The plan was to have 20 percent of each subscription payable on demand, and at once to erect a suitable brick structure with a fire and burglarproof vault. If all would go well, the bank would be in operation to handle money for this year's crops.

This venture would cause much interest in the township for more banking services. It was regretted that the bank could not be more centrally located, but the enterprise of Alvarado had won for itself the prize, and all could accommodate themselves to the location, and use it as a place of deposit; instead of going to Haywards, Oakland, San Francisco, or Santa Clara County.

The stockholders of the Bank of Alvarado met on January 31, 1902 and took the necessary steps to incorporate with \$25,000 capital, divided into 1,000 shares of \$25 each.

The following parties subscribed for 40 shares each, paying in the full amount: William H. Layson, Fred D. Wiegman, William Jung, James McKeown, Ivens V. Ralph, C.J. Perry, E.H. Stephenson, August May Jr., George P. Hellwig, Mrs. Sophie May, Henry H. Patterson, Fred C. Harvey, Mrs. Erle Hellwig, Fred P. Hellwig, Andrew Ross, Farley B. Granger Jr., Mrs. Clara B. Layson, Henry Henrickson, and George R. Althausen, 80 shares.

The incorporation papers and by-laws were presented, thoroughly discussed and adopted on February 1, 1902. The papers would be filed with the Secretary of State. The following directors were elected: William H. Layson, Ivens V. Ralph, August May Jr., George R. Althausen, Eugene H. Stephenson, Fred P. Hellwig and Farley B. Granger Jr.

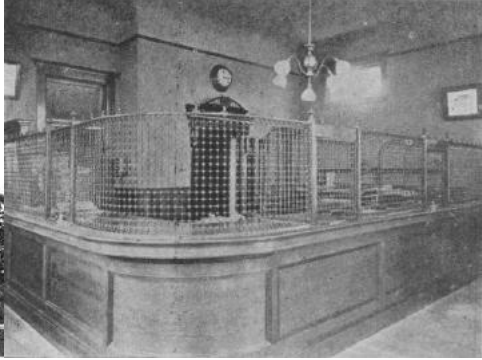
The directors met and immediately elected officers as follows: W.H. Layson, President; I.V. Ralph, Vice-President; F.P. Hellwig, Secretary; August May Jr., Cashier.

The directors were authorized to select a suitable site, ascertain the cost of building, necessary furnishings, and report to the stockholders at a meeting to be held February 17, 1902

At a meeting held on February 12, 1902, the following permanent officers were elected by the shareholders; William Layson, President; I.V. Ralph, Vice-President; F.P. Hellwig, Secretary; and August May, Cashier.

The stockholders of the Alvarado Bank held a meeting Monday and filed papers of incorporation.

In July 1902, the building of the Bank of Alvarado was nearing completion. The location of the bank was almost due west of the end of Smith Street at Levee Street. This is just about the same location as the old general store of August Church and Henry Smith that had once served as Alameda County's first county seat.



The first Bank of Alvarado on the west side of Levee St. at Smith Street.  
 The interior of the Bank of Alvarado, courtesy of Tim Swenson

In January 1904, the Bank of Alvarado reported net assets of \$127,387.06, with paid in Capital of \$25,000, and a Capital Surplus of \$2,364.80, for the close of business December 31, 1903. On August 15, 1906, The Bank of Alvarado reported that its deposits amounted to \$191,244.71. On July 31, 1907, the deposits amounted to \$270,000, and on December 24, 1907 they were reported to the *Oakland Tribune* as amounting to \$290,000. In other words, the deposits of Bank of Alvarado had increased from July 31, 1906 to December 23, 1907, nearly \$100,000. This spoke well for the prosperity of the people of Alvarado, as well as for the bank itself.

The Bank of Alvarado had a prosperous year in 1909. The institution reached a dividend paying basis by its careful judgment, and its conservative management. The Bank of Alvarado has obtained a reputation among financial centers second to none in the county.

**Eden, Murray & Washington Township Banks:**  
**As of October 1909:**

Hayward (3 Banks)	619,919.42
Alvarado	254,000.54
Centerville	260,029.92
Niles	39,401.81
Livermore	475,654.82
Pleasanton	319,760.92

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **BIOS OF NOTABLE PERSONS** \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

*August May Jr. / William H. Layson / Chris Skow / Edgar Tainton / David C. Lowrie / Peter G. Lowrie / George Simas / Fred P. Hellwig / George P. Hellwig / Frederick Hoerle / George Cronin / Theodore Vandervoort / Joe Secada / Ernest Lang / Dr. Franklin Clazie / Mrs. Louise Secada / Mrs. Rosalinda Silva / Miss Rosalia Silva / Miss Sadie L. Jones / Miss Gladys E. Jones / Charles Wenkle / Henry Elwert / Daniel Jackson / Edward S. Harvey / James McKeown / Henry H. Patterson / Antonio A. Bettencourt / Domingo Dekidos / Samuel Poorman / Domingo Allegre / Antone B. Azevedo / Robert Adair / William & Caroline Faig / Hansen Brothers / Adolph W. Lassen / Carl Boysen / Antonio Lee Jr. / Ellis Brothers / John H. Ralph Jr / John Scribner / J.G. Rose / Manuel R. Drack / John S. Leal / Dr. Anson DePuy / Miss Katherine Lang / Rev. Chalmers Gunn / August Rutherford / Antone S. Mello / Andrew Lund / Walter S. Robie / Miss Martha Cilker / Mrs. Edythe Chisholm / Miss Lora Emery / Miss Alice Kilgo / Miss Celeste Bunker / Thomas E. McCarty / Miss Carrie Parish / George G. Bontelho / Phil Roach / Joseph Sunkel / Edwin A Richmond Jr. / Arthur Dees*

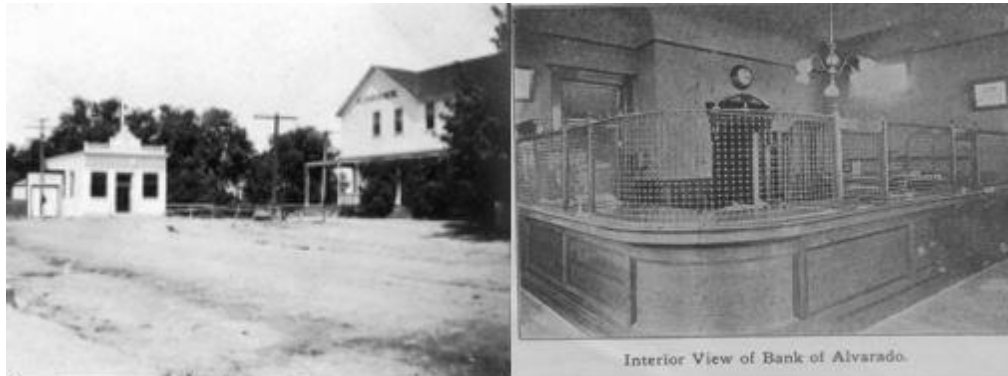
## **BANK:**

### **August May Jr., President:**

August May Jr. was born in Alvarado in December 1866, to August & Sophie May. August Jr.'s wife, Jeannette (Jenny) Decoto May, was born in Decoto in February 1872, to Ezra Sr. & Elizabeth Decoto.

In 1891 August May Jr. bought out the interest of Frederick Wiegman in the firm of Hellwig & Co. In 1903 August sold his interest in the Hellwig Meat Co. to Fred and George Hellwig, as August had joined the staff of the Bank of Alvarado in 1902.

In February 1902, August May invested \$1,000 in the new Bank of Alvarado. When the bank was incorporated, August was voted to the Board of Directors, and was then hired as Cashier of the Bank. This bank would become August's lifelong work.



The Bank of Alvarado at the west end of Smith and Levee Streets. In the photo on the left you can see the bank on the left and the Alvarado Hotel on the right. The photo on the right shows the interior of the bank. The bank is just about where the old first county court house stood. Later this site would house F.P. George's retail Mobil Gas Station. Photos are courtesy of Tim Swenson.

In January 1909, August May would become President of the Bank of Alvarado. One of his first acts as president was to change the name of the Bank of Alvarado to the Bank of Alameda County.

This move would give the bank a larger a larger footprint in the East Bay. In November 1910, the Bank of Alameda County would open its first branch in Irvington. There was a good showing of the people of Irvington and the surrounding towns present to witness the informal opening and inspect the new premises.

On October 13, 1920, three masked bandits entered the Bank of Alameda County at noon, armed with shotguns and revolvers. Upon seeing a man armed with a gun, August May sprang to his feet and knocked the gun from the hand of one armed robber, and floored him with a single punch to the face.

While on the floor the gunman retrieved his pistol and shot May in the right shoulder near his throat. The men dragged Mr. May into the vault along with Mrs. Christine Anderson and Ted Lydecker.

The robbers then ransacked the institution, taking \$24,000 in cash from the tills and the vault, before they shut vault door on May, Anderson and Lydecker.



*A view of the Bank of Alameda County as you entered Alvarado from Mt. Eden. This picture is taken from the west side of Levee Street looking east into Alvarado and the jog you had to make before you entered downtown. On the left is the western edge of Manuel Andrade's convenience store, gas station, ice cream parlor, and on-sale beer and wine tavern. To the right Andrade's store is the Alvarado Hotel, unseen between the two would be the shack that used to house the "Alvarado Pioneer" newspaper and the Quonset hut that housed the Alvarado Garage. Photo is courtesy of Leonard Silva and Timothy Swenson.*

The robbers worked fast and fled from the scene in a few minutes. A passerby heard the imprisoned bank officials knocking on the vault door and went to their rescue. Following shouted instructions, he opened the vault and released them.

The severely wounded August May was then placed in an automobile and rushed to a hospital in Hayward, from which place Alameda County District Attorney Ezra Decoto Jr., (August May's brother-in-law) took him to Merritt Hospital in Oakland.

That evening Mr. May continued to fight for his life in the Merritt Hospital, but hope was gained as he spent a peaceful night on the 13<sup>th</sup>. His wounds appeared fatal initially, but Mr. May put up a good fight, and there was hope for his life. Mr. May would recover, but he was impaired for life in one arm. All of the robbers were eventually caught and put in prison.

August May joined with Fred Harvey, John Ralph, and P.C. Lowrie in a general scheme to improve Alvarado. In April 1924, they had a complete block of houses moved from Vallejo Street to Watkins Street. The houses were then entirely altered, modern conveniences were installed, and then the homes were painted white. They had a garage built for each house, and had a wire

fence in front of each home. Owing to the fact that Watkins Street was impassable in wet weather, a petition was presented by the four gentlemen to the County Board of Supervisors asking them to take over the maintenance of this street. These lots were then placed on the market as restricted residence lots.

In August 1925, the Alvarado Branch of the Bank of Alameda County opened its doors for public inspection of their new premises. The new structure was located at the corner of Levee and Smith Streets, which prior to the new century had served as Antonio Lee's Cosmopolitan Saloon.

It was located in the center of the business district and was one of the finest banking structures in Southern Alameda County. Hundreds of depositors and friends from throughout the county arrived during the evening to congratulate the heads of the institution on their new home. Floral pieces from well-wishers filled the spacious lobby.

In October 1929, August May oversaw the expansion of the Bank of Alameda County with the addition of its second branch in Niles. As a goodwill gesture to the residents of Niles, August May placed the spacious and well-appointed conference room in the bank at the disposal of the Niles Chamber of Commerce. The new building was of an attractive modern design, which gave it a distinctly metropolitan flair.

In January 1938, August May announced that the Bank of Alameda County was to be sold to the Central Bank in Oakland. Carl F. Wente, President of the Central Bank, announced their intention to take over the Alvarado bank, and its two branches in Irvington and Niles. At that time Central Bank operated two offices in outlying areas of Oakland besides its head office in downtown Oakland.

The Bank of Alameda County had \$3,000,000 in assets. Bankers had long considered it an exceptionally strong and well-managed bank.

On April 11, 1938 the Bank of Alameda County began operations as branches of Central Bank, Oakland. The bank, which had started out as The Bank of Alvarado in 1902, had expanded into Irvington and Niles under the leadership of August May.

Stricken by an apparent cerebral hemorrhage on the morning of August 24, 1940, August May, 73, of Alvarado, organizer of the former Alameda County Bank and member of a pioneer family, died suddenly that night at an Alameda hospital. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. August May Sr. had settled in Alvarado in 1852. News of his death was withheld from his wife Jeanette, who was ill in a San Francisco Sanatorium.

Besides his bank, August devoted time to the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Alameda County Taxpayers' Association, and during the depression he was appointed by the Governor of California, James Ralph, Jr., along with Fred Harvey, to the Alameda County Farm Debt Adjustment Committee.



Mrs. Jeanette Decoto May was very active in Alvarado and Washington Township civic, social, and religious activities. Mrs. May was very active in the Country Club of Washington Township. She served as president of the club in the mid-twenties and continued to serve in various official duties, as well as fund raising and civic duties. In 1925 she announced that nearly \$50,000 has been gathered for the "Save the Redwoods" campaign.

Mrs. May was also a tireless worker for the Toyon Branch of the Oakland Baby Hospital Association (Children's Hospital). Mrs. May was also an annual participant in the Christmas Seals, and March of Dimes campaign in Alvarado.

Jenny was an ardent supporter of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church and participated freely in the Ladies Aid Society.

On the social front Jenny was an active member in the Alvarado Birthday Club, one Alvarado's oldest social clubs. She was also an active member in the Alvarado Bridge Club.

Mrs. Jeanette Decoto May passed away on March 4, 1954, in Alvarado at the age of 83. Mrs. May was well known and loved in Alvarado for social and charity work.

### **W.H. Layson, President, Bank of Alvarado:**

The Rev. William H. Layson was born in August 1860, in Nevada. After the death of George W. Patterson in 1895, the Rev. Layson met and married Mrs. Clara Hawley Patterson. Rev. Layson, along with his wife Clara Hawley Layson, both became founding members of the Bank of Alvarado in 1902. Rev. Layson was voted in as the first president of the Bank of Alvarado. Nothing was found for Rev. Layson after this in Alvarado. It seems that the couple drifted apart, and the Rev. Layson went to live in San Francisco, where he died on March 8, 1909.

### **BLACKSMITH & AUTO GARAGE:**

#### **Chris Skow:**

Chris Skow was born in California circa 1881. His wife Anna was also born in California in the year 1890. They were married in 1906 and had one child, Melvin who was born in 1912.

The earliest record shows Chris and Anna in Alvarado in 1910. At that time Chris was employed as a carpenter at a salt works. By 1920 he was a blacksmith at a machine shop and by 1930 he owned his own auto service garage called the "Alvarado Garage." In 1925 he bought the old John Ralph place on Smith Street.

Chris and Anna celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a major event. Mr. & Mrs. Skow received their guests at the IOOF Hall in Alvarado Sunday evening. Long dinner tables were beautifully decorated in green and silver, with flowers and lighted tapers. Covers were placed for 58 persons. Dancing and visiting followed the dinner. As well as the Alvarado crowd there were many friends and relatives from the Hayward area.

Their son Melvin graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1925. Among his classmates were many pupils who would go on to be well known in Alvarado. Some of those were: Minnie Rivers, Rosalie Joyce, Genevieve Davilla, Bernice Boyd, Wilbert Hendricks, Mamie Vargas, Raymond Hinckley, Madeline Goularte, and Helen Baird.

Anna Skow was an active member of the Alvarado Rebekah's serving as an officer of the Lodge in 1926.

Chris Skow was an Alvarado Grammar School Trustee in the 1930's and retired this post in 1936 deciding not to run for reelection.

In 1941 Chris and his son built a gas station and tire service building on Foothill Blvd. in Hayward. He owned the building and also the home on the adjoining lot. Foothill Blvd. was to become one Hayward's busiest thoroughfares in the 40's and 50's.

## **BOOKKEEPER:**

### **Edgar Tainton:**

Edgar Milsted Tainton was born in England circa 1876. He entered the U.S. in 1888. Marie Dora Tainton was born in California on July 27, 1884. Marie and Edgar were married in 1908 and they had one son, Edgar M. Tainton who became an Army Chaplain during the Second World War.

While in Alvarado Edgar was employed by the sugar mill as a bookkeeper. Records show that Edgar and Dora were in Alvarado as early as 1909 and by 1920 they had moved to the Oakland/Berkeley area.

Dora Tainton was a very social person, and she participated in many Alvarado activities and several social clubs. These included the "Butt Ins," the Alvarado Bridge Club, and the "At Homes."

But the apparent most favored club by Mrs. Tainton was the Alvarado Birthday Club, which she continued to participate in decades after she left Alvarado. The last recorded meeting of the club with Mrs. Tainton in attendance was on January 23, 1950, over three decades after Dora had left Alvarado. The membership had dwindled over the decades, and those who attended the meeting in 1950 were Mrs. George Hellwig, Mrs. August May, Mrs. Fannie Robie, Mrs. Dora Richmond of Niles and Mrs. Dora Tainton and Jennie Rutherford of Oakland (all formerly of Alvarado).

Edgar Tainton passed away on February 7, 1945 in Oakland. Edgar had been employed by the Western Sugar Co. and was a member of Masonic Lodge of Rockridge and the Scottish Rites Bodies. He had lived in California for 56 years.

Dora Tainton passed away in November 1976. She was very active in the Order of the Eastern Star.

## **BUTCHERS:**

### **David C. Lowrie:**



David C. Lowrie was born February 1856, in Connecticut. His wife, Mary, was born in California in July 1859. The couple had one daughter, Ella, born in June 1888. He first appears in the Alvarado census of 1860, working as a laborer. In the 1880 census David is shown residing with his brother John Lowrie on his farm. He is shown as working as a butcher.

Along with his brother Peter, David bought the Central Meat Market from their brother John Lowrie, and his partners C.J. Bond and John Laughlin in 1880.

On July 4, 1881 David Lowrie was one of three persons injured at Centerville as they were firing anvils. The young men were burned when 10 pounds of black powder exploded as they were preparing to fire an anvil. David Lowrie's injuries were the severest.

David Lowrie suffered from erysipelas; a painful rash of the skin (usually arms, legs or face) typically with raised redness and demarcated skin. In September 1895, the *Hayward Review* reported that D.C. Lowrie had been quite ill, but he had improved somewhat.

The last report on David Lowrie was the 1910 census, where he was reported as still in the butcher business near Alvarado. In the 1920 census David was still living in the Alvarado precinct of Washington Township near his brother Peter Lowrie. Both David and Peter showed they were retired. In 1930 Mrs. Mary Lowrie was living with her daughter Mary, and her son-in-law J. Edgar Jacobus, in Piedmont. Mrs. Lowrie showed she was a widow at that time.

### **Peter G. Lowrie:**

Peter Lowrie was born in May 1851, in Connecticut. He first appears in the 1870 census in Decoto living on the farm of Ezra Decoto Sr. with his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Lowrie. Elizabeth was the sister of Mrs. Ezra Decoto. Here he worked on Ezra's farm as a laborer.

Peter's wife, Isabel (Belle) Lowrie, was born in California circa 1860, and was married to Peter circa 1876. They had three daughters: Halybel (May B.) who was born Sept. 1877, Elizabeth who was born Sept. 1879, and Annie L. who was born August 1887.

Along with his brother David, Peter bought the Central Meat Market from their brother John Lowrie, and his partners C.J. Bond and John Laughlin in 1880. Peter would remain in the butcher business until his retirement. His firm delivered meat throughout the township in horse drawn carriages.

Peter served as a ballot official in Alvarado, and he also served on the Board of Trustees at the Alviso Grammar School

Peter Gordon Lowrie, 77, passed away June 22, 1929, in the morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Isabelle Ralph in Alvarado. His wife Isabelle survived him. They had been married 52 years. He was a retired butcher and came to California when he was 14 years old.

### **George Simas:**

George Simas was born in Alvarado in August 1878. He was the son of Alexander and Maria Simas. George worked in Alvarado as a butcher. Apparently, he was living on the second floor of the old McKeown blacksmith shop when it caught fire. It was assumed that the young man carelessly threw a match or cigarette on the floor, which made the building to burn to the ground with Mr. Simas inside.

### **Fred P. Hellwig:**

Fred Hellwig was born in Alvarado in August 1870, to Philip and Elizabeth Hellwig. Fred's wife Emma was born in California in January 1874. They had a son Erle, and a daughter Eloise.

In August 1891, Philip and Elizabeth Hellwig gave a gala birthday party at the IOOF Hall in Alvarado for their son Fred's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party. Over 150 merry young people attended the party.

Fred would follow his father's footsteps in the meat business, buying out his father's share in the business in the 1890's. Fred's brother, George, then came into the firm and the two brothers alone owned the Hellwig Meat Company. Fred was the president of the company, and George was the Secretary-treasurer of the corporation.

In 1905 Fred attended the Hot Springs for his health. In February 1909, Fred became seriously ill and missed some time from the business, but he did recover and was able to get to work at the firm, but he passed away May 10, 1909, at the age of 38 years. He left his wife Emma and children Erle and Eloise. Fred was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason, and was active in the Alvarado Presbyterian Church, as was his wife.

### **George Hellwig:**

George Hellwig was born at Alvarado on July 26, 1876. George was the son of Philip and Eliza Schweitzer Hellwig, both of whom were natives of Germany. The couple had two children that survived to adulthood; Fred and George Hellwig. The father came to California, by way of the Isthmus of Panama in 1856, and located at Alvarado at a time when this section of the county was little more than a wilderness.

Fred & George bought into their father's butcher business in the 1890's, replacing William Jung and August May Jr.; Philip Hellwig then retired. In 1903 the company incorporated into the Hellwig Meat Co. The president of the company was Fred Hellwig, and the Secy-Treasurer was George Hellwig. On May 10, 1909, Fred Hellwig died at the age of 38 years, leaving George to run the meat company.

George Hellwig was united in marriage to Miss Willa Jane Cecil, a native of Virginia. I could not find where the Hellwig's had any children.

The Hellwig Meat Co. changed considerably in 1910, with the addition of Vic La Grave as partner in the company. Vic had been manager of the Hayward Branch Office of the Hellwig Meat Co., and had built it into a sizable operation. Vic then purchased an interest in the company, and brought his innovative ideas to the Eden and Washington Township enterprise.

In March 1924, George Hellwig was one of many Alvaradan's that reorganized the Chamber of Commerce. Elected officials included O. J. Emery, George Enos, Dr. R. N. Gray, F. C. Harvey, George P. Hellwig, August May, J. H. Ralph, E. A. Richmond Jr., J. M. Scribner, H. M. Springer and R. S. Stewart.

Then later in 1924 George Hellwig, along with Dr. Roscoe Gray and August May Jr., were appointed the first three Fire Commissioners for the town of Alvarado. In November 1926, the Fire Commission was expanded to include four commissioners. The commissioners at that time included O.J. Emery, F.C. Harvey and George Hellwig. The Fire Commission for the town of Alvarado Reached four when H.M. Springer was added.

By the beginning of 1936 complaints were coming in about the fire protection service of the Alvarado Fire Department. Letters were sent to the Board of Supervisors, and the (now) five fire commissioners; O.J. Emery, H. M. Springer, J. H. Ralph, Fred Harvey and George Hellwig, requesting that they either provide adequate protection under the present fire system, or reorganize the Fire Department.

In 1937 Ralph Richmond, son of Alvarado's E.A. Richmond, died leaving his Board of Supervisors seat open. California Governor Merriam then named George Hellwig to fill Richmond's unexpired two-year term.

By 1940 a serious problem had erupted in Alvarado with their septic tanks. Alvarado did not have a sanitary district, and overflowing and defective septic tanks were feared to cause a dramatic epidemic if the problem was not solved. At the beginning of 1940, a move was started to install a sanitary system in Alvarado.

By September 1940, the people of Alvarado petitioned the Board of Supervisors to approve the sanitary system for Alvarado. The people had a friend on the board, George Hellwig, and when Frank A. Machado, A.E. Vargas, Joseph Priego, and D. Diaz, personally appeared before the Supervisors, George Hellwig was present to see that everything was well taken care of and gave his town, Alvarado, a good boost. After the sewer line was laid out through the town, George Hellwig saw to it that the roads were repaired and put back into good operating order in December 1943. George brought in the County Surveyor to inspect the condition of the streets. The surveyor agreed that he thought the roads needed fixing, and so did the other Supervisors. So our local Supervisor deserved a word of thanks from every local resident because Hellwig got a \$9,000 street job done. It showed he knew local conditions.

During WWII George was in charge of the Civil Defense activities in Alvarado for air raid precautions and shelters.

In May 1944 Chester Stanley of Livermore defeated George in the election for county supervisor from our district. Stanley garnered a remarkable win by 1,341 votes over the popular incumbent, George Hellwig.

George Hellwig passed away on February 16, 1948 after a long illness. Last rites of the Masonic Order were held for George P. Hellwig. Pallbearers at his

service were E. A. Richmond Jr., Pete Decoto, John H. Ralph, John Brugge, Wallace McKeown and Fred Wiegman, all close friends and pioneers in Southern Alameda County. Mr. Hellwig was a native of Alvarado, and prominent in area social organization.

Hellwig served on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors from 1937 to 1944. He was member of the Scottish Rite Body, the California Commandery, Knights Templar, San Francisco; Alameda Lodge, No. 167, A.F. & M., Centerville; Orient Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Centerville; IOOF, Sycamore Lodge, Hayward; Alameda Lodge No. 1015, BPOE, Alameda; Doric Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, San Leandro; Washington Parlor, NSGW, Centerville; Washington Township Men's Club; and the Centerville Lions Club, Centerville.

Hellwig was survived by his wife Willa Jane, who was elected Worthy Grand Matron of the California Lodge of the Order of the Eastern Star in Oakland in October 1930.

In the summer of 1951, the West Coast Meat Company of Castro Valley bought and began operating the Hellwig Slaughterhouse on the Marsh Road at Canal Street in Alvarado.

The West Coast Meat company had been put in an untenable situation when a new elementary school was placed in their area, and they were denied permission to expand their Castro Valley plant.

Mrs. Willa Jane Hellwig, 75, widow of the late Supervisor George P. Hellwig of Alvarado, died on August 4, 1955, in Whittier, where she had made her home since the death of her husband in 1948. A Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, California Chapter, in 1931, she was active in the Orient Chapter work here. Mrs. Hellwig had been ill for two months.

### **Frederick Hoerle:**

Frederick Hoerle was born in Germany circa 1876. He entered the U.S. in 1882. His wife Clara was born in Denmark in 1877 and entered the U.S. in 1888. They had two children, Bertha born circa 1904, and Iver born circa 1905.

Fred moved to Alvarado in about 1905, where he went to work for the Hellwig Meat Co. as a butcher. In the year 1920 he was still employed as a butcher in Alvarado. The 1930 census shows Fred then living on "A" Street in Hayward working for a retail butcher shop.

### **George Cronin:**

George Cronin was born in California in May 1876. George was a butcher in Alvarado working for the Hellwig's. He had been a butcher with the firm since 1897. In 1901, George resigned his position at the Hellwig Company and went to work at the sugar mill in Alvarado. By 1905, George Cronin had relocated in Livermore.

### **CARPENTER:**

### **Theodore Vandervoort:**

Theodore Vandervoort was born in Canada in December 1856. He entered the U.S. in 1872. His wife Elizabeth was born in California in November 1858. They were married in 1878, and had seven children, of which six survived past infancy. Theodore was a carpenter in the town of Alvarado. Theodore Vandervoort and family left Alvarado, and by 1910 they were located in Siskiyou County, where Theodore was the superintendent of a placer gold mine.

### **Joe Secada:**

Joe Secada was born in California in 1873. His wife, Louise Machado, was born in California in 1883. The couple took out a license to marry in February 1902. Joe was a carpenter while in Alvarado. Joe was a ballot official for the town of Alvarado. In 1930 the couple was living on Pacheco Lane (the Alviso District), with no children. Nothing was found after 1930.

### **CHEMIST:**

#### **Ernest Lang:**

Ernest Lang was the son of George E. Lang, a widower of Alvarado. Ernest was born in Germany in 1883 and entered the U.S. in 1888, along with his father George and his sister Katherine. Another daughter, Marie, was born in California in 1890.

After the turn of the century Ernest attended Heald's Business College, and in 1910 he working as a chemist at the Alvarado sugar mill. In 1910 he took out a marriage license to wed Miss May C. Johansen. In 1920 he was living with his father-in-law, Jorgen Johansen, in Mt. Eden. At this time Ernest had two children, Dorothy and Eleanor; and he was selling real estate. Ernest was a member of the Woodmen of the World, Alvarado Camp No. 429. Mrs. May Lang was a member of the Alvarado Rebekah's.

### **DENTIST:**

#### **Dr. Franklin Clazie:**

Dr. Clazie was born in English Canada, in December 1865. Franklin Clazie entered the U.S. in 1888, and became a naturalized citizen. Mrs. Jennie Clazie was born in Maine in March 1875. They were married in 1894 and had one child Franklin, who was born in 1897 in California.

In 1896 Dr. Clazie opened his dental parlor in the Lyle Building (Sam Dinsmore's Store) on Smith Street. He left Alvarado for a spell, and then returned in June 1899 to reopen his dental parlor in the Lyle Building.

Mrs. Clazie was a charter member of the Circle of Woodcraft in Alvarado. Dr. Clazie joined the organization in August 1902. Dr. and Mrs. Clazie announced that they would be leaving Alvarado for Oakland in February 1903. The Doctor would, however, be in Alvarado two or three times a week to attend to his practice. This was last entry for Dr. Clazie and it was not known how much longer Dr. Clazie attended to his Alvarado patients.

## **DRESSMAKERS**

### **Mrs. Louise Secada:**

Mrs. Louise Machado, was born in California in 1883. She was married to Joe Secada, who was born in California in 1873. The couple took out a license to marry in February 1902. Louise was a dressmaker. The couple was lived on Pacheco Lane (the Alviso District), with no children. Nothing was found after 1930.

### **Mrs. Rosalinda L. Silva:**

### **Miss Rosalia Silva:**

#### **Mrs. Rosalinda L. Silva:**

Mrs. Rosalinda Silva was born in Portugal in May 1845. She was widowed, showing that she had four children. Mrs. Silva showed that she was a dressmaker, and the head of household while living in Alvarado. Mrs. Silva entered the U.S. in 1883 and had been living in Alvarado prior to the year 1900.

#### **Miss Rosalia Silva:**

Miss Rosalia Silva was born in Portugal in October 1875. She was single and entered the U.S. with her sister, Mrs. Rosalinda Silva. Miss Silva showed that she was a dressmaker and living in the household of Mrs. Rosalinda Silva.

### **Miss Sadie L. Jones:**

### **Miss Gladys E. Jones:**

#### **Miss Sadie L. Jones:**

Miss Sadie L. Jones was born in California in 1875. She was born of mixed racial heritage. In 1910 she was living in the household of Ebenezer Dyer in Alvarado, where she was employed as a servant, but she was also a dressmaker.

#### **Miss Gladys E. Jones:**

Miss Gladys E. Jones was born in California in 1889. She was born of mixed racial heritage. In 1910 she was living in the household of Ebenezer Dyer in Alvarado, where she was employed as a servant, but she was also a dressmaker.

## **DRUGGIST:**

### **Charles Wenkle:**

Nativity information and family information for Charles Wenkle was not found. Charles Wenkle first appeared in Alvarado in December 1903, when he rented Mrs. Lee's building to open a drug store. In April 1905, a fire on Levee Street consumed the businesses of Antone Davilla's saloon, Frank Dabrovich's barbershop, Harm Lee's residence, and the drug store of Charles Wenkle. Within a few months Mr. Wenkle was back in business in Alvarado. The final article on Mr. Wenkle was dated January 1905 when he moved from the Foster Building.

## **ENGINEERS:**

### **Henry Elwert:**

Henry Elwert was born in Hanover, Germany, in July 1834. He was married to Barbara Elwert, who was born in Klingenuenster, Germany, in September 1832. They had three sons, Harry, Lewis, and Baldwin Elwert. Henry worked as an engineer in the sugar mill.

Harry was a machinist in Alvarado, and Baldwin assumed some fame when he boxed the featherweight boxer of the west coast, Frank Rafael, in October 1896. I could not find out the outcome of that bout. But Baldwin continued in boxing, becoming a trainer 1910. Baldwin died on September 21, 1940 in Oakland, Calif. He was the husband of Cora Elwert.

On August 17, 1904, Henry Elwert, of Alvarado, a native of Hanover, Germany, died at the age of 73. Barbara Elwert died in Alvarado on December 31, 1906. She was the mother of Harry, Lewis, and Baldwin Elwert. Born in Klingenuenster, Germany, age 78 years

## **FARMERS:**

### **Daniel Jackson:**

Daniel Jackson was born in Ohio in September 1854. His wife, Emma F. Jackson, was born in California in December 1856. They were married in 1877, and had three daughters, Clara born July 17, 1879, Mary born in September 1881, and Marjory born in August 1873.

They appeared to have lived in Sacramento prior to coming to Alvarado, for that is where Clara was born in 1879. The first record of the Jackson's in Alvarado was August 1894.

Daniel Jackson was a dairyman, and in August 1903, Daniel Jackson joined Farley B. Granger Jr., Mrs. Sue Harvey Granger, T.F. Jackson, and Fred Harvey, in drawing Articles of Incorporation for the Jackson-Granger Dairy Co., Inc.

The dairy consisted of 325 acres of the best land in the vicinity, which the company leased for a term of years. 125,000 feet of lumber were used in its construction. It was 126 feet long and 149 feet wide, and held eight strings of thirty-three cows each, or 264 cows.

Dan Jackson served several terms as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Alvarado Grammar School. In 1901, Dan took over the duties of Road Foreman for the Alvarado Road District.

In November 1903, Dan Jackson and family moved to Decoto.

### **Edward S. Harvey:**

Edward S. Harvey was born in June 1870, to Sylvester P. and Sarah Harvey in Alvarado California. After graduating from high school, Edward worked for a time at the Alvarado sugar mill, which he had to give up in 1889 due to ill health.

But proving to be resilient, his health returned so much that after a short time he was able to join his boyhood friends, Harold Dyer, Hugh Dyer, Peter Decoto and Henry May, on a tramping expedition, which netted Edward his first deer.

On February 2, 1901, he married Johanna Elizabeth McKeown, daughter of James McKeown of Lowry Road (known then as McKeown Road). Johanna was the niece of the late Joseph McKeown, the Alvarado pioneer that had served on the Alvarado Grammar School Board of Trustees, and he was also a State Assemblyman.

After their marriage Edward & Elizabeth took up residence at the old family home of S.P. Harvey. At the time Edward's mother, Sarah Harvey, was still living in the home; which today is the centerpiece of the S.P. Harvey Park on Alvarado Boulevard. Here he farmed and raised his family. Edward & Johanna had two children, George H. and Edward S. Jr.

### **James McKeown:**

James McKeown was born in Kerry, County of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, on May 12, 1835. James gave several different years of entry into the U.S., and finally in 1920 gave the date of his entry as "Unknown." Annie McKeown, James' wife, was born in Nova Scotia on February 21, 1851.



The photos are of James and Annie McKeown. Photos from "Images of America, Union City," by Tim Swenson

Annie entered the U.S. in 1873. James and Annie were married in 1881 had five children: Elizabeth Johanna, b. May 1882; Joseph W., b. May 1882; Alex W., b. August 1885; Nancy M., b. November 1886; and Flora, B. July 1892.

The first mention of James McKeown in Alvarado, was when he applied for letters of administration on the estate of his brother, Joseph McKeown of Alvarado, in February 1890. The property left by the deceased consisted of 437-acres of hill land, 237-acres of rolling land at Warm Springs, 220-acres of land near Alvarado, and other real estate in Alameda County.



The 1878 Thompson & West Landowner map of Alvarado showed that James McKeown owned 100 acres of land on the NW corner of today's Lowry Road and Union City Boulevard.

James McKeown farmed the property at Lowry Road and Union City Boulevard until his passing in 1923. For a number of years Lowry Road was known as McKeown Road before being changed in the late 1930's. The reason for the change from McKeown Road to Lowry Road is unknown, especially as there were no Lowry's in early Alvarado History of lasting fame.

In February 1902 James McKeown invested in the Bank of Alvarado that was being formed at that time. Two months later, James was named as a member of the board of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church. He would be one of the faithful of the church to help build the new church to replace the one that had stood for over 60 years.

James McKeown passed away on October 17, 1923, and he was followed in death by his wife Annie on February 26, 1929.

#### **Elizabeth Johanna McKeown:**

Elizabeth J. McKeown was born to Joseph & Annie McKeown in May 1882. In October 1899 Lizzie joined Mrs. Sarah Harvey, the Misses Lowrie and James Logan in taking the Sunday school census.

Then in February 1901, Elizabeth surprised everyone when she married Edward S. Harvey unannounced. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's parents on McKeown Road, and the ceremony was performed by the Reverend Mr. Gunn of the Presbyterian Church. The wedding was attended by relatives of the contracting parties. The groom was a farmer and a native of Alvarado, while the bride had resided here for a number of years. She had been most active in Sunday school work. On their return from the wedding trip to Santa Cruz, they would reside on the ranch of the groom's mother near town (which is today's S.P. Harvey Park). The couple had two children, Edward S. Jr., and George.

#### **Alex W. McKeown:**

Alex Wallace McKeown was born in August 1885 to Joseph and Annie McKeown. Alex (who apparently preferred to use his middle name Wallace) followed in his father's footsteps and became a farmer on the family farm. He became a member of the Alvarado Vegetable Growers Association, a consortium of some one dozen farmers in the local area.

In 1940 Wallace 36, was single, living with his unmarried sisters Nancy 35, and Flora, 28, on the family farm.

#### **Nancy M. McKeown:**

Nancy McKeown was born in November 1886. Nancy was a member of the Alvarado Junior Bridge Club,

During World War II Nancy volunteered to serve on the Office of Price Administration Service. Volunteers would go to sales outlets and check the prices that retailers were charging for rationed items. This was done to curb the sales of black market goods to circumvent wartime rationing. Miss

McKeown received an OPA award for serving 568-hours of volunteer time for the government agency. Nancy also served as a director of the board of the country club during the war years.

Miss Nancy McKeown passed away on May 14, 1985.

### **Flora McKeown:**

Flora McKeown was born in July 1892 to Joseph and Annie McKeown. Flora attended the Alviso Grammar School near Beard Road. Her classmates at graduation were Clara Beard and George S. Roderick.

During World War II Flora was a captain for the ladies section of the Observation Tower on the Alvarado Grammar School grounds. The observers would scan the skies for enemy airplanes. Flora spent over 125-hours on duty as well as being a captain.

In March 1946 Flora shared her experiences on her Mexican vacation with the *Alvarado Pioneer*.

"The next vacation I take will be spent some place in California." Thus spoke Miss Flora McKeown of Alvarado, who returned via air last week from a trip to Mexico, Guatemala, and the Yucatan, in the company of three other companions, Mr. & Mrs. John Stevenson, and Harry Stevenson.

You can gather from Miss McKeown's above remark that the trip to Mexico wasn't too successful. "The accommodations are not good at all," said Miss McKeown. "You see, there are 20,000 tourists going through Mexico every day. With the increase in the number of tourists, you get a corresponding decrease in the quality of service."

"For instance," she continued, "in many hotels the water is turned on for only a couple hours every day from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. And it was always cold! After traveling for several hours and looking forward to some good hot water it was most distressing."

However, Miss McKeown added that part of their trip was very enjoyable indeed. The trip into Guatemala, for example, where they had delicious fresh strawberries and other lush fresh fruits and vegetables. The party also felt that the Mayan ruins in Guatemala were well worth seeing. This was Miss McKeown's second trip to Mexico."

Miss Flora McKeown passed away February 25, 1962, leaving her sisters Nancy McKeown, and Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, and her brother A. Wallace McKeown.

### **Henry Hawley Patterson:**

Henry Patterson was the son of George W. and Clara Hawley Patterson. He was born on April 7, 1878 in Newark California.

Of the Patterson's, Henry had the closest affinity with the town of Alvarado. He was a member of the Alvarado Social Tennis Club, where he was voted Captain of the team in May 1901. At this same time he was also a member of

the Alvarado Whist Club, and in September 1901 he hosted the Whist Club meeting at the family home in Newark.

He also joined the Alvarado "500" Club. "500" was a card game that swept the nation just prior to the year 1900. It was commonly played by four persons in partnership and was popular in the U.S. until about 1920, when it was replaced by auction bridge.

In February 1902 Henry joined his stepfather, the Rev. William H. Layson, who had married his widowed mother, in buying into the new Bank of Alvarado. Mr. Layson became the first President of the Alvarado Bank.

During this time Henry Patterson was engaged, as a farmer and a rancher on the nearly 4,000-acre Patterson Ranch in Newark, along the old Marsh Road from Alvarado to Jarvis Landing Road in Newark. Here he farmed in conjunction with his brother William D. Patterson.

Henry Patterson was shot in November 1921 by two Mexican farm laborers with whom he had become involved in an argument over a lease. The shooting occurred two miles south of Alvarado on land Patterson had leased to the Mexicans. The argument began over financial arrangements on the leased land. One of the Mexicans shot Patterson in the leg, and Patterson went down. The men armed themselves with shotguns and fled. A posse was soon formed and the men were quickly taken into custody.

Patterson, who was slightly wounded refused to swear out warrants for their arrest on the assault charge. As Patterson would not press charges, the two men they were charged with hunting without a license.

Henry was voted on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Alameda County (successor company to the Bank of Alvarado) in January 1924, along with August May, J.R. Blacow, F.B. Granger, E.H. Stevenson, E.H. Hirsch and J.H. Silva.

In 1931, Henry Patterson was still associated with the Bank of Alameda County as a member of the Board of Directors, however, he no longer served in the day-to-day operations of the bank as Vice President.

Along with many other land owners in Alvarado, Mt. Eden, and Newark, Henry was concerned about flood control, a problem that proved to be a double edged sword, bringing misery and crop losses by flooding, but also bringing rich silt from the hills beyond foothills to replenish the soil.

A committee was formed in February 1938 comprised of leading businessmen and industrial executives to work out plans for formation of a flood control district in Eden and Washington Townships meeting held at the Alvarado Schoolhouse. The committee was composed of: Fred Wiegman and F. C. Harvey, leading Alvarado ranchers; August May, Bank of Alameda County President; Henry Patterson, Newark land owner; Adolph A. Oliver, Mt. Eden farmer; J. C. Buchanan, Leslie Salt Co. Superintendent; and Andrew Logan, Holly Sugar Co. official. But flood control for Washington Township was still a good twenty years away in 1938.

At the time the flood control committee was being formed, the Bank of Alameda County (headquartered in Alvarado) was sold to Central Bank in Oakland California. August May Jr., president of the Bank of Alameda County, was elected to the Advisory Board of Central Bank as a representative from the south county. In September 1940, Henry was elected chairman of the Advisory Board of Central Bank, filling the position vacated with the passing of Mr. August May.

Henry Patterson married in 1913, and he and Sarah M. Patterson had three daughters, Sally born in 1914, Marjorie born in 1915 and Georgia born in 1917. Georgia was killed in a tragic auto accident on March 24, 1928.

Henry H. Patterson, whose father laid the foundation of the famous Patterson Ranch in 1851, died November 11, 1955 in the family home where he was born 77 years prior. The ranch, owned by Henry H. and William D. Patterson, was believed to be the largest piece of property still held by its pioneer owners in Alameda County. Mr. Patterson was instrumental in the opening of the Bank of Alvarado, and was on the Board of Directors for many years.

### **Antone A. Bettencourt**

Antone A. Bettencourt was born in California in 1868. He was married to Mary (Mamie) Bettencourt, who was born in California in 1880. They had five children, a daughter Margaret, and four sons; Anthony, Claire, Cecil, and Vincent.

Antone was a farmer in the Alviso District of Washington Township. He was a long time trustee for the Alviso School District.

In February 1929, Antone Bettencourt accompanied Fred Dusterberry, president of the Washington Union High School Board of Trustees, on a visit to the San Quentin Prison. Also at this educational learning trip was Larry Bettencourt, American League baseball star; Frank Madruga, husband of Alviso School principal Elsie Madruga, and J. F. George. The team attended a meeting to show how the inmates were taught vocational skills that could also be applied to public schools.

On August 1, 1953 Antone Bettencourt passed away. He left his wife Mary Bettencourt, and sons Anthony, Claire, Cecil, Vincent, and a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Hoffman.

### **Domingo Dekidos:**

Domingo Dekidos was born in Azores (Portugal) circa 1878. He entered the U.S. in 1888. His wife Mary was born in the Azores (Portugal) in 1879. She entered the U.S. in the 1880's. They had two children, Angelo and Lulu.

After the turn of the new century Domingo took to farming and continued to farm well into the 1940's. He followed this until his death on May 26, 1950. Domingo had been a resident of Alvarado for 60 years. He was a native of the Madera Islands (Azores).

### **Miss Lulu Dekidos:**

Lulu Dekidos was born circa 1906 in California to Domingo and Mary Dekidos. Miss Lulu Dekidos married a Hayward dentist, Dr. John Bettencourt. They had one daughter, Norma, who was 11 at the time of the 1940 census. Dr. Bettencourt owned property on 10<sup>th</sup> Street (today's Veasy Street), on "V" Street (today's Horner Street), and on Levee Street (today's Union City Boulevard). Dr. Bettencourt was a member of Alvarado's Chamber of Commerce. In 1957, when Alvarado and Decoto were in the throes of incorporating, Dr. Bettencourt sided with Wilbert Hendricks and Ken Garcia in trying for incorporate Alvarado and Decoto into the City of New Haven.

#### **Miss Norma Bettencourt:**

Norma Bettencourt was born in Alvarado circa 1928 to Dr. John Bettencourt and Mrs. Lulu Bettencourt. Norma was the granddaughter of Domingo Dekidos and daughter of Lulu Dekidos. In 1949 Norma Bettencourt, of 956 V Street, was pledged to Alpha Chi Omega sorority at San Jose State College. She was a sophomore studying for a general elementary teaching credential. Several months later Norma announced her engagement to Everett de Salles. Both were students at San Jose State.

#### **Samuel Poorman:**

Samuel Poorman was born in Ohio in March 1840. He was married to Mrs. Margaret Poorman, who was born in Wisconsin in October 1845. They had three children, Samuel Jr., Alice, and Edward Poorman.

The first mention of the Poorman's in Alvarado was in July 1885, when it was mentioned that Samuel J., Master Samuel, and Miss Alice Poorman, from Alvarado, had registered at the Capitol Hotel in Sacramento.

In 1887, it was reported that Mr. Poorman had leased some property he owned on the Alvarado marshes to two commercial duck hunters for \$200 a year.

In July 1894, it was noted that the Samuel Poorman artesian well at Alvarado, which had been running a river of water for fourteen years, was still running as freely as ever, despite the efforts to control it. It was found impossible to stop the flow by plugging, and the experiment of sinking another well alongside to diminish the flow was tried, with the result that the new well started in on the first day with a flow of 750,000 gallons and has kept it up ever since, but strange to say the old well's big flow had in nowise been diminished.

In July 1895, Mrs. and Mrs. Poorman and son Edward, now of San Francisco returned to Alvarado for a visit, and were registered at the Riverside Hotel.

In January 1900, Sam Poorman who was then living in Menlo Park, was in Alvarado looking after the interests of his dairy. In May 1901, Samuel Poorman and Fred Wiegman Sr. were in Arizona. They bought a \$25,000 herd of cattle, which they brought to Alvarado on a special train. This was an exceedingly large cattle deal for Alvarado. Two months later Sam Poorman Jr., a young attorney, visited Alvarado to see old friends.

In November 1909 George F. Cokely of Irvington purchased from Wiegman & Poorman, two carloads of steers that were fed at the Alvarado sugar mill. Mr. Cokely said they are the best cattle shipped out of this country in some time.

Then in January 1912, W.M. Carruthers shipped two carloads of dairy cows from Turlock, to Samuel Poorman of Riverside County. Mr. Poorman had recently sold his dairy at Alvarado, where he was milking 500 cows, and he was now developing and stocking his ranch in Riverside County. The Poorman Dairy at Alvarado had been one of the dependable sources of San Francisco milk supply.

### **ALLEGRE, DOMINGO S & FRANCES:**

Domingo S. (Dominic) Allegre was born in the Azores (Portugal) in May 1875. He entered the U.S. in 1892. In May 1904 he took out a marriage license in Alameda County to marry Francesca (Frances) B. de Azevedo, 18, of Alvarado. Domingo and Frances had five children, three sons, Victor, Joseph and Melvin; and two daughters, Angeline (Angie) and Pauline.

Dominic Allegre was a farmer on the Creek Road (Alvarado-Niles Road) in Alvarado. When he first came to Alvarado he was a day laborer, but by the end of 1909 he had bought his own farm and would follow that occupation his whole life. Domingo spent his life working on his farm and his property, and not much is known of his social life. Of his religious life he was a supporter of St. Anne's Catholic Church. But what is known of the social life of the Allegre's is through his wife, Frances, and children.

Frances Allegre was a staunch supporter of the Catholic Church giving of her time for the betterment of the church and the community. Frances supported St. Anne's Church with active participation in the annual bazaar held to raise funds for the church.

Frances was honored in June 1953 by the Alvarado VFW. Honored along with Frances was Mrs. Mary Rivers, two Gold Star mothers of Alvarado. The Gold star signifying a son lost during WWII. Frances Allegre was notified in June 1943 of the loss of her son Sgt. Joseph Allegre on the Alaskan Island of Attu.

Dominic Allegre, 71, passed away at the Alameda Hospital in April 1948 after an extended illness He left his wife Frances, and two daughters Mrs. Angie Vargas and Mrs. Pauline Silva, both of Alvarado; and two sons Victor Allegre of Hayward, and Melvin of Newark. Another son, the late Sgt. Joseph Melvin Allegre was a WWII casualty. Dominic was a native of the Azores and a member of U.P.E.C. in Alvarado.

Frances Allegre died December 26, 1966. Frances was a native of Alvarado and resided at 31140 Alvarado Niles Road, Union City. She was survived by daughter Mrs. Angie Vargas and two sons, Melvin and Victor Allegre, a brother Antone Borges of San Leandro, and two sisters Angie and Ann Sanches of Newman California. Frances was a member of the Alvarado S.P.R.S.I. Council #21; U.P.P.E.C. Council #131, Paul Rivers VFW Auxiliary Post #1695, St. Anne's Confraternity and the Legion of Mary.

### **Angie V. Allegre:**

Angie Allegre was born circa 1913 to Domingo and Frances Allegre of Alvarado. In June 1934 Angie V. Allegre announced her intention to marry to George I. Vargas, also of Alvarado. Both Angie and George were born and raised in Alvarado.

For complete bio of Angie & George see "[Vargas, George & Angie](#)" in this work.

#### **Victor Allegre:**

Victor Allegre was born circa 1908 to Domingo and Frances Allegre of Alvarado. There is little information on Victor other than he had a son christened at St. Anne's Church in Alvarado in March 1935. Later he was reported living in Hayward. At the time of his mother's death he was living in Fallon, Nevada.

#### **Mary Anna (de Azevedo) Soares:**

Mary A. de Azevedo Soares was the sister of Mrs. Frances de Azevedo Allegre of Alvarado. Mary Anna married John T. Soares, and then settled down on a farm on the old Creek Road (Alvarado Niles Road). Mary died in Decoto on July 9, 1950 at the age of 61. She was the sister of Mrs. Frances Allegre, Manuel and Antone Borges, all of Alvarado. Mrs. Soares was a native of Alvarado.

#### **Antone B. Azevedo:**

Antone B. Azevedo was born in the Azores (Portugal) in May 1856. His census record shows various dates of entry into the U.S. of: 1873, 1879 & 1880. His wife Frances was born in Portugal in March 1870 and entered the U.S. in 1885. Antone and Francis were married circa 1885. They had eight children, seven of which survived into adulthood. They had five daughters: Frances, Mary, Annie, Angelina and Helen. They had two sons: Antone and Manuel.



This is the Antone Azevedo home as it sits today on the Alvarado Niles Road west of the I-880 freeway. The house is buried behind a bunch of foliage, but you can clearly see the flat-topped tank-house, which was a prominent feature of the homestead.

Antone's eldest daughter Frances married Domingo Allegre of Alvarado. They took out their marriage license in May 1904, with Frances' name shown on the document as Francesca B. de Azevedo. See "[Allegre, Domingo S & Frances](#)" above.

#### **HOTELS:**



**Henningsen Bros., Proprietors, Alvarado Hotel:**  
**John & Peter Henningsen, Proprietors:**

[See Bio Chapter 5 Page 26](#)

**Robert Adair:**  
**Alvarado Hotel:**

Robert Adair was born in Ireland in October 1872, and entered the U.S. in 1889. He married Mary Tuckson, who was born in 1872 in California. The union produced no children in Alvarado, but Mary had four children by a previous marriage. In the year 1900, Robert was living in San Jose working as a laborer. By 1908, he was in Alvarado, and by 1910 he was known to be the proprietor of the Alvarado Hotel, although he may have been the proprietor as early as 1908. Robert had been known in Alvarado since 1908, and in 1911, Robert played a part in the Washington Township 1911 Fourth of July celebration.

After September 1911, there is only one article in newspapers that mentioned the proprietor of the Alvarado Hotel, and that was Andy Cummings, who commented on what he had seen on the robbery of the Bank of Alvarado in April 1913. Nothing further found on the Alvarado Hotel, or on Andy Cummings, until April 1918, when a Classified Ad was put in the *Oakland Tribune* that the Alvarado Hotel was for sale. It is not clear though, if the sale involved Robert Adair, or another proprietor. In 1920, Robert Adair was found to be living in Oakland with his wife Mary, a stepdaughter Hazel, and stepson Fred. His occupation was listed as a "slinger" at the shipyard. By slinger I suspect that he was part of a riveting crew in the shipyard.

**William & Caroline Faig:**  
**Faig Hotel:**

Caroline Faig was born in Germany in March 1862, and entered the U.S. in 1880. She married William Faig, who was born in Germany in 1860. By the year 1889 they had settled in Alvarado, with William operating a saloon. They had three children, two sons William and Charles, and a daughter Alice. In 1891 William Sr. was granted a liquor license for his saloon.



*The 1902 Alameda County Assessor's Map shows that the SW corner of Levee Street & "V" Streets in Alvarado was owned by Wm. Faig. This what that corner looked like about 1940.*

William Faig passed away in 1895. In 1896, Mrs. Faig either erected a new hotel, or completely refurbished the old one, which had housed the saloon.



The hotel would have 25 rooms. Mrs. Faig and her daughter, Caroline, operated the hotel until 1903, at which time she rented her hotel. On February 1, 1906, the Hansen Brothers leased the Faig Hotel.

The Faig family moved to Oakland where they would reside.

### **Hansen Brothers Hotel:**

Scant information was found about the Hansen Bros. hotel in Alvarado other than these articles:

The Hansen Brothers leased the Faig Hotel on February 1, 1906, the Faig's having moved to Oakland to reside. In May 1906, the Alvarado Hotel and the Hansen Bros. Hotel were both undergoing repairs, both being badly damaged by the earthquake.

Other information on the Hansen Brothers Hotel was liquor licenses approved on February 1911, March 1913, and March 1915.

Nothing else could be found about the Hansen Brothers or this hotel in Alvarado.

### **Adolph W & Fredericka Lassen: Lassen Hotel:**

Adolph Lassen was born in Germany in September 1862. He entered the U.S. in 1882. His wife Fredericka was born in Germany in March 1860. She entered the U.S. in 1881. They were married in 1889, and had eight children.

In August 1890, Adolph was in Alvarado and was granted a license to sell liquor. Adolph served as a ballot official for Alvarado, and in July 1900, he became a charter member of the Alvarado Athletic and Social Club. But on November 28, 1901 Adolph W. Lassen died in Alvarado.

In 1902, Fredericka Lassen was granted a liquor license, and January 1903 she started building a new hotel in Alvarado. In June 1905, Mr. Carl Boysen, who had been running the Lassen Hotel hotel for four years, purchased the Riverside Hotel from F.B. Granger Jr.

Mrs. Lassen was associated with the Alvarado Circle of Woodmen and the Rebekahs. On the first of February 1910, Mrs. Lassen and family moved to Oakland. She had been a resident of Alvarado for twenty years, and was the owner of what was known as the old Smithurst property, now called the "old corner."

The Lassen's owned the NE corner of Levee & Horner Streets. After selling the Lassen Hotel, the hotel became known as the Chanticler Hotel.

### **Riverside Hotel:**

#### **Farley B. Granger Jr., Proprietor:**

**See Chapter 3 Page 27 for Bio**

The Riverside Hotel had been in the Granger family since its erection in 1878. In June 1905, Farley B. Granger Jr. sold the Riverside Hotel to Carl Boysen.

## **Mr. Carl Boysen, Proprietor, June 1905: Riverside Hotel:**

Carl Boysen was born in Germany on March 31, 1846. He entered the U.S. in 1873. His wife Dorothy was born in Germany on June 1, 1849. She entered the U.S. in 1874. They had four children, three of which lived until adulthood.

After the death of A.W. Lassen in 1901, Carl Boysen ran the Lassen Hotel in Alvarado. In June of 1905, Carl Boysen bought the Riverside Hotel from F.B. Granger Jr.

In 1906, Miss Marie Boysen, daughter of Carl and Dorothy Boysen, married Johann Friedrichsen, 29, of San Francisco. Johann helped the Boysen's run the Riverside Hotel. Carl Boysen passed away on February 9, 1916, leaving the hotel to his wife Dorothy, and son Nicholas Boysen.

In November 1918, complaints were received and referred to the county that the Riverside Hotel in Alvarado was in an unsanitary condition. In June 1919, the hotel was put up for sale as a 35-room hotel and bar adjoining the Southern Pacific Railroad. The ad stated that the aged owner wished to sell or rent and wanted retire.

In 1920 Nicholas Boysen was out of the hotel business, and was farming near Alvarado. Nicholas' mother, Dorothy was gone, as was his sister Mary and her husband Fred. Nothing was found after 1920 for Nicholas Boysen. Dorothy Boysen passed away on July 27, 1944

## **MERCHANTS: Antonio Lee, Jr.:**

Antonio Lee Jr. was born in Alvarado in March of 1875. Antonio Lee was the son of Antonio Lee Sr., long-time Alvarado barber and saloon owner.

In 1896 Antonio (who would went by the name "Tony"), was working as a bookkeeper in the store of I.V. Ralph on Levee Street in Alvarado.

In 1902, Tony married Miss Ada MacQuart (or McInart). After their marriage they resided in Alvarado. The following year Tony accepted a position at the Ellis Brothers general store in Alvarado. That same year Tony's wife, Ada, sued for a divorce, a little more than just one year into the marriage.

In April 1907 Tony Lee, aged 32 years, took out a license to marry Rosaline S. Freitas, 23, also of Alvarado.

Tony Lee opened a general store on the corner of Watkins and Smith Street, kitty corner from the Catholic Church. The building still exists today. His store was an affiliate of Neighborhood Stores, Inc., the largest California Grocery Organization chain in the late 1920's, with over 800 stores in the state.

Tony was a member of the Alvarado Eagles, having served as President on more than one occasion. He also served as an election official for Alvarado. Tony was a member of the Alvarado volunteer fire department, and also served as a fire commissioner.

Tony was a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, and a proponent for an Alvarado Sanitary District in the early 1940's. He also was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church, and took pride in serving as an official of the annual Holy Ghost festivals in Alvarado. In 1956, Tony was honored as one of four Alvarado members for the UPPEC Council Antonio Fontes for 50 years of membership. The UPPEC Council was a benevolent fraternity of Portuguese ancestry.

The year 1957 saw a drastic change come to Alvarado. The Nimitz Freeway (I-880) was finally opened, and all the traffic that used to funnel through Alvarado, now went right by without ever having to come to town. Local grocery stores and gas stations suffered large drops in sales, and Tony Lee was among those who saw business slump.

Tony Lee and wife Rosa had two daughters, Eleanor and Aileen.

### **The Ellis Bros:**

In August 1902, the Ellis Brothers were forced to sell out their goods at their Irvington store, as the owner of property would not rent to them any longer. In September 1902, the Ellis Brothers bought the stock of the I.V. Ralph general store on Levee Street in Alvarado and leased the building for three years.

In October 1902, they were awarded a liquor license. At the end of the lease in 1905, Philip Ellis returned to Niles, where he started a department store.

### **John H. Ralph Jr.:** **Ralph & Scribner:**

John H. Ralph Jr. was a merchant in Alvarado until the early 1950's. He was the son of John H. Ralph, who was a brother of Ivens V. Ralph, and grandson of Joseph and Fanetta Ralph. John H. Ralph Sr. died in January 1877 when John Jr. was but one year old.

In May 1903, John Ralph and John L. Olsen (also of Alvarado), bought out the general merchandising store of a Mr. Young in Decoto. By 1905, John Ralph would return to Alvarado leaving John Olsen in the merchandising business in Decoto, where he would become an important figure in the future of the town of Decoto.

John Ralph opened a merchandising store in Alvarado in 1905 in partnership with his close friend John Scribner (bio below). They opened a large general merchandising store on the east side of Levee Street between Smith and Horner Streets.

The business was immensely successful, and in August 1924 John Scribner sold out his half to John Ralph. Then John Scribner announced he would then move to Livermore and opens a store in that town.



The General Store of Ralph & Scribner. Photo from "Images of America - Union City" By Tim Swenson



Interior of the General Store of Ralph & Scribner. Photo from "Images of America - Union City" By Tim Swenson

In August of 1950, John H. Ralph Jr. announced the closing of his store on Levee Street, which had been a fixture in Alvarado since 1859. At this time Ralph related to a *Tribune* reporter the history of the store:

"The first proprietor was a man named James J. Stokes, born in England in 1816, and first arrived in the U.S. in 1829. Mr. Stokes arrived in San Francisco in 1849, and kicked about the mining country in several ventures before settling down in Union City (near Alvarado) in 1859, and engaged there in merchandising. He moved to Alvarado and purchased the building adjoining his present store, which was destroyed by fire in 1876. In the following year he built the one he now occupies. Subsequent owners have

been I. V. Ralph, (uncle of John Ralph), Charles Perry, Ralph & Harvey, Ellis Brothers, Ralph & Scribner; and for the last 26 years John Ralph."

John Ralph was involved in the formation of the Alvarado Fire Department, being named the first Fire Chief. He said he could recall going to fires pulling the fire cart behind him. As late as 1959, John still served Alvarado as a Fire Commissioner.



*The photo above is of John Ralph with his first wife Laura Lowrie (on the right). This photo is from Images of America, by Timothy Swenson.*

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 home from Vallejo Street to Watkins Street. These lots were then placed on the market as restricted residence lots. The houses moved to Watkins Street were entirely altered, modern conveniences were installed, and they were painted white. Garages were then built for each one of these houses, and 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 the maintenance of this street.

John served as Postmaster for Alvarado for a time about 1910. He was one of the original founders of the Boy Scouts in Alvarado, and was also was active in the formation of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Circle of Woodcraft in Alvarado.

John was a member of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church, and was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. But John was also a supporter of St. Anne's Catholic Church in Alvarado, lending out his premises, and his time for the betterment of both churches in Alvarado.

John Ralph and Laura Lowrie took out a license to marry in June of 1900. Laura Ralph was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Alvarado, where she was an active member of the "Ladies Aid Society."

Laura was also a member of the "500" Club, the Alvarado Women of Woodcraft, a Rebekah, a member of the Whist Club, the "Butt Ins", the Birthday Club, the "At Homes," and the Alvarado Senior Bridge Club. On May 10, 1933 Laura E. Ralph passed away.

In July 1935, John H. Ralph, 59, married Ms. Helen Hughes, 31, of Oakland.

## **John Scribner:**

### **Ralph & Scribner:**

John M. Scribner was born to Joel and Isadora (Dora) Scribner in Alvarado in 1872. The Scribner's had been in California since at least 1863, and they first appeared in Alvarado in the 1870 census with three daughters, Alice, Ethel and Louise Scribner. John Scribner was born in 1872, and shortly thereafter Joel and Dora Scribner were separated.

Joel Scribner listed his occupation as a farm laborer in 1870. Sometime after 1872 he was separated from Dora Scribner, but whether it was from death or divorce, it is not known.

In 1875 Dora Scribner married John Joyce, who was born in New Brunswick, Canada, in 1843. John immigrated to the United States in 1850, and later became a naturalized citizen. By the year 1870, John Joyce was listed in the Alvarado census as a carpenter.

John Scribner married Miss Mary Ellen (Nellie) Beebe of Alvarado, in San Francisco in January 1897. They had three children, Mavis, Dean and John M. Jr.



Shown is the interior of Ralph & Scribner's store. John Scribner is on the left and John Ralph is on the right. Photo from "*Images of America: Union City*," by Tim Swenson.

In April 1897, John had a house built in the Quigley tract, and at the end of June 1897, John and Nellie moved into their new home.

John Scribner had his third finger badly smashed at the Tay & Co. Foundry in March 1901. It disabled him for several weeks, however he was congratulating himself that he had not smashed his whole hand. It also proved to him that he should look for a position that was not so dangerous.



In 1902, tragedy struck his four-year old son Dean Scribner, who died from ptomaine poisoning after a weeks' illness. The funeral was held at the Presbyterian Church, the Rev. W. Chalmers Gunn officiating. There were a number of beautiful floral tributes, among them being offerings from the Alvarado stove works, where Mr. Scribner was then employed, and from the members of the Alvarado Camp of the Woodmen of the World, of which Mr. Scribner is a prominent member.

In 1905 John went into the general merchandising business with his close friend John Ralph. They opened a store on Levee Street in a location that had been used since 1859 by various owners as a merchandising outlet (though a fire had consumed the location completely in 1876 and then rebuilt).

Here Ralph and Scribner flourished as one of the premiere outlets of goods in the town of Alvarado. Both Ralph and Scribner built fine homes on Vallejo Street, the prestige street of Alvarado.

John Scribner announced in August 1924, that he and his wife and children would be leaving Alvarado for Livermore, where he had just purchased a store. Both were very active in church and social activities in Alvarado. Mrs. Scribner was president of the Ladies Aid, a member of the Birthday Club, the Bridge Club, and the Rebekah Lodge. Mr. Scribner was Treasurer of the Odd Fellows Lodge, President of the Board of School Trustees, Secretary of the Woodmen of the World, and a member of the Men's Club of Washington Township.

On August 29, 1949 the following obituary appeared in *The Hayward Daily Review*: John M. Scribner, 77, a native Californian, passed away recently. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary E. Scribner, a son, Dr. J. M. Scribner, a dentist from Hayward, and a daughter Mrs. Henry May. He was the brother of Mrs. Dora Richmond, Mrs. Lou Winegar, Arthur and Fred Joyce, and the late Alice Lampher.

On January 20, 1951 Mrs. Mary Ellen Scribner, the beloved wife of the late John Scribner, loving mother of Mrs. Henry May and Dr. John M. Scribner Jr., passed away in Hayward at the age of 81 years.

### **J.G. Rose, Proprietor:** **Rose Company General Store:**

Joseph G. Rose was born in Portugal in 1850. He entered the U.S. in 1878. His wife Mary G Rose was born in California in 1858. They had one son, Joseph G. Jr.

Joseph applied for a liquor license in 1904. In December 1904 an addition was built to the Rose Company General Store. This was all the activity noted in the 1900's, although the family was still in Alvarado in the 1910 census. Where their general store was located I could not find.

### **Manuel R. Drack:**

Manuel R. Drack was born in Portugal in 1871. He entered the U.S. in 1900. His wife, Isabelle, was born in the Azores (Portugal) in 1881, and entered the



U.S. in 1898. Records show that they did not have any children living with them in Alvarado in 1910, but in 1920 Luiz Drack, born in Portugal in 1888, was living with the Drack's. Luiz had entered the U.S. in 1914, and was employed as a fish salesman.

Manuel started life in Alvarado as a barber, but went into the general merchandise business. In 1924 his store caught on fire but Fire Chief John Ralph and his firemen were able to put out the flames with limited damage. He followed this profession until he showed as being retired in the 1930 census.

Manuel R. Drack died in 1936, and was buried in the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Hayward.

## **MILLWRIGHT:**

### **John S. Leal:**

John S. Leal was born in Georgia in September 1863. In 1900, he was single living with his mother Mary Leal, who was born in Portugal in January 1825. John worked as a millwright for the Alameda Sugar Co. in Alvarado. Then in June 1901, John Leal wed Jean Lowe, who was born in England in 1874. The Leal's were very active in Alvarado social affairs, both being members of the Woodmen, the Whist Club, the Butt Ins, and Mrs. Leal was a member of the Rebekah's, as well as the Alvarado Presbyterian Church. But by 1920 they had relocated to Chino California where John was employed as a foreman on a farm.

## **PHYSICIAN:**

### **Dr. Anson A. De Puy:**

Dr. De Puy was born in Ohio in 1846. His wife, Hattie De Puy, was born in Missouri in 1850. They were married in 1879 and had five children. Dr. De Puy was a practicing physician in Alvarado between 1901 and 1903, when he moved to Hayward.

The De Puy's were very active in Alvarado social life being members of the Alvarado Athletic and Social Club, The Alvarado Tennis Club, the Whist Club, and the Woodmen of the World. While in Alvarado their daughter Minnie became well known by the persons her age in Alvarado. By 1910 the De Puy's were living in Oakland.

## **POST OFFICE**

### **Miss Katherine Lang:**

Miss Katherine Lang was born in Germany in August 1881. She entered the U.S. in 1886, with her father George Lang, and her younger sister Lulu Lang. Ernest Lang was born in Germany, in October 1882. Lulu Lang was born in California, in April 1889.

George Lang, Katherine's father was born in Germany in 1851. In Alvarado he was a widower and there is no information on Katherine's mother. In Alvarado

George Lang worked at the sugar mill. In October 1924 Mr. George Lang passed away in Hayward.

In January 1909 it was noted that Miss Katherine Lang was the Ass't Postmistress of the Alvarado Post Office. In September 1910, Miss Katherine Lang married John Clegg, a civil engineer from Madera County, in a ceremony held at Hayward. Miss Lulu Lang and Ernest Lang, sister and brother of the bride, were the attendants. In 1920, the Cleggs were found living in Oakland with a six-year old daughter. Mr. Clegg was a foreman at a gas plant

#### **Miss Lulu Lang:**

On January 15, 1909 Miss Lulu Lang was elected as conductor for the Alvarado Rebekah Lodge. Lulu's uncle and aunt in Alvarado were Adolph and Fredericka Lassen of the Lassen Hotel. Lulu was active in Alvarado activities until about 1910, then she disappeared from further reports.

### **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:**

#### **Rev. W. Chalmers Gunn:**

Rev. W. Chalmers Gunn was born in Kentucky in July 1870. In 1898 he was preaching in Spokane Washington, when he met Miss Mary Patch from Berkeley, Calif. They married, but soon after their marriage Mary's health began to fail, so they moved to Berkeley in the hopes that the milder climate would help her recover her health. But she passed away at her mother's home in Berkeley on April 20, 1900. Besides her husband she left her 10-month old daughter, Marjorie.

The Reverend Gunn was the pastor of the Centerville Presbyterian Church, but he also was the pastor of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church. In December 1901 it was decided to erect a new church rather than spend money for repairs to their pioneer church edifice, which for forty years has been used in the service of God. With enthusiasm the project met with favor among the church people.

The members of the Presbyterian Church of Alvarado were saddened to learn that their pastor, Rev. W. Chalmers Gunn, had resigned in January 1903, and accepted a call to the State of Washington. The Rev. Gunn has been pastor of Alvarado and Centerville churches for the past four years, and it was largely due to his efforts that the membership had increased so wonderfully in these two churches. It was due also to his efforts that the new church at Alvarado was built, and by his personal labors on the construction considerable of the expense was saved.

Rev. Gunn would relocate in the City of Tacoma where he took over the Manitou Presbyterian Church.

### **RAILROAD AGENT:**

#### **August Rutherford:**

August Rutherford was born in California in 1886. At the time of the 1910 census August was single and was working in Alvarado as an agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad. In May 1911, August J. Rutherford, 25, took out a

marriage license to wed Miss Jennie McCarty, 19. Both were from Alvarado. Jennie was the daughter of Thomas E. and Ella McCarty. Thomas McCarty was the principal of the Alvarado Grammar School.

In May 1909, August Rutherford was initiated into the Wisteria Parlor, No. 127, Native Sons of the Golden West, at Alvarado.

In 1912, Mrs. Jennie Rutherford was noted as being a member of the Alvarado Birthday Club. In 1913, it was noted that Mrs. Rutherford was a member of the Alvarado "500" club, a card game that was very popular at the turn of the century.

In January 1914, August Rutherford was promoted to the Southern Pacific Agent for the town of Niles. He and his family would move to Niles.

A jolly get together of a long established social group occurred in January 1944, the well-known Birthday Club of Alvarado, took place at the home of Mrs. George Hellwig. Those present were: Mrs. Hellwig, Mrs. August May, and Mrs. W.S. Robie of Alvarado; Mrs. Dora Richmond of Niles; Mrs. Dora Tainton and Mrs. Jennie Rutherford of Oakland (all formerly of Alvarado). A very delightful time was enjoyed.

## **SALOON KEEPER:** **Antone S. Mello**

Antone S. Mello was born in the Azores (Portugal) circa 1883. He reportedly entered the U.S. in 1892. His wife, Edith Mello, was born in California circa 1884. They were married in 1903 and had two daughters, Geraldine and Edith.

Tony first appears in the Alvarado 1910 census as a saloonkeeper. In later years he shows also as being a barber. In 1913 he was granted a liquor license.

Tony was one of the early Presidents of the Alvarado Eagles Aerie, and he was credited with a progressive policy that built the Alvarado Eagles into one of the strongest memberships of any fraternal order in Washington Township.

When the new Catholic Church was built in Alvarado, Tony Mello took on the chairmanship of the first ever Holy Ghost festa in Alvarado. Hazel Roderick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roderick was the first queen with Madeline Avila and Minnie Gomes as attendants. Tony would go on to serve as President of the Alvarado Holy Ghost Association for a number of years.

In September 1939 Tony Mello received special mention in *The Alvarado Pioneer* for his many progressive exploits for the town:

"Tony Mello of Alvarado has been in business for 30 years and has come to make friends with many folks in Washington Township. Tony sells the finest of beers, carrying Lucky Lager, Wielands and Rainier on draught, and it is a cool and refreshing drink on these hot days. He also carries the leading wines and liquors.

This man spends his time and energy helping the town prosper. He always gives money to hire a night watchman when a capable man is on the job, and serves on committees for benefit whist parties etc., to help raise money for charity or to aid our splendid church. Surely a man like this deserves to be patronized and given a boost."

Tony Mello was also a backer of the Alvarado Sanitary District to keep the town free of diseases from untreated sewage. He was also a member of the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce, the SPRSI, and the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Edith Mello was a member of the SPRSI, serving on various committees of the organization to raise funds for activities. She also served as a ballot official during elections in Alvarado.

Funeral services were held in August 1942 for Tony, who was 59 years of age. He was a native of Fayal, the Azores, and was survived by his wife Edith and two daughters. Mrs. Edith Mello followed him in death in 1965.

## **SHOEMAKER:**

### **Andrew Lund:**

Andrew Lund was born in Germany on March 1864, and entered the U.S. in 1887. His wife, Alfreda was born in Denmark on September 1871, and entered the U.S. in 1890. He and Alfreda married in 1891 and settled in Hayward. The Lund's had 10 children, Sophia, Annie, Dagmar (Viola), Walter, Alfreda, Victor, Andrew Jr., Adolph, Palmer and Eva.

Andrew and Alfreda then moved to Alvarado after the turn of the century, where Andrew worked in Tay Stove Foundry in old Union City. By 1910 he had switched to a shoe repair business in Alvarado. He followed this until 1914, when he leased the M. Gallivan farm for five years.

In 1917 Andrew moved back to Hayward where he stayed until his death in November 1940.

Among the notable marriages of the children is John F. Turner of Alvarado to Sophie Lund also of Alvarado. Adolph Lund married Mabel Fyffe, both of Alvarado. Dagmar (Viola) Lund married an upcoming Alvarado merchant named Sam Dinsmore.

Besides his wife Fred and ten children, Andrew also left a brother, Antone Lund, also of Alvarado.

## **SUPERINTENDENT, PIONEER SALT WORKS:**

### **Walter S. Robie:**

Mr. Walter S. Robie was born in California in November 1862. Walter's wife, Fannie, was born in California in April 1868. The couple was married circa 1896, and had two children, a daughter Evangeline, and a son Russell. Walter's wife, Fannie Robie, was clerk of the board of the Alvarado Grammar School Trustees for over 35 years.

Evangeline Robie married noted local baseball player, Fred Muller from Newark. Russell Robie married Miss Alma Norris, daughter of Postmaster Albert Norris.

Walter Robie was the superintendent of the Pioneer Salt Works in Alvarado. Walter S. Robie passed away prior to 1939, leaving his wife Fannie, daughter Evangeline Muller, and son Russell Robie.

## **TEACHERS:**

### **Miss Martha Cilker:**

Miss Martha Cilker was born in California in September 1868 to John and Ann Cilker. Martha taught in Alvarado School during the 1890's, but returned to her home in Los Gatos at the end of the decade to be with her parents. She maintained her profession as a teacher in Los Gatos, but returned many times to Alvarado to visit old friends.

### **Mrs. Edythe Chisholm:**

Not much can be found on Mrs. Edythe Chisholm. Mrs. Chisholm and Miss Carrie Parish filled the vacancies caused by the resignations of Miss Kate E. Riley and Miss Lora Emery in August 1902, two popular teachers of the Alvarado School. Mrs. Chisholm's mother was named Mrs. H. Turner. Mrs. Chisholm resigned in July 1903.

### **Miss Lora Emery:**

Lora Emery was born in California in 1874 to Weston and Dianthe Emery. Lora attended San Jose Normal School (forerunner to today's San Jose State University), and later taught at Alvarado Grammar School. In August 1902, Lora resigned her teaching job to pursue personal interests.

In September 1902, Miss Lora Emery, 29, took out a marriage license to marry Sherman Van Gorden, 29, of San Francisco.

### **Miss Alice Kilgo:**

Miss Alice Kilgo came to Alvarado in July 1903 from Colfax, where she had taught with Mr. Thomas E. McCarty. Alice had lived with her mother; Mrs. Sarah Kilgo, who was a widow with three children. Alice Kilgo replaced Mrs. Edythe Chisholm in the intermediate department at Alvarado Grammar School in September 1903. Alice was active in the Alvarado Circle of Woodcraft, the Alvarado Whist Club, and the "Butt Ins." In July 1914 Alice Kilgo was a teacher of domestic science in the Oakland School District, but she did come back to town to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wiegman.

### **Miss Celeste Bunker:**

Miss Celeste Bunker was born in California in October 1878 to Henry and Mary Bunker in Placer County, California. In December 1905, Miss Carrie Parish resigned her position at the Alvarado School, and Miss Bunker was chosen to replace her. On January 20, 1906, the Alvarado School opened with Celeste Bunker as the teacher for the primary room. In January 1909, the Alvarado School opened with T.E. McCarty Principal, Miss Alice Kilgo, and Miss Celeste

Bunker as assistants. Celeste left the Alvarado School in 1922 to teach at the Niles School. Celeste taught at Niles for 25 years, retiring in 1946 and passing away early in 1947. Celeste always had an affinity for Alvarado and returned in 1928 to hand out diplomas to graduates. She returned again in 1937 to give a talk to the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades on her cross country trip the past summer.

### **Thomas E. McCarty:**

T.E. (Thomas E.) McCarty was born in Ohio in 1862, and his wife Ella was born in Iowa in 1868. They were married in 1889, and had three children, all born in California. Thomas taught public school in Placerville, and by 1909, he was teaching school in Alvarado as the principal, with two former Placerville teachers, Miss Kilgo and Miss Bunker as teachers. Mr. McCarty replaced Albert Norris as principal.

Principal McCarty was responsible for introducing manual arts training at the Alvarado Grammar School, Alvarado being the first school in Alameda County to do so. The pupils of the higher grades made all of their workbenches, and fitted up their shop with a most complete plant.

In April 1916, Thomas E. McCarty principal of the Alvarado Grammar School for seven years died in Alvarado.

### **UNDERTAKER & DEPUTY CORONER:**

#### **George G. Bontelho:**

George Bontelho was born in California in 1875. He first appears in Alvarado in 1909 as the Alvarado undertaker and deputy coroner. He was not married.

In 1912, George Bontelho became Constable of the Alvarado area. On April 5, 1913 bank robbers entered the Bank Alvarado and blew up the safe that contained \$27,000 in gold. The explosion from the dynamite caused the vault door to become jammed, and although the safe crackers could see the gold, they could not reach it. They left with only \$19. Constable Bontelho, who lived across the street from the bank said he did not hear the blast.

George Bontelho, undertaker and deputy coroner of Alvarado, was found dead in his room at his place of business June 8, 1913 by one of his employees. He was 39 years old. Heart failure was pronounced to be the cause of death. He was an active member of the Alvarado Aerie of Eagles. He was unmarried.

### **WATCHMAKER:**

#### **Phil Roach, Proprietor:**

Alvarado had a watchmaker, Phil Roach. In October 1905 he opened a store in the new Davilla building. Nothing else could be discovered about Mr. Roach.

### **WATER WORKS:**

#### **Joseph Sunkel, Chief Engineer:**

Joseph Sunkel was born in California in July 1863. His wife Anna Sunkel was also born in California in July 1863. They were married in 1887, and had a

daughter Gladys. Joseph came to Alvarado from Oakland. The Sunkel's are first mentioned in Alvarado in December 1901. Joseph was the superintendent of the Waters Works on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Alvarado.

In November 1903, Mrs. Sunkel became a charter member, and an officer, in the new Alvarado Whist Club. In July 1905, Mrs. A. Merritt (whose husband was an executive of the Tay Foundry Co. in Alvarado) took Mrs. Anna Sunkel, Miss Sparks, and the Misses Nauert, out for an automobile ride Sunday in her big steamer, which she runs herself. The ladies were dressed in white and hatless and made a pretty picture as they sped along the roads.

In September 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sunkel, and their daughter Gladys, left for their new home in Oakland. Mr. Sunkel had been the superintendent of the water plant for the Oakland Water & Contra Costa Water Company in Alvarado, and left to accept a better position with the same company. During their residence here they had made many friends, who regretted their departure.

### **Edwin A. Richmond, Jr.:**

Edwin A. Richmond Jr. was born in California in February 1876 to Edwin Addison Richmond Sr. and Elizabeth Richmond of Alvarado. In 1900 Edwin was in Santa Barbara working as a laborer in the local sugar mill. Edwin later came back to Alvarado, and in 1904 he married Miss Dora Joyce of Alvarado. Dora was the daughter of Mrs. Dora (Scribner) Joyce and stepdaughter to John A. Joyce. Dora had two prominent brothers in Alvarado, Fred Joyce and John Scribner.

Edwin and Dora resided on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Alvarado where Edwin was the Engineer and the later Chief Engineer of the water works in Alvarado. Edwin and Dora (and daughter Jeanette) resided there until they relocated to Center Street in Centerville just before 1940. Mr. Richmond was a member of the Alvarado IOOF, and both were members of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church with Mrs. Richmond serving as president of the Ladies Aid Society. Edwin A. Richmond Jr., died January 27, 1967.

### **Arthur R. Dees:**

Mr. Arthur R. Dees was born in Missouri in 1882. Mr. Dees came to Alvarado and was shown boarding at the Riverside Hotel in 1910. He showed he was married, but a wife was not shown living with him. He was working as an engineer at the Alvarado Water works.

On May 9, 1912, Arthur R. Dees, 31, and Mrs. Mae Threlfall (nee May B. Lowrie), 34, both of Alvarado, took out a license to marry. When Mr. and Mrs. Dees returned from their wedding trip it was stated that Mrs. Dees would continue as Deputy Postmistress for Alvarado. In October 1913 Mrs. Dees was noted as being absent from her Post Office duties due to a bad cold.

On December 8, 1913, the son of Arthur Dees, Arthur Robert Dees, Jr., died in Fruitvale at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Katherine Knapp. He was six years old. His mother was not shown living with the Knapp's. The last mention of Arthur Dees in Alvarado was in February 1915.



\*\*\*\*\*

\* **NOTABLE CHINESE** \*

\*\*\*\*\*

**BOARDING HOUSES-LABOR CONTRACTORS:**

**Ah Tie:**

Ah Tie was born in China in 1839, and entered the U.S. in 1868. He showed that he was single, and that he was a farm labor contractor and also boarded his workers. He had ten Chinese nationals under his roof and employ.

**Jim Fung:**

Jim Fung was born in China in August 1853, and entered the U.S. in 1873. He showed that he was married, but he did not have a wife or children living with him. He was a farm labor contractor and also boarded his workers. He had fourteen Chinese nationals under his roof and employ.

**More Yan:**

More Yan was born in China in August 1849, he entered the U.S. in 1886. He showed that he was married, but he did not have a wife or children living with him. He was a farm labor contractor and also boarded his workers. He had fourteen Chinese nationals under his roof and employ.

**Ah Young:**

Ah Young was born in China in October 1851, he entered the U.S. in 1875. He showed that he was married, but he did not have a wife or children living with him. He was a farm labor contractor and also boarded his workers. He had six Chinese nationals under his roof and employ.

**Ah Sing:**

Ah Sing was born in China in March 1865, he was unmarried. He was a labor contractor for the salt works, and also boarded his workers. He had ten Chinese nationals under his roof and employ.

**Hon Cheung:**

Hon Cheung was born in china in September 1859, he was unmarried. He was a labor contractor for the salt works, and also boarded his workers. He had nine Chinese nationals under his roof and employ.

**HOTEL KEEPER:**

**Hum Quan:**

Hum Quan was born in China in November 1847, he entered the U.S. in 1876. He was single and showed that he was the proprietor of a hotel. He was living alone and did not show any tenants.

**Cheung Sow:**

Cheung Sow was born in China in March 1850, he entered the U.S. in 1874. He was single and showed that he was the proprietor of a hotel. He showed that he was married, but did not show a wife or children. He had one tenant boarding with him, his cousin, Loue Kim Ching.

## **LAUNDRYMEN:**

### **Wing Sing:**

### **Ah Voey:**

Wing Sing and Ah Voey were brothers and were proprietors of a laundry in Alvarado.

### **Wing Sing:**

Wing Sing was born in China in October 1867, he entered the U.S. in 1883. He was single and was a partner with his brother in a laundry.

### **Ah Voey:**

Ah Voey was born in China in August 1863, he entered the U.S. in 1883. He was single and was a partner with his brother in a laundry.

## **Hung Lee:**

Hung Lee was born in China in May 1860, he entered the U.S. in 1884. He was married, but did not show a wife or children living with him. He showed that he was the proprietor of a laundry and had two men working for him.

## **Lee Mang Foo:**

Lee Mang Foo was born in China in March 1852, he showed he entered the U.S. in 1875. He was married, but did not show a wife or children living with him. He was boarding with Hung Lee and working as a laundryman.

## **Leland Chung:**

Leland Chung was born in the U.S. in September 1876. She showed he was single and working for Hung Lee as a laundryman.

## **MERCHANTS:**

### **King Wong:**

King Wong was a merchant in Alvarado, he was born in China in June 1843, and entered the U.S. in 1875. He showed he was married, but did not have a wife or children living with him. Living with him were his brother Cheung Wong, and his two cousins; Ah Choy and Vung Wan.

## **Hom Tong:**

Hom Tong was born in China in July 1838, he entered the U.S. in 1868. He showed he was married, but did not have a wife or children living with him. He showed he was a merchant in Alvarado.

## **Fung Sun Yow:**

Fung Sun Yow was born in China in December 1852, he entered the U.S. in 1872. He showed he was married, but did not have a wife or children living

with him. He showed he was merchant in Alvarado. He also had four Chinese nationals boarding with him.

**She Cheung:**

She Cheung was born in China in August 1854, he entered the U.S. in 1882. He showed he was single and was a merchant in Alvarado.

**Loue Gum:**

Loue Gum was born in China in October 1844, he entered the U.S. in 1870. Loue showed as being married, and living with his wife, Lok Sun Yee, who was born in China in August 1869. Lok Sun Yee entered the U.S. in 1887. Loue and Lok had been married for two years and had no children. Living with them was Loue’s cousin, Pun Ah Chun, and Chun’s son and daughter. Loue gave his occupation as a merchant.

**Wong Ling:**

Wong Ling was born in China in July 1861, he entered the U.S. in 1890. He showed he was married, but did not have a wife or children living with him. He showed he was merchant in Alvarado. He also showed he boarded five Chinese nationals.

**Sun Kee:**

Sun Kee was born in China in September 1844, he entered the U.S. 1870. He showed he was married, but did not have a wife or children living with him. He showed he was merchant in Alvarado.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **NOTABLE JAPANESE** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**BOARDING HOUSES-LABOR CONTRACTORS:**

**Kay Hamachi:**

Kay Hamachi was born in Japan in December 1877, he entered the U.S. in 1899. He was single, showing his occupation as a farm labor contractor. He boarded and employed eight Japanese nationals.

**S. Furukawa:**

Mr. Furukawa was born in Japan in November 1867, he entered the U.S. in 1886. He showed he was single. His occupation was as a farm labor contractor. He boarded and employed twenty-nine Japanese nationals.

**Yem Kubo:**

Yem Kubo was born in Japan in May 1859, he entered the U.S. in 1896. He was married but did not show a wife or children living with him. His occupation was as a day labor contractor. He boarded and employed twenty-four Japanese nationals.

**Ino Kirako:**

Ino Kirako was born in Japan in November 1872, he entered the U.S. in 1896. He showed he was single. His occupation was as a day labor contractor. He boarded and employed six Japanese nationals.

**H. Kuraikitchi:**

H. Kuraikitchi was born in Japan in May 1879, he entered the U.S. in 1896. He showed he was single. His occupation was as a farm labor contractor. He boarded and employed nineteen Japanese nationals.

**Kasabo Babe:**

Kasabo Babe was born in Japan in April 1860, he entered the U.S. in 1890. He showed he was single. His occupation was as a farm labor contractor. He boarded and employed thirteen Japanese nationals.

**E. Kaysuni:**

E. Kaysuni was born in Japan in February 1860, he entered the U.S. in 1898. He showed he was married, but did not show a wife or children living with him. His occupation was as a farm labor contractor. He boarded and employed eight Japanese nationals.

**Yasauza Nobukichi:**

Mr. Nobukichi was born in Japan in December 1876, he entered the U.S. in 1900. He showed he was married but did not show a wife or children living with him. His occupation was as a farm labor contractor. He boarded and employed seven Japanese nationals.

**Eye Kusaka:**

Eye Kusaka was born in Japan in June 1878, he entered the U.S. in 1894. He showed he was single. His occupation was as a salt company labor contractor. He boarded and employed eight Japanese nationals.

**Ket Okada:**

Ket Okada was born in Japan in August 1854, he entered the U.S. in 1892. He showed he was single. His occupation was as a farm labor contractor. He boarded and employed seven Japanese nationals.

**Ripio Yata:**

Ripio Yata was born in Japan in April 1875, he entered the U.S. in 1900. He showed he was single. His occupation was as a farm labor contractor. He boarded and employed twenty-five Japanese nationals.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **1906 EARTHQUAKE** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

On May 7, 1906, Francois Matthes, made a report on Earthquake Investigations at Alvarado. Here are his findings:

"The plant of the Alameda Sugar Company was the chief sufferer. The main buildings are of wood, substantially constructed, and were not damaged, but the fitting and accessory structures were injured in numerous places. An old limekiln showed diagonal cracks in the brickwork, several of the small arches above the fire holes opened and let bricks fall out. A 6" cast iron water pipe attached vertically to the main building broke transversely about 30 feet above the ground. The water in the tanks on the roof splashed heavily as to raise and break the wooden covers. The water seems to have splashed mostly to east.

The two great platforms carrying the syrup tanks, supported by numerous vertical props, 10-feet 10-inches high, resting on concrete foundations fell down altogether, the northern one to the north and the southern to the south, these directions being probably determined by the original inclination of the supports. The tanks were all damaged, and over one million pounds of syrup flowed away (much of this, according to the superintendent will be recovered). Total weight on the south platform, was 1,072,891 pounds.

At the time of the visit, much of the debris had been cleared away and no photographs were taken of the ruins. In the engine room, the vertical steam pipes cracked next to the flanges by the racking motion of the ceiling through which they extend. The shock appears to have had a north south direction according to the position of the breaks in these water pipes.

The mill stands on flat, alluvial ground, one hundred feet north of Alameda Creek. Along the banks of the latter a large number of cracks extend, roughly parallel with the stream. Considerable masses next to the streambed slumped towards the same, leaving gaping cracks a foot to two feet wide, and carrying with them small outlying buildings, notably the fire engine house, which moved bodily, concrete foundation and all, two feet south toward the creek. A small railroad trestle S.W. of the mill moved 4" south on both of its abutments, probably owing to slumping of loose ground on north side of the creek.

A 2" water pipe laid under the ground some 60 feet north of the creek and almost parallel with the same, shows indication of having been submitted first to tension, causing rupture at one of the joints, then sudden compression causing it to be jammed together with violence.

Cracks in the ground may be found as far as 250 feet from the creek. They were nearly all closed at the time of my visit (May 7<sup>th</sup>), but were easily traced by the streaks of bluish gray sand, which had issued from them together with considerable quantities of water. According to the Chinese cook of the superintendent, the cracks nearest to his dwelling were seen to open and close several times in succession during the quake, a large volume of mud laden water gushing from them, and splashing up some ten feet in the air at each closing.

A large crack of this kind opened under the N.W. corner of the dwelling, and the superintendent estimates that fully 500 gallons of water gushed from the same, the flow continuing with decreasing volume for about an hour. The

fence in front of the house shows that the ground there has been raised into a low hump. The sewer pipe leading west to the creek was detached from the house by a space of 22". A chimney near the N.E. corner of the house was thrown to the east, with sufficient violence to throw the farthest bricks 35 feet east of the house. (The top of the chimney was only 20 feet above the ground originally).

In the roadway south of the mill water oozed out in a number of places without the production of visible cracks. The water pipes and hydrants in this vicinity were crunched in several places. The water wells about the plant were observed daily before and after the earthquake. In most of them the water suddenly rose. In a few cases the readings show that the water rose from one to two feet. In one case a well, which used to be considered as nearly dry, has shown daily fluctuations since the quake, overflowing early every morning up to the time of my visit.

At the Alvarado Water Works, the brick buildings suffered considerable damage, the walls cracking in several places. Nothing could be learnt regarding the behavior of the wells of this plant. The frame dwelling of the superintendent was damaged by the collapse of its underpinning. A similar fate was that of the Alvarado Hotel. Both houses were being put back in place at date of visit. At the schoolhouse the water tank fell owing to the collapse of its supports.

Nearly all the brick chimneys in the village fell, the directions varying. A few cracks opened across the street, but these had been filled at the date of my visit. The consensus of opinion was the shock had a north south direction with intensity of 7+."

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **DUCKS** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Ducks continued to be an economic factor in Alvarado with the marshes largely dotted with hunting lodges for the well-to-do hunters from San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley. When duck season started many hunters would fill the hotels of Alvarado as they visit their lodges in the daytime.

The start of duck hunting season in the fall of October 1900 reported extraordinary bags, even by opening day standards. In some instances the sport practically degenerated into a slaughter. One party of four secured 600 ducks in two hours of shooting on the Alvarado marshes. Three other members of the Spoonbill Club killed 320 in the same locality. One month later members of the "Spoony Gun Club" bagged 250 ducks.

Game wardens were determined to put a stop to the illegal shooting of ducks on the Alvarado marshes after sunset and before sunrise. Several days after the proclamation to end this unlawful shooting a doctor, and two of his guests, were arrested for participating in the unlawful sport. The fine for persons convicted of violating this section of the game law was \$25. As the game wardens receive half of this for each conviction, the warden's interest is considerably sharpened.

Those sportsmen, who would not think of taking advantage of the moonlight shooting, naturally object to men who do take this advantage and return with big strings of birds. It means a slaughter of ducks, as under good conditions a great many can be bagged. The flash of the shotguns has the tendency to scare away a lot of birds and in the long run makes for bad shooting.

Prior to a duck hunting season, owners of the lodges out on the Alvarado marshes, come in to get their lodges into shape for the coming duck hunting season. This is what happened in September 1902, when the "Spoonbill Club" sent a "wide awake" hunter down to their clubhouse with instructions to paint the decoys and give the house a general burnishing for the reception of its owners. The wide-awake hunter worked hard at the decoys and painted them in a way that the worldliest duck would regard with favor. Then, on Sunday afternoon, he started at the house with a tar bucket to give the outside a weatherly coat. In his haste he allowed the fire to connect with the tar, and shortly there was nothing left of the house, and the decoys, but a heap of hot ashes. The ammunition that was stored within kept up such a lively fusillade that the amateur painter did not dare stay close enough to throw water on the flames, and members of the club now insist that the exploding shells frightened away all the birds in the neighborhood. This leaves them with blinds and ponds, but minus house, ammunition, decoys, and ducks.

But not all is fun and games in the marshes as property lines are jealously guarded and poachers are dealt harsh treatment. An incident reared its ugly head in December of 1902, when F.J. Horn of San Francisco was reportedly fired upon when he was on his side of the property line. Dr. L.F. Cranz of Alameda differs in opinion. This has caused a simmering dislike of each other that finally exploded into fisticuffs at 1st & Webster Street, in Oakland, where the two were waiting for the train to take them to the unhappy hunting grounds. They had words first, and then fists. Cranz was hit on the head with a cane, and he had Horn arrested. When the case came up before Judge Smith the courtroom was filled with sportsmen ready to testify, among whom were C.G. Gould, a Deputy Game Commissioner, and president of the Swan Gun Club. The upshot of it all was that Horn was found guilty of assault and made to pay a fine of \$50.

Two years later, in November of 1904, a row over certain duck ponds between Mt. Eden and Alvarado was taken into the court, and it was ordered that G. W. Emmons was granted a temporary restraining order against Sebastian Liguori and his wife to keep them from allowing, and inviting their friends to shoot over the land in question. In his complaint Emmons stated that he, in company with J. A. Leonard, secured a lease of 120 acres of land near the San Francisco Bay from Liguori in 1898, for a term of ten years. They were to sink an artesian well upon the land for the purpose of making fresh water ponds that the ducks would be attracted by them, and they were to build certain levees and dykes. He says that he has made these improvements, but that during the last year Liguori had invited H. Crocker, William Gall, and John Brown of Mt. Eden onto the place and allowed them to shoot on the ponds. Upon the showing made, Judge Melvin issued a temporary restraining order.

The 1905 hunting season showed that hunter's visit the marshes, but go away disappointed, as the ducks were very scarce. It was hoped that the first rains would make the sport as good as it has been other years. One duck makes quite a showing and a half dozen were considered as fifty had been heretofore. The season closed in February 1906, and the marshes were crowded with sportsmen, but most came to



close up their respective gun clubhouses rather than to shoot birds. The sport has been unusually poor.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **ALVARADO GRAMMAR SCHOOL** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

This is the report of the local schools for the period 1900 - 1909. It includes Alvarado and Alviso Grammar Schools and Union High School No. 2 (Washington Union High).

**Teachers:**

**1902:** School opened Monday, July 28, 1902, with Prof. Albert Norris as principal. Teachers for the term were Mrs. Edythe Chisholm and Miss Carrie Parish, who filled the vacancies caused by the resignations of Miss Kate E. Riley and Miss Lora Emery. Miss Riley resigned her position to accept one in the Emery School of this county, while Miss Emery would not continue her teaching career.

**1903:** Miss Alice Kilgo of Colfax was selected to fill the vacancy in the intermediate department of Alvarado Grammar School caused by the resignation of Mrs. Edythe Chisholm.

**1906:** School re-opened Monday, January 15, 1906 with Miss Celeste Bunker filling the vacancy of Miss Carrie Parish, who resigned.

**1909:** The teachers were: T. E. McCarty, Principal, Miss Alice Kilgo and Miss Celeste Bunker as assistants.

**Students:**

**1900:** The following Alvarado students were enrolled in Union High School No.2 (this was the official name of the high school at Centerville):

Miss Ivy Ralph                      Miss Edna Ralph                      Miss Mary Jackson  
Miss Harriet Patterson              Theodore Vandervoort

The following Alvarado students are enrolled in Union High School No. 3 (this was the official name of the high school at Haywards).

Miss Oscarna Nauert              Ralph Richmond

**1901:** The Alameda County Board of Education finished reviewing the examination papers of the pupils in the county districts and completed a list of graduates. Lester Norris of Alvarado received his Certificate of Graduation.

**1903:** Miss Mary Jackson of Alvarado graduated from the Union High School No. 2 in Centerville.

**1905:** The following pupils have successfully passed the examinations of the County Board of Education and have received diplomas of graduation entitling them to admission to any high schools in the county.

Austin D. Ellis                      Andrew Jacobson                      Harry Jensen

**1906:** The County Board of Education completed the marking of the examination papers of the eighth grade pupils who took the final graduation examinations and have announced that the following pupils have graduated.

Alvarado:

Leo E. Adle	Lawrence M. Carter	Ethel K. Foley
Manuel C. Gaspar	Mary P. Griffin	Charlotte Jung
Alma Norris	G. Richmond	

Alviso: Teacher: Nellie Malloy.

Clara Beard	Flora McKeown	George S. Roderick
-------------	---------------	--------------------

**Trustees:**

**1900:** Alvarado: W.F. Emery I.V. Ralph

Alviso: Anthony A. Bettencourt

**1903:** Alvarado: F. B. Granger F. P. Hellwig

**1905:** Alvarado: E.W. Burr

Alviso: J.F. Rose

**Township School Children:**

The school children enrolled in Washington Township grade schools for 1902 is as follows:

Alvarado	177	
Alviso	91	
Centerville	238	
Decoto	239	
Lincoln	20	Newark
Mission San Jose	166	
Mowry's Landing	30	Newark/Irvington
Newark	151	
Niles	217	
Warm Springs	134	
Washington	167	Irvington

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**"500" Club:**

500, or Five Hundred, was a game devised in America shortly before 1900, and promoted by the United States Playing Card Company, who copyrighted and marketed the rules in 1904. The game could be played by two to six players. The game was an extension of Euchre, which also incorporated the basic principles of Bridge.

The first reported club established in Alvarado was in March of 1904. It was founded by a group of young men and women, and was soon the rage throughout Washington Township. Within the first year of its founding it was the featured game of choice and the club held regular games monthly, and on special events held invitational tournaments.

In less than two years the fervor for the game began to die down in Alvarado, although a game was held in 1909, and the results were reported to the newspapers. The club games were held at various homes during the decade. Among the many devotees of the game in Alvarado were: Inez Whipple, Bertha Whipple, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Sunkel, Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Burr, Mildred Nauert, Nina Dyer, Mrs. Will Patterson, Carrie Parish, Mr. E. Long, Miss Jewett, Charles Love, Dora Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. John Ralph, Henry Patterson

The game seemed to fade after 1905, as there were no mentions of the game in Alvarado until February 1909, when Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Leal held a party at their home. The height of popularity seemed to peak in August 1904, when a "500" Club held an invitational tournament and corn roast at the "The Maples" (a picnic ground in Decoto). It was reportedly a pleasant affair with invitations greatly in demand.

### **Alvarado Athletic & Social Club:**

The first mention of this club surfaced in September 1899. The officers were: President, A. Lindsay; Vice President, A.A. Peralta; Secretary, A.W. Lassen; Treasurer, R.W. Elwert; Directors, Gus Nauert, Geo Hellwig, Dr. A.A. De Puy. The new club had a membership of forty-five, and applications were coming in thick and fast. This club either did not last long, or they did not publicize their activities.

### **Alvarado Improvement Club:**



The Alvarado Improvement Club was a social organization devoted to raising funds for the improvement of Alvarado. One major project was to raise funds for an elevated sidewalk from the Southern Pacific Depot to Smith Street. Downtown Alvarado had elevated wooden sidewalks to keep citizens dry during floods and out of the mud in the rain. The Alvarado Train Depot is on the far left with the raised wooden boardwalk leading to it. Just across from the train depot are the warehouses and house of Farley Granger. Two ladies are seen walking on the raised boardwalk to Alvarado alongside Smith Street with the railroad crossing sign on the foreground.

In January of 1900 they held a dance, which raised \$40 for the construction of the raised sidewalk. The club began construction of the sidewalk to the depot in July, which was one of the main objects in view when the organization was started. The plan was to hold more events to finish construction of the sidewalk.

In February 1901 the Improvement Club held its signature event, a grand musical and dramatic entertainment at the IOOF Hall, on February 22 & 23, 1901. The event was held under the direction of Mr. George Beebe. The program changed each evening and the following well-known artists assisted:

Miss Ruby Dawson:	mime
Mr. J.J. Pettee:	vocalist
Miss Edith Jackson:	reader
Master Willie Rickey:	violin
Mrs. J. Bardellini:	soprano
The Ralph Orchestra:	
Miss Jesse Foster:	Soprano
J.M. Scribner:	Baritone
Charles Neal:	Flute
Miss Anna Obermuller:	Soprano
George Beebe:	Specialties; and others.

On Friday evening, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the play "Handicapped" was performed. The piece had been revised and new specialties were introduced. The cast was as follows:

Mrs. Lawton, principal of the academy:	Mrs. F.C. Harvey
Mrs. Thurston, her sister:	Mrs. E.A. Richmond
Nella Lawton:	Miss Dora Joyce
May:	Miss Oscarna Nauert
Gertie:	Miss Margie Jackson
Roberta:	Miss Kathryn Nauert
Georgina:	Mrs. E.M. Foley
Miss Pinks: Ass't to the principal,	Mrs. August May
Rev. Theophilus Stiggs: a clergyman,	A.N. Lindsay
Tom, a Negro servant:	J.M. Scribner
Teddy Thurston:	Will Burr

On Saturday evening, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the play "A Social Outcast" was given with the following cast:

Lawrence Emmet:	J.M. Scribner
Hon. Frank Kenmore: politician & rascal,	George Beebe
Judge Montgomery: of the Circuit Court,	A.N. Lindsay
Julia, his alleged daughter:	Miss Kathryn Nauert
Genie, his niece:	Miss Minnie De Puy

Tickets: Reserved seats 50¢, general admission 25¢

The programs were a smash success, with both nights the IOOF Hall with a standing room only crowd. This event was followed by a dance at the IOOF Hall in May, which was a success socially but not financially. The group held another dance in September 1901, and then disappeared from further reported activity.

## **Alvarado Tennis Club:**

The Alvarado Tennis Club elected officers as follows in May 1900:

President: A.A. Norris  
Vice President: W. Lawson  
Secretary: Miss Laura Emery  
Treasurer: Will Burr  
Court Captain: Ralph Richmond

The club now had about thirty members and were arranging for a try-out tourney for Decoration Day.

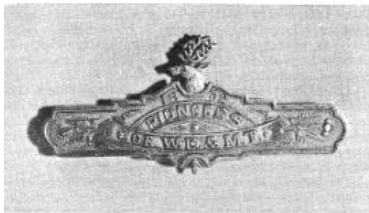
At a meeting of the Alvarado Social Tennis and Whist Club held May 1901, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President: Dr. A.A. De Puy  
Vice-President: Prof. A.A. Norris  
Secretary: Miss Mildred Nauert  
Treasurer: E. William Burr  
Court Captain: Henry H. Patterson.

### **Argonaut Society:**

The Argonaut Society of Pioneers of Washington Township pioneers held their first meeting in 1876. William Barry of Niles and William Morris Liston of Alvarado were the first to suggest organization of this society. This society appears to have been a last man standing, as no new members were permitted after being organized.

To be a member of the Argonaut Society of Pioneers, you had to be a member of the Washington Township Pioneer Society. To be a member of the Washington Township Pioneer Society it was necessary that a man should be a resident of one of the towns in the township prior to January 1, 1853. But not all members of the Washington Township Pioneer Society were members of the Argonaut Society of Pioneers of Washington Township. The Argonauts held their first banquet in Alvarado at the Riverside Hotel in 1890.



*The Argonaut pin of Wm. Liston of Alvarado*

The Argonaut Society held their last reported annual election of officers and banquet, at the Gregory House in Centerville on Saturday, April 20, 1901. From a membership of 111, they had dwindled to eight. Those present were:

H. Dusterberry: Centerville  
J.C. Whipple: Decoto  
William Barry: Niles  
F.C. Rose

John Buchannan Alvarado  
Sebastian Franz Alvarado

Absent were Ed Niehause (Centerville), who was in Fresno, and C.G. Healy (Newark). Henry Dusterberry of Centerville, the "last man" died in 1920.

### **"Butt" Ins:**

The Butt Ins was a social group that first appeared in January 1909. There is no information as to its purpose, although you may make several guesses at it. It appears the club was comprised of women, and had been organized for some time before reporting their activities to the newspaper.

Persons mentioned in the club during 1909 were:

Mrs. J. H. Ralph	Mrs. L. Ralph	Mrs. W. Ballhache
Mrs. J.S. Leal	Mrs. J. Scribner	Mrs. B. Ford
Mrs. Dora Richmond, Jr.	Mrs. E. A. Richmond, Sr.	Mrs. E. M. Tainton
Mrs. E. M. Foley	Mrs. E. L. Farley	Mrs. E. Hellwig
Miss Celeste Bunker	Mrs. E.H. Churchman	Mrs. F. C. Harvey
Mrs. I. V. Ralph	Mrs. T. E. McCarty	

### **Country Club of Washington Township:**

Although not specifically an Alvarado group, there were Alvarado members in this prestigious township organization. Mentioned among the members of this decade were:

#### **October 12, 1905:**

A very pleasant and interesting meeting of the Country Club was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Evans of Alvarado, on Tuesday, October 3, 1905. Several papers on the life of Shakespeare were presented by different members of the club, all meriting the attention they received. The story of the play Hamlet was nicely told by Mrs. Caleb Haley. This play was to be taken up for future study by the club. Miss Clara Jackson favored the club with two instrumental solos. The next meeting of the club will be held at the home of Mrs. F. B. Granger Jr. (All ladies mentioned in the above article were from Alvarado except for Mrs. Caleb Haley.)

#### **April 1907:**

At the meeting of the Washington Township Country Club held April 2, 1907, at the home of Mrs. J. A. Bunting, the following officers were elected for the year:

President	Mrs. J. A. Bunting (Centerville)
Vice President:	Mrs. F. B. (Sue Harvey) Granger, Jr. (Alvarado)
Secretary:	Mrs. W. H. Ford (Alvarado)
Financial Secretary:	Miss Inez Whipple (Decoto)
Treasurer:	Miss Flora Brown (Alvarado)

### **Fire Department & Fires:**

During the 1900's Alvarado was plagued with incendiary fires (set by fire bugs). This caused property damage, loss of domiciles, increased fire insurance rates, and deaths of several animals.

On June 16, 1900, at about 2:00 a.m., a fire, which for a time threatened to destroy the town of Alvarado, was discovered in the rear of Lincoln Fitzell's drug store. Before the flames were extinguished by the volunteers who answered the alarm, the buildings belonging to the Ralph estate, and occupied by the drug store, I.V. Ralph's furniture store, and a restaurant were destroyed. One of the burned buildings was formerly the Alvarado Methodist Church, which had been remodeled a number of years prior. That the entire town was not burned down was due to the fact that the wind was blowing from the southeast. As it was the Alvarado Hotel, and Thomas Fostino's building, had a narrow escape. Both of these buildings were badly scorched. The loss was about \$5,000. The cause of the fire is unknown.

In the four months preceding July 1900, a deadly firebug had four fires attributed to him. The chances the scoundrel would be caught were deemed very slim, but if caught, the general consensus was that the county would probably not be burdened by the expense of a trial.

Then in August, a fire again struck Alvarado, this time it 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. The building was insured for \$850 and contents for \$350. George Simas, aged 23, a native of Alvarado, who was sleeping on the second floor, was burned to death. His mother who was lying at the point of death was not notified. It was supposed that he carelessly threw a match or a cigarette on the floor when retiring. This fire was not attributable to the local doing of the Alvarado firebug.

A disastrous fire broke out at 11:35 o'clock (pm) September 4, 1900, in the rear portion of the Hellwig block occupied by the butcher shop of P. Hellwig and Company. The building was totally destroyed, as was also the residence of Samuel Foster, which was next to the block where the fire originated. On the other side of the Hellwig block was the saloon and shoemaker's shop belonging to Manuel de Sequeira, and this was also destroyed. Alvarado had no fire department, and what opposition the flames met was furnished by the citizens of the town. Early reports place the loss at \$12,000, but these figures are probably too high, and it was thought that \$3,000 would cover all the damage done. The amount of insurance has not yet been made known, but it is slight. The firebug has appeared there frequently, with the results that insurance rates are very high, and some insurance companies refusing to take the risk at all.

The firebug struck again on the evening of October 3, 1900. This time the cattle barn of P. Hellwig was destroyed by an incendiary blaze, and four horses, and fifty tons of hay was burned. The loss was estimated at \$5,000. There have been a large number of incendiary fires in the Alvarado area within the last three months and the citizens are thoroughly aroused. If they could capture the culprit a lynching would likely follow.

Alvarado was then subjected to several fires over the next few years but they were not attributed to a firebug. On May 18, 1903, the barn in back of the F. C. Harvey Store was destroyed by fire. One horse was burned to death. Had the wind been blowing the opposite direction it would have also caused the destruction of the other Harvey barn.

Six months later part of Chinatown was burned down. Had it not been for the heroic effort of citizens a large portion of the town would have been wholly destroyed.

Then in April 1905 a conflagration destroyed five buildings that were valued at about \$15,000. The fire had full sway because Alvarado did not have a water supply. The fire was finally stopped when a building was torn down and this stopped the spread of the flames. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

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 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 Lee, an old church building (which had 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 flames were 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.

Alvarado began looking for fire protection in October 1905. A meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a fire company at which, John H. Ralph, was named the first fire chief and founder of the Alvarado Fire Department.

### **Fraternal Order of Eagles, Alvarado Aerie No. 1695:**

A lodge of Eagles was instituted Sunday, September 30, 1907. Over one hundred members joined.

The first publicized major activity of the Alvarado Eagles was a grand ball held December 4, 1909. The dance was held under the supervision of G.G. Bontelho, who was assisted by Albert Norris, M. Avila, and J. Rose.

The Alvarado Aerie, F. O. E., held an installation of officers on the evening of January 4, 1909 in the IOOF Hall. The installation was be done by Ed. L. Farley and Henry Henrickson. Officers installed were:

E.J. Foster	J. Norris	J. Simas	H. Henrickson
A.A. Lee, Jr.	J. Rose	William Silva	

### **IOOF, Crusade Lodge No. 93:**

The Crusade Lodge continued to meet throughout the decade but did not publicize their meetings, events, or installation of officers. The one notable exception was the mention of James Hawley who, besides celebrating his 78th birthday in 1902, also celebrated 57 years as an Odd Fellow.

The lodge did celebrate its Golden Jubilee in November of 1909.

### **Ladies Aid Society:**

The Ladies Aid Society was a social aid organization for female members of the Presbyterian Church. They held meetings throughout the decade at the homes of the members. They also held fund raising events for the benefit of the church. Here are members mentioned in articles:

Mrs. Philip Hellwig	Mrs. August May	Mrs. F.B. Granger
Mrs. J. Leal	Mrs. J. Symons	Mrs. Sarah Harvey
Mrs. O. J. Emery	Mrs. John Ralph	Mrs. E. L. Farley
Mrs. George Halden	Mrs. F. C. Harvey	Mrs. Fred Hellwig
Mrs. C. R. Nauert	Mrs. Albert Norris	Mrs. J. Symons
Mrs. E. A. Richmond	Mrs. Fred Wiegman	Mrs. Babb
Mrs. Wm. Churchman	Mrs. A. Holden	Mrs. E. Hellwig
Mrs. August May	Mrs. R. Tribe	Mrs. E. Beebe
Mrs. Behrmann		

The Ladies Aid Society of Alvarado held its annual bazaar on November 30, 1901, in the afternoon and the evening at the IOOF Hall. Many ornamental and useful articles, suitable for holiday presents were placed on sale.

Among the various attractions were two fish ponds, a rummage table, art gallery, candy stand, fancy booth, refreshment stands, fortune telling tent, etc. In the evening a musical program was given, to which the admission fee was for adults ten cents, and children free. The affair was a success in every way with \$300 over expenses taken in.

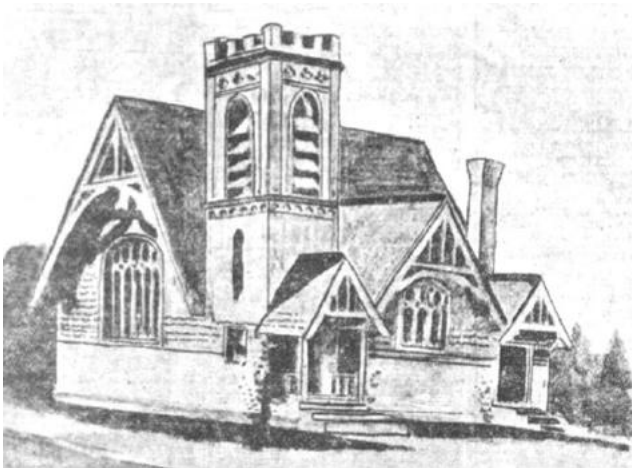
### **Methodist Church:**

The old Methodist Church on Levee Street in Alvarado burned to the ground on June 16, 1900 along with Fitzell's Drug Store, I.V. Ralph's furniture store, and a restaurant. The church had been built late in 1859, and was sold in 1871, and turned into a saloon. Later it was remodeled into a meeting hall.

### **Post Office:**

E. A. Richmond, one of the pioneers of Washington Township, was appointed Postmaster of Alvarado. He re-assumes this position he has held before. He replaced I.V. Ralph. Miss Kate Lang was the Ass't Postmaster

### **Presbyterian Church:**



*Proposed new Presbyterian Church for Alvarado:*

On Sunday, April 28, 1901, the Rev. W. Chalmers Gunn, Pastor of the Centerville Presbyterian Church, was installed in the Alvarado Presbyterian Church. The Centerville congregation attended in a body.

The Rev. Mr. Frazer, of the Brooklyn (Oakland) Presbyterian Church, gave the charge; and the Rev. Mr. Anderson of the Golden Gate, and the Rev. Robert McKenzie of San Francisco, was in attendance.

The Presbyterian Church was beautifully decorated with potted plants and cut flowers, and was filled to its utmost for the occasion of the installation of the pastor-elect, the Reverend W. Chalmers Gunn of the Alvarado and Centerville Presbyterian Churches. The organ loft was a perfect bank of roses and lilies adorned the pulpit.

The exercises were as follows:

Voluntary: "Looking Backward," by Mendelssohn, Miss Nauert

Invocation: Dr. Hugh Fraser, Brooklyn Church

Hymn: "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord"

Scripture Reading

Song: "As It Was Written," Alvarado Bible Class

Offertory: "Coeurs et Fleur...Tobani Violin," Miss H.A. Patterson

Anthem: Come Unto Me," Alvarado Quartet

Sermon: Reverend J.S. McDonald, D.D., Oakland

Anthem: "Praise the Lord O' Jesus, by Thomas Danks," Alvarado Quartet

Charge to Pastor: Reverend G.F. Withworth, D.D., Seattle, Wash.

Charge to People: Reverend J.G. Anderson, Golden Gate

Hymn: Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Benediction: New Pastor, W.C. Gunn

Postlude: "by Rinck," Soprano, Mrs. Harvey; Basso, J. Scribner; Alto, Miss Dot Nauert; Tenor, B.H. Ford.

From the pages of the *San Francisco Morning Call*, December 2, 1901:

"Rather than spend money for repairs to their pioneer church edifice, the Presbyterians of Alvarado decided to erect a new house of worship to take the place of the one, which for forty years has been used in the service of God. With enthusiasm, the project was met favor among the church people. They have pressed forward so successfully that already \$1,500 has been pledged toward the cost of the edifice.

The movement to supplant the structure, which has stood at Alvarado since 1859, began only a few weeks ago. There was such ready response that plans have been completed, working drawings made, and the trustees are now ready to receive bids at Alvarado.

The new church will be of composite architecture, ornate, and fully equipped with all the convenience for worship, Sunday school and other meetings. The interior will be finished in open timbering of dark redwood.

The old church was built of lumber that was brought around the Horn. The congregation was formed in 1859 by the late W.W. Brier and has since been in existence. For many years the Presbyterian Pastor stationed at Centerville has occupied the pulpit. The present Pastor, the Rev. W.C. Gunn, has been very successful in his ministrations.

The new church will be located at the same location as the previous church on "V" Street in old Union City."

In January 1903 the members of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church were sorry to hear of the departure of their beloved pastor, the Reverend W. Chalmers Gunn. Rev. Gunn, had resigned to accept a call to the State of Washington. The Rev. Gunn had been pastor of Alvarado and Centerville churches for the past four years and it has been largely due to his efforts that the membership has increased so wonderfully in these two churches. It is due also to his efforts that the new church at Alvarado was built, and by his personal labors on the construction considerable of the expense was saved.

The Rev. G.A. McKinlay occupied the pulpit at the Presbyterian Church in February 1903 and declared it vacant, as the resignation of Rev. W. Chalmers Gunn had been received and accepted by the Presbytery and its congregation. Mr. Gunn leaves shortly to accept a call at his old home in Washington.

The Rev. E. P. Shier of Eureka, former Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Alvarado, supplied the pulpit of the church Sunday evening, October 19, 1904, and spoke to old time friends and a large congregation. He was pleased to address the people after an absence of five years. His remarks were appreciated and enjoyed by them.

### **Native Sons, Golden West, Wisteria Parlor No. 127:**

The Native Sons held regular meetings throughout the decade, but they did not publicize their installations of officers or information about their membership. The Native Sons gave dances and grand balls, and also met with other lodges in the area for joint meetings and festivities.

### **Rebekah's:**

The Rebekah's remained active throughout the decade, but did not publicize their meetings or activities. It did publicize an installation in January 1909:

Kate Lang	Elizabeth Ralph	Emma Ford
C.L. Haines	Margaret Emery	Fredericka Lassen
Jean Leal		

### **SPRSI Auxiliary, Council Estrella Oriental:**

The "Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel," (Portuguese Society of Queen St. Elizabeth, or S.P.R.S.I.), named for the queen of medieval Portugal, who was canonized in 1625. The first SPRSI council was formed at the St. Joseph Church in Oakland, California, to serve the church and provide benefits to the society's members. This large, prosperous society was a women's organization and it performed charitable works, including offering scholarships.

The Alvarado Chapter was christened Council No. 21. Although organized for over eight years, this is the society's first public report.

May of 1909 the following officers were named:

Mrs. M. V. Caldeira	M. E. Gomes	Miss Rita Rose
Mrs. F. Bernardo	Mrs. Rose Dutra	Miss Mary Rose
Mrs. J. Foster	Mrs. A. Dutra	
Ms. Georgina P. Rose	Ms. M. C. Lawrence.	

### **St. Anne's Catholic Church:**

The Catholic Church in Alvarado ministered to their congregation during the decade, but not much was reported to the newspapers. The ladies did hold a bazaar in 1905, and the church received some updating in 1907.

The church did receive a new bell donated to the Catholic Church by A. Alameda. The bell was blessed at the church grounds on August 11, 1907, by Bishop da Silva. Six priests were also in attendance. A large crowd witnessed the ceremony.

### **Union Cotillion Club:**

The Union Cotillion Club was a Washington Township organization where dances were held in varying venues. The first reported cotillion cycle was held in 1902, and was deemed very successful, and was among the most pleasant affairs given in the township. The cotillion cycle was a series of four dances held in the following towns: Niles, Centerville, Decoto, and Alvarado. The Union Cotillion Club sent out 200 invitations to prospective members in October of 1903.

The executive committee was comprised of:

Miss Zadie Whipple	Decoto
Mrs. S.O. Quigley	Niles
Miss Nauert	Alvarado
Mrs. D. Cushing	Mission San Jose

The finance committee was comprised of:

Mrs. Ford	Niles
Miss Nina Dyer:	Alvarado
Miss Whipple	Decoto

The first assembly of the Union Cotillion Club was held in the IOOF Hall in Alvarado on the evening of Friday November 13, 1903. The young ladies of Decoto served as hostesses. The hall was beautifully and elaborately decorated with stately palms and boughs of pepper. The inclemency of the weather, and the big football game the succeeding day, kept some of the members from attending, but those present had an unusually good time. The next assembly was held at Niles.

The last assembly of the Union Cotillion Club was held in Centerville on the evening of February 27, 1904. Cards for this event had been much sought after, as it was the most select club in Washington Township. Its members comprised the most prominent people of Washington Township, and included people from Oakland, Alameda, Berkeley and San Francisco.

In October of 1904 the Union Cotillion Club was reorganized under the following young ladies:

Alvarado:	Miss Nina Dyer	Miss Nauert.	
Decoto:	Misses E. & I. Whipple	Miss Helen Crane.	
Centerville:	Miss Huxley	Miss Salz	
Niles:	Miss Mayhew	Miss Hudson	Miss Jacobus

The first assembly of the reorganized Union Cotillion Club took place at the IOOF Hall in Alvarado on Saturday evening, December 17, 1904. The club parties were the finest affairs given in the township, and its membership comprised the most representative young people hereabouts. All members were privileged to invite a few friends. The dances were strictly invitational. The last dance in the series was held June 10, 1905. The Union Cotillion Club sent out cards for the reorganization of the club for its fifth season. However, there was no other reported activity of the Union Cotillion Club after the October 7, 1905, when they sent out cards for reorganization of the club.

### **UPEC (Also UPPEC):**

Uniao Portuguese do Estado da California (UPEC)

Uniao Portuguesa Protectora do Estado da California (UPPEC)

One of several Portuguese fraternal and social societies designed to protect widows and orphans, as well as for cultural activities. The organization used dances, among other events and entertainments, to raise money to help the society serve the Portuguese community. Alvarado Lodge No. 21 of UPEC was founded on March 31, 1895.

On April 23, 1898 the Alvarado UPEC held a grand ball. It was quite an event that heralded that Alvarado was socially still alive and ready to go forward.

Three years later the Alvarado UPEC Council No. 21 gave the most delightful dance ever given by this lodge. The dance was held in the I.O.O.F Hall on April 20, 1901. The Grand March was led by A.A. Lee and Miss Ada MacQuart, followed by about 100 couples. Dancing was indulged into a late hour. At midnight all adjourned to the banquet hall where a sumptuous repast was served. All in all, the dance was a decided success. The floor committee consisted of:

Joe L. Machado	M.A. Silva	A.S. Machado
M.B. John Lynch	Frank Jasper	M.J. Rose

This dance was followed by another dance in April 1902, which was met with great success again. The music was good and the supper was excellent. A large crowd attended.

### **Whist Club:**

Whist: A trick-taking card game developed in England. The English national card game had passed through many phases of development, being first recorded as trump (1529), then ruff, ruff and honors, whisk and swabbers, whisk, and finally whist in the 18th century.

In the 19th century whist became the premier intellectual card game of the Western world, but bridge superseded it in this position by about 1900. Partnership whist, with four players in two partnerships, remains popular in Britain in the form of social and fund-raising events called whist drives.

During this decade the Whist Club was very active, in both meetings and reporting their activity. There were regular Whist Club meetings, and they also held invitational parties. In October 1903 the Whist Club was reorganized. Members mentioned in articles were:

Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Parrish	Mrs. E.A. Richmond	Miss Jessie Beard
Miss Mildred Nauert	Dr. A.A. De Puy	Albert Norris
E. William Burr	Henry H. Patterson	O.J. Emery
The Misses E. & I. Whipple	Miss Clara Jackson	Mrs. E.L. Farley
Mrs. John Leal	Joseph Sunkel	Mrs. Joseph Sunkel
Mrs. J.M. Scribner	Mrs. John L. Olson	August May
Miss Harriet Joyce	Ralph Richmond	Mrs. August May
Fred Hellwig	Miss Carrie Parrish	Ed Farley
Mrs. James Symons	Miss Ella Parrish	George Hellwig
J.L. Leal	J. Symons	J.M. Scribner
Miss Alice Kilgo	L. Eggers	

## **Woodman of the World, Alvarado Camp:**

The Woodmen of the World was a fraternal benefit society based in Omaha, Nebraska, which operated a large privately held insurance company for its members. It was founded in 1890 in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Woodmen were active throughout the decade with many fine entertainments given for the benefit of the people of Alvarado and the surrounding towns. Some of the highlights of the decade were:

A fine one-act comedy entitled "Freezing Mother-in-Law," with a fine cast of characters followed by dance in February 1902.

They followed this up with a one-act comedy in June of 1903 entitled "To Oblige Benson," under the direction of Miss Kathryn (Dot) Nauert. The play was a success on all fronts, and besides Miss Nauert others lauded for their shining performances were:

Mr. A. Lindsay	Mr. J.W. Andrews	Ernest Lang
----------------	------------------	-------------

The officers of the Alvarado Camp were:

E. L. Laughlin	J. W. Andrews	B. H. Ford
A. B. Nauert	A. Franzen	C. Jepson
G. P. Hellwig	F. A. Starr	Wm. Robinson

In January 1904, new officers were elected. Those chosen were:

F.A. Starr	William Andrews	W.H. Vandeppeer
O.J. Emery	B.H. Ford	O.P. Nauert
W.J. Avila	E.L. Laughlin	

In May 1904 the Woodmen put on a farce entitled "Larkin's Love Letters." The play was put on to benefit the sidewalk program from the S.P. Depot to the town of Alvarado. The affair was a success and a nice sum was realized for the sidewalk.

The following year the Woodmen presented a social dance at the IOOF Hall.

In January of 1909 the Woodmen elected the following officers to their Lodge:

E. L. Farley	J. M. Scribner	E. J. Foster
W. E. Vandeppeer	C. P. Lange	W. P. Robinson
O. J. Emery	A. C. Avila	J. H. Ralph
J. S. Leal		

## **Women of Woodcraft, Auxiliary, Alvarado Circle:**

A circle of Women of Woodcraft was organized on August 8, 1902 with a goodly number of charter members. The Woodmen of the local camp were invited with their friends to partake of a banquet. The new organization was known as the Alvarado Camp. The following Officers were elected:

Mrs. C.R. Nauert	Mrs. B.H. Ford	Mrs. Franklin Clazie
Mrs. W. Simonson	Mrs. E.M. Foley	Mrs. John L. Olson
Mrs. A.A. De Puy	Mrs. L. Kone	Mrs. E. Franzen
Mrs. E. Laughlin	Miss Mary Jackson	Mrs. John Leal



\*\*\*\*\*  
**\* MEMORABLE ALVARADO EVENTS \***  
\*\*\*\*\*

**January 1900:**

**Mrs. Annie Ralph Lowrie Taken by Death:**

Mrs. Annie Ralph Lowrie, beloved wife of George P. Lowrie Jr., died in Centerville on January 16, 1900. Sister of Mrs. A Charvoz, Mrs. H.P. Dyer, Mrs. J.W. Atkinson and sister to J.H. Ralph Jr., at the age of 25 years.

**May 1900:**

**Alvarado Barn Burns:**

The immense barn of George Althausser, adjoining the railroad depot and Granger's Riverside Hotel, was completely destroyed by fire Saturday night, June 11, 1900. The structure was burned to the ground. Its contents, 4,000 bales of straw, were destroyed, as were four flat cars of the Southern Pacific Railroad, which stood on the track beside the barn. The barn was 40 feet wide, 200 feet long and 20 feet high. It cost about \$2,000. The straw was valued at \$1,000, and the flat cars at \$6,000, making the loss \$9,000. The fire was supposedly caused by tramps. The amount of insurance held by Mr. Althausser was not disclosed.

**July 1900:**

**Ballot Officials:**

The town of Alvarado was in general election precinct #9 of the first Supervisorial District of Alameda County. The officials of the voting precinct as of July 1900 were:

Polling Place: IOOF Hall  
Inspector: Fred Wiegman (D)  
Ballot Clerk: George Althausser (R)  
Judges: Adolph W. Lassen (D)  
Farley B. Granger Jr. (R)  
Clerks: John Buchanan (D)  
Fred C. Harvey (R)

**November 1900:**

**Mt. Eden Sniping:**

There is quite an epidemic of bad colds and accompanying sore throats going around Mt. Eden. This is not to be wondered at when one considers the condition of the atmosphere. It is only surprising that something more fatal does not visit this community as upon the start of the sugar making season at the Alvarado mill, with the south wind, we get the benefit of the aroma that arises from the refuse of that mill, and the stench is at times unbearable. People are compelled to keep their houses all closed in order to keep the smell out.

**February 1901:**

**Harvey – McKeown Marriage:**

The friends of Edward Harvey and Miss Elizabeth Johanna McKeown were rather surprised to hear that they were married on Saturday, February 2, 1901. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's parents, south of town, and the ceremony was performed by the Reverend Mr. Gunn of the Presbyterian Church. The wedding was attended by relatives of the contracting parties. Edward is a farmer and a native of Alvarado, while the bride has resided here for a number of years. She has

been most active in Sunday school work. On their return from the wedding trip to Santa Cruz, they will reside on the ranch of the groom's mother near town.

**March 1901:**

**High School Ballgame:**

Many of our young folks attended the ball game in Centerville Saturday between the Centerville High School (Union High School No. 2), and Haywards High School (Union High School No. 3) teams. Alvarado sends scholars to both schools, consequently the game proved to be exciting.

~~~~~

**Miss Myra Ingalls Passes:**

People in Alvarado were notified at the end of March, of the death of Miss Myra Ingalls, 19, of San Jose. Myra, formerly of Alvarado, was born on the family homestead here in Alvarado. The Ingalls were well known in Alvarado with their connection by marriage to Ephraim and Ebenezer Dyer. Many friends and schoolmates came to pay their respects. Myra's grave was covered in beautiful flowers.

**May 1901:**

**Wiegman - Poorman Buy Cattle:**

Fred Wiegman and Samuel Poorman were in Arizona. They have bought a \$25,000 herd of cattle, which will be brought to Alvarado on a special train. This is an exceedingly large cattle deal for Alvarado.

**June 1901:**

**Hellwig - Ralph Masonry Degree:**

Frederick Hellwig and Ivens Vernet Ralph received their 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Master of the Royal Secret, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. The officers of Oakland Consistory No. 2 officiated the ceremony in June.

**July 1901:**

**Salt Companies Do Battle:**

A rather unusual case came up before City Justice Stetson (Oakland), when the suit of Fred Walters against the Continental Salt and Chemical Company was called. The suit was ostensibly for a lot of turkeys sold to the company, but in reality, it was the result of the fight between the two rival salt companies.

The trouble dates back to the time when H.C. Coward was manager for the Continental Salt Company. Last Christmas Coward, as manager, gave each of the employees a turkey, and those who did not receive a bird got the equivalent in cash. The bill for the turkeys, which amounted to \$11.50, was presented by Merriam & Co., but when Coward withdrew and became manager of the California Salt Company, the Continental Salt Company refused to pay it. Merriam then assigned the claim to Walters, who brought suit.

Coward enjoys the distinction of owning stock in each of the rival salt companies, and he is manager of the California Salt Co. He says it is not usual to give turkeys to the employees, and that the only reason the company refused to pay Merriam was its animosity toward him. The two companies are both located in Alvarado and occupy adjoining offices.

#### **July 27, 1901:**

##### **Albert E. Crane Passes:**

Albert E. Crane, aged 74 years, passed away Saturday evening, July 27, 1901, at the home of his son, Carlton C. Crane of Decoto. Mr. Crane had been ailing for some days, and his death was not unexpected. He was one of the best-known pioneers in Alameda County. From 1855 to 1860 Mr. Crane conducted a business in Alvarado. Subsequently in 1865, he became the partner of William Whidden, and together they owned large tracts of land in Alameda County. Mr. Crane was the brother of A.M. Crane, at one time Superior Court Judge of this county.

#### **November 1901:**

##### **Electric Light Comes to Alvarado:**

The business houses and residences that were wired some time ago were supplied with electric light this week. Since then some of our citizens are around with a subscription list to raise money to have the streets illuminated by electric lights. This could be done at a small expense. The improvement would be splendid for the town.

#### **November 28, 1901:**

##### **Adolph W. Lassen Passes:**

Adolph Wilhelm Lassen died November 28<sup>th</sup> in Alvarado, he was 39 years old. He was a native of Schleswig, Germany. He had been a resident of Alvarado for twelve years and left a widow and three small children. He was a well-liked and influential citizen of Alvarado and operated the Lassen Hotel at the old corner.

#### **February 12, 1902:**

##### **Music & Elocutionary Recital:**

The musical and elocutionary recital given by Miss Kathryn (Dot) Nauert on February 12, 1902, and assisted by her class in elocution, was a decided success. The children did exceptionally well. Little Lottie Jung, as a Chinese, and Mabel Lassen, as a colored lady, were clever. The children in the farce did fine. Little Ethel Foley made an excellent mistress, and Helen Lyle a typical Irishwoman. Dancing was indulged in until midnight. Mrs. Percy Jacobus presided at the organ.

#### **March 1902:**

##### **Lester Norris is taken by Death:**

A pall of sadness was cast over Alvarado near the end of March, as one of its fine young citizens passed away. Lester Norris, son of Mr. & Mrs. Albert A. Norris, died of diphtheria and pneumonia at the home of his parents. His death was a great blow to his classmates and the many friends of the family, as he was sick only a few days. The boy graduated from the Alvarado public school, and was a student at Centerville High School (Union High School No. 2). He was a native of California, and was 15 years of age. The flag on the schoolhouse flew at half-mast due to his death. Alvarado is much worked up over the diphtheria scare. Every precaution is being taken and it is hoped the dread disease will not spread.

#### **April 1902:**

##### **Asparagus Growing:**

Alvarado and Milpitas have found gold in the growing and selling of "grass." The grass is actually the four syllable word "asparagus," and is an unknown word down by the railroad tracks, so "grass" has taken its place. It takes much less time to pronounce, and minutes are valuable. The Meek Estate has gone into the "grass" shipping business on a scale never attempted here, and the experiment has been highly successful. Car after car of asparagus, grown near Alvarado and Milpitas, has

been sent out, and every bunch has commanded a good price. About 100 people, mostly girls, have been employed this season. Their duties are to arrange the "grass" into bunches; tie it with a species of seaweed, and slice off the stem end, and place the completed bunches into boxes. Miss Annie Grey, daughter of George Grey, is the bookkeeper and timekeeper of this department. The packinghouse has been doubled in size this season, and next year will probably see a further increase in capacity.

#### **May 1902:**

##### **Israel B. Haines Passes:**

One of Alvarado's oldest residents, Israel B. Haines passed away Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at his home here. A few weeks ago while driving from town to his home, he fainted and fell from his cart. He was picked up unconscious, and little hope was entertained of his recovery. He was 78 years old and left a wife, four sons, and a daughter to mourn his loss.

#### **May 11, 1902:**

##### **Baseball Craze:**

The Alvarado baseball nine were presented with new uniforms (red with blue letters) by I.V. Ralph. They were very neat, and were worn by the team on Sunday. Alvarado is in the midst of a "baseball craze." The streets were positively deserted Sunday, May 11, 1902, as nearly everyone attended the ball game that took place on its diamond. The Alvarado's have won every game so far this year. Sunday they played the Leon Strauss Co., with Alvarado winning by a score of 25 - 10.

On Sunday, May 18, 1902, they met the Dunham, Carrigan, and Hayden's, of San Francisco. The "Ralph's" of Alvarado defeated the San Francisco club by a score of 12-6. The game demonstrated the Ralph's are about as fast a team as there is around here.

The baseball game between the Ralph's of Alvarado, and the P&H's of Haywards proved to be a most interesting game. The game was played at the Athletic Park in Haywards on May 25<sup>th</sup>, and was witnessed by more than 400 people. The P&H's won their first game of the season. From the opening of the game to the finish, P&H's proved their superiority, although the score was only 3-2. It was a close fight, the equal of which will not be witnessed here for some time, unless it is when the return game is played, which will be in about three weeks. The loss for the Alvarado was the first of the season, which adds to the glory of the P&H's victory. After the game there was a discussion of starting a league comprising Hayward, Alvarado, Centerville, and Newark.

#### **June 1902:**

##### **Minor League Baseball League Considered:**

The managers of the P&H's of Haywards, Alvarado, and Newark baseball teams met Sunday at Newark and discussed the proposition of forming a minor league for the purpose of increasing public interest in the baseball contests. Manager Zambresky of Haywards, Cahill of Newark and Vic LaGrave of Alvarado, are the managers who are working up the league question. They are very enthusiastic over the proposition and all that is needed to constitute the league is adding another team. For the purpose of forming another team to compete, the managers will shortly visit San Leandro to seek cooperation of that town.

#### **July 1902:**

##### **Township July Fourth Celebration:**

Independence Day was celebrated in Centerville on July 4<sup>th</sup>, by an immense throng from the surrounding country. In the morning there was an industrial and school parade, which was very creditable indeed, and in the afternoon there were literary exercises, including music, singing and reading of the Declaration of Independence. The rest of the afternoon was given over to games, races and other recreations. In the evening there was a fire works display.

This was a joint celebration in which, Alvarado, Decoto, Irvington, Niles, Newark, Warm Springs, and Mission San Jose participated with Centerville. Large crowds were here from each of the towns named. Hundreds of teams and thousands of people were in town. Each town was represented on the various committees that put this event together. Participating from Alvarado was:

C.A. Plummer            W.T. Ralph            I.V. Ralph            F.C. Harvey  
Antone George Jr.

### **October 1902:**

#### **Sunday Closings Pushed:**

Suddenly, the move afoot to force Sunday closing of stores is gaining in favor. Hayward's has secured such a move from its stores, and San Leandro is likely to follow. This will put pressure on Mt. Eden and Alvarado to follow suit. The pursuit is to allow the closings to observe God's day of rest.

Alvarado was treated to good old-fashioned medicine show at the end of October. The Ben Hur Medicine Company was in Alvarado and drew fairly good-sized crowds to a fairly good program for several nights.

### **January 1903:**

#### **30<sup>th</sup> Degree Masons:**

Elaborate preparations were made for the initiation into the Thirtieth Degree of Scottish Rite Masonry of nineteen aspirants tomorrow night by De-Molay Council, No. 2, Knights Kadosh in Oakland. Among the aspirants are:

Alvarado:                      Farley B. Granger Jr.                      George P. Hellwig  
Decoto:                         Edwin Whipple

### **April 1903:**

#### **Man Scammed by Gypsy:**

John Buchanan, a resident of Alvarado for over 30 years, was seduced into giving up gold pieces to a lovely young Gypsy temptress for the telling of his fortune. When he told his friends they told him that he had been duped. The young lady, from a bank of itinerant Gypsy's, was arrested and posted \$50 bail. When the trial date came in late March she didn't appear, the court was \$50 richer, and John Buchanan was \$20 poorer.

### **May 20, 1903:**

#### **Historical Day:**

Mrs. C. C. Crane presented the historical outline of "Alvarado and Union City" to the audience at "Historical Day" at Centerville Town Hall yesterday. Other presenters were: Mrs. J. E. Thane, "Early History of Mission San Jose;" Mrs. T. C. Huxley, "Modern History of Mission San Jose;" Mrs. J. A. Bunting, "Centerville;" Mrs. Julia Straven, "Irvington;" Mrs. M. L. Mowry, "Warm Springs;" Mrs. G. H. Hudson, "Niles;" Mrs. C. L. Haines, "Decoto;" and Mrs. C. S. Haley, "Newark."

### **July 1903:**

### **Old schoolmates' reunion:**

An "old schoolmates' reunion" was held at the home of Mrs. Farley B. Granger in Alvarado. Conversation was the feature of the day, and talking over the good old schooldays was greatly enjoyed. Those who attended were:

|                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Maude (Lowell) Langdon  | Mrs. Polly (Lowell) Krultsman      |
| Mrs. Mabel (Smithurst) Dunn  | Mrs. Frances (Ralph) Randolph      |
| Mrs. Nettie (Ralph) Charvoz  | Mrs. Grace (Barron) Harding        |
| Mrs. Bertha (May) Meyers     | Mrs. Sophie (Smithurst) Curtis     |
| Mrs. Edith (Granger) Chase   | Mrs. Laura (Vanderpeer) Obermuller |
| Mrs. Maggie (Buchanan) Emery | Mrs. Janet (Decoto) May            |
| Miss Clara Franz             | Miss Mildred Nauert                |
| Mrs. Sue (Harvey) Granger    |                                    |

### **September 1903:**

#### **Noble Hamilton Passes:**

An early Washington Township pioneer has passed away. Former Judge of the Superior Court of Alameda County, Noble Hamilton, died at age 81 in September. A native of Indiana, he served in the Mexican-American War from 1845 to its conclusion. In 1853 he resided in Alvarado, then the County Seat for Alameda County, where he practiced law. On December 31, 1854 Noble Hamilton was married to Miss Deleana (Lydia) Marston near Union City by the Reverend W. Morrow. Miss Marston was the daughter of Capt. J.S. Marston, Alameda County's first county Treasurer. The Hamilton's stayed in Alvarado until 1859, when they relocated to San Leandro, the new county seat. Noble Hamilton would later become a Superior Court Judge in Oakland. Judge Hamilton was also an historian who related many interesting stories and historical facts on early Union City and Alvarado.

### **September 11, 1903:**

#### **Mrs. Parish Passes:**

D. C. Parish and Miss Carrie Parish were called to Los Angeles by the serious illness of Mrs. Parish, who went there several weeks ago accompanied by her daughter. While caring for her daughter, Mrs. Parish was taken with pneumonia and later suffered a stroke of paralysis. At last report, no hopes were entertained for the recovery of Mrs. Parish. While Miss Parish is away, her position at the Alvarado Grammar School was filled by Mrs. F. B. (Sue) Granger.

Mrs. D. C. Parish died at her home here yesterday, September 11th, having arrived from Los Angeles where she was taken ill but the night before. It was feared that she would not reach home alive. Everything that medical skill could do was done, but all proved in vain. Mrs. Parish had lived in Alvarado for many years, and was loved by a large list of friends. She leaves a husband and three daughters to mourn her loss.

### **November 1903:**

#### **John L. Beard Passes:**

Ex-State Senator John L. Beard died suddenly from heart failure at his home, about three miles from Alvarado. John L. Beard was the son of Elias Lyman Beard, who settled in the Mission San Jose area in 1849, and who, along with John Horner controlled a large part of the 30,000 acres of farmland known as the ex-Mission lands, the best farmland in Washington Township. John Beard had two sons, Jesse and Eldridge.

### **December 1903:**

#### **Alvarado Newspaper Article:**

*The Oakland Tribune* printed this nice little article about Alvarado on December 22, 1903:

Alvarado is situated on the Southern Pacific Railroad Line nineteen miles south of Oakland. It was the first capital of Alameda County. The capital was taken away by San Leandro, and Oakland took it away from San Leandro.

Alvarado is rich in her salt lands, salt marshes, and her artesian flow of water, her sugar beet lands, her farmlands, and her great sugar works. The pumping works of the Contra Costa Water Company (Oakland Water Co.) are located in Alvarado. At the mouth of the Alameda Creek there are a number of salt works varying in capacity, some of them capable of producing 7,000 tons a year.

The beet sugar factory, which is owned by the Alameda Sugar Company, was established by E. H. Dyer, and is the pioneer institution of its kind in the United States. The company raises beets itself near Pleasanton and the surrounding country, and buys sugar beets from farmers, paying out annually \$250,000 in this way. During the beet season at the mill, 200 well-paid men are employed. Sixty thousand tons of sugar beets are ground each year, and over 600 tons of sugar is produced each year.

Alvarado has a large stove works, a compact business district, and adult population of about 1,200 persons, and a school population of about 200 students. They have the following fraternal orders: Native Sons, Native Daughters, U.P.E.C., Odd Fellows and Rebekah's.

#### **January 7, 1904:**

##### **Mrs. Eliza Farley Passes:**

Many of the settlers of Alvarado will attend the funeral of Mrs. Eliza Farley, 82, who passed away January 7, 1904. She was the widow of Ebenezer Farley and was born in Michigan. She originally settled in Alvarado in 1854, her brother was Henry Clay Smith, "The Father of Alameda County." Another brother, Lewis Cass Smith still resides in Alvarado.

#### **September 1904:**

##### **Fire in old Chinatown:**

Old Chinatown was wiped out by a fire several weeks ago, and the work has now begun in rebuilding that section of town. The work will soon be complete and it must be admitted that the appearance is a great improvement.

#### **September 19, 1904:**

##### **Electric Lights for Alvarado Streets:**

The Hayward Electric Light Company was contracted to install a lighting system in Alvarado. The work was begun on September 19, 1904. The town will be improved with modern electric lighting.

#### **December 1904:**

##### **Thimble Bee:**

Mrs. C. R. Nauert was the hostess at a "thimble-bee" Monday afternoon at her home in Alvarado. Sixteen ladies were delightfully entertained. During the afternoon a "drawing and guessing contest of animals" took place. Mrs. Ellis being awarded first prize, a lovely silver spoon. The consolation prize fell to Mrs. Harden. Mrs. Allguire was declared the finest artist. After the game all were invited to the dining room,



where everything was suggestive of yuletide. The daylight was excluded, the table decorated with tinsel and holly, and candelabra, and the surprise was a large cake decorated with red candles, for it was the birthday of the hostess. Congratulations followed.

**February 1905:**  
**Haverly Minstrels:**

The news must be out. Alvarado was again visiting by a traveling entertainment group. This time it was the Haverly Minstrels, who remained two nights in February. The entertainments were deemed unusually entertaining for a traveling show.

~~~~~

**Sugar Mill Garners Gold Medal:**

Alvarado and the Alameda Sugar Company were beaming with pride as the sugar company was awarded a gold medal at the St. Louis World Fair and International Exposition.

**February 17, 1905:**  
**Mrs. Mary Vandepeer Passes:**

Mrs. Mary J. Vanderpeer died yesterday morning, February 17th, of pneumonia. Mrs. Vanderpeer was a pioneer resident of Alvarado, arriving here with her husband, J. G. Vanderpeer in 1868. She died at the home of her son-in-law, George Obermuller.

**March 1905:**  
**Mrs. Hannah Huff Passes:**

Mrs. Hannah Huff, beloved wife of Edward Huff of Alvarado died at a hospital March 3rd. She was a native of Killarney, Ireland and was 64 years old. She came to this country at a young age and has lived in Alvarado most of her life. She leaves a husband, Edward Huff of Alvarado, and two sisters.

**July 1905:**  
**Traveling Show:**

A traveling show company presented "Uncle Tom's Cabin" here on November 29th. The play was put on splendidly and was much enjoyed. The company was comprised of twenty members. As a rule, traveling companies visiting small towns are usually very poor, consequently the attendance was small.

**February 8, 1906:**  
**James Hawley Passes:**

James Hawley, aged 83 years, died in Alvarado on February 8th. Mr. Hawley was a pioneer of 1849, and was prominent in the Odd Fellows Lodge having been a member since he was 21 years of age. He was the beloved husband of Hattie Hawley and loving father of May and Edward Hawley, Mrs. J.M. Ingalls, Mrs. W.H. Layson and Mrs. Lizzie Beard. He was native of Birmingham England.

**August 1906:**  
**Mrs. Mary Olson Passes:**

A gloom was cast over Alvarado when the announcement was made of the sudden death Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, of Mrs. John L. Olson of Decoto. As Miss Mary Joyce, she was well known much beloved by the people of Alvarado. Most of her life was spent in Alvarado, and it seems but a few years since she was led to the altar by John L. Olson, one of the Alvarado boys. The funeral was held at her home Friday at

10 o'clock, thence to the Catholic Church in Centerville. The deceased was born in Connecticut thirty-three years ago and leaves besides her husband, her mother, Mrs. H. Joyce of Alvarado, two sisters, Mrs. L. Aurich of San Francisco and Miss Harriet Joyce of Decoto.

#### **October 1906:**

##### **Nina Dyer to Wed:**

Miss Nina Ingalls Dyer, charming fiancé of Chicago's Frederick L. Washburn, has been much feted of late. Wednesday, Miss Dyer was the hostess at a delightful affair given at the Nauert home "Geranium Nook," at Alvarado, at which she was the honored guest. During the afternoon bridge was played, and afterwards refreshments were served.

#### **November 1906:**

##### **William Faig Taken by Death:**

Alvarado was shocked to hear of the sudden death of William Faig on November 15th. He fell from a building in Oakland where he was doing some electrical work, and while it was not thought that he was seriously injured, he died a few hours later. He was born in Alvarado and attended Alvarado Grammar School. About a year ago his family moved to Hayward, from which place the funeral was held. He was held in high esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was but sixteen years of age. He leaves a mother, Mrs. John (Faig) Flowers; and a sister, Miss Alice Faig, to mourn his loss.

#### **March 1907:**

##### **Pumping Bee:**

Mrs. E. M. Foley was the hostess at a "pumping bee" (hand operated water pump) at her home Monday. Twenty guests responded to the invitations. Mrs. Ford won the prize for pumping the most strokes in one minute.

#### **May 1908:**

##### **Endurance Auto Race:**

The first car in the first twenty-four hour endurance race ever held in California took off at 3:00 p.m. from Estudillo House in San Leandro. Sixteen cars were entered, but one was scratched. The circuit of the course was 47.5 miles. The general course to be followed by the endurance contestants was a sort of enlarged triangle, starting at San Leandro and traversing the road that runs through Tank Corners, Mt. Eden, Alvarado, Centerville, Irvington, Warm Springs, and then back through Mission San Jose, Niles, Hayward and then to San Leandro. The circuit must be made 12 times for a total distance of 570 miles to be covered in the twenty-four hours. Nine of the fifteen entrants ended up with perfect scores and each won a silver cup.

Note: This was an endurance race, not a speed race. All applicable speed limits were observed.

#### **July 26, 1908:**

##### **Clarence A. Granger Passes:**

Clarence A. Granger, who helped establish the beet sugar industry in Alameda County, died July 26, 1908 in Denver, Colorado from quinsy (tonsillitis). Granger left Alvarado several years ago and engaged in the sugar business in Utah and Colorado, where he was the manager of several large factories. He is the brother to Farley B. Granger, Jr. of Alvarado.

**August 1908:**

**Decoto Downs Alvarado in Baseball:**

The swift amateur team from Alvarado was defeated by a score of 18 to 2, by the Decoto nine on Sunday at the Decoto home turf. A large attendance turned out to see the game. The Alvarado people expected to see a very close game but were much disappointed. The Alvarado line up: Pitcher, Machado; Catcher, Young; Shortstop, Vargas; First Base, Riley; Second Base, Foster; Third Base, Dyer; Right Field, Gallivan; Center Field, Munson; Left Field, Lee.

**September 1908:**

**Alvarado Brothel Disbanded:**

Miss Myrtle Smith, a handsome young woman of nineteen, was arrested in Alvarado in September by Sheriff Barnett and brought to the county jail. She was found in Chinatown in Alvarado, and was taken into custody on a complaint of the women of Washington Township.

The girl was found by the Sheriff in a house belonging to a Chinaman named Mo Ton, who was also taken into custody on charge of renting a house for disorderly purposes. The women of Washington Township complained to the sheriff that tenderloin characters were coming into Alvarado and making their headquarters in Chinatown. The sheriff was determined to make an investigation

**November 1908:**

**Washington Township Voting for President:**

Town	Taft Rep	Bryan Dem	Hisgen I.L.	Debs Soc	Chafin Pro
Alvarado	124	18	4	4	0
Centerville	158	49	2	6	0
Decoto	79	33	1	2	0
Irvington	97	34	6	1	0
Mission San Jose	83	16	0	0	1
Newark	132	24	0	0	5
Niles	137	45	0	4	2
Warm Springs	63	12	1	2	0
Totals	873	231	14	19	8

**December 1908:**

**Alvarado Road Foreman:**

Road Foreman Farley B. Granger is graveling the different roads of his district where such work is mostly needed for the winter. Granger is a staunch advocate of good roads.

**January 1909:**

**Nashville Traveling Show:**

The Nashville colored show that was held Wednesday night in Alvarado proved to be by far the best minstrel show that ever appeared before an Alvarado audience. It was well patronized.

~~~~~

**James G. Vandeeper Passes:**

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

**January 21, 1909:  
Chinese New Year:**

The Chinese New Year began on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, with the same glad greeting of the Chinese, together with a great display of firecrackers. In every house their hospitality was extended to everybody visiting them by serving them rice, tea, etc., with a glad heart.

**May 1909:  
Alvarado Card Party:**

One of the prettiest events of this week in Alvarado was the birthday party given May 5th in the home of Mrs. E. M. Foley. The home was exquisitely decorated for the occasion with flowers of all varieties. Card playing and a spread were the diversions of the afternoon. The birthday presents were numerous. Among those present were:

|                         |                          |                   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs. E. A. Richmond Sr. | Mrs. E. A. Richmond Jr., | Mrs. K. Ralph     |
| Mrs. B. H. Ford         | Mrs. J.M. Scribner       | Mrs. I. V. Ralph  |
| Mrs. J. S. Leal         | Mrs. E. M. Tainton       | Mrs. O. J. Emery  |
| Mrs. T. E. McCarty      | Mrs. E. L. Farley        | Mrs. G. Hellerman |

**July 1909:  
Alvarado Japanese in Liquor Business:**

In July 1909, some of the licensed white hotel and saloon men in this town were strenuously complaining because of the alleged invasions of the county's liquor license ordinance by Japanese, who are able to import "wet" goods by the barrel, and retail the same not only to their own countrymen, but also to Caucasians. Alvarado and vicinity has a large Japanese population, largely owing to the employment of Japanese labor in the local beet sugar fields and the salt works hereabout. It also happens that Japanese tradesmen are tenants of many buildings in the older section of town (Chinatown), which buildings are owned by local financiers, who look pained whenever anything is said reflecting upon their tenants.

So it stated that though the local constabulary has been complained to in regard to the asserted violations of county liquor license ordinance by the Japanese, no arrests have been made. Now it is understood that an appeal will be made in the near future to the District Attorney's office for an investigation of the matter. Incidentally, it may also embrace an investigation of the "compound" (Chinatown) maintained by the Orientals in one section of their quarter, wherein it is said that a number of Chinese, Japanese, and an occasional Caucasian girl, are kept immured for immoral purposes.

**November 1909:  
Japanese Celebrate Emperor's Anniversary:**

The Japanese colony presented a gala appearance last Wednesday, the occasion being the anniversary of the emperor of Japan. Work was suspended during the day, and the town was dressed up in holiday attire.

**December 1909:  
George Harvey Recovers:**

George H. Harvey, the four year-old boy who was accidentally shot by his father (E. S. Harvey) in Alvarado a week ago last Sunday. The boy will recover. Dr. Clark of the County Infirmary discovered that the boy's intestines had been punctured six times by the bullet. A very delicate operation was performed, which saved the child's life.

~~~~~

**Safecrackers at SP Depot:**

Three safecrackers broke into the Southern Pacific Depot in Alvarado at the end of December and attempted to blow up the safe said to contain between \$500 and \$600. They were scared away when the 1:30 a.m. train pulled into Alvarado and saw the three men in the station. They notified the dispatcher in Oakland who notified the police. Sheriff Frank Barnett and a posse took up after the men, who eventually got away after a gunfight. These bandits are described as being the same bandits who stole a launch from Sausalito last May, and robbed the Hamilton Brothers at Novato.

~~~~~

**Rod Allguire Visited by Brother:**

M. Allguire of North Dakota is the guest of his brother, J. R. Allguire. This is Allguire's first visit to this coast, and he is very much impressed with our rapid growth and delightful climate. The two brothers had not seen each other for thirty-eight years, when both were mere boys, and their meeting was not only a surprise, but also a time of recalling the frolicsome days of their youth.