

THE HISTORY OF CENTREVILLE
CHAPTER 04
1880 to 1889

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* **CENTREVILLE DEMOGRAPHICS** *

Centreville demographics are based entirely upon where you were born and these simple rules. If you were born in a foreign country then you are classified as "Foreign Born" under the country of your nativity.

If one or both of your parents were "Foreign Born" then you are a first generation you are classified as "1st Gen US Born."

If your parents were both born in foreign countries, but not the same country the first generation born is assigned the father's foreign country. For example, if your father was born in Portugal and your mother was born in Ireland, then I would consider you a first generation Portuguese.

If both of your parents were born in the US then you are considered as being of US descent.

1880 Centreville Demographics				
Country	Foreign Born	1st Gen US Born	Total	Percent of Total
Australia	1	1	2	0.1%
Austria	2	1	3	0.2%
Portugal	298	334	632	44.6%
Brazil	1	0	1	0.1%
Canada	25	19	44	3.1%
Chile	1	1	2	0.1%
China	80	0	80	5.6%
Denmark	4	0	4	0.3%
England	24	48	72	5.1%
France	4	3	7	0.5%
Germany	19	25	44	3.1%
Holland	0	2	2	0.1%
Ireland	69	95	164	11.6%
Mexico	2	0	2	0.1%
Nova Scotia	26	27	53	3.7%
Scotland	10	8	18	1.3%
Sweden	4	2	6	0.4%
US Born of US Parents	282	0	282	19.9%
Total	852	566	1418	100.0%

* **BIOS** *

Williams A. Yates / Thomas J. Chadbourne

William A. Yates

William A. Yates first comes to notice in Centreville on November 28, 1872 when was wed to Kitty Riser of Centreville by Rev. C. Park. William had come from Sonoma County prior to his settling in Centreville. William was born in Missouri circa 1845.

William was a school teacher at the Centreville School in 1880, but by the year 1900 he became an agent for a water company in San Francisco.

Besides teaching William was also very busy in the financial affairs of the town of Centreville. He was the corporate secretary for the Alden Fruit Dryer, which began operations in 1874. In February 1878 he posted the legal notice for the sale of the failed Centreville Fruit Preserving Co., which was an Alden Fruit Dryer factory.

William would also become the corporate secretary for the Washington & Murray Township Water Co., which held valuable riparian rights to the water of the Alameda Creek. As part of his duties in the company was that of being

a Notary Public, and as such he was reappointed many times in the 1880's to that position.

On October 2, 1886 W.A. Yates, as corporate secretary of the Washington & Murray Township Water Co. posted legal notices in the newspapers of an assessment on the stock of the company. The first assessment was 3¢ a share and if not paid by Oct 28, 1886 the stock would be sold to the highest bidder. This started a series of assessments on the stock of the Washington & Murray Township Water Co.

In December 1898 an important lawsuit involving valuable riparian rights in and to Alameda Creek, was filed in the Super Court of Alameda County by Jane R. Clough against the Spring Valley Water Works, et al. The other defendants were the Washington & Murray Township Water Co., Charles Webb Howard, W.A. Yates, W. Brooks, John Mosier, and Howard Overacker Sr.

The suit was brought to restrain the Spring Valley Water Works from diverting the water of Alameda Creek and quiet title thereto. In 1871 the Washington & Murray Township Water Company had acquired the right to the water in the creek.

On November 27, 1901 testimony in the Clough-Spring Valley Water case developed that William Brooks and W.A. Yates, employees of the Spring Valley Water Works, had been presented with stock in the Washington & Murray Township Company after it had been purchased by the big corporation.

They admitted that after receiving the stock they took no interest in the township ditch and hardly knew of its existence, the intention of their employers being to establish that it had been abandoned.

In 1910 William and Kitty Yates were back in Centreville where he was again teaching school. In 1920 they had moved to Berkeley he was retired and had Mabel Yates, his unmarried daughter living with them working as a librarian.

Thomas J. Chadbourne:

Thomas J. Chadbourne was born in East Baldwin Maine on December 26, 1838. Thomas came west and in 1852, along with his brother Joseph and Mr. W.H. Pierce, founded the Eclipse Cracker Factory in San Francisco on Dupont Street, between Union and Green Streets.

The company made crackers and bread for the Pacific Mail Steamship line as well as fulfilling U.S. Army contracts. The three became wealthy from this enterprise until stiff competition and lowering prices forced the closure of the major part of their factory in May 1901.

In 1860 Thomas was residing with Joseph, Joshua, and Charles Chadbourne in San Francisco. Late in the decade Thomas would take a wife, Henrietta (Nettie) and in 1869 their first child, Thomas E., was born in San Francisco. By 1875 Thomas had bought a ranch in Centreville and moved his family to the rural life, but still maintained his cracker factory in San Francisco.

By the mid-1870's Thomas J. Chadbourne and family had bought a ranch in Centreville and moved. The map below is from the 1878 Thompson & West Atlas showing Centreville landowners circa the mid-1870. The farm of T.J. Chadbourne is highlighted in blue and stood at the corner of today's Fremont Boulevard and Mowry Avenue. It is the area known as the Fremont Hub.



The Chadbourne family finally grew to four children by 1880 with the addition of Thomas E., Estella W., Howard F., and Florence.

In 1880 Thomas Chadbourne listed his occupation as farmer and baker. In 1900 he listed his occupation as farming.

Thomas J. Chadbourne passed away May 24, 1913.

*** I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows) Lodge ***

Centreville Council, No. 34, I. O. O. F. Lodge was organized December 15, 1881 with sixty-five charter members, the following being the first officers:

- C.C.: Henry C. Gregory
- V.C.: S. Sandholdt
- P.C.C.: Dr. Samuel Buteau
- Sec.: William A. Yates
- Treas: Sigmund Salz

Prelate: W. H. Tyson
Marshal: Gordon W. Willis
Warden: James A. Trefry
Guard: Ivan Tifoche
Sentry: F. N. Silva
Med. Exam: Dr. Samuel A. Buteau

The lodge which met every Thursday evening in the Tifoche Hall, and had membership of ninety-two on the rolls

*** CENTREVILLE TO NEWARK TRAIN ***

In February 1881 a-three mile long railroad was constructed along a nearly straight line in one lane of Baine Avenue. But instead of steam trains like the ones that served Newark, the branch line used motive power that looked like it should have been pulling the old stages. Full train service was provided by horses. A single horse pulled a small four-wheel horsecar for passengers, at 10 cents per trip. Two or even three horses - hitched in tandem - pulled full-sized narrow gauge freight cars. A ride on the branch line took thirty minutes, one way, and the horsecar made regular connections three-times-a-day with the steam-powered passenger trains that arrived daily at Newark.



Text & Photo taken from the "Niles Depot, Modern Railroad & Museum" web page. <http://nilesdepot.org/Centreville/horsecar.html>

Henry Burdick became the line's most celebrated driver. For twenty years, Henry's horses made the daily schedule in all weather, summer and winter. The horses grew so accustomed to their task that they automatically stopped when they spotted passengers at waystations like the Mattos Ranch, about halfway between Newark and Centreville. When Henry unhitched the horses at the end of the line, they would circle to the other end of the car without command or guidance, patiently waiting for Henry to hitch up for the return trip.

The railroad was inexpensive to operate, perfectly suited to the line's short, level route, the horses had secured a unique niche in both the community and the California railroad industry. Business on the branch actually grew over time. Henry's teams hauled an estimated 300 tons of freight in 1885. By 1898, they hauled 5,000 tons of freight, mostly dried fruit. The parent narrow gauge earned the nickname of "the one-horse railroad with the two-horse branch."

The Centreville horsecar lasted until the opening of the standard gauge Southern Pacific Dumbarton Cutoff, when steam trains at last took over. Henry Burdick made the last horsecar run on Friday evening, May 28, 1909.

*** LOWRIE & MARSTON TRAGEDY ***

On January 18, 1882, Articles of Incorporation were drawn up for The Alaska Gold & Silver Mining, Milling and Trading Co. to operate in Alaska, with San Francisco being the principal place of business. Capital was \$10,000,000, divided into 100,000 shares. Directors of the venture were: A.F. Williams, F.J. McWorthy, J.A. Lytle, R.B. Hurd, Samuel I. Marston, John Lowrie, and J.C. Green.

The expedition left in June 1882 for the Golovin Bay area of Alaska where the company would mine ore. Among those who left on the expedition were John Lowrie, Sam Marston and James Hawley. They brought with them the schooner "Alaska" to ply the rivers about the bay. The company spent a year mining for ore in the Golovin Bay area. They felt that their mine proved to be very rich and by the fall of 1883 they were ready to set sail on the "Alaska" with a load of ore for the U.S. where they would refine the ore.



The "Alaska" was heavily laden with ore and in October 1883 the men set out from St. Michael in Alaska for the U.S. On board the schooner were Sam Marston, John Lowrie and Mr. Hurd, among others. On October 23, 1883 a fierce storm struck the area where the schooner was sailing and was never heard from again. It was generally supposed that Samuel I. Marston and John Lowrie and several of their companions, all hailing for the most part from Centreville, were lost on the schooner "Alaska" in that October 1883 storm. It was generally supposed that she went down with all on board and that none were saved. Several members of the party of miners who were left behind at the mine and were brought down by the "Cowen" and the steamers of Alaska Commercial Company. The following year James Hawley and others, who had remained at the mines through the winter, returned, but the company was never reorganized.

* **POSTAL STAR ROUTE** *

The Postal Star Route for Centreville to Newark for July 1, 1884 to June 30, 1886 was awarded to A.E. Davis at \$500. Prior to 1845 transportation of inland mail, other than by railroad or steamboat was given to bidders who offered stage or coach service. This was requirement was abolished by act of Congress on March 3, 1845, which provided that the Postmaster-General should lease all such contracts to the lowest bidder who tendered sufficient guarantee of faithful performance, without any conditions, except to provide for due celerity, certainty and security of transportation. These bids became known as "celerity, certainty and security bids" and were designated on the route registers by three stars (***) , thus becoming known as "star routes."

* **FIRES** *

Albert Rodger's barn, with its contents, was burned September 10th, at 2 o'clock in the morning at Centreville. The loss was \$900, partly insured. It was undoubtedly the work of a fire bug.

An attempt was made on the morning of September 15th at about four o'clock in the morning to burn Centreville. The fire was started on the roof of Silva's shop by using turpentine, but it was fortunately discovered before it had gained much headway. The damages were light. The citizens are exasperated.

Another attempt at incendiarism was made near Centreville on the morning of October 6th at 3 o'clock. The carriage house of Antone Silva was lit on fire, but by the prompt action of neighbors the fire was extinguished. This is the fourth incendiary fire during the last few weeks.

* **CHINESE BOYCOTT** *

May 15, 1886. The recent "boycott" resolution aimed at Chinese Nationals adopted by the convention in Sacramento on March 10, 1886 is fervently opposed in Washington Township by James Shinn, John L. Beard, and Howard Dusterberry. Those opposing boycott of Chinese passed the following resolutions:

"Whereas, the Presence of the Chinese in the State has become a source of social disturbance, inimical to the peace and good order of society by reason of their peculiar habits and customs, but being here by treaty and invitation of the people of the United States, the Chinese, so long as they deport themselves in an orderly, quiet and peaceful manner, are entitled to equal protection of the laws in their persons and property, to engage in any of the ordinary pursuits of civilized society and to employ and to be employed by others, with let or hindrance from anyone; therefore

Resolved, That while favoring the "Restriction Act" prohibiting the continued immigration of the Chinese to the United State, and believing the "Restriction Act" if properly enforced will remove the Chinese from this State quite as rapidly as is consistent with the labor demand of the State, we view with regret the "boycott" resolutions adopted by the convention held at Sacramento on the 10th day of March, 1886, and we denounce the same as an unlawful means of correcting the evil complained of; as tending to invoke a remedy, which will in the end be injuriously felt, more than the evil sought to be removed, much more than is the presence of Chinese among us. We denounce the "boycott" as a bantling of foreign extraction, having had its birth and having been reared in a county of oppression and that it has no kindred or relation to our American soil; that to adopt this bantling is to arbitrarily wrest from American citizens the liberties and rights guaranteed them by the Constitution of the United State, to set in motion all over this fair land persons leagued together for the purpose of setting at defiance the laws of the State and to form conspiracies in violation of the law, in order to deprive American citizens of their right of property and the control of the same, to introduce among a peaceful and law abiding people a system of anarchy and rapine, never before heard of in this country and finally to reduce the standard of American civilization.

Resolved, That we hearby request the Tanneries of the State to unite with the fruit growers thereof to use influence to oppose the boycott.
James Shinn, John L. Beard, Howard Dusterberry, representing Washington Township

* **WATER** *

A large meeting of riparian's and parties interested in keeping water in the Alameda Creek met at Centreville on November 16th. J.C. Whipple was elected President, J.C. Wamsley Secretary, and W.F. Ingalls assistant secretary. The minutes of the last

meeting, held at Decoto on November 8th, were approved. Messrs. J. Rock, J. Stevenson, and J.C. Whipple formed the committee appointed at that time to ascertain the feelings of the community in regard to the action of the Spring Valley water Co. in restricting water in the Alameda Creek. It was reported very bitter, and the committee raised about \$2,500 with which to obtain the advice of able lawyers on the subject.

* **FIRE** *

September 5th at about half-past twelve Sunday morning a fire broke out in the rear portion of Tifoche Hall. The flames soon enveloped Sandholdt's Saloon and Haley's stores. All were destroyed. By pulling down Lucio's shoe shop, Riser & Smith's blacksmith shop and Robertson's wheelwright shop were saved. Salz & Co.'s loss on Tifoche Hall is \$4,000, partly insured. Sandholdt's loss is \$1,200, insurance coverage is \$600. W.W. Haley's loss is about \$9,000, insurance coverage was \$6,000. On Lucio's shoe shop the loss is about \$200, fully insured. A.L. Mungan, jeweler suffered a loss of \$500 with no insurance coverage. It was later learned that the \$25,000 fire got its start from a careless chap's neglect to blow out the light when he left to go to the circus.

* **STRANGER THAN FICTION** *

The old saw that fact is stranger than fiction was aptly illustrated this week, February 17, 1887 by the alleged identification of a body found near San Leandro as two different persons. What makes this remarkable is the fact that the dead man had a broken nose and but one eye. The remains were identified by the Rev. H.H. Gunn of Centreville as those of Aleck Montgomery. Afterwards the same man was identified by the two daughters of George McGawley of Haywards as their father. Both parties persist in their judgement. A number of citizens went down from Haywards and identified the corpse as that of their fellow citizen.

* **CENTREVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL** *

In July 1888 Charles S. Fisher, Principal of the Centreville School resigned his position in order to complete his medical course at Cooper Medical Institute. Harry W. Lynch, son of W.F.B. Lynch was selected as his replacement.

H.W. Lynch has been selected as the new principal of the Centreville School replacing Charles Fisher who has resigned. In October 1888 H. Lynch was granted a leave of absence for a month and James Malloch would be his substitute.

Miss M.I. Brown and Miss May Hilton have been elected to position in the Centreville School in January 1889. In December 1889 Miss Mary Reilley of the Newark School accepted a teaching position at the Centreville School at an increase in salary.

* **NOTEWORTHY EVENTS** *

1880:

Centreville Postmasters 1880's:

Conrad Prag	Jan 15, 1877
Sigmund Salz	July 12, 1882
Edward Niehaus	Dec 11, 1885
Sigmund Salz	July 22, 1889

1880s:

Mrs. F.H. Hilton

In July Mrs. Mary Hilton, wife of our local shoemaker F.H. Hilton, is conducting a very interesting experiment in silk culture. As she started rather late in the season it was necessary for her to pick carefully to secure tender leaves for the young brood. The worms were hatched on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of June to the number of over 4,500. About July 12th they were full grown, nearly three inches long and began in earnest to make their cocoons.

April 22, 1880:

Flood:

On the morning of April 22nd the levee at Crandall's slough broke giving vent to a large body of water from the Alameda Creek where it crosses the county road between Centreville and Alvarado. The water was reported to be five feet deep. By this break a large amount of grain land will be nearly a total loss. About a thousand acres are under water. The track of the South Pacific Coast Railroad for nearly three miles, commencing at the Hall Station (one mile south of the town of Alvarado on the main county road) and some of the track is said to be washed away. One passenger and one freight train are locked at Newark as a consequence. A hand-car with Martin Carter and six men started to cross but have not been heard from yet.

April 29, 1880:

J. Beard & L. Hawley:

John L. Beard was married to Miss Lizzie H. Hawley on April 29, 1880, at the residence of James Hawley.

June 1880:

D.M. Conner

D.M. Connor was appointed Notary Public for Alameda County in June 1880. William A. Yates was appointed Notary Public for Alameda County in March 1884.

September 16, 1880:

Centreville Glee Club:

An odd article from *The Livermore Herald* newspaper of September 16, 1880:

"If the Centreville Glee Club knew that it disturbed the peace and quietude of a sick man at the Mission, they would cease their vocalisms. Newarkites feel safe on account of the way the wind blows."

October 1880:

Charles D. Merrill:

Charles D. Merrill, a student in the San Francisco Theological Seminary, acted as temporary pastor from October 1880 to May 28, 1882 at which time he was ordained and installed by the Presbytery of San Jose.

October 1880:

Children of Joaquin Joseph:

In October 1880 two children of Joaquin Joseph, who lives near Centreville, died. One, a boy of nine years on died on a Monday, and another, a baby of eight months died on a Saturday.

July 4, 1881:

David Lowrie:

While celebrating the 4th in the morning by firing anvils, three young men were seriously burned by the explosion of ten pounds of powder. Injured were David Lowrie, Alfred Horner, both of Centreville; and William Russell (of San Francisco). Lowrie's injuries were quite severe and would plague him for the rest of his life. David thereafter suffered from erysipelas; a painful rash of the skin (usually arms, legs or face) typically with raised redness and demarcated skin.

January 1882:

Stevens Mansion:

The Old Stevens Mansion is to be removed by Thomas Nelson on its way toward its new location between Justice Yate's office and Pendergast's property, to be fitted up as a hotel. C.F. Dias is to be the landlord.

March 1884:

Alfred Blacow:

Josephine W. Blacow has petitioned for letter of administration of the estate of Alfred Blacow, who died in March of '84 in Centreville. His estate consists of a one eighth interest in 351 acres of land at that place, subject, however, to a life interest of Mrs. Helen Blacow.

September 9, 1884:

David Norris:

David Norris, an old and well-known printer on this coast, died on September 9, 1884 at the home of his sister-in-law Margaret Norris. He was the brother of the late Garrett Norris. David came to San Francisco in 1847 with Stevenson's regiment, and after his discharge went to work at his business. He was sixty-one years of age and unmarried.

March 12, 1885:

James Trefry

Lue Ah How, alias Gee Hung, alias Bock Hung, will appear before the police court on March 12, 1885 for on a charge of murder. He is at present a prisoner in the County Jail, charged with an assault on Constable Trefry at Centreville. He is supposed to be implicated in the murder of Ju Bong, the Chinese merchant, and was the witness who

furnished the most damaging testimony against Frank Lee, and was largely instrumental in convicting that person of the murder.

June 25, 1885:

Edward Eggers:

Deputy Treasurer Edward H Eggers died on June 25, 1885 at the residence of his parents in Centreville after a lingering illness. Mr. Eggers had been a deputy under County Treasurer Webster for the past two years and was First Sergeant of the Oakland Light Cavalry. He was twenty-seven years of age and was a native of Centreville.

1886:

Centreville Catholic Church:

The Centreville Catholic Church was built in 1886 and became the largest in the Township with a capacity of 1,000 parishioners. The priest who supervised the construction was Father Governo, formerly of Mission San Jose.

November 1887:

Rev. W.F.B. Lynch:

In November 1887 the Rev. W.F.B. Lynch of Centreville accepted the call to take charge of the Presbyterian Church at San Leandro for a year.

November 8, 1887:

Calvin J. Stevens:

Calvin J Stevens, aged 59 years, was thrown from a buggy at Livermore on November 8, 1887 and within an hour he was dead from the injury received. Calvin settled at Union City, now Alvarado, in 1852. There he purchased the steam powered flour mill erected by John Horner in 1853. In 1858 Calvin moved to Centreville where he transferred his mercantile from Alvarado to this location. In 1869, after the earthquake that almost destroyed his Centreville General Merchandise Store he moved his flouring mill and his residence to Livermore. He reconstructed his flour mill in Livermore and conducted his milling business, purchasing grain and directing his large land interests. He entered also largely into agricultural pursuits, owning much farming property as well as land of value in the city of Oakland. Only once was Mr. Stevens an occupant of a public office. In 1874-1875 he served Alameda County as Tax Collector.

March 8, 1888:

Spring Valley Water Works:

The Board of Supervisors granted the Spring Valley Water Company permission on March 26, 1888, to lay its pipes from Niles to Centreville under the public road. As a return for the privilege the corporation agreed to erect hydrants every half mile and supply water for sprinkling the highway without charge.

May 1888:

James Trefry:

James Trefry was overseer of the Centreville area road district and then in May 1888 was appointed Pound Master of the Centreville District.

July 1888:

William Barry:

In July 1888 William Barry had been elected a member of the Board of Directors of the State Horticultural Society.

November 1888:

John Mickelson:

Someone, without any known provocation, broke into John Mickelson's saloon in November 1888 and set the place on fire. Everything was destroyed, there was no insurance. November 5, 1888

January 1889:

Colonel C.J. Pullen:

Colonel C.J. Pullen, former proprietor of the Rose Hotel in Pleasanton, has assumed the management of the Gregory House at Centreville on January 29, 1889.

March 27, 1889:

W.W. Brier Jr. & H. Blake:

W.W. Brier Jr., 22, was married to Miss Helen Blake, 24, of Sunol Glen.

May 18, 1889:

George C. Riser:

George C. Riser, a young man of great promise died at Centreville on May 18, 1889 very unexpectedly of pneumonia. The funeral took place under the auspices of the Mission Peak IOOF of which he was a member. The gathering of mourners was the largest seen in Centreville for many years. George had just reached his 36th year and was just beginning to realize his dream of success. He was a plumber and tinner by trade, and his place of business was well-known throughout the valley. He was the oldest son of J.J. Riser, was of the old settlers of the township. He leaves behind a wife, a father and a mother, two sisters: Mrs. W.A. Yates of Centreville and Mrs. F.F. Allen of Haywards, and two brothers: Frank Riser of Sonoma and Charles Riser of Centreville.

June 1889:

Washington College Graduates:

The following students from Centreville will be graduating from Washington College in Irvington in June 1889: Miss Annie B. Niehaus, J.J. Joseph, and T.E. Chadbourne.

October 1889:

Rev. T.G. Crump:

In October 1889 the Rev. T.G. Crump narrowly missed a dangerous accident while out camping a few days ago. While diving in the clear waters of the Calaveras his head struck a rock, knocking him senseless for a few moments. The result was a scalp wound, a black eye, and trouble with his head that took several days to clear.

In Nov 1889 the Spring Valley Water Works bought water rights from Antonio P Rodrigues and his wife, for \$5. This is for 18 acres of their adjacent to the Dry Creek in Washington Township, with the right to direct all waters on said land from Alameda Creek or its boundaries. John Silvaria also granted to the same corporation forty acres of land on the northeastern side of the main road leading from Centreville to Alvarado, bordering on the Alameda Creek. The sum of \$5 is the consideration mentioned in this grant also.

October 24, 1889:

L. Gregory & O. Adams:

Lewis Gregory of Centreville was on October 24, 1889, to Olivia Adams of San Francisco by the Rev. W.F.B. Lynch.

