

# THE HISTORY OF CENTERVILLE

## CHAPTER 05

### 1890 to 1899

<u>Category Heading:</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>Centreville to Centerville</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bios</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Town Hall</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Centerville Grammar School</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Union High School #2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Clubs and Societies</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Sports</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Centerville Athletic Club</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Town Jail</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Religion</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Business Notes</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Jane Clough vs. Spring Valley Water Co.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Centerville Postmasters</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	<b>25</b>

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 \*           **CENTREVILLE TO CENTERVILLE**           \*  
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On March 3, 1855, the U.S. Post Office was opened in Centreville, Alameda County, with Reuben Clements as the Postmaster. Centreville was to remain as the official name for our post office until the 1890s, when the name was changed to Centerville. On February 14, 1890, Lewis Gregory was appointed as Postmaster at *Centreville*. On December 19, 1893, Frank Dusterberry was appointed Postmaster of the *Centerville* Post Office. Sometime prior to December 1893, the post office name was changed from Centreville to Centerville.

I have seen accounts of where people debated whether town name was Centreville or Centerville. The official town name was Centreville up until the name change by the post office prior to December 1893. Newspaper accounts of the time usually referred to the town as Centreville. Perhaps the most officious declaration (other than the U.S. Post Office) is the History of Washington Township by the ladies of the Country Club of Washington Township published in 1904, wherein the town of Centreville is mentioned 153 times, the town of Centerville is mentioned only once in the book, in the Table of Contents. Hereinafter I will only use the name Centerville.

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\* **BIOS** \*

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*Rev. Thomas G. Crump / the Burdick Family / John G. Mattos Jr. / Mrs. W.F.B. Lynch*

**Reverend Thomas G Crump:**

Thomas G. Crump was the minister of St. James Episcopal Church in Centerville from approximately 1890 into the early 1900's. He was born in England in 1841 and entered the U.S. in 1849. His wife Elinor was born in Ohio circa 1833. They had one child. The Reverend Crump had come to us from Litchfield, Meeker County, Minnesota.

Rev. Crump is first mentioned in May 1900 when he gave a prayer for the new flag raising ceremony at the Centerville School.

In December 1890 the Rev. T. G. Crump circulated a petition for the passage of a Sunday law and another for a law forbidding the sale of tobacco to juveniles. Rev. Crump felt that commercial establishments should be closed on Sundays to observe the Lord's Sabbath. Many people agreed with Rev. Crump on stopping the sale of cigarettes to juveniles.

The Reverend Crump was a member of the Centerville Lodge No. 170 Knights of Pythias. In December 1894 the Lodge voted him in as prelate. The Reverend was also a member of the Mission Peak Lodge, #114, where he was voted in as Chaplain in 1891.

Reverend Crump was still in Centerville in 1900 but nothing else was found for him in Centerville. In 1910 was residing in Cannon Falls, Goodhue County, Minnesota.

**The Burdick Family:**

*The Burdick Family / Charles Burdick / Henry Burdick / Mary L. (May) Burdick*

The Burdick family first appears in Washington Township in the 1880 census where Edward and Lydia Burdick were farming in the Centerville area. Edward was born in Connecticut circa 1829 and Lydia was born in Nova Scotia circa 1837. They had five children: Abbie, Edward, Charles, Henry H., and Mary L.

Their history starts with the first railroad train that went through Centerville circa 1886. In those days there were no trains through Centerville, two trains ran north and south through Decoto and Niles in the East, and the old South Pacific Coast narrow gauge railroad ran from Oakland down to Alvarado, Newark, the western marshes to San Jose and eventually ended in Santa Cruz. Although trains ran to the east and west of Centerville, none went through Centerville.

Then in 1886 the Central Pacific put a train through Centerville. It ran from the middle of Centerville west down along Baine Avenue and met near the

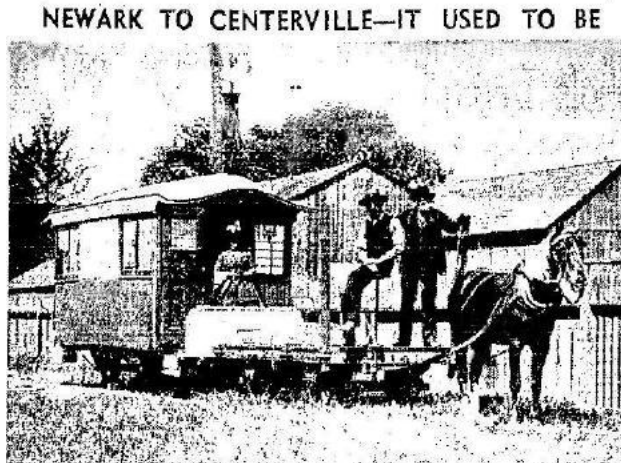
South Pacific Coast Railroad in Newark. It was not a steam train, but it was a horse pulled passenger car and flatbed car for freight.

**Charles Burdick:**

The first conductor on the train was Charles Burdick, who was twenty-one years old at the time. After two years Charles left the train line and was replaced by his brother Henry.

**Henry Burdick:**

Henry took over the train in 188 and would work on the train until it was abandoned by the Southern Pacific Railroad circa 1906.



The early day train held a speed record of 18 minutes for the three miles between the two towns. It wasn't a rapid trip to Oakland or San Francisco in those days then. Oakland was an all day trip by horse and buggy; San Francisco was two hours away by peninsula trains, which connected with the horse car. Its "engine" were prize horses that maintained

as accurate a schedule as any boasted today by electric powered successors.

Henry Burdick held the reins at the train until 1906. He then continued in railroading until his retirement in 1936.

**Mary L. (May) Burdick:**

May Burdick was the youngest child of Edward and Lydia Burdick of Centerville. She was sister of Charles and Henry Burdick. She has arrived in Berkeley in August 1896 with just \$50 and a typewriter and announced her intention to enter the university and graduate with the class of 1900. The young lady has no resources other than her small capital and a determination that admits no possibility of defeat, but she will not allow that there is a doubt about her ability to maintain herself at college.

Miss Burdick was a graduate of the Centerville High School (the first and only graduate of 1892). After graduation from high school she stayed with Mrs. Gilbert on College Way. A number of friends became interested in her brave programme and helped her in starting on her college career. Members of the faculty and local businessmen became concerned for the success of such a brave enterprise and saved their work for the courageous young lady, so that there is a good prospect that she would succeed. She did her own cooking and lived wholly by her own efforts in the room that she had rented.

Miss Burdick's capital to start with was not enough to buy the books she needed and pay her matriculation expenses. The task she set before herself was, therefore, that of earning her entire expenses for four years of college life and at the same time pursuing the studies of a full university course,

often declared, to be too much for a woman who can give her whole time to it.

In May 1903 Mary Lee Burdick earned an undergraduate degree, Phoebe Hearst Scholars.

### **John G. Mattos, Jr.**

Among the leading and influential citizens of Centerville, none takes precedence over John G. Mattos, Jr., who has attained distinction as an able and successful lawyer, while in political, civic and fraternal affairs he has been active and has been honored with important official positions.

Mr. Mattos was born in Horta City, Fayal, Azores Islands, on the 1st day of August, 1864, and there attended the public schools to the age of fifteen years, when, in 1879, he accompanied his family on the immigration to California. They settled in Centerville, where John has settled permanently.

He was made an American citizen July 31, 1886, and became an active worker in the Republican Party. In 1888 he was elected road overseer of the Centerville district and was reelected in 1890. In 1891 he was appointed a deputy county assessor for Washington Township, filling that position for four years. In 1889 he was commissioned a notary public, which position he has held continuously since.

In 1900 he was elected a member of the state assembly for the forty-sixth district, which at that time, comprised all that portion of Alameda county south of San Leandro creek, being the townships of Washington, Eden and Murray, and was reelected to the same position in 1902. While in the state assembly he was a member of the code commission and chairman of the roads and highways committee and the committee on education.

In 1901 he was appointed by Governor Gage a member of the board of trustees of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind children at Berkeley, resigning after five years of service. In 1904 he was elected a member of the state senate without opposition from the Thirteenth senatorial district, serving as chairman on the committees of education and roads and highways. In 1906 he was appointed by Governor Pardee a member of the board of harbor commissions, but by legal complications did not take office.

In 1907 he was appointed by President Roosevelt, appraiser of merchandise at the port of San Francisco and served for seven years, until the election of President Wilson. In 1918 he was appointed by Governor Stephens a member of the board of prison directors for ten years, and resigned after eight years of service.

Later Mr. Mattos devoted his time to the study of law and in August, 1897, was admitted to practice. He has been more than ordinarily successful as a lawyer, maintaining offices in Centerville and in the Bank of Italy building in San Francisco, and confines his practice mainly to the probate courts, in which dept. of legal procedure he is regarded as an expert, so that he has built up a large remunerative clientele.

Mr. Mattos took an active part in organizing the Bank of Centerville, of which he was chosen president, and served in that capacity until the bank was sold to the Bank of Italy, in 1919, since which time he has served as vice president and director of the last named Bank.

In 1893 he was elected a member of the Centerville school board, and has been reelected ever since, serving continuously in this last capacity for upward of thirty-five years. In 1895 he became a member of the high school board, of which he was made secretary and served one year.

He has long been prominent in the U. P. E. C. (Portuguese Union of the State of California), the strongest Portuguese fraternal order in the state, of which he was elected supreme president in 1894, being reelected in the following year. Since 1896 he has been supreme director of that order and since 1902 has held the office of supreme treasurer.

He held the office of justice of the peace for Washington Township for eight years, and in that time, assessed fines of over thirty-five thousand dollars for violations of the motor vehicle act. A man of alert and vigorous mentality, sterling character and progressive ideas, he has been true to the highest obligations of citizenship, has done his full part in affairs concerning the welfare of the community, and commands the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen to a marked degree.

John Mattos was the son of John G. Mattos Sr. and Emilia Mattos. John had a brother Manuel and three sisters: Mary, Adalina, Anna, May, and Leonora. John's wife, Annie E. Mattos, was born in California in August 1868. John and Annie were married circa 1891. John Mattos passed away in 1933, his wife Annie passed away in 1940.

### **Mrs. W.F.B. Lynch:**

The funeral of Mrs. W. F. B. Lynch took place from the Centerville Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December 6, 1890. The church was decorated, by loving hands, with flowers and vines, and a large number gathered on this sad occasion to do honor to the memory of her who, during her long residence among us, was a general favorite. Hers had been a rich life, full of years and good works.

Mrs. Lynch was born near Pittsburg, Pa., March 9, 1823. Her maiden name was Jackson. When 12 years old she, with her parents, removed to Butler County, Ohio. In 1849 she was married to W. F. B. Lynch, with whom she lived happily for nearly forty-two years.

In 1864 Mr. and Mrs. Lynch, with their children and a party of friends, crossed the plains from the Mississippi to Nevada, by mule team. It is a singular coincidence that the last time she appeared in public was a few days before her death, when she attended, at the Presbyterian Church, in San Leandro, a lecture by her husband, entitled "By Mule Team across the Continent." Mrs. Lynch was even then suffering from a severe cold, which was destined within a very few days to be the means of her release from the cares of this world to the bright blessings of the next.

She died on December 4th at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. F. Ebers, in San Leandro. Preliminary services were held at the house in San Leandro, and were conducted by Revs. Ross and Cherry of that place. The remains were then sent by train to Decoto, and thence carried to Centerville where, as before stated, the funeral took place from the little old church, where for twenty years she was a constant attendant and devoted Christian worker.

The service here was interesting and impressive. Rev. Joel Gilfillan officiated, assisted by Messrs. Ross and Cherry. Mr. Gilfillan delivered a most impressive address from the text, "She is not dead, but sleepeth," concluding with Miss Priest's beautiful poem, "Over the River," which had always been one of Mrs. Lynch's favorites. Interment took place in the Presbyterian Cemetery, within a stone's throw of the sacred edifice where she had so long worshiped, where her Husband had so long been pastor, and where her children had all been received into membership.

Mrs. Lynch leaves to mourn her loss besides a host of life-long friends, her husband. Rev. W. F. B. Lynch, a daughter, Mrs. Ebers of Sau Leandro, and three sons, Professor H. W., who now resides at the old homestead in Centerville, Dr. W. F., a practicing physician of Walnut Creek, and Oscar J., a druggist; now of Astoria, Oregon.

The following tribute to her memory is from the pen of one whom years of close acquaintance has given an intimate knowledge of Mrs. Lynch's character: It is needless to attempt an extended analysis of the character of one so well known to many friends. She was large hearted, generous and unselfish—she was more than that—she was a sincere Christian of the noblest type. Those who knew her best loved her most.

The remains were borne to the grave by George W. Patterson, W. Crocker, Dr. J. T. Fare, Charles A. Plummer, Edward Niehaus and Howard Overacker. The pallbearers at San Leandro were: Andrew Jones, D. B. Gray, L. C. Morehouse, A. B. Woodworth, George Downey, F. D. Moran, C. Miller, and George Kinsell

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\* **TOWN HALL** \*  
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May 1, 1890; the *Oakland Tribune* from the *Irvington Express*  
For some time now there has been much questioning and wondering over a matter brought before the people. The subject was the so-called "Town Hall." It appears it is a town hall only in name. Individual subscription and enthusiasm lasted long enough to purchase a lot and erect a building. It did not, however, take steps to see that it was deeded to town. It did not last long enough to finish the inside or improve it. As near as we can learn, Captain Bond had it finished off inside, Sigmund Salz improved the stage and someone paid the taxes. It appears no effort was made to repay these men, and it skipped into their hands. The debt could not have amounted to many hundreds of dollars, for surely the rent paid the taxes and the other expenses. Now we hear that it has passed entirely into the hands of Sigmund Salz and he offers it for sale for \$1,700. How could he give a deed of land by purchased by public money?

How much are the people really indebted to him? It seems to us that this is a question that our citizens should inquire into. We also hear that attachment has been placed upon it as the property of Salz & Co., and it will soon be sold at Sheriff's sale. It seems as if the people should now put forth *their* claim and stand ready to make good their indebtedness. If the men of our town will do their part, they will be ably assisted by the ladies. Three parties properly managed could, could clear \$500 apiece. This is no exaggeration. H.C. Gregory, Dr. C.S. Allen, G.W. Patterson, the Overacker's, Lowrie's, William Barry, H. Dusterberry, and many others put their money into the building.

Directors for the Ladies Town Hall Association of Centerville were chosen in August 1892. They were: Mary Gregory, Dora Overacker, Louis Overacker, Susan S. Milton, Caroline P. Simpson, Laura Beck, Hester Trefry, and Mary Matheson.

The ladies of Centerville met at the Town Hall on June 15, 1891 to elect officers of the association to be called, "The Ladies' Town Hall Association." The following officers were elected:

President:	Mrs. Henry Gregory
Secretary:	Mrs. R. Rockwell
Treasurer:	Mrs. George Patterson

It was decided to form a committee to solicit subscriptions, and one to arrange and prepare for an entertainment for July 4<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that all public minded citizens will do everything in their power to aid the ladies in their laudable undertaking.

The Ladies of the Town Hall Association continued to strive forward in their effort to bring the Centerville Town Hall back under the power of the people. Any lady can become a member of the association by paying 50¢ and all parties belonging to association will be incorporated members. Everything will be made safe so that it cannot pass out of their hands without consent of all. Some \$300 has already been subscribed.

The ladies of the Town Hall Association met on November 19, 1891 to incorporate their association. T. Huxley was present and gave his advice. There were eleven directors chosen including officers. The Literary Society is helping to raise funds to buy the hall. The ladies also prodded the town men to join in the fund raising.

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**\*      CENTERVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL      \***  
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On February 28, 1890, there was a flag raising ceremony at the public school. The pupils, teachers and friends a fourteen foot flag and erected a flagpole over the school building. At about 2 o'clock everyone gathered for a flag raising ceremony, with the Rev. Crump opened the exercise with a prayer. Miss Graham of Newark sang "The Star Spangled Banner," accompanied by Miss Bessie Dusterberry of the graduating class on the organ. Miss Emma Simpson, also the graduating class presented the flag to the Board of Trustees, and Mr. Sandholdt, clerk of the board, received it appropriately.

Admission Day, Sept.9, 1890, the Centerville School celebrated by the hoisting of the American Flag, and an assembly of all students for an hour before closing. The different grades having selected representatives presented topical speeches and entertainments. Miss Emma Simpson of the review or post graduate class read an instructive essay on "Our Fortieth Anniversary as a State." Arthur Jordan of the seventh on "California's Early History and Admission," and then there were declamations, humorous and classical, by Annie Sandholdt of the seventh, Francis Cabel and John Blacow of the sixth, Amy Gregory and Arthur Yates of the fifth, and Etta Graham of the third.

Professor Harry Lynch (Principal of the Centerville School) and his pupils will give an elocutionary recital in the Town Hall in November 1890.

The Centerville School got twelve new microscopes for classroom work in November 1890. These will be in addition to the one microscope is use in the school today. This will greatly aid teachers and students in the investigation as to the nature and eradication of fruit pests, which they have been pursuing this semester. They will also aid the children in the investigation into entomology.

Leslie Jordan, Principal of the Centerville School resigned his position in January 1891 so he could become Principal of the Haywards School. His new salary is \$125 a month, where he had been paid \$90 a month at the Centerville School. Mr. Jordan's replacement, Mr. Clarke is already doing effective work.

In February 1891 so many of the children had come down with scarlet fever that the Trustees decided to shut down the school until the disease had run its course.

In March 1891 Mr. Robinson is building a coal bin for the schoolhouse and has arranged it so that it may be securely fastened, as the district "black diamonds" seem to have a remarkable facility of walking off.

Trustees announced that Principal Clarke at the Centerville School has given satisfaction and will be retained there next term. Mr. Clarke, was at one time, a professor in the State University and is one of the brightest men in mathematics in this State.

In June 1891 Miss Brown, intermediate teacher at the Centerville School resigned, and Miss Mary Riley has been promoted to fill the vacancy. Miss Maude Robertson has been selected to fill the position made vacant by the promotion of Miss Riley. Miss Robertson is a graduate of the Centerville School, and also a graduate of the State Normal School. Her father is a member of the Board of Trustees.

The favorite teacher voting in the *Oakland Tribune* held in October 1891 shows votes for Centerville teachers: J.B. Clark, Miss Mary Brown and Miss Maude Robertson.

In July 1899 the grammar school building was re-shingled and put in good order for the opening term. Our new teacher is Miss Edythe Turner.



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\* **UNION HIGH SCHOOL #2** \*  
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Early in 1891 the State Legislature passed a bill entitled "An act for the establishment of high schools in the State of California." The act allowed for a city or incorporated towns of more than 1,500 citizens by a majority of voters to establish a union high school. The first three areas in Alameda County to vote in such union districts were 1) Livermore; 2) Centerville; and 3) Haywards. The names of these union high schools were officially: Union High School #1 (Livermore); Union High School #2 (Centerville); and Union High School #3 (Haywards). There were other union high schools but I have only named three for our purposes here. The official names were unwieldy but there were times when they were used. Mostly though people referred to them by their town or city names. Thus Union High School #2 was usually referred to as Centerville High School or the Union High School at Centerville.

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

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

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

By the end of June 1891 the contest over the location of the union high school in Washington Township was just warming up. Centerville, Mission San Jose, Irvington, and Niles were each making determined efforts to have the school located in their respective towns. The Mission was objected to because it is off the line of the railroad. Irvington is objected to because there is already located there a large private college. Niles comes in with the claim of being the proper place for the school, and so does Centerville. It was stated that if Centerville doesn't secure the school the people of that town will join with Alviso, Newark, and Lincoln districts and form a district of their own and locate the school at Centerville. The matter was beginning to get complicated.

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



Centerville Union High School as it stood circa 1908.

A meeting of the new Washington Township High School Board was held in the Masonic Building in Centerville on Friday October 18, 1891. H.A. Mayhew was chosen as chairman and Leonard Jarvis as clerk. The site of two acres, near Masonic Hall, offered by Howard Overacker Jr. was accepted for a building. An executive committee was appointed, comprising H.A. Mayhew, Niles; Leonard Jarvis, Newark; and Mr. Robertson, Centerville to make arrangements for a building, or for the rental of rooms, and the opening of the school during the present year. A second meeting of the board would be held on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> to receive and consider applications for the principal of the school.

In 1893 the school was built at a cost of nearly \$11,000. The school was two stories in height, with a commodious basement floored with cement. In the basement was a large chemical laboratory, with furnace, gas, etc. On the first floor are two large classrooms, cloakrooms and a library. The upper floor is an immense assembly room. The district is particularly fortunate in having so thorough an educator as Principal Prof. W.H. Wentworth. His assistants are Miss G. Crocker and Miss Carrie Brier.

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

1892: May Burdick

1893: Daniel Crosby, William Jarvis

1894: Ezra Decoto Jr., Charles Fitz Jarvis, Joseph R. Jarvis, Olive Lamb, Clarence E. Martenstein, Manuel Quadros, Laura Thane, James R. Whipple

1895: Joseph Haines, Leonard Jarvis, Eugene Mathews, Maxwell McCullough, Justice Overacker, Anne Sandholdt, Bartlett Thane, Mabel Yates

1896: John R. Blacow, Kate Ellsworth, George Emerson, Arthur W. Haley, Stella Healey, Bertrand Moody, Mary Louise Olney, Henry Patterson, Fred Robertson, Constance Rose, Harry Salz, Arthur Yates

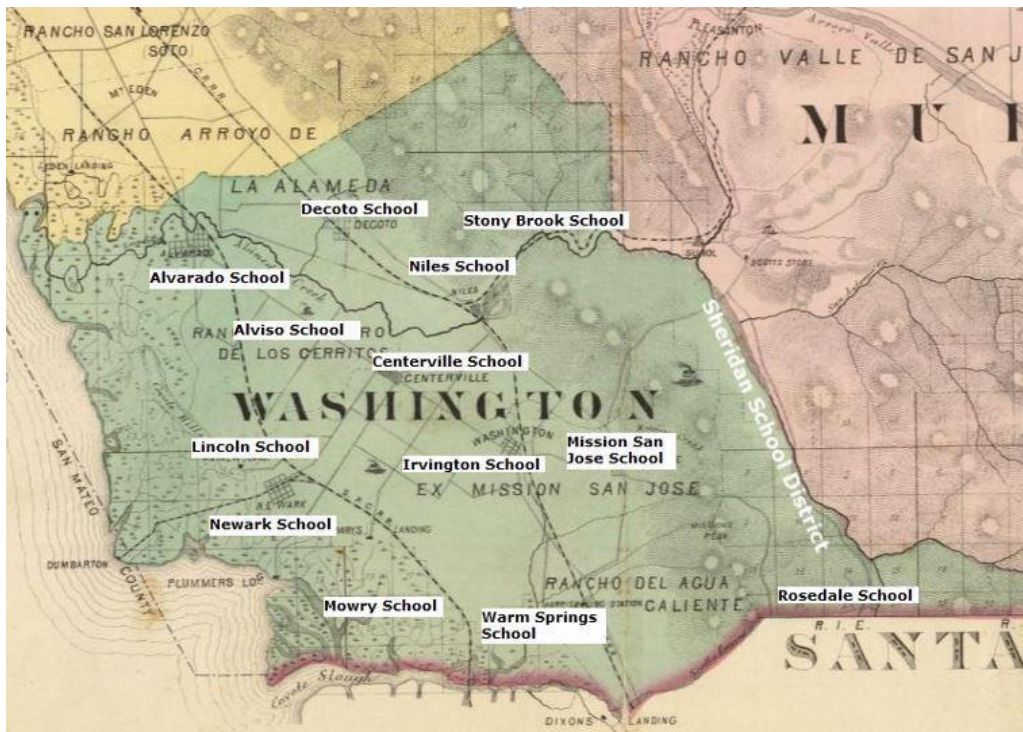
1897: Jessie L. Beard, Blanche E. Blacow, Louis Decoto, Antone C. Dutra, Herbert C. Eller, Frank C. Garcia, F. May Haines, Harry S. Haines, Elsie G. Woods

1898: Mary Alice Connors, Rob Roy Denny, Gertrude Alice Gibbons, Francis John Girard, Florence Trevitt Hudson, Elbert Abram Hugill, Florence Marie Mayhew, Kenneth Franklin Reynolds, Mila Osgood Rix

1899: Helen Haley, Leland Jacobus, Oscar Kraft, William Patterson, Grace Peterson, Maggie Rogers, Fern E. Smith, John Whipple

The course of study must be prepared or sanctioned by the Board of Trustees, and must be approved by the County Board of Education; the text-books must be those recommended by the State Board. The school is fully accredited and prepares for all courses in the State University. The Union High School #2 (Centerville High) opened on January 14, 1895. Pupils from a district not included in the Union High School district would be charged \$15 per term payable in advance.

The Livermore, Centerville, and Haywards Union High School's (Union High School's #1, 2, & 3 in the State) held a carnival at the picnic grove in Niles Canyon in May 1897. The occasion was a union picnic of the three institutions. About forty pupils from each school were in attendance besides Prof. John Gamble of Hayward, Prof. F. Liddike from Centerville, and Prof. Connel, Miss Moore, and Miss Thayer from Livermore. The merry-makers went in private conveyances, all intent on enjoying themselves to the utmost. Dancing, boating, and other sports and games were indulged in until late in the day. The picnic was such a success and everybody, from the rollicking boys to the staid and dignified professors so thoroughly enjoyed themselves that it was voted an annual outing.



The thirteen elementary school districts in the Centerville High School District. The Sheridan School District on the far right of Washington Township was also known as "Sunol Glen."

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

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

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

The Centerville High School received accreditation from UC Berkeley in June 1896 as up to standard, so our graduates could enter the university without examination.

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

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees for the high school held in July Joseph Shinn was voted president of the board with Mrs. Mary Allen of Centerville as vice-president.

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 \* **CLUBS & SOCIETIES** \*  
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*Busy Bees / Centerville Debate Club / Centerville Good Citizens Club / "Coming Men of America" / Crystal Gun Club / Knights of Pythias / The literary Club / Merry Workers / Native Sons of the Golden West / Red Cross / The Rifle Club / St. James Sewing Society / U.P.E.C. / Washington Township Country Club / The Whist Club / Woodmen of the World / Young Men's Institute Y.M.I. /*

**Busy Bees:**

Ten little girls of Centerville have formed a club called the "Busy Bees" in September. The officers are: President: Bessie Willis; and Secretary-Treasurer: Ruby Smith. They intend buying dolls and dressing them for the children's hospital in San Francisco.

**Centerville Debate Club:**

A debate took place last week between the Niles Spare-Minute Club and the Centerville (Debate) Club. The subject was the temperance or Sunday law, as

embodied in the Blair bill. Messrs. Harry Lynch and Daniel Crosby of Centerville had the affirmative and Rev. H.F. Maas and Mr. James Clarke had the negative for Niles. The Centerville Club won. The debate was bright and entertaining and drew quite a large audience from the several surrounding towns.

### **Centerville Good Citizens Club**

Officers of the Centerville Good Citizens Club elected in August 1896 were:  
President: Mrs. Mary C. Allen; Vice President: Mrs. Margaret Robinson; Vice President: Mrs. Mary Mickle; Recording Secretary: Mrs. Grace Huxley; Treasurer: Mrs. Clara Patterson; Delegates to the annual County Meeting: Mrs. Mary C. Allen, Mrs. Dora Overacker, and Mrs. Clara Patterson

### **The "Coming Men of America":**

"The Coming Men of America" is a social club organized early in June in Centerville by a number of young men whose aim is to have a good time. The club gave a delightful dancing party in the town hall here in mid-June. The number present was not as large as expected as the evening was rainy and disagreeable, still all had a great time. At the end of July they announced another social party soon.

### **Crystal Gun Club**

The Crystal Gun Club was formed in July in Centerville. Members include: H. Emerson, F. Smith, R.E. Smith, and A. Eggers. They have leased 100 acres of the Crystal Salt Works and are now preparing the site for the coming duck season.

### **Knights of Pythias:**

The Centerville Century Lodge, No. 170, Knight of Pythias was organized in November 29, 1890. Three of the original charter members were: Thomas Huxley, Ernest Phippen, and Leonard Whitbeck.

Following is a list of installed officials from February 4, 1898:

Joseph D. Norris	Installing Officer and District Deputy
Ross Ingraham	Chancellor Commander
Frank Dusterberry	Vice Chancellor
Rev. T.G. Crump	Prelate
F.T. Hawes	Master of Work
F.M. Smith	Keeper of Records & Seal
A.F. Eggers	Master of Finance
S. Sandholdt	Master of Exchequer
J.W. Robertson	Master at Arms
Fred Dusterberry	Inner Guard
P. Mathieson	Outer Guard

### **The Literary Club:**

The Literary Club met at the home of Arthur Ralph in October. There were twenty members in attendance. A recitation by Miss Gulie Crocker and one by Fritz Jarvis, an essay by Mrs. Sweet, a reading by Miss Vesta Beck and a song by Miss Minnie Beiter.

### **Merry Workers:**

The new literary society, the Merry Workers, met in March 1891 at the home of Fred Crothers. The society now numbers 32 active members. The officers are: President, Miss Riley; Vice-President, Miss Crocker; and Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Brown.

The Merry Workers met with Miss Mabel Yates on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and the evening was devoted to Bryant. After the quotations an interesting essay was read by Miss Maggie Wales on the life and time Sir Walter Scott. Miss Beiter sang a solo accompanied by Mabel Yates on the piano. Charades and spelling were then played followed by an amusing recitation by Will Jarvis. The next meeting will feature the works of Emerson at the home of Robert Braden, who by the way is attending the Oakland High School.

### **Native Sons of the Golden West:**

Washington Parlor No. 169, N. S. G. W., was organized on December 13, 1890. Some of the charter members were: Frank T. Hawes, Wilbur J. Williams, Peter J. Crosby, and Allen G. Norris.

Washington Parlor Observed Its Anniversary on December 5, 1895 at Centerville in Characteristic Style. The Town Hall was the scene of a happy gathering Friday night, the occasion being the fifth anniversary of Washington Parlor No. 189, N. S.G.W. The decorations of the hall were in keeping with the commemorative event, there being a profusion of Christmas berries and palm leaves, while over the center of the stage hung a bust picture of Washington. The stage, which had been enlarged for the occasion was replete with scenic effects, and all the auxiliaries for the production of the three-act melodrama, "The Lost Mine" — a reproduction of pioneer days depicting the struggles and hardships of the sturdy miners for gold. The following ladies and gentlemen took part: Nevada the Wanderer, F.M. Smith; Vermont an ex-deacon, F. F. Dusterberry; Tom, Carew and Dandy Dick young miners: G. I. Norris, P. S. Sandholdt, and Silas Steele, a missionary of health; W. L. Robie; Jerden a detective, C. P. Cockefair; Jube, a black miner; R. T. Moses; Win Kye, the inquisitive, S.F. Murphy; Mother Merton, Mrs. W. L. Robie Moselle, a waif; Mrs. C. H. Hatch; Agnes Fairlee, Moselle's teacher, Miss E. Simpson.

Frank M. Smith was elected a delegate from the Washington Parlor No.169 NSGW, to the council at Santa Rosa on April 27, 1891

Joseph D. Norris of Centerville has been elected Grand Outside Sentinel for the NSGW Grand Parlor on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1896.

The Native Sons should feel proud of their ball which took place in the town in November 1897. It was certainly one of the most enjoyable affair of the kind which has taken place in this township for years. At 9 o'clock the Grand March was led by Mrs. and Mrs. C. Hatch and was participated by some 50 couples. Dancing went on merrily until midnight when all repaired to the Gregory House for refreshments.

### **Red Cross:**

The present township Red Cross Society was organized in Centerville in 1898, and its ninety-two enrolled members, did efficient work during the Spanish war. A fund still remains in the bank for future needs.

### **Rifle Club:**

In May 1899 the members of the rifle team started using the German target and peep sights. They adopted these new methods after attending the great shooting festival a couple weeks ago. Fred Horner made the magnificent score of 74 out of 75 points in three shots.

### **St. James Sewing Society:**

The St. James Sewing Society will hold its 20 year anniversary on May 1, 1891. Since its first meeting at the residence of Mrs. Howard Overacker on the first Thursday in May 1871, the society has enjoyed great prosperity and harmony. Mrs. Overacker, who for years has been the president of the society, proved a wise, efficient, and beloved official. For the past two years the society has been led by Mrs. H.E. Mosher.

### **U.P.E.C.**

Pleasanton was a lively place in October 1896 when the Grand Lodge of the Portuguese Union of the State of California met there. U.P.E.C. (Uniao Portuguese do Estado da California) the Portuguese Lodge was founded in San Leandro on August 1, 1880. Present from Centerville was John J. Mattos, Jr., past president of the lodge and delegates: Manuel S. Peixotto, Francisco Silva, Manuel F. Silva, and Joao J. Santos.

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

(Taken from the Preface of *The History of Washington Township* by the Country Club of Washington Township, Page 2 of the 1904 Edition.)

“The Country Club, under whose auspices this history is published, was the outcome of two political equality societies, one of Centerville and one of Niles. The first meeting of the Woman's Club of Washington Township, afterward re-named the Country Club, was held in December, 1897, at the home of Mrs. C. H. Allen.”

Mrs. Alice Bunnell, President of the Oakland Ebell Club, addressed the Centerville Woman's Club of Washington Township in October 1897, which met at the home of Mrs. T.C. Huxley.

### **The Whist Club:**

A new Whist Club will soon be formed in Centerville in April 1896, with Mr. Emerson, Mr. Dusterberry, and Charlie Riser at the head of it.

At their April 1897 meeting Charles W. Riser and H.L. Emerson carried off the prizes in the whist tournament held in Centerville.

A Whist Club was organized at J.E. Jacobus' in October 1898 with Joseph Shinn as scorer and four tables. J. Shinn and Charles Overacker carried off the prizes. Meetings will be held every two weeks.

### **Woodmen of the World:**

A camp of the Woodmen of the World was founded in Centerville on June 27, 1894 under the name Maple Council No. 146. Some of the founding members were: Francis Robinson, Fred Lowrie, Barney P. Bragg, and E.J. DeLuce.

Maple Camp No. 146, W. of W. had a membership of one hundred and seventeen in 1896. In this time it has paid for death losses \$6,000, and erected two monuments to departed members.

It was reported that the Centerville Camp would take in about twenty new members in March 1898. The Camp at Irvington has decided to join with that of Centerville and have one good, strong Camp at Washington Township.

### **Young Men's Institute (YMI):**

YMI No. 25 was organized in Centerville in March 1890. The following officers were elected:

President:	Manuel Pires
First Vice President:	A.J. Rodrigues
Senior Vice President:	Manuel Silva
Recording Secretary:	Frank White
Financial Secretary:	K/S/ Secada
Secretary:	Joseph Lewis
Treasurer:	John J. Santos
Other Officers:	John F. King, Dr. Allen, M. Souza, M. Auguste
Executive Committee:	Jose Amaral, Joseph Rodgers, J.F. King, Charles Rodgers

The organization has 25 members.

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## **\* SPORTS \***

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In the 1890's Washington Township became a hotbed for sports. It was truly the "Gay 90's" decade for sports. The town was maturing and the young people sired by the pioneers gave time to sport as leisure time began to increase.

One of the first well publicized events took place on September 29, 1894 when the Alameda University Academy team came to town to engage a game with the Centerville High School. In a hotly contested game Centerville High won by a score of 4 to 0. It appears that in the early days of football a touchdown was worth 4 points.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Centerville High School had a return match with the Alameda University Academy at their home field. The rematch was definitely one sided as the Academy boys ground out a 31 to 0 victory over the Centerville boys. The only bright spot on the day for Centerville was a 75-yard run for Justice Overacker, but he failed to score and Centerville was unable to penetrate the end-zone.

On October 27<sup>th</sup> a highly interesting game of football was played at Centerville on Saturday between the Union High School and the Boys High School of San Francisco, the Centerville's winning by a score of 24 to 4. This makes the third game the home team has won this season, showing the result of hard work and continued practice. The game was characterized by the numerous long runs made by Jim Whipple and Harry Searles (both of Decoto) for the Centerville school. Norris at guard put up a great game, breaking through repeatedly, and Thane made a great running and interference game at fullback. In fact the Centerville boys played with so much snap and team work that they elicited much applause from the players and the audience.



The next team the Union High School boys will face is Livermore, who is considered a rival.

1895 started with a game played at the Stanford Field in Palo Alto. The Stanford freshman team defeated the Union High School #2 of Centerville on New Year's Day 1895 at Covington by a score of 12 to 0.

The Stanford freshman crushed the Centerville High School boys 28 to 0 on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

The fourth football game of the A.A.L. (Academic Athletic League) was played at Centerville November 16<sup>th</sup> between Stockton and Centerville High Schools. The Stockton boys had hard luck, several of them either being absent or laid up, and as a consequence they were beaten by a score of 16 – 0.

Centerville Union High played a football game at Santa Cruz in a heavy downpour on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Santa Cruz led at halftime 12 to 0. The game was called in the second half with the score still 12 to 0 in favor of Santa Cruz. The article did say that the field was decorated in Red for Santa Cruz, and yellow for Centerville, which sounds correct as Washington Union High School colors were, up until the late 1930's, yellow and black.

Players for Centerville were:

L. Decoto	Right End	M. Garcia	Left End
Capt. G Emerson	Right Tackle	H. Haines	Left Tackle
G. Norris	Right Guard	M. Dixon	Left Guard
H. Searles	Right Halfback	J. Whipple	Left Halfback
E. Stevenson	Center	F. Carter	Fullback
E. Jarvis	Quarterback		

Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1896, was observed at Haywards by the most largely attended athletic event ever held in that vicinity. Over 2,500 people assembled at the grounds of the Hayward's Athletic Club to witness the football game between the Centerville High School and the home team. There was considerable friendly rivalry between the two organizations and the partisans of each were enthusiastic from the first. During the first half the Haywards team, under Captain A. Lacunha, played hard ball, and as a result the score stood at 10 to 6 at the end of the first half. Captain Carter of the Centerville team succeeded in rallying his men for the second half and they carried things with a rush. The Haywards did not score in the second half while the Centerville players put up twelve points to win the game 18 to 10. In the evening the home team tendered the visitors a banquet. It would appear that now a touchdown was worth five points and the point after one point.

The Centerville High School was a member of the Academic Athletic League in northern California. In November 1896 the AAL was comprised the following schools: Lowell High School of San Francisco, Polytechnic High School of San Francisco, Oakland High School, Berkeley High School, Alameda University Academy, Centerville High School, Sacramento High School, Stockton High School, St. Matthew's School of San Mateo and Hoitt's School of Burlingame. Oddly Haywards High School and Livermore High were not in this league. The football game played in October 1899 by Union High School #2 of Centerville and the Oakland High School proved to be a glorious win for Centerville. The score was to 10 to 0. The boys did



The new Centerville Athletic Park opened on May 27<sup>th</sup> with a series of bicycle races in which none but members of the club were allowed to participate. About 800 people representing every town in Washington Township were present to witness the opening of the Park and cheer their favorite onto victory. The grand stand was complete in every detail and was fairly jammed with the mothers, sisters, and sweethearts of the members of the club.

The riders had to contend with a very strong wind which blew all of the afternoon and this prevented any very fast riding. The first race was a third of a mile and was divided into heats as follows:

First heat: Harry Searles first, John Blacow second. Time: 1:04<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Second heat: M.F. Rose first, D. Norris second. Time 0:52<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

Third heat: Louis Decoto first, J. George second. Time: 0:52<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

Final heat: W. Anderson first, D. Norris second. 0:50<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

One Mile Race:

First heat: R.B. Ralph first, R. Moses second. Time: 3:15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

Second heat: D. Norris first, Louis Decoto second. Time: 3:24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

Third heat: W. Anderson first, M.F. Rose second. Time: 3:12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

The final was a pretty race and at the close, amid great excitement, R.B. Ralph won the race in 2:54, W. Anderson was second.

An exhibition mile was made by J.M. Smith of the Garden City Club (San Jose), paced by a tandem, in 2:45.

The five mile race was contested in by Roy Emery, Martin Anderson, J.B. Ritter and R.B. Ralph. A time limit of 18 minutes caused the boys to wake up and for the first two miles the pace was rather too fast for some of the riders as Anderson fell out of the race, Ritter fell of his wheel, but remounted and continued in the race and Ralph got a stich down his side. This left Emery with things all his own way and he won the race by coasting down the home stretch and across the tape in 16:09. Ralph and Ritter one-third of a lap in the rear. The two finishing in the above order.

The closing event of the day was a baseball game between the Centerville Athletic Club and the Oakland High School nine, which resulted in a victory for Oakland by the score of 25 to 6.

The game of football on New Year's Day 1897 on the Centerville Athletic Club field before a large crowd and proved to be very interesting. The Centerville Athletic Club played a team from the town of Decoto, who felt confident of winning, but had the wind taken out of their sails quite by the Centerville team.

The Reliance Football team of San Francisco was defeated by the Centerville Athletic Club of Washington Township in February 1897 by a score of 6 to 0. James Whipple, a California University man made the touch down and Carter kicked the goal.

In March 1897 there was talk of the Centerville Athletic Club putting up a trophy for the lovers of baseball. A baseball club would be organized in each town in the township and the contests would be played on the athletic club grounds. The May meeting of the Centerville Athletic Club was held in the club house. The manager of the various baseball teams went before them and signified their willingness to enter a contest for a trophy put up by the club. Four clubs would enter the contest: Newark, Irvington, Centerville and Alvarado.

The Oakland Young Men's Christian Association lightweight football eleven was defeated on November 28, 1897 by the Centerville Athletic Club team on the latter's grounds by a score of 22 to 9. The Oakland club claims the lightweight championship of the State. The two teams are evenly matched in regard to weight.

The election of officers for the coming year was held in March 1898 for the Centerville Athletic Club and the new officers are: President, Howard Emerson; Treasurer, A. Lernhart; Secretary, P.S. Sandholdt; Board of Directors: J.E. Jacobus, E.B. Thompson, Bob Moses, M. Anderson, W. Walton, and Joe Norris.

The Centerville Athletic Club put on a grand bicycle tournament near the end of May 1899. Then later they gave a social dance in the Town Hall. Dancing commenced at 9 o'clock and was kept up until about 2 o'clock in the morning.

In June the popularity of tennis in Centerville boomed with nearly every tennis court on the Athletic Club grounds bring utilized by a number who are fast becoming experts at the game. A tennis tournament will next be in order.

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**\* TOWN JAIL \***

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On January 31, 1895 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors put out a notice of bids for a new jail to be built in Centerville. Bids were to be presented by February 11, 1895. The jail was to be one story high and the cost was not to exceed \$350.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> the Alameda County Board of Supervisor again put out a notice of bids for the new jail to be built in Centerville. The deadline for submitting plans was extended to March 19, 1895.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> the clerk of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors announced that no responses had been received to the request for plans for the Centerville Jail.

On June 24<sup>th</sup> the clerk notified the board that the notice for contractors for bids for the erection of a jail Centerville had been advertised as required by law. A bid by F.M. Smith of \$320 was referred to the board as a whole.

Manuel Pastor escaped from the Centerville Jail on March 10, 1896 He had been in the County Jail in Oakland before being taken to Centerville last night to be examined this morning on a charge of assault to murder. This morning when his breakfast was served he suddenly rushed out of the door and away. He was seen an hour later wading a stream in Niles. Pastor is of a murderous disposition. The offense for which he was arrested consisted in cutting another Indian in such a manner that the latter nearly bled to death. Only a short time ago he was discharged from the County Jail after spending 18 months there on the charge of assault with a deadly weapon. Manuel Pastor was captured on April 28<sup>th</sup> and placed under arrest for the third time for the attempted killings, at diverse times, of some fellow Indians. Manuel escaped from the Centerville Town Jail last month. He will be held in County Jail as county authorities no longer trust rural jails.

Gus Seaman, who was awaiting a preliminary examination in the local court, escaped on the evening of August 22, 1899. A hole in the roof in our town jail is the only reminder we have of Gus Seaman's visit to the town. All efforts toward recapture have proved futile.

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\* **RELIGION** \*  
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*St. James Episcopal Church / Presbyterian Church / Catholic Church*

**St. James Episcopal Church:**

In November 1890 the St. James Society prepared for a very elaborate Bazaar, supper, and social dance, which they gave the Town Hall on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Centerville's Rev. T.G. Crump attended the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California in April 1894 as the representative from Centerville.

More than 250 call lilies were used in decorating St. James Church for Easter Sunday April 1891. A beautiful cross of call lilies was sent in from Mrs. C.J. Pullen, and another from Miss Lottie Trefry. The church was crowded and Mr. Crump gave a very interesting and appropriate sermon.

The semi-annual bazaar of the St. James Society was held on the May 22, 1891 in the Town Hall. Among the attractions of the evening were singing by Miss Helen Swayne, with piano accompaniment by Miss Kate Overacker, and recitations by Miss Lizzie Overacker and Miss Eva Jarvis. Mrs. Humphrey Ward Smith, who was to give recitals was detained at home by a severe illness, causing much disappointment.

**Presbyterian Church:**

The Presbyterian Church was newly painted and decorated on the interior. New stained glass windows have been put in, and the whole edifice now presents a neat and attractive appearance.

The church social at Howard Overacker's Sr.'s home in April 1898 was attended by nearly 100 people. The large rooms were taxed to the fullest extent and all enjoyed themselves. The young people played games, then music was enjoyed by all. Miss Evelyn Bunting and Harry Salz favored them with instrumental music; Allen Borst, Roy Denny, and Miss Amy Gregory gave vocal selections, G. Scoville of Stanford University gave several violin selections and also accompanied Miss Gregory in her singing. This was followed by a farce, "April Fool" in which Clyde Smith and Harold Rogers distinguished themselves as the two noisy boys.

The Christian Endeavor "Ghost Social" given at Howard Overacker Sr.' home on September 29, 1899 was a great success. The grounds in front of the house were up by pumpkins and Japanese lanterns, which was a beautiful sight from the road. At the guests entered the house they were met by five ghosts, who silently conducted them to the dressing rooms. The program was as follows: Music: Miss Evelyn Bunting; Recitation: Muriel Plummer; Band: The Seven Shades; Recitation: Bessie Reisinger; Music: Harold Rogers. After this came games and refreshments.

Miss Brouillette, known as the girl "orator," gave an oration in the Presbyterian Church in May 1897. She handled her subject in a new and original line, easy of delivery, and in a happy manner that made listening to her a pleasure.

In July 1899 the Christian Endeavor Society has elected the following officers: President, Justus Overacker; Vice-President, Miss Fern Smith; Secretary, Miss Clara Archibald; Treasurer, James Fair.



A graphophone concert was on May 28, 1898 at the Presbyterian Church. The proceeds went to the dearests objects just now; the Red Cross (because of the Spanish American War). The graphophone was highly spoken by Mr. A.C. Babson of Alameda, a student in the electrical engineering department of the University of California. The program was excellent and consisted of band music, comic songs, banjo selections and many other selections.

The graphophone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1886 and used a cylinder rather than a record.

**Catholic Church:**

The Catholic Fair opened October 9, 1891.

In January 1897 he painter who was engaged to gild the two domes on the Catholic Church has given up the job, as he refused to work so high up on so small a staging.

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**\* BUSINESS NOTES \***

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*Richard O'Connor / Centerville Hotels / Hardy's Dancing School / William Barry / Henry Crosby / F.H. Hilton / John G. Mattos Jr. / Mr. & Mrs. Gregory / Maas & Bunting / Washington Township Farmer's and Fruit-Grower's Assn. / Blacow-Roberts-Glide Flock / M.S. Piero / J. Herrscher / Robert T. Moses / L.L. Francis / John Marshall / Fred Wager*

**Richard O'Connor**

In August 1890 Richard O'Connor made an application for a liquor license

**Centerville Hotels:**

Proprietors of two hotels in Centerville in October 1890 were:

- P.H. O'Connor, of the U.S. Hotel
- C.J. Pullen of the Centerville Hotel

**Hardy's Dancing School:**

Professor Hardy started his dancing school with about with about thirty pupils here in November 1890.

**William Barry:**

William Barry, the local horticultural Commissioner, was busy in January 1891 preparing for the Board of Supervisors a report embodying the results of his experiments this season in spraying, etc. Mr. Barry has been very successful in his

efforts at eradicating fruit pests and his report will be of great interest to dwellers in Washington Township.

**Henry Crosby:**

Henry Crosby expects to open a branch of his tinning and plumbing business in Alvarado in February 1891. A young man named Eaton will be in charge of the Alvarado operation.

**F.H. Hilton:**

F.H. Hilton's shoe shop was broken into in February 1891, a window being forced and entrance thus effected. The thieves got nothing of value.

**John G. Mattos Jr.:**

In March 1891 the Roadmaster was John G. Mattos Jr.

**Mr. & Mrs. Gregory:**

In April 1891 Mr. & Mrs. Gregory assumed control of the Gregory House.

**Maas & Bunting:**

In April 1891 Edward M. Maas has gone into partnership with John A. Bunting in the latter's plumbing business, which has grown to such proportions as to require a business partner.

**Washington Township Farmer's and Fruit-Grower's Assn:**

A meeting at Centerville on February 24, 1892, created the Washington Township Farmer's and Fruit-Grower's Association with 26 members. The following members were elected to positions:

President:	Howard Overacker Jr.
Vice-President:	J.C. Shinn
Secretary:	J.E. Jacobus
Treasurer:	H.E. Mosher

**Blacow-Roberts-Glide Flock:**

At a recent public auction (October 1895) held in Buenos Aires several Franco-American Rambouillet rams were sold by Haskell & Dimmock from the stock of the well-known Blacow-Roberts-Glide flock.

"The flock was founded in 1860 by Robert Blacow of Centerville California, by a purchase of twelve ewes and a prize ram from the importer John D. Patterson of Geneva NY. These animals were from the French government flock at Rambouillet, France.

At Mr. Blacow's death the flock passed to James Roberts, from whose estate Mr. J.H. Glide of Sacramento purchased the flock entire, and is the breeder of the rams recently brought to this market. Very few of these animals have heretofore found their way to this market."

**M.S. Piero:**

In March 1898 the front side of M.S. Piero's machine shop has been built higher adding greatly to the appearance of the building.

**J. Herrscher:**

The front of J. Herrscher's store received a new coat of paint in April 1898.

**Robert T. Moses:**

In July 1899 Robert T. Moses moved his cyclery to the store adjacent to the butcher shop. The front was painted orange and a fine flag pole was put up on the Fourth. He has the finest cyclery outside the City of San Francisco.

**L.L. Francis:**

L.L. Francis and family left for a vacation to Hamilton Flats on July 20, 1899 which is about twelve miles east of Mt. Hamilton. During his absence Thomas Whidorn of San Francisco will take over as undertaker.

**John Marshall:**

John Marshall and family moved from Centerville to go live in the city in June 1899. He has conducted a barbershop here for five years, but his health has forced him to leave.

**Fred Wager:**

Fred Wager, our Centerville baker, was arrested at the behest in August 1899 of Mrs. Helen Wilder-Craft, the Honolulu heiress, on a charge of cruelty to animals. The charge on Wagner is based on the fact that he was working a horse that was suffering from sore shoulders. A jury was unable to convict him.

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\* **JANE CLOUGH vs SPRING VALLEY** \*  
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On December 22, 1898 Mrs. Jane Clough filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of Alameda Country against the Spring Valley Water Works over riparian rights in the Alameda Creek. Named as co-defendants in the suit were: The Washington and Murray Township Water Company, Charles Webb Howard, William A. Yates, W. Brooks, John Mosier, and Howard Overacker Sr.

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

The complaint recites dome decidedly interesting facts of history portraying the methods whereby a small corporation is cinched in the tentacles of the more powerful one. Of the 50,000 shares in the Washington and Murray Township Water Company, only 30,810 shares were issued and outstanding in April 1881.

But about that time the Spring Valley Water Works bought 28,860, the certificates being issued as follows: In the name of the Spring Valley Water Works Corporation, 3,110 shares; Charles Webb Howard, president of the Spring Valley Water company, 25,250 shares; Charles N. Fox, 150 shares; William Brooks, 200 shares; William A. Yates, 150 shares; and John Mosier, 100 shares.

The complaint further alleges that on August 6, 1888, the Spring Valley caused to be elected as directors of the Washington and Murray Township Water Company, Charles H. Hadsell, Charles Webb Howard, Charles N. Fox, Howard Overacker Sr., and William Brooks. Mr. Hadsell was chosen president and William A. Yates secretary.

Four days later the Spring Valley built a dam across Alameda Creek, about two miles above the head of a ditch, going four miles along the line of water front, covered by valuable riparian rights. This stream is natural, and prior to its diversion flowed westerly between well-defined banks from its source in the mountains to the Bay of San Francisco, and two tracts of land described in the complaint, subdivided and



owned by the following small holders: A.J. Stevenson, D.M. Sanborn, B.D.T. Clough, J. Nichols, J. Shinn, C. Kelsey, H. Overacker, A. Rankin, W.F. Goad, H. Pierce, P. Morrison, J. Lowrie, J.T. Stevenson, M.S. Peres, F. Munyan, W. Baker, F. George, J. Silvara, M. Ferreira, J.L. Beard, and W. Baker, in all about 2,238 acres.

The ditch in question, according to the complaint, had a capacity of 10,000,000 gallons of water per day of twenty-four hours, and its diversion deprives the Washington and Murray Township Water Co. of all rights to said water.

The Plaintiff asks that the court determine the claims of the defendant, the Spring Valley Water Works, in and to the water of Alameda Creek and adjudge that as against the defendant Washington and Murray Township Water Co. the former has not right to take or appropriate the water in the creek.

She also asks that the court perpetually enjoin and restrain the Spring Valley Water Works from using or diverting the water of the Alameda Creek at any point in said creek at or above the head of the water ditch or at or above the tracts mentioned.

Nearly two years ago J.L. Beard brought suit against the Spring Valley Water Works, recovering \$15,000 damages. The points involved were similar to those set forth in the above plaintiff's complaint, but the court's decree did not restrain the water works from continuing its diversion of the waters of the creek.

It is asserted that recently Spring Valley has spent \$250,000 in the purchase of riparian rights appurtenant to many tracts bordering on Alameda Creek. This, Mrs. Clough alleges, was done preparatory to fraudulently appropriating and diverting the waters to the injury of those who depended upon irrigation furnished by the ditch.

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\* **CENTERVILLE POSTMASTERS** \*  
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Conrad Prag	Jan 15, 1877
Sigmund Salz	July 12, 1882
Edward Niehaus	Dec 11, 1885
Sigmund Salz	July 22, 1889
Lewis Gregory	Feb 14, 1890
Frank Dusterberry	Dec 19, 1893
Samuel Archibald	Jun 28, 1898

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\* **NOTEWORTHY EVENTS** \*  
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**1890s:**

**Road Rage:**

J.S. Duarte, a farmer residing near Centerville, was acquitted by a jury in Justice Sandholdt's court on August 3<sup>rd</sup> on a charge of battery preferred by Francisco Silva, a neighbor of the defendant. The dispute arose between the men when Duarte tied his horse to a fence surrounding Silva's garden. The animal reached his head through

the fence and began eating Silva's vegetables. Silva then untied the horse and let it loose. Duarte then retied the animal and Silva again cut it loose. The men then picked up rocks and went at each other. Finally Silva went down with a blow to the head. A warrant was sworn out and Duarte was arrested. The testimony showed that Duarte had acted in self-defense.

**January 11, 1890:**

**Mickle & Lowrie:**

On January 11, 1890 Miss Mary Lowrie was married to Mr. Benjamin C. Mickle of Hanford by Rev. W.F.B. Lynch.

**February 14, 1890:**

**Lewis Gregory:**

Lewis Gregory has been appointed Postmaster at Centerville on February 14, 1890, to replace Ed Niehaus who resigned. Mr. Gregory has resided at Centerville for many years and is a farmer by occupation. His son Henry C. Gregory is the proprietor of the Gregory House at Centerville and the Post Office will probably be located there.

**April 16, 1890:**

**Mr. G.F. Wissmore:**

April 16, 1890: The will of G.F. Wissmore, who died at Centerville, was filed for probate. His estate is valued at \$17,680. The property is bequeathed to three sisters, Lizzie Niehaus, Katie Niehaus, and Julia Wissman, and to Edward Niehaus.

**July 22, 1890:**

**Salz & Co.:**

On July 22, 1890, a number of creditors of Sigmund Salz and Edward Niehaus, doing business in Centerville under the firm name of Salz & Co., have petitioned the Superior Court to have them declared insolvent.

**Election Officials:**

**October 25, 1890**

Polling place: Gregory House Hotel  
Inspectors: Ed Niehaus and J.F.S. Brandon  
Judges: C.D. Cummings and S. Sandholdt  
Clerks: J.A. Bunting and F.T. Dusterberry

**March 3, 1890:**

**William Barry:**

At the Board of Supervisors session on March 3, 1890, Chairman William Barry of the Alameda County Horticultural Committee submitted a report concerning the ravages of the scale-bug in the orchards of this county.

**March 23, 1890:**

**Lynch & Hilton:**

On March 23, 1890, Miss May Hilton was married to Harry W. Lynch by Rev. W.F.B. Lynch.

**January 1891:**

**Mattos & Brophy:**

John G. Mattos and Miss Xanie Brophy were married in Centerville in January 1891.

**April 1891:**

**Colonel Pullen:**

Colonel and Mrs. Pullen left Centerville in April 1891 to take up residence in Oakland where the Colonel will have charge of a large hotel.

**October 1891:**

**Hayride:**

The young people of Centerville went to Haywards on an evening "hayride." Those who went were the Misses: Vesta Beck, Florence Chadbourne, Bessie Dusterberry, Martha Woeliel, Helen Robertson, Mabel Yates, Emma Simpson, Annie Compton, Carrie Beck, Sadie Smith; and the Messrs.: William Gee, Garrett Norris, David Norris, Harry Crocker, William Trefry, Peter Sandholdt, Peter Peterson, William Jarvis, Alec Robertson, William Constans, Charles Sweet, Arthur Ralph, and Dan Crosby.

**December 1891:**

**Dr. Kate Overacker:**

Miss Kate Overacker was graduated from the Cooper Medical College on the evening of December 4<sup>th</sup> with honorable mention, being one of two ladies out of a class of 29, and will hereafter affix the talisman "M.D." after her name.

**December 1891:**

**Mrs. Compton:**

Mrs. Compton died suddenly in December 1891 at her home in Centerville. She had been complaining of a bad cold, thought herself better, when she was attacked by hemorrhages from the lungs and died soon after. Her daughter Annie will go to the city to reside.

**January 1892:**

**David Norris:**

David Norris has graduated from the Business Department at Heald's College in January 1892.

**April 1892:**

**Harry Lynch:**

Harry Lynch was appointed a Notary Public for Alameda County in April 1892. A liquor license has been granted to Antoine Pous in May 1896.

**April 19, 1892:**

**James A. Trefry:**

Shortly before 9 o'clock on the evening of April 19, 1892, Captain James A. Trefry was shot and dangerously wounded by H.G. Compton. Compton escaped in the darkness and a large party, headed by Constable Ralph, is now searching for him. Trefry is very well known throughout Alameda County. The incident occurred over a dispute over a cow of Compton's that Trefry had impounded. A thorough search of the country around where the incident occurred did not turn up the suspect. It is said he appeared demented and there is concern that he may have committed suicide. Trefry's wound is considered dangerous. Capt. Trefry has been a Constable in Centerville for almost twenty years. The following day Trefry was reported to be resting comfortably, but it was felt best not to try to remove the bullet for a few days. H.C. Compton was located in his own home on May 16, 1892 and arrested.

**April 19, 1894:**

**Ellen Dusterberry:**

Ellen Dusterberry died in Centerville, on April 19, 1894 at the age of 58.

**August 1894:**

**Wilson Hatch:**

The will of the late Wilson Hatch, who died in Centerville in August 1894, was presented to the Superior Court for probate yesterday, which consists of real and personal property valued at \$15,000, will be inherited by Chester and George Hatch, the two sons of the testator, and Chester W. Hatch, his grandson.

**October 1894:**

**Jep Holm:**

The will of Jep Pederson Holm was presented for probate by his widow Mrs. Anna K. Holm in October 1894. The estate consists of 5 acres of land in Centerville worth \$1,000 and personal property worth \$250. The entire estate is left to the widow.

**December 19, 1894:**

**Christie & Simpson:**

On December 19, 1894, Edmund P. Christie, 27, of Sacramento, and Miss Carrie M. Simpson, 24, of Centerville, were wedded by Rev. T.E. Crump of St. James Episcopal Church.

**October 1895:**

**San Francisco Call Newspaper:**

The *San Francisco Call* began delivery of its newspaper to Washington Township in October 1895 under the management of Rutherford Ralph of Centerville. The initial trip was made Saturday morning by bicycle when he made his initial trip from Haywards upon arrival of the papers on the early electric car, through to Mission San Jose, in about one hour actual running time. He carried with him several hundred papers upon which the ink was hardly dry when they were delivered by young Ralph to readers who had never heretofore been able to get a San Francisco morning paper until at least 10:00 am.

**April 1895:**

**Diphtheria**

Diphtheria broke out in Washington Township in April 1895, mainly about Irvington, Mission San Jose, and Centerville. Several deaths were reported. Many schools have been closed in consequence. A quarantine was established as far as possible.

**April 23, 1896:**

**J.A. Trefry:**

J.A. Trefry, Poundmaster of the Centerville Road District tendered his resignation on April 23, 1896

**Election Officials:**

**August 1896:**

Polling place: Gregory House Hotel  
Inspector: H.C. Gregory  
Judge: Howard Emerson  
Clerk: John Mattos Jr.

**August 1896:**

**George Lowry:**

George Lowry is the oldest voter in Alameda County and he celebrated his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday in August 1896 in San Lorenzo. He has been a voter for 75 years. George was born in Scotland in 1800 and came to this country in early life. He first located in Centerville and after living here for a generation moved to San Lorenzo.

**August 21, 1896:**

**Dr. Samuel A. Buteau:**

Death called quietly on the night of August 21, 1896 and summoned to eternal peace Dr. Samuel A. Buteau. The passing away of the venerable physician was calm and restful. Surrounded by his family he quietly succumbed to the weight of his years for he had passed the 76<sup>th</sup> mark and had been perceptively failing for some weeks past. Dr. Buteau was a native of Canada, but early in life he came to Alameda County. For nearly 40 years he practiced medicine in Centerville and controlled one of the largest practices in the interior of California. He left a wife and four children.

**August 31, 1896:**

**Walker Baker:**

Died August 31, 1896 near Centerville, Walker Baker aged 73 years.

**September 1896:**

**Miss Lottie Trefry:**

Miss Lottie Trefry will teach at the Newark School during the fall term starting in September 1896.

**October 1896:**

**Masonic Home:**

The arrangements for the laying of the cornerstone of the new Masonic Orphan's Home are now taking shape. The event occurs on October 14, 1896 and it will be made a general holiday. Alameda Lodge F & AM of Centerville will arrange a barbeque for 1,000 people, that number being expected outside of the neighborhood.

**October 9, 1896:**

**Estelle W. Chadbourne:**

Estelle W. Chadbourne, a native of San Francisco, died near Centerville on October 9, 1896.

**April 1897:**

**Henry Dusterberry:**

Henry Dusterberry was appointed as a State delegate by the Governor of California to the assembly tasked to stamp out impure food in April 1897.

**May 1897:**

**John G. Mattos Jr.:**

John G. Mattos Jr. was appointed a Notary Public in Alameda County by Governor Budd in May 1897.

**May 1897:**

**George & Perry:**

Emanuel George and Miss Mary Ellen Perry were married by the Rev. Father Governo in May 1897 at Centerville at the home of the bride's parents.

**May 10, 1897:**

**Miss Amy Gregory:**

Miss Amy Gregory met with quite a painful accident while out tandem riding with Arthur Ralph on May 10, 1897. When near Alvarado their wheel struck a rut in the road, causing one of the pedals to strike the ground and break off. This threw the couple to ground quite heavily. Miss Gregory's left arm was fractured and her face somewhat hurt.

**July 1897:**

**Chester Hatch:**

In July 1897 Chester Hatch of Centerville was the most surprised man in the township Monday evening. He was present at the train with two boxes of cherries for friends he expected on the train. He entered the cars to deliver the same when he was grabbed from behind by the newsboy and caused him to walk turkey. He was thrown from the train, falling on his face and skinning his cheek. Chester thought it was a friend having a little fun with him and the peanut butcher thought he was one of the Italian cherry peddlers who annoy the train hands considerably. Hatch is laying for the fellow and a picnic will take place when they meet.

**August 1897:**

**W.S. Santos:**

W.S. Santos was granted a liquor license in August 1897.

**November 8, 1897:**

**Herman Eggers:**

Herman Eggers of Centerville died on November 8, 1897 at the age of 71. He was the husband of Mary Eggers and father of Louis, Matilda, Frank, Alice, and Helen Eggers. He was a native of Hanover Germany.

**March 1898:**

**M.C. Dias:**

M.C. Dias was granted a liquor license in March 1898.

**May 1898:**

**Moses & Gregory:**

Miss Louise Olney, proprietress of the Gregory House at Centerville has married Robert T. Moses. They have been married since May but did not announce it until December 1898.

**May 7, 1898:**

**Mrs. Fleda Bunting:**

There was a "Gypsy social" at the home of Mrs. Fleda Bunting on the evening of May 7, 1898. These socials are becoming very popular. At each one some new attraction is presented. On this evening a bonfire and fortune telling added to the amusement.

**June 1898:**

**Thomas Huxley:**

Thomas Huxley was appointed a Notary Public for Alameda County in June 1898.

**July 1898:**

**Daniel C. Cameron:**

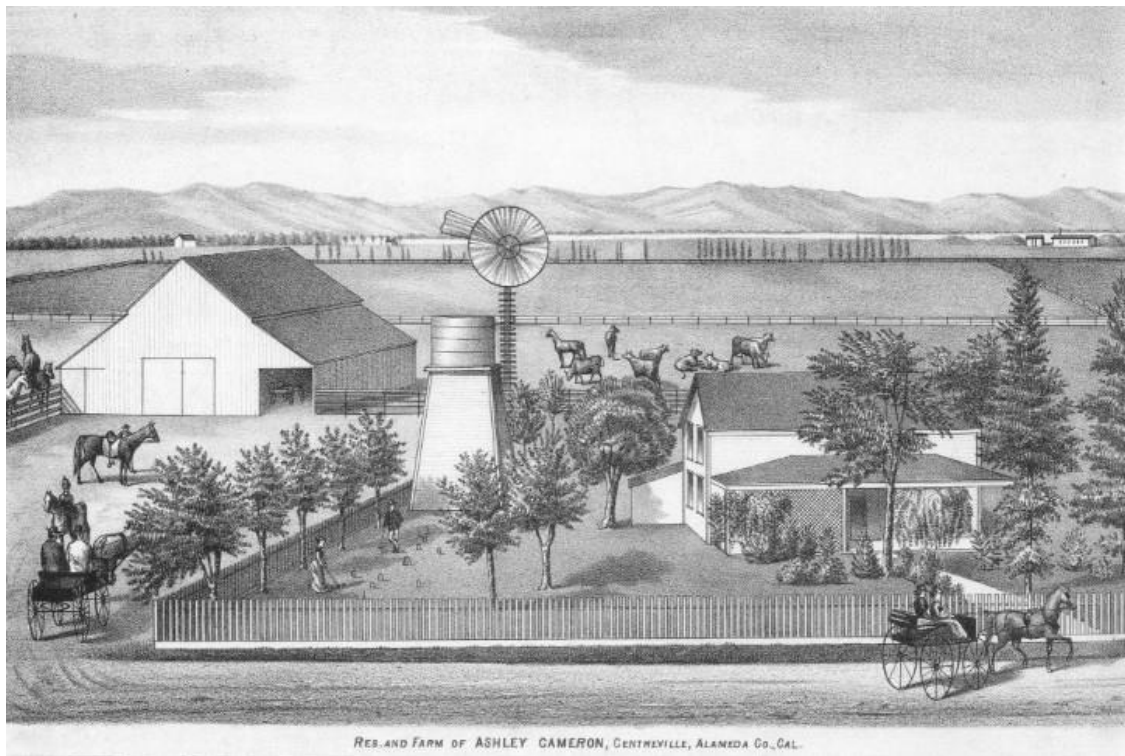
D. C. Cameron, a sheriff's deputy from Centerville was one of six people who died in an explosion at the site of the Western Fuse and Explosives Company in July 1898, a short distance from High Street in Oakland. A desperate Chinese, Gung Ung Chang, took refuge from the sheriff's deputies in a powder magazine at the plant after having shot one of his countryman and hatcheted another who died a short time later. Chang had taken shelter in the magazine and threatened to blow it to atoms if anyone came in after him. Eight people went in and only two were lucky enough to make it out. Daniel Cameron was 36 years of age when he was killed. He grew up in Centerville where his father Ashley Cameron lived. Daniel was appointed a Deputy Sheriff by Sheriff White of Oakland. Dan moved to Oakland where he won many friends in the area for he was bright, genial disposition that won friends quickly. The

Sheriff reposed much confidence in the young man and frequently sent him on expedition that required coolness, tact, and unquestioned bravery. He was a kind man personally, a man who was fond of his friends and who had a merry word for them all. It was this quality that endeared him to all. Cameron's death leaves an aged father without a son.

**July 24, 1899:**

**Ashley Cameron:**

The largest funeral held in this township in years occurred on July 24, 1899 when the body of Ashley Cameron was buried in the cemetery at Irvington. Cameron was one of the oldest pioneers of this end of Alameda County, having lived on one ranch for forty years. In 1862 he and his brother Duncan drove a stage from Oakland to San Jose, and he was known far and near. His son Daniel Carlisle Cameron was killed in the Pinole explosion in July 1898.



Ashley Cameron farm on SW corner of Blacow & Mowry Roads

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**October 1898:**

**Harry E. Salz:**

Harry E. Salz of Centerville has successfully passed the examination of the Royal Hock Schule of Berlin in October 1898. He was one of the ten out of 68 applicants who succeeded in entering this greatest university of music this year.

**December 1898:**

**Ralph & Stankey:**

William Ralph, 38, and Miss Teresa Stankey, 21, both of Centerville were married in December 1898.

**1899:**

**A.J. Rodrigues:**

The Road Foreman Centerville for in 1899 was A.J. Rodrigues

**May 1899:**

**Howard Emerson:**

Howard Emerson the Centerville attorney whose sudden disappearance in May was noted in last Friday's *San Francisco Call*, is still missing and further investigation into his affairs reveal the fact that his accounts are very much more tangled than was at first supposed. Dr. Emerson, Centerville's Health Officer, is as yet unable to say how his accounts with his missing brother stand. Finally near the end of July Howard Emerson, the missing young attorney, was heard from. He was seen in Vacaville two weeks ago by a friend who spoke to him. The young man's creditors are patiently waiting for him to return.

**May 1899:**

**An Old Orange Peddler:**

It seems in May 1899 an old orange peddler came to Centerville. He spoke in a very loud voice and insulted a number of Portuguese who were present. They quickly invested in a few dozen eggs and fairly broke and omelet all over him. He left for new pastures fairly boiling over with rage.

**August 1899:**

**Mrs. M. Griffiths:**

Mrs. M. Griffiths was committed to Agnews Insane Asylum at the beginning of August 1899. Mrs. Griffiths' mental derangement followed the birth of her first child two weeks ago. Since that time she has been confined to the County Infirmary in the hopes she would recover her reason. She, however, made no recovery and it was decided to send her to Agnews. Mrs. Griffiths is 27 years old. Her husband is the ranch manager for Howard Overacker. A decided change for the better was noticed in her condition on August 18<sup>th</sup>; and by September 8<sup>th</sup> she was back at home.

**September 1899:**

**Crosby & Dixon:**

The wedding of Dr. Daniel Crosby and Miss Virginia Dixon took place in September 1899 at the home of the bride's father in Warm Springs.

**October 1899:**

**Chase & Driver:**

Marriage license was issued to Ephraim S. Chase, 42 of Centerville, and Elizabeth J. Driver, 43 of Irvington in October 1899.

**October 6, 1899:**

**Traveling Entertainments:**

One of the largest crowds that have ever been seen in the Town Hall for quite some time was seen on the evening of October 6, 1899 to watch the Minstrels and participate in the cake walk. The cake walk was participated in by: Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Jacobus; Mr. Hatch and Miss White; Mr. Hawes and Miss Gregory; Mr. C. Emerson and Mrs. Hatch; Mr. Dyer and Mrs. Hawes. The judges were undecided at first walking whether Mr. Hatch and his lady should get the cake, or Mr. Thompson and his lady. These two couples then walked again and the cake was awarded to Mr. Thompson and his lady.

On November 9, 1899 two wandering Gypsy animal troupes invaded Centerville to give entertainments. The first featured a large Russian bear, thin to the point of



emaciation, which was made to dance, climb trees and wrestle with his keeper, to the amusement of the town loungers.

The following day two ragged women and a fat monkey begged through the town. The monkey performed its antics and amused a still larger crowd than the bear. Later the women were arrested by Constable Roderick and placed in the town jail, empty since Gus Seaman had escaped.

**December 1899:**  
**Dutra & Neves:**

A marriage license was issued to George S. Dutra, 24, of Centerville, and Miss Annie Neves, 20 of Newark in December 1899