

**THE HISTORY OF CENTERVILLE**  
**CHAPTER 07**  
**1910 to 1919**

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\* **DEMOGRAPHICS** \*  
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Centerville 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 "1<sup>st</sup> Gen US Born."

If your parents were both born in foreign countries, but not the same country, then 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.

1910 Centerville Demographics				
Country	Foreign Born	1st Gen U.S. Born	Total	Percent of Total
Austria	1	3	4	0.3%
Canada	9	11	20	1.3%
China	28	1	29	1.8%
Denmark	2	5	7	0.4%
England	2	25	27	1.7%
France	2		2	0.1%
Germany	19	35	54	3.4%
Ireland	16	49	65	4.1%
Japan	42	5	47	3.0%
Portugal	415	622	1,037	65.7%
Russia	1		1	0.1%
Scotland		4	4	0.3%
Sweden	2	2	4	0.3%
Switzerland		1	1	0.1%
U.S. Born			277	17.5%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Comparing 1910 with the 1900 demographics we find that the number of people of Portuguese descent increased a whopping 10%! Almost all other nationalities dropped, except for U.S. born which was up about 2%

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 \* **BIOS** \*  
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*Peter G. Lowrie / David C. Lowrie / C.F. Horner / Chester Hatch / Peter C. Hansen / Frank Botelho / Jacob A. Coney / Sönke Hansen / Fred F. "Dusty" Dusterberry / Dr. Du Boise Eaton DDS / George Whitfield Wright / Eugene H. Stevenson /*

**Peter G. Lowrie**

Peter Lowrie was born in May 1851 in Connecticut. He first appears in the 1870 census in Decoto living with his mother and stepfather (Ezra Decoto). There he worked on Ezra's farm as a laborer.

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

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

Peter would remain in the butcher business until his retirement. His firm delivered meat throughout the township in horse drawn carriages.

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

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

### **David C. Lowrie**

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

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

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

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

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

### **C.F. Horner:**

Mr. Horner first entered public life just after the turn of the new century as a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Prior to that Charles had gone to the Hawaiian Islands in 1879 where he worked on a sugar plantation on the island of Maui. He was a very popular man in the islands and was voted a member of the Legislature in 1887-1888 under the Reform Party. He finally sold his holdings there in the sugar plantations and sailed away to his native home in Centerville. He purchased property here and began to live again as a resident.



Mr. Horner comes from a pioneer family. His uncle John M. Horner came to the Bay Area in July 1846 and eventually settled in Irvington but farmed throughout the township. His father, William Y. Horner, came to California in 1849 and commenced to work in partnership with his brother John Horner. Charles' father bought land extensively in the area about Centerville and also in San Francisco, in the Noe Valley, in what was called the Horner Addition. The Horner's erected the first steam powered flour mill in California at Union City in 1853. In those early days the Horner's owned and farmed most of the land around Centerville and was known by people as honest and law abiding citizens.

Mr. Horner was elected to the Board of supervisor just after the turn of the new century and was re-elected twice thereafter. Mr. Horner was then appointed County Assessor in July 1911 by the board of supervisors to fill the vacancy caused when Henry Dalton was sentenced to prison for trying to extort \$25,000 from the spring Valley Water Co.

Mr. Horner was well known in fraternal circles, being a Knight Templar Mason, a member of the Order of Elks, the Odd Fellows, the Woodmen of the World, the Knights of Pythias, the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Druids. He holds membership also in the Nile Club of Oakland. He is a progressive and public-spirited citizen, a business man of unusual insight and ability and a conscientious and capable official, and he holds the confidence and good-will of all who are in any way associated with him

### **Chester Hatch:**

Mr. Chester H. Hatch is the Republican nominee for Assemblyman in the 34<sup>th</sup> District and unless all signs fail he will be elected by a handsome majority. Mr. Hatch is a farmer and fruit grower of Centerville for over twenty-five years.

He was born California fifty four years ago, is a leading member of the Native Sons of the Golden West and is a true Californian to the core. The farmer and fruit grower may know in advance that their interests will at all times receive the care and watchfulness of Mr. Hatch. Being an agriculturist, he knows their wants and they have the fullest measure of confidence in his ability to protect them against any unjust or unwise legislation. However Mr. Hatch by no means intends to confine his activities to any one class, but will devote his time and talents to any legislation that will promote the interests of the State and the well-being of its citizens.

### **Peter C. Hansen:**

Peter Christian Hansen was born in Denmark in September 1858. He entered the U.S. in 1883. His wife Anne was also born in Denmark in December 1858. She entered the U.S. circa 1885. The couple had no children.

Peter and Anne were living in San Lorenzo in 1900, here Peter was in the grain dealing business. He first shows in Centerville in the year 1910 when he

endorsed John P. Cook for Alameda County Clerk, although he was probably in Centerville before this date.

In May 1911 a fourth of July celebration was being planned by a committee composed of F. T. Hawes, F. T. Dusterberry, J. A. Coney, G. S. Thompson, S. S. Santos, Dr. Emerson, M. B. Francis, W. W. Walton, M. H. Lewis, P.C. Hansen, M. S. Almeida, and M. S. Simas. Their plans were to hold the largest 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration ever held in Washington Township.

In November 1911 P.C. Hansen, along G.W Wright, F.T. Dusterberry and F.T. Hawes threw their weight behind Mission San Jose-Foothill Boulevard Association to improve south bound traffic from Eden Township through Washington Township to Santa Clara County. Their plan was to extend the present boulevard through the Dublin canyon, along the Decoto hills past Niles, through the Mission San Jose district and Warm Springs, into San Jose. From there other roads could be connected to enable the traveler to drive Los Angeles. A number of roads kept up by the county between Niles and Hayward could, by repairing and widening, be used as a boulevard.

P.C. Hansen was the founder and owner of the P.C. Hansen Co., which was also known as the P.C. Hansen Lumber Co. In 1912 Baine Avenue was ordered open as a street by the Board of Supervisors at the request of P.C. Hansen and others. Baine Avenue ran along beside the new SP railroad tracks from Main Street in downtown Centerville to the town of Newark. On this street the F.E. Booth Packing Co. would be built in 1917.

In 1935 the P.C. Hansen Lumber Co. had yards located in Centerville, Irvington, Niles, and Alvarado. In 1937 the town of Decoto was added as an outlet.

The Hansen's were devout supporters of the St. James Episcopal Church in Centerville, with Mrs. Hansen a member of the St. James Guild.

P.C. Hansen was seriously injured in an auto accident between Hayward and Decoto late on the afternoon of February 22, 1920. Mr. Hansen and his wife were returning to their home in Centerville from Oakland in a heavy rainstorm when the machine skidded to one side of the road. Mr. Hansen received the most serious injuries.

On the morning of Feb 18, 1935 Mrs. P.C. Hansen passed away. She was a member of the Valborg Danish Lodge of Hayward.

On the morning of April 8, 1935 P.C. Hansen passed away at his home in Centerville. He was the husband of the late Anna C. Hansen, who had passed away seven weeks ago.

He was a native of Denmark, and a resident of California for 50 years. He had lived in Centerville for 29 years, and was proprietor of lumber yards in Centerville, Irvington, Niles, Decoto, and Alvarado.

He was a member of the Boy Scout Commission of Centerville, Alameda Lodge #167 F & AM, Odd Fellows Lodge of Alvarado, Danish Lodge of Hayward, E.P.E.C. Lodge of San Leandro, Order of the Eastern Star

Centerville, and the Aahmes Temple of Shriners, and a member of the Washington Township Men's Club.

### **Frank Botelho:**

Frank Botelho was born to Antony and Rose Botelho in California in February 1876. Frank was one of four sons, the others being George, Louis, and Joseph. Frank Botelho was married to Rose Botelho and they had two daughters, Sybil and Antoinette.

In 1910 Frank owned a blacksmith shop near Walnut Creek in Contra Costa County. It was noted that in 1909 George and his brother Joe from Walnut Creek visited their brother George who lived in Alvarado. George Botelho was the local undertaker in Alvarado circa 1910 and he was also deputy coroner in Washington Township. In 1912 George Botelho was also the local constable. George passed away in 1913.

It is about 1913 that Frank Botelho appears in Centerville as the local undertaker. He was also the local deputy coroner in Centerville. The only reference I could find for Mr. Botelho's business was that of "Botelho Undertaker," as an official name of the business. The only other information of Mr. Botelho was that he was a member of the Woodmen of Centerville.



The Chapel of the Palms on the left with its signature two palm trees on the front lawn is shown in the top right photo. On the right is the Century House, the Chapel of the Palms Mortuary converted into a banquet house, a few doors south of the old Center Theater on Fremont Blvd. (old Main Street) in Fremont.

In June 1936 Miss Antoinette Botelho resigned her teaching position in the Centerville Grammar School in order to study at Mills College for her Master of Arts degree. She will major in music. Her sister Sybil is an art teacher at Washington Union High School in Centerville. She will attend next spring and summer at Columbia University in New York.

In May 1937 Dallas C. Paul announced that he was successor proprietor to F.F. Botelho at the Chapel of the Palms Mortuary in Centerville. Frank Botelho then went into farming in Centerville and continued to live on South Main Street in Centerville.

### **Jacob A. Coney**

Jacob A. Coney came to Centerville circa 1902 from Bieber in Lassen County California. There he was living with his brother and his wife Kaufman and Louisa Coney. Jacob was born in California in July 1872. While living with his

brother in Lassen County Jacob was employed as a clerk in a merchandising store.

Jacob's wife was Florence Coney, born in Missouri circa 1885. They were married circa 1905 and had a daughter Mildred about 1907. After the 1910 census Mildred was no longer mentioned with the Coney family, I could not locate an obituary for her. Circa 1910 a son Edward was born to the couple.

Jacob was issued a liquor license in association with his store in Centerville in June 1906. Jacob went on to become a very successful merchant in Centerville. But he also gave back to his community.

In May 1911 the big Centerville 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in Centerville was being planned. The committee in charge of arrangements were: F.T. Hawes, chairman; F.T. Dusterberry, Secretary; and J.A. Coney, Treasurer.

But Jacob was best known in the civic area when he became the temporary president of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce in 1922. In September 1922 Jacob was able to get a 1,000 spur from the SP depot to the porch of the new packing house that had been recently opened in Centerville. The following year Jacob Coney was named as a director on the advisory board of the Bank of Italy's Centerville Branch (formerly the Bank of Centerville).

In February 1924 Mr. Coney was reelected as President of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce. The following year Jacob outlined a program of civic improvement, which he submitted to the members. Among the principal matters to which he directed the attention of members were improved street lighting through the business district, the erection of electric signs at the north and south city limits, establishment of a recreational center and playground for school children, and the handling of traffic of through traffic at street intersections.

Jacob Coney continued to help Centerville through his civic duties over the next few years, and then in November 1927 Jacob Coney announced his retirement from his Centerville general merchandise store. Jacob would move, along with his family, to a home on Pacific Avenue in San Francisco where he would retire.

### **Sönke Hansen:**

Sönke Hansen gives his country of birth as both Germany and Denmark. He was born in July 1848. His wife Marea was born in Germany in March 1848. They both entered the U.S. in 1868. They had four children: Dora, August, Silas, Johanna, and Lulu.

In the year 1900 he was already settled in Centerville where he owned a saloon. Marea Hansen passed away in 1918 and by 1920 Sönke had remarried a lady named Maria who was born in Germany in 1850. They lived in Centerville and Sönke was still in the saloon business. Living with the Hansen's was Sönke's son Silas and step-daughter Anna Smith, a widow.

In July 1902 Sönke was a member of the finance committee for the local 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, which would include all the towns in Washington Township

In 1905 S. Hansen invested \$500 in the new Bank of Centerville buying 10 shares of the new offering at \$50 each.

A fire razed downtown Centerville in April 1915 in which a large portion of the business district of Centerville was wiped out. The fire started in the Centerville Bakery. The total loss was estimated at over \$22,000 and among the buildings destroyed were, besides the bakery, Lehnhart's Pharmacy, the building occupied by the justice of the peace, a saloon, the plumber's warehouse and a number of others. All the property owners whose premises were destroyed have announced their intention to rebuild. In one sense the fire benefited Sönke Hansen, owner of the building used by a number of the Centerville lodges which were burned down. Since the fire Hansen discovered that six feet of property, of which he had not had the use of for many years, were actually his. As soon as the property line is correctly established he will start construction on a larger scale. Also Hansen is rebuilding the bakery on the site of the one recently destroyed by fire.

After 1930 nothing could be found for the Hansen's.

### **Fred F. "Dusty" Dusterberry:**



Fred F. Dusterberry was born in Centerville in February 1871 to Henry and Mary Dusterberry. The Dusterberry's had three other children, Henry Jr., Frank T., and Elizabeth C. Fred Dusterberry was married to Miss Julia Emerson. Although I do not have the date of the marriage it was reported that Miss Emerson resigned her teaching duties at Irvington Grammar School in June 1912 due to her impending marriage. The couple had no children.

Fred started his business career early by clerking in a store in Mission San Jose. But he soon started his own plumbing business, which he sold to George Coit as a partner in 1913. After the partnership Fred and George Coit continued in the plumbing business and also added hardware sales to their business. He was a director of the Dumbarton Bridge Corporation, a member of the advisory board of the Bank of Italy Centerville Branch, and the Bank of Alameda County in Alvarado. Fred assisted in the formation of the Centerville Fire Department, and served as a Fire Commissioner.

He was also a founding member of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce. Fred also served several terms as president of the board of trustees of the local high school and he was also an inspector for the Union Sanitary District. Fred was also associated with the Centerville Boy Scouts and the Southern Alameda County Child Welfare Board.

On the social front Fred was a member of the Centerville Native Sons of the Golden West, and a member of the P.U.E.C. Lodge.

Fred loved all types of sports and in the 1890's was one of the organizers of the Centerville Athletic Club. The club owned a five acre athletic field which included a half-mile race track, a rifle range, and a trap shooting field. Fred was secretary for the club for many years.



Fred F. Dusterberry passed away on August 28, 1936 after an illness of four months. He was survived by wife Mrs. Julia Dusterberry, and two brothers, Henry and Frank, and a sister Miss Elizabeth Dusterberry.

### **Dr. DuBois Eaton, DDS:**

Dr. Dubois Eaton first shows being in the town of Centerville in 1904 when he was part of the planning committee for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

Dr. Eaton born in Kansas circa 1872. As stated above he was in Centerville as early Smith. At this time he was a practicing dentist in Centerville and was single. By 1920 he had taken a wife Florence. Florence was born in Iowa in 1882. It was mentioned that Florence had spent some time in Coronado California before her marriage to Dr. Eaton.

In 1930 Dr. Eaton and Florence Eaton were residing in a hotel in Oakland. The last article about Dr. Eaton in Centerville was from 1930 when it was reported that he had come back to visit friends in town. Dr. Eaton had retired and moved to Oakland due to ill health.

### **George Whitfield Wright:**

G.W. Wright was born in Michigan circa 1871. His wife, Eula, was born in Tennessee circa 1875. They were married circa 1898 and had one son, George F. Wright.

The year 1900 finds George and Eula married for one year and living in the Glenn County, California, where he was a teacher.

In about 1905 the Wright family came to Centerville where George taught at the Union High School. In June 1911 it was noted that he was then the principal of the high school. At that same time George had become a member of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce.

In June 1918 he was the chairman for the Washington Township War Stamp and War Bond effort to raise funds for our fighting boys in Europe.

George Wright was named coordinator for the Washington Township "Community Day" as proposed by California Governor William D. Stephens in December 1918. The whole "Community Day" program emphasizes the general use of the school houses by the people. In accordance with this program school auditoriums will be used for the gatherings.

In August 17, 1924 George W. Wright resigned his position at Washington Union High School because of ill health. He had been at the high school for 19 years. The 1929 graduating class of Washington Union High School voted to do something (perhaps a scholarship in the name of G W Wright) for the late George W. Wright.

Mrs. G.W. Wright also partook in Centerville activities, in 1908 she hosted a unique event when about forty young girls accepted her invitation for an 11 o'clock breakfast, all attending were dressed in colonial costumes. The profusion of flowered gowns, with panniers and long trains, the powdered

hair, the sachets, and old fashioned jewelry worn the ladies made a most unusual scene.

In November 1921 Mrs. Wright was a member of the Toyon Branch of the Oakland Baby Hospital.

In 1930 Mrs. Eula Wright was still living in Centerville and was employed as the librarian at the Washington Union High School.

### Eugene H. Stevenson:

Eugene H. Stevenson was born to John T. and Jan Stevenson in August 1877 in Centerville California. The best way to describe the Stevenson family is to quote from John Sandoval in his book, *The History of Washington Township*: "The Stevenson family of Centerville and Niles originated in California with John Thomas Stevenson. He was born in New York in 1823 and when nine years old, migrated with his family along the Erie Canal to Buffalo and later to Michigan.

In 1852 Stevenson came to California by the Nicaragua route. He tried mining in the southern placer mines of the Sierras and after a few months came to the crossroads hamlet of Centerville, where he worked on a produce and grain ranch until 1864. By this time he had accumulated enough capital to buy 380 acres of the Alviso grant for \$18 an acre. As the years went by Stevenson added to his acreage until it reach 1,160.

When Stevenson died in 1894, he left the land to his wife, who divided it up among his four children. The eldest, John William, operated a large dairy ranch near Centerville, the second son, Eugene farmed the 380-acre homestead. A daughter, Carrie, married Henry Emerson, a pioneer doctor of Centerville.

In 1903 Eugene purchased the mother's interest in the homestead. He later purchased 50 acres of grazing land near Mowry's Station."

On March 30, 1903 Eugene Stevenson took out a marriage license to wed Miss Leola Halpin of Irvington. They were wed in that year. They had two sons, Maxwell and Harry.

Eugene Stevenson farmed a large acreage of land in Centerville. But Eugene was more than just a farmer. In 1902 was a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West and was voted as a delegate to that year's convention to be held in Santa Cruz.

Also in 1902 Eugene participated in the planning and the execution of the big 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration held in Centerville. He was part of the committee to plan for the games and races for the celebration.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in 1911 E. H. Stevenson was named Grand Marshall, his aides were: George Botelho, Joseph Roderick, G. Wales, and S. B. Vandervoort; besides Robert Gallegos of Mission San Jose. M. Brown of Warm Springs, J. Walpert of Niles, Henry May of Decoto. F. B. Granger of

Alvarado, B. Brown of Newark, J. J. O'Keefe of Irvington, and Emanuel George and J. F. Rose of Alviso.

Eugene Stevenson was a member, and the Treasurer, of the Washington Township Republican Club. In 1912 Eugene's effort to claim a seat on the Alameda County Board Supervisors was turned aside by incumbent D.J. Murphy of Livermore.

In 1913 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors created the Alameda County Water District, which enabled Washington Township to create its own water district. The board of directors for the water district were: Eugene H. Stevenson, William D. Patterson, Emanuel George, William Trenouth, and J.C. Shinn.

By 1920 Eugene and Leola Stevenson had parted ways, Leola was living in Palo Alto with sons Maxwell and Harry. Eugene was living in Oakland with Robert and Annie Magill. Eugene had married Evelyn Magill, a woman sixteen years his junior. Circa 1921 Eugene and Evelyn had a daughter Roberta.

Eugene, Evelyn and Roberta moved to Centerville and settled down on the Oakland-San Jose Highway in Centerville. In October 1930 Eugene became very ill and on October 28, 1930 passed away at the Merritt Hospital in Oakland. By 1940 Evelyn Stevenson had married Clarence G. Perkins, a wholesale nursery owner who lived on Highway 17 in the Alviso District of Washington Township. Living with them was Roberta Stevenson.

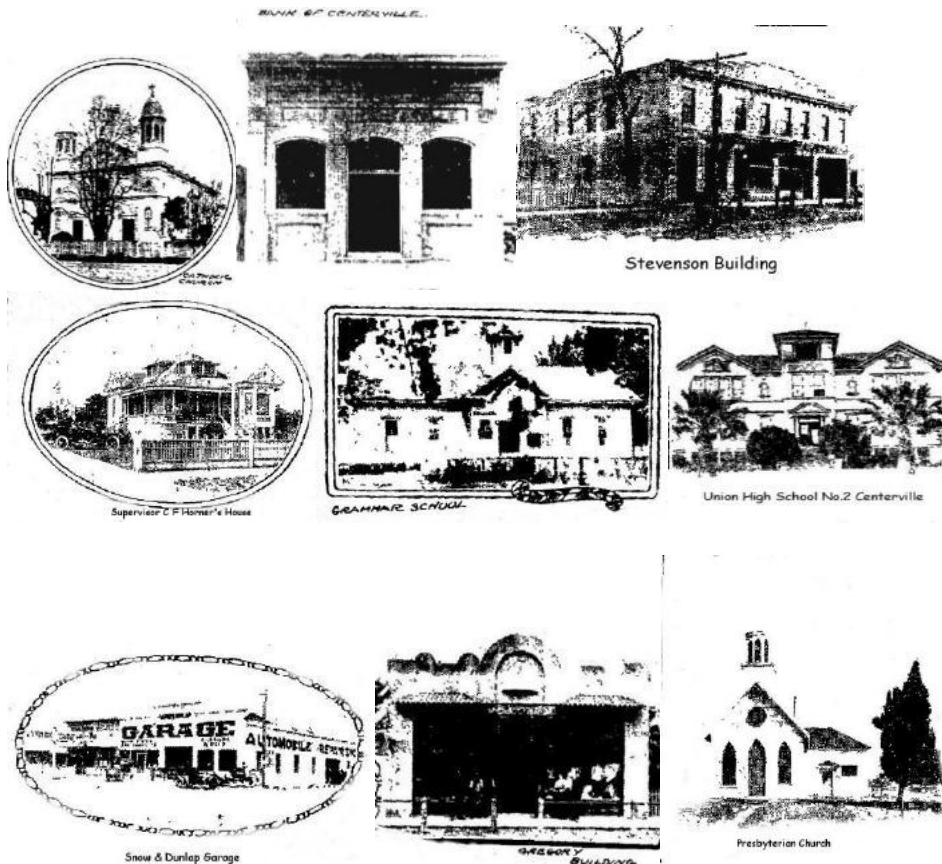
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\* **BUSINESS NOTES** \*  
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With one of the richest sections of the county about it, Centerville holds place as a community that commands the interest of those seeking an advantageous location for business, home, or manufacturing. It has a population of about 1,750, and an assessment roll of over a million dollars. Great quantities of grain, fruit, and vegetables are annually produced in the vicinity of Centerville. It lies in the thermal or warm belt, and enjoys an equitable and delightful climate.

*Centerville: Prosperous Center / Centerville from the Oakland Tribune of Jan 17, 1912 / Centerville Leaders / Postmaster / Scarcity of Labor / Water / Hunt Bros. Cannery / New Hotel / Bank of Centerville / Centerville Tomato Co. / Scale Pests / Fire / Rebuilding / M.R. Telles / Burglars / F.E. Booth Cannery / Burglars*

**Centerville One of the Prosperous Centers of the County:**

From the Pages of the *Oakland Tribune* March 7, 1910



The above photos are poor at best as they were taken from the digitized pages of the *Oakland Tribune* of March 7, 1910. But they give you a flavor of the article.

"Alameda County has been blessed by the Almighty with greatest possible gifts in natural advantages and in the beauty of the hills and fields, the valleys, and the mountains. The doubter could nowhere be more impressed with the truth of this claim than in the vicinity of Centerville and also at this very period of the year when the trees and the flowers are sending forth their welcoming heralds to the coming spring.

More than 2,000 people live in and directly about Centerville surrounded by these flowers and trees. That they are doing more than their common duty and are one in their desire to cement and foster the up building and uplifting of their town is evident.

Centerville is always first in the minds and energies of the residents. There is never known to be the least hint of dissension if the project on foot is one which means for the progress of the town. Those who can lend their financial aid are prompt and in their response.

The town is surrounded by beautiful orchards, fields and rolling hills while blossoming orchards and shade trees line its streets throughout the limits of the town. The thoroughfares are kept in a condition which would put to shame larger municipalities and the homes, which stand back from the streets are constructed in that sturdy and simple fashion which at once appeals to the stranger. The entire atmosphere of the town is one of cleanliness and

order and the visitor feels that he is surrounded by the business places and homes of a people who are alert to the beauty of their situation.

Following in the footsteps of the other cities throughout the United States Centerville has an organization devoted to the publicity-promoting idea which is undoubtedly responsible for the many and rapid improvements made in recent years and the general healthy condition of the business of the town at all times.

The Centerville Improvement Association is made up of seventy businessmen of the town who have shown during their residence in the community that they are intent in the up building of their home place. Through the efforts of this organization many things have come to Centerville and the members of this never-tiring body are ever on the still hunt for more.

It is mainly at the instigation of the Centerville Improvement Association that a sanitary district proposition has at last reached that point in its prospective state which will mean that within a few short months the plan will be taken up and the towns of Centerville, Niles, and Newark will combine in the construction of a sewer system to accommodate the residents of these communities for many years to come.

Progression is evident in Centerville in the buildings which have been erected and the building construction which is now going on and planned for the near future. The only concrete building for miles around was erected in Centerville a short time ago. It was built by E.H. Stevenson and is an imposing structure in one of the most prominent blocks of the business street. The lower or ground floor is used for stores and the second story is devoted to lodge rooms for the use of the fraternal organizations of the town of which there are many flourishing ones. The building was erected at a cost of \$16,000.

Recently Mrs. Mary Gregory erected a second concrete one-story building on the main business street of the town. The building, although small, is the most picturesque in the locality and is modelled to some extent on the plans of the old missions. One store occupies the structure. It was erected at a cost of \$6,000.

The Dumbarton cut-off project of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, involving the construction of a mammoth bridge across the eastern arm of San Francisco Bay at Newark, means much for Centerville as the town lies directly between Newark and Niles where the overland trains of the railroad on the new schedule will be diverted. The railroad is cognizant of the importance of Centerville as a fruit-shipping point and is now erecting a modern frame depot to cost \$5,000 on the right of way in the center of the town. Centerville is directly half-way between Oakland and San Jose and on the completion of the Southern Pacific Dumbarton Bridge be on the overland main line of that railroad.

Directly across the street from the new depot Mrs. M Little is erecting a frame building costing in the neighborhood of \$8,000 to be built for the use of stores on the ground floor and rooms in the second story.

A new, modern and up-to-date hotel will soon be greeted in Centerville. The new hotel is projected by local men and will cost about \$12,000. It will be constructed in the old mission style of architecture and on a prominent and valuable corner in the business section.

The prosperous and growing Masonic Lodge of the town is contemplating the erection of a new concrete building on the site of the present one on the main street. It is planned to make this structure equal to the finest for lodge purposes in Alameda County.

Centerville is proud of its homes and justly so. The dwellings are constructed in a style in harmony with the expansion of gardens. The following residences can be mentioned as sample of the investments that have been made in this class of buildings: C.F. Horner, \$7,000; J. A. Bunting, \$25,000; Mrs. W.H. Layson \$15,000; William Patterson, \$12,000; Dr. H.W. Emerson, 6,000; A. Lernhart, \$6,000; Fred Moore, \$5,000, and Mrs. C.A. Plummer, \$6,000.

The industry through which Centerville thrives is fruit raising, sugar beet growing and the cultivation of grain. Apricots and cherries are the principal fruits grown and yet a great abundance of almonds are raised in the section. The almond trees are already in blossom and indications point to an unusually large crop this year.

Centerville is promised the location of a large fruit packing company in its boundaries through the recent purchase by the Hunt Brothers Company of San Francisco of a five-acre tract on the outskirts of the town. The erection of a cannery in this town by this well-known and prosperous corporation will be an event of the new future.

Centerville has one of the finest water system of any town in Alameda County. The water is provided by several wells bored in the neighborhood and at a depth of 70 feet has been secured a pure supply of water. In connection with the water Centerville has a volunteer fire department that has proven its efficiency."

### **Centerville from the *Oakland Tribune* of Jan 17, 1912**



Main Street



Centerville School



Masonic Temple



Woodman's Hall

Three prosperous churches are supported by the people of Centerville and they are housed in structures which are a great credit to the member of the organizations in particular and the citizens of the town in general. The Catholic Church has but recently completed a handsome edifice which stands on the main street of the town. The two spires on this building can be seen from any portion of the country within a radius of ten miles. The Episcopal and the Presbyterian churches are the other two religious organizations of the community at the head of which are ministers of the character that prompt the reverence, respect, and esteem of the population.

The Centerville Grammar school is attended by over 300 students throughout the year. Six teachers are continually engaged here during the school term. The building stands on a wide tract surrounded by beautiful shade trees and the property is valued at \$10,000.

The Washington high school was erected at Centerville a few years ago. This building is a frame structure and the property on which it stands are valued at \$15,000. One hundred students attend the high school, coming from the sections about Niles, Centerville, and Newark. Six teachers compose the faculty of the school.

The Bank of Centerville was established June 1905. Since that time the institution has grown through the confidence of the people. The deposits at the present time are \$846,000. The bank is housed in a modern brick building occupied solely by it. The officers are John G. Mattos Jr., president; Joseph Dias, vice-president; F.T. Dusterberry, cashier.

Fraternal organizations flourish in Centerville and more than a dozen chapters of the lodges have their meeting places here. Among them are to be mentioned the Masonic Order, Native Sons and Daughters, Order of the Holy Ghost, Portuguese Union of California, Knights of Pythias, Order of the Eastern Star, Woodmen of the World, United Artisans, Order of Druids, and the Protective Order of St. Isabelle.

### **Centerville Leaders:**

Among those who have aided materially in the improvement and general up building of Centerville during this decade have been:

F.T. Hawes, F.T. Dusterberry, J.G. Mattos Jr., Judge S. Sandholdt, W.E. Rogers, J. Coney, C. Smith, W.R. Smith, A. Satterwaite, George Josephs, F.F. Dusterberry, A. Lernhart, Dr. C.A. Wills, Dr. W.H. Emerson, J.J. Santos, T.C. Huxley, B.C. Nichol, Henry Crosby, C.W. Riser, C.F. Horner, Prof. Joseph Dias, Prof. G.W. Wright, P.C. Hansen, E.M. Hawley, E.H. Stevenson, and Dr. D.B. Eaton.

### **Postmaster:**

The Postmaster for this decade was F.T. Hawes.

### **Scarcity of Labor:**

The dawn of the new decade saw a crisis in laborers for the annual fruit harvests in Centerville. Centerville apricot growers faced a dramatic drop in their annual crop harvest due to a lack of labor to harvest the cots. Those who had already had their cots harvested also faced a grim future as the cots picked could be canned or dried due to a shortage of labor.

### **Water:**

At the same time farmers were having problems with labor in 1910 the Spring Valley Water Co. received deeds for a right of way for a pipe line from its watershed (Alameda Creek) in the neighborhood of Niles. The deeds represented a number of parcels of land varying in width from 15 to 25 feet, all belonging to the Southern Pacific Company, which gave the water company easements along the railroad right of way. The pipe line would run from a point near Niles to Dumbarton Point. There the Spring Valley Water Co. already has a pipe line in place across the Bay to the San Mateo County shores carrying water from Sunol to San Francisco. The consideration given the Southern Pacific for the right of way of the pipe line was not disclosed.

### **Hunt Bros Cannery:**

The Hunt Bros. issued a communication in March 1911, which stated that they would soon commence work on building a cannery at Centerville providing that the people of Centerville would provide Hunt Bros with the necessary sewer system to handle their effluent. The Hunt Bros. already had a large cannery in Hayward.

### **New Hotel:**

Centerville received notice that it was to have a new hotel, the construction of which was to begin in August 1911. The hotel would be in Mission style of architecture and will be adjoining the Masonic Hall. William Santos was the promoter of the project.

### **Bank of Centerville:**

The Bank of Centerville continued to show growth for the year 1912. The resources of the bank at the end of 1911 stood at \$640,236.45 against \$10,086.38 at the end of its first year in 1905. The officers of the company were:

President:	John G. Mattos, Jr.
Vice President:	Joseph Dias
Cashier & Secretary:	Frank T. Dusterberry

Board of Directors:	L.C. Moorehouse, M.F. Silva, S. Ehrman, and Emanuel George
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### **Centerville Tomato Co.:**

The Centerville Tomato Co. advertised that they would deliver tomatoes to any Bay Area address for 1.5¢ a pound in Sept. 1914. For California, Nevada and Oregon, they would deliver for 1¢ a pound, F.O.B.



### **Scale Pests:**

The year 1914 saw the beginning of a tough fight in the Centerville region against fruit scale. The scale control problem had, for the past two years, been one of the principal issues in the orchards, and is the first problem being taken up by the local Farm Bureau. A meeting of orchardists would convene at Stevenson's Hall to discuss measures to avert a wide spread disaster due to this pest.

### **Fire:**

A large portion of the business district of Centerville was wiped out in April 1915 by a disastrous fire which started in the Centerville bakery. The total loss is estimated at over \$22,000 and among the buildings destroyed were, besides the bakery, Lehnhart's Pharmacy, the building occupied by the justice of the peace, a saloon, the plumber's warehouse and a number of others. Volunteer fire fighters who organized themselves into a company, succeeded, after heroic efforts to check the spread of the blaze. The fire crept right up to the Bank of Centerville before it was stopped. The entire town turned out to help fight the blaze. The town's fire bell aroused the sleeping citizens from their beds. The cause of the fire is unknown.

### **Rebuilding:**

New and improved buildings will rise from the ruins of the \$22,000 fire which devastated the central business block here several weeks ago. All the property owners whose premises were destroyed have announced their intention to rebuild. In one sense the fire benefited S. Hansen, owner of the building used by a number of the Centerville lodges which were burned down. Since the fire Hansen discovered that six feet of property he had not had the use of for many years were actually his. As soon as the property line is correctly established he will start construction on a larger scale. Also S. Hansen is rebuilding the bakery on the site of the one recently destroyed by fire.

### **M.R. Telles:**

M.R. Telles Jr., bookkeeper for the Bank of Centerville recently turned himself into Sheriff's Deputies in November 1915 in Stockton after embezzling \$1,200 in funds from the Centerville bank. Telles, who had been recently married, found he needed more money to live after taking a wife. M.R. Telles Jr. was 30 years of age and the son of M.R. Telles of San Jose.

### **Burglars:**

Burglars visited the town of Centerville December 1, 1916, entering several stores, including the Post Office located in the merchandise store of F.T. Hawes. First indications look like the amount taken was small.

### **F.E. Booth Cannery:**

Ground was broken on May 1917 for the building of the F.E. Booth Cannery, which was erected on a site of five acres owned by the company at Centerville. Six years ago the Hunt Bros. cannery was planning a new factory in Centerville provided that the town of Centerville built a sewerage system capable of handling their effluent. To date this has not happened and the F.E. Booth Company would then build the cannery in Centerville.

Preparations were made for a general celebration to mark the opening of the F.E. Booth cannery erected in Centerville. There was a free dance as one of the principal attractions. The cannery was ready for operation on September 1<sup>st</sup> and would take care of the big tomato crop grown here.

In 1919 the F.E. Booth Cannery began building a nursery for children and would provide a competent nurse to look after them while mothers are working. This was furnished free by the canning company.

### **Burglars:**

Raiding systematically almost every store on the main street of Centerville, starting with the Post Office, burglars escaped in the early hours of the morning of May 25, 1917 with a haul of only \$40. Before leaving the Post Office the bandits placed a gilt wooden hand, kept as a relic by Postmaster F.T. Hawes, on top of his desk in the same position as he found it following a similar raid six months ago, and it is believed the same gang was at work.

The thieves jimmed their way into the following businesses: F.T. Hawes grocery store, the front end of which is the Post Office, here they secured only \$5 worth of groceries, all the Post Office money and stamps were delivered to the Bank of Centerville the night before and the safe was left open and empty. Manuel S. Simas' saloon, from which a dozen bottles of liquor was stolen. The Gregory Hotel from which \$8 was stolen from a slot machine and \$2 taken from the till. F.S. Hansen's saloon from which only 60¢ was missing. Fred Roger's Poolroom and Candy Store, \$18 taken from the strong box. They entered Alfred Gomes Poolroom where the bandits were apparently scared off before anything was stolen, and the grocery store of Martin F. Francis where half a dozen tins of crab were stolen. Everything of value is removed from the Post Office to the Bank of Centerville each night since the raid there nearly ten years ago netted the thieves \$900.

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**\*           CENTERVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL           \***  
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*New Centerville School / May 10 1910 Festival / Centerville Trustees: 1919*

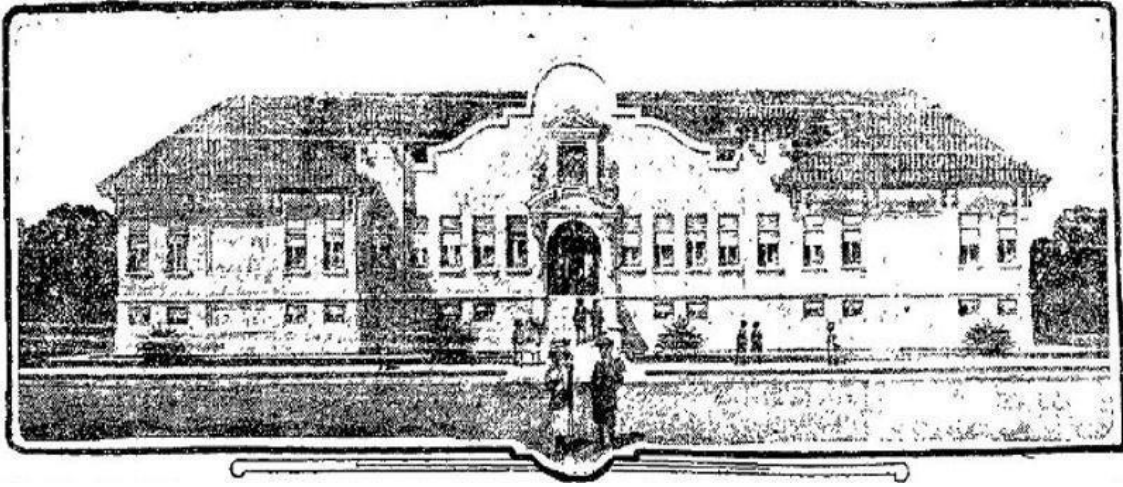
### **August 18, 1912: New Centerville School**

The Board of School Trustees of Centerville decided a competition among different architects for the new grammar school building, and John J. Foley of San Francisco has been awarded the first prize. Immediately upon the selection of the architect the contract was awarded and everything was in order to proceed with the work.

The new school would contain six spacious classrooms and a large assembly hall with a capacity of over four hundred. Warm air heating would be installed throughout as well as a complete cooling system.

The interior would be finished in Oregon pine with oak floors. The children's winter playrooms would be located in the basement, as would the heating and bicycle room. The design of the building was of Spanish Mission style with a tile roof and metal lath and plaster on the exterior walls.

All the latest types of plumbing and drinking fountains would be used. Inter-communicating telephones and a complete bell call system would add to the completeness of the building.



Architects rendering of the new school.

Photo of the new building:





Photo of the old Centerville Grammar School from the *Oakland Tribune*.

### **May Day 1910 Festival at Centerville School:**



The children shown are: Irma Rasmussen, Irene Roderick, Cassie Christensen, and Lila Rasmussen. The two children on the far right are: William Trenouth and Marian Vandervoort. *Oakland Tribune* photo.

Centerville would host a special program on May 28, 1910 with six hundred children from about the township expected to participate in games, dances and general joviality. The town would be gayly decorated with flowers and bunting. Oakland would put on a special train to Niles so the residents of the northern part of the county could come and enjoy the festivities.

### **Centerville School Trustees 1919:**

The Centerville School Trustees are: John G. Mattos Jr., F.P. Dusterberry, and Manuel Oliveira

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**\* CLUBS & SOCIETIES \***

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*"500" Club / Catholic Ladies Sewing Society / Centerville Bridge Club / Centerville Improvement Club & Centerville Chamber of Commerce / Druids / Knights of Pythias / Ladies Aid Society / Masonic Lodge / Native Sons of the Golden West / Presbyterian Sewing Club / SPRSI Council #4 / Sweet 4 X 4 / Sweet Sixteen Club / St. James Guild / UPEC Council #5 / United Artisans / Washington Township Country Club / Westminster Club / Woman's Suffrage / Young Ladies Sodality/*

**"500" Club:**

The 500 club met at the home of Mrs. Philip Moore in November 1911. In November 1915 met at Mrs. Mary Hawley's home with winners being Mrs. Mosher, Mrs. Hunt, and Mrs. Garrett N. Norris.

**Catholic Ladies Sewing Society:**

The Catholic Ladies Sewing Society in November 1911. They held their annual dinner at Stevenson's Hall in December 1914.

**Centerville Bridge Club:**

Only one mention during the decade, in November 1911 the Bridge Club met at Mrs. Norris' pretty home.

**Centerville Improvement Club:**

**Centerville Chamber of Commerce:**

In November 1910 the Centerville Improvement Club was reorganized under the name of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce. This was in answer to the growing nationwide trend of local municipalities adopting the name Chamber of Commerce to represent an alliance of businessmen to foster local business and to also contribute to the good of the community. The first officers were:

President:	F.T. Hawes
Vice President:	George Joseph
Financial Secretary:	W.W. Walton
Treasurer:	F.T. Dusterberry

One of their first projects was to reopen Stevens Street, which had been closed for some time.

**Druids, Centerville Grove #123:**

Twenty-one members of the Centerville Ancient Order of Druids held an installation of officers meeting on November 14, 1911. Installed were:

M.A.:	Manuel Rogers
V.A.:	Joseph Peixotto
Conductor:	A.J. Oliveira
Outside Guard:	A.K. Silva
Inside Guard:	Joseph S. Furtado

In May 1914 M.S. Simas and Tom Silva were elected delegates to the Druids convention to be held in Fort Bragg.

### **Knights of Pythias #170:**

The election held by the Centerville Knights of Pythias in December 1910 resulted in the naming the following officers:

Consul Commander:	Frank Dusterberry
Vice Commander:	W.H. Nesmith
Master of Worship:	P. Mathiesen
Keeper of Records & Seals:	J.D. Norris
Master of Finance:	A.F. Eggers
Master of Exchequer:	S. Sandholdt
Prelate:	F.T. Hawes
Inner Guard:	A.J. Rodrigues
Outer Guard:	M.S. Pires
Trustee:	H.W. Nurnberg

### **Ladies Aid Society:**

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Churches held meetings at the homes of local member throughout the decade. Some of those mentioned were:

Mrs. B.C. Mickel	Mrs. PC Hansen	Mrs. Walter Smith
Mrs. A. Plummer	Mrs. G. Lowrie	The Misses Eggers
Mrs. C.F. Horner	Mrs. Henry Crosby	Mrs. Ironmonger

### **Masonic Lodge, Alameda Lodge #167 F&AM:**

The Centerville Masonic Lodge made plans to build their new Masonic Lodge on Main Street in January 1911. With Its furnishings it would cost \$10,000. The structure was built of concrete building blocks, two stories high with halls and a banquet room on the ground floor and ante rooms on the second floor.

In April 1915 new officers were installed. They were:

Worshipful Master:	Dr. E.M. Hartman
Senior Deacon:	Dr. E.A. Ormsby
Junior Deacon:	W.C. Richards
Treasurer:	P.C. Hansen
Secretary:	A.T. Biddle
Chaplain:	Israel Richards
Marshal:	A.W. Haley
Senior Steward:	H.C. Searles
Junior Steward:	B.C. Mickle
Tyler:	L.M. Juhl

In January 1916 the new officers installed were:

Frank B. Hartman	James B. Chamberlain	Elon A. Ormsby
Peter C. Hansen	Arthur Biddle	R.A. Ellis
Elmo M. Grimmer	Walter L. Richards	Henry C. Searles
B.C. Mickle	W.C. Graham	L.M. Juhl

### **Native Sons of the Golden West #169:**

Centerville Parlor took part in the grand parade of the NSGW held in San Francisco in September 1910. The members from Centerville made their headquarters in the Golden West Hotel. Those who attended were: F.T. Hawes, Charles Cockefair, A.F. Eggers, Frank Dusterberry, J.D. Norris, Charles Cummings, and J.M. Norris.

The following Joseph Norris and Mac Mathiesen were named delegates and attended the NSGW Convention which was held in Santa Cruz.

In January 1914 an installation of officers was held and the following men were named:

President:	G.W. Mathiesen
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	G.I. Emerson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	A.A. Sweeney
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President:	H.E. Wales
Recording Secretary:	M.P. Mathiesen
F.S.:	F.T. Norris
M.:	A.L. Juhl
?S.:	W. Nesmith
G.S.:	E.M. Hawley
Trustees:	F.T. Hawes, W.W. Walton, G.I. Norris

### **Presbyterian Sewing Club:**

The Presbyterian Sewing Circle met with Mrs. PC Hansen in November 1911.

### **S.P.R.S.I., Council No. 4:**

In March 1914 the ladies undertook the task of making new altar garments for the altar boys.

Council No.4, SPRSI of Centerville held their installation on May 3, 1914. Those installed were:

President:	Miss Mary E. Bernardo
Vice President:	Mrs. Louisa Sequeira
Secretary:	Mrs. Mary L. Silva
Treasurer:	Mrs. Phoebe Clark
Mistress of Ceremonies:	Mrs. Mary K. Silva
Marshal:	Mrs. Emily Costa
Guard:	Miss Inez Silveria
Directors:	Mrs. M.G. Machado, M.S. Brandon, and Mrs. M. Serpa

### **St. James Guild:**

The St. James Guild met with the following ladies during this decade:

Miss L. Emerson	Mrs. Frank Hurd	Mrs. G. Mathiesen
Mrs. P. Mathiesen	Mrs. Marion Mowry	Mrs. J.A. Bunting
Mrs. A. Ames.		

### **Sweet 4 X 4:**

The "Sweet 4 X 4" met with Mrs. G. Mathiesen in May 1914. Whist was played with Mrs. Bunting taking the most. Mrs. Hatch and Miss Norris took the prize for points while Mrs. J. Norris won the consolation souvenir. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Lewis.

### **Sweet Sixteen Club:**

During this decades the Sweet Sixteen's met with:

Miss McCormick	Mrs. Lewis	Mrs. Carrie Emerson
Miss Kate Little	Mrs. Jacobs	Mrs. Gregory

### **U.P.E.C. Council No. 5:**

The delegates from Council No.5 UPEC to the 28<sup>th</sup> annual session, returned from their trip in October 1914. The order was reported to be in a prosperous condition, having now in its treasury over \$580,000. John G. Mattos Jr. was re-elected Supreme Treasurer for the seventeenth straight time.

### **United Artisans, Central Assembly, No. 191:**

The United Artisans of Centerville installed new officers on November 24, 1911:

Past Master Artisan:	Mrs. M. Lewis
Master:	Mrs. A. Turner
Secretary:	Mrs. G. Brown
Inspector:	Miss J. Little
Superintendent:	Mrs. F. Mickle
Senior Conductor:	Mrs. M. Mathiesen
Junior Conductor:	Miss M. Martin
Treasurer:	Mrs. A.W. Hawes
Master of Ceremonies:	S.F. Brown
Instructor:	Mrs. A. Salz

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

In March 1911 the ladies of the Country Club took up the issue of Woman's Suffrage, an issue which had been gaining momentum in the U.S.

The country Club of Washington Township held its annual dinner on September 4, 1917, which was attended by one hundred women. The club has an unusual membership list, in that the personnel includes members from many different towns who have formed a township club. There are representatives from Niles, Alvarado, Newark, Irvington, Decoto, Centerville, and Mission San Jose.

The following women from Centerville were chosen to head committees for the coming year on July 5, 1919:

Mrs. A.A. Hatch	Mrs. H.W. Emerson	Mrs. F.O. Bunting
Mrs. A.E. Ormsby	Mrs. Garrett Norris	Mrs. A.T. Biddle

### **Westminster Guild:**

The Westminster Guild held their meeting with Miss Dorothy Plummer in January 1914.

### **Woman's Suffrage:**

"How the Vote was Won," a woman's play for women and by women dealing with the subject which interests women most of all, next to Easter bonnets and frocks, will be presented in the Centerville Town Hall on April 6, 1911 by the members of the University Club of Washington Township. The consent of the College Women's Equal Suffrage League to produce the play, which has made a hit everywhere presented, has been granted, and members of the play are hard at work learning their lines.

### **Young Ladies Sodality:**

The Young Ladies Sodality held a Valentine's Day Dance on February 10, 1917. The only activity reported.



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\* **CONCRETE HIGHWAY** \*  
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In 1918 Alameda County put out bid to lay a concrete road in Washington Township from Eden Township, through Washington Township, and go south to the Santa Clara line. This would be known as the "low road" as it skirts the marshes. Starting at Hesperian Boulevard where it enters Washington Township, through Alvarado and the Alviso District to Centerville, then onto Irvington and final through to Warm Springs.

The first stretch would be the five mile stretch from Centerville south to Irvington. In September 1918 a review by County Surveyor Perrey A. Haviland said the work was going apace and that the subgrade was nearly completed and would soon be ready for the pouring of concrete. Then section would lack only a short distance before completing this section of the highway through to the Santa Clara connection.

In January 1919 County Surveyor Perrey A. Haviland announced that the highway between Centerville and Irvington had been completed and was open to traffic. The work was completed at \$100,000. The supervisors are now advertising bids for the building of the next stretch of highway from Irvington to Warm Springs, which will complete the thoroughfare to a connection with the State highway.

In July 1919 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors put out a contract for a section of concrete highway from the south side of Centerville through the town of Centerville and then onto Alvarado to the line separating Washington and Eden Townships. This would mark a crucial step in the development of road construction in Alameda County that was most important. It meant that Alameda County was the first county in the state to put in a complete concrete highway for any considerable distance, and it meant that concrete construction is now the standard for all main county thoroughfares.

The first section of concrete roadway was built by Alameda County from Irvington through Centerville to a point a little over a mile this side of that town. The second section has just been completed and was from Irvington to a junction with the State Highway at Warm Springs. That is now open to traffic.

We now have left the contract for the third section on this same road from the point near Centerville through Alvarado to the township line with Eden Township. The price for this section is \$156,010 and the distance is about four and one-fifth miles.

The piece will be more difficult of construction because it is over a swampy district, and there are several wooden bridges and trestles that will have to be replaced with more permanent structures, but the work will be completed before the winter is in.

When this piece is completed the old "lower road" from Oakland to San Jose will be a concrete highway. This was for many years the popular road to San Jose, and is a mile and a half shorter than the State Highway (the "high road" along the foothills to Niles). The completion of this roadway in concrete will give two concrete highways between Oakland and San Jose, at least through Alameda County. The traveler can

take E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street and this road joining the State Highway at Warm Springs, or they can take the Foothill Boulevard and go through Hayward, Niles, and Mission San Jose.

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**\* SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC \***  
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The Spanish Flu Pandemic, also known as La Grippe Espagnole, or simply the Grippe. Later it would be called just plain "flu." The Spanish Flu was an unusually severe and deadly strain of avian influenza, a viral infectious disease that killed some 50 million to 100 million people worldwide over about a year in 1918 and 1919. The 1918 outbreak of the flue was the deadliest in history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the planet’s population—and killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims, including some 675,000 Americans. The 1918 flu was first observed in Europe, the United States and parts of Asia before swiftly spreading around the world. At the time, there were no effective drugs or vaccines to treat this killer flu strain. Citizens were ordered to wear masks, schools, theaters and businesses were shuttered and bodies piled up in makeshift morgues before the virus ended its deadly global march.

The Bay Area was not excluded, although it found its way here after it had hit the east hard. Most of the information on the local effects of the flu dealt with Oakland, but it gives us a good idea of the severity of the spread of the virus.

Like its sister city San Francisco, Oakland began experiencing cases of influenza in late-September 1918. On September 26, three cases were reported in the city. All three victims were from different neighborhoods, suggesting to health officials that other areas would likely soon be affected as well. But unlike San Francisco, where the number of new influenza cases exploded quickly from the first reported victims, the initial progression of the epidemic in Oakland was slow: by mid-October only 223 cases had been reported to health authorities.

It came as somewhat of a shock, therefore, when Mayor John L. Davies suddenly announced on October 18 a citywide closure of all theaters, movie houses, places of public amusement, schools, and churches (although open air services were allowed).

On October 24, the Oakland City Council met in special session and issued a mandatory mask ordinance. Beginning October 25, all Oakland residents and visitors would be required to wear a mask while in public, with stiff penalties ranging from fines of \$5 to \$100 and up to ten days in the city jail for failure to comply.

As cases mounted—over 3,500 cases were reported by October 26, with 517 new cases added to the list that very morning—Oaklanders resorted to some rather novel ways to meet the demands of the epidemic.

In the last few days of October the Oakland’s flu situation improved slightly

On November 6, 1918 the City of Oakland reported an abatement in the number of new cases reported. In Centerville the number of active cases had also eased. A

trained nurse was dispatched to Centerville to aid Mrs. John A. Bunting, and her staff of three helpers, who had set up the emergency hospital in Centerville, which was established at the parish house at the Catholic Church at the request of Rev. Casey and Rev. Souza. The emergency hospital at Centerville was modeled closely on the plans of the municipal hospital of Oakland. The women had taken over the kitchen and the preparation of food.

The women who had worked zealously to check the epidemic were worn out from their duties. Centerville was reported in a not so good condition as new cases began to ease in Oakland, Centerville continued to have a problem. This may have been due to the flu mask ordinance was not enforced in Centerville.

Here are some flu stats, probably for the Oakland area as this came from *The Oakland Tribune*.

<b>"FLU" STATISTICS TO DATE</b>						
These figures are for twenty-four hours ending at 9 a. m.						
Date	New Cases	Released	Died	Total Cases	On Hand	Total Deaths
October 2	1					
October 9			1			
October 11	49		1			2
October 12	65		1			3
October 13			1			4
October 14	149		2			6
October 15	182		3	538	492	9
October 16	112	66	1	650	584	10
October 17	180	24		830	740	10
October 18	218	45	7	1040	869	17
October 19	173	20	8	1221	1022	23
October 20	25			1246	1047	
October 21	362	25	18	1608	1369	43
October 22	450	72	18	2057	1729	61
October 23	391	42	18	2448	2059	79
October 24	578	89	23	3026	2425	102
October 25	518	145	19	3544	2779	121
October 26	234	110	18	3778	2673	139
October 27	100	160	22	3878	2529	161
October 28	401	134	24	4279	2772	185
October 29	217	337	34	4498	2618	219
October 30	217	255	27	4715	2553	246
October 31	194	178	26	4893	2547	272
November 1	319	281	39	5212	2585	310
November 2	104	88	32	5315	2497	343
November 3	125	88	16	5441	2534	359
November 4	178	228	41	5619	2482	400
November 5	90	159	22	5709	2398	422
November 6	85	176	29	5794	2229	451
November 7	39	42	9	5883	2667	460

This was serious business and to not take precautions in avoiding the flu could lead to your death. As an example here is a list of ways to avoid the flu as given in the newspaper of 1918:

How to Avoid the Flu:

1. Don't inhale any person's breath.
2. Avoid person who cough and sneeze.
3. Don't visit close, poorly ventilated places.
4. Keep Warm and dry.
5. If you get wet, change *your* clothes at once.
6. Don't use drinking cups or towels that other persons have used.
7. For the protection of others, cover mouth when you cough or sneeze.
8. Clean your teeth and mouth frequently.
9. Don't spit on the floor.

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 \* **UNION HIGH SCHOOL #2** \*  
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*1910 Events / Sports / Baseball / Football / Rugby / Boys' Basketball / Girls' Basketball / Track and Field*

**1910 Events:**

The high school at Centerville entered this decade as Union High School #2 and entered the 1920's as Union High School #2.

In September 1910 the high school got a pleasant surprise from the Spring Valley Water Co. The school was given three acres of land for free for twenty years. The land was to be used in conjunction with a course on agriculture for the benefit of the students.

But December 1910 brought a chilling revelation that ended with ten of the best boys of the high school being prohibited from taking part in any scholastic athletic contests until March 1911 for their participation in the hazing of several freshman several days before. Principal G.W. Wright had secretly forbidden hazing of any sort and when athletes of the school decided to put a few of the first year men through their paces they thought their plans were unknown to the faculty. Just as they were ducking some of the victims they were caught by Wright. While not suspended from school, an order was issued that each one of the hazers must promptly go home at the close of school hours and must not practice on the school grounds. Both the baseball and field teams have been broken as a result of this order and it is doubtful if Centerville will take any further part in athletic activities during the present semester.

The 1910 graduation play was Sheridan's famous comedy, "She Stoops to Conquer," which was presented by the graduating class of the Centerville High School on May 20, 1910

Included in the cast were these 1910 Graduates:

William Peters	Young Marlow
Sumner Blacow	Hardcastle
Lloyd Mickle	Hastings
Harold Bodeutsch	Tony Lumpkins
Miss Helen Sharpe	Lady Charles Marlow
Miss Clara Beard	Mrs. Hardcastle
Miss Charlotte Jung	Miss Neville
Miss Georgia Ames	Miss Hardcastle
Miss Ethel Farr	Peggy
Miss Helen Baldwin	Servant
Miss Agnes Lernhart	Servant
Miss Aloise Sinnott	Servant
Miss Annie Vargas	Servant
Miss Alma Norris	Servant

**Sports:**

President Russell P. Baker of the Alameda County Sub League of the Academic Athletic League announced that the first semiannual track and field meet will be held

on the new cinder track of the Centerville High School at Centerville on September 24, 1910. Principal Wright of Centerville was in charge. This will be the first appearance of Centerville High in track athletics for several years. A dozen years ago the school was a prominent factor in track athletics, but things in that line have been on the down grade until lately, when the building of a new cinder track so enthused the country lads that they asked for the sub-league meet, which board of managers awarded them at its recent meeting.

### **Baseball:**

The baseball season opened March 12, 1910 and the Centerville team was in fine shape for the opening. Among the high schools entered in the league (Academic Athletic League) are Mission, Lick (S.F.), Cogswell, Oakland Poly, San Francisco Poly, San Rafael and Centerville.

February 17, 1911: The Central Alameda County Athletic League has honored Hayward High's request to join the league. The league had been composed of three schools: Anderson's Academy, Centerville High and Livermore High. With the addition of Hayward the league will now have four members.

Centerville continued to play baseball in the Central Alameda Athletic Association and in 1914 and 1915 captured the league title for two years in a row.

### **Football:**

Two Centerville High players were on the 1918 St. Mary's football team. They were: Sid Snow, 175 lb. LG; and Joe Valencia, 160 lb. RE.

### **Rugby:**

The Central Alameda County League decided to adopt the Rugby game for the 1911 season. The other schools forming the league are Centerville, Hayward and Livermore. The official league schedule championship series will begin early in October, but the various teams are at present arranging a number of practice games. Hayward will meet the Oakland team next week. The Union high school at Richmond adopted the Rugby game last Wednesday. The school will have a squad of nearly 30 men to select from and will probably join the competition in one of the cross bay leagues.

In 1912 the Centerville High School Rugby fifteen won the championship of the Central Alameda County Athletic League by taking the final contest in the league from the Hayward fifteen on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Hayward by a score of 9-3.

The Centerville ruggers had the best of it all the way, as they outweighed their rivals. The Hayward team put up a hard fight but finally succumbed to the Centerville squad. The lineups for Centerville:

Full – Rogers; Half – Logan; Five eighths - Darrel and George; Wings - Falk and Gonsalves; Three quarters – Halley; Forwards – Hunt, Bocardy, Murphy, Tyson, Myers, Collins, Nichols and Calhoun.

October 4, 1914:

Richmond High School came from begin to secure an 11 to 6 victory over Centerville High School. This was Richmond's second appearance since joining the Central Alameda County Athletic League.

**Boys Basketball:**

In January 1910 Livermore High School took the measure of the Centerville lads by a score of 48 to 8. Playing on the Centerville side were: Valencia and Hunt, forwards; Noll, center; and Copeland and Emerson Guards.

1911 basketball, Central Alameda County Athletic League: The final game of the Central Alameda County Athletic League, played at Hayward between the Centerville and Hayward high school basketball teams, resulted in a win for Centerville by a score of 32 to 26.

The game was played on the indoor court at the Native Sons' hall, and the Centerville team was at a slight disadvantage, never having played on an indoor court previously.

The winners however, put up a fast game, and the team work eventually won for them. This league was formed recently, and the basketball tournament, has been so successful that a baseball schedule was arranged.

The league will also take up track work and a meet between the four schools that are members of the league will be held at an early date. The basketball championship was won by the Livermore high team. The final standings in the tournament were as follows:

Livermore	3 - 0
Centerville	2 - 1
Hayward	1 - 2
Anderson	0 - 3

**Girls Basketball:**

In 1910 and 1911 several basketball games played by the Centerville girls were noted in the newspaper. On 2, 1910 the Turlock and Centerville high school girls teams will play at UC Berkeley in a semi game. Both of these teams had enviable records, the Turlock girls having conquered the entire list of San Joaquin Valley schools. Centerville was the winner of the alameda County sub-league.

Centerville would win that game over Turlock by a score of 29 to 10. The game was exciting throughout, but the Centerville lassies outplayed their opponents at every stage of the contest.

On April 17, 1910 Lowell High School of San Francisco won the championship game of the girls' basketball league this afternoon, which was played with Centerville High School. The score was 22 to 19. The second half turned the tide in favor of the Lowell team. The lineup for Centerville was:

Helen Blacow	Doris Jacobus	Bessie Bailey	Marion Lynch
Helen Baldwin	Aloise Sinnott	Hattie Baldwin.	

**Track & Field:**

Centerville won the track meet with Hayward 66 to 43 in May 1913. In the pole vault Lowrie of Centerville cleared 9 feet 3 inches. The high jump was taken by Larsen of Centerville with a leap of 5 feet ½ inch.

The fourth annual Track and Field meet of the Central Alameda County Athletic League was held on the Centerville Grounds on May 2, 1914, and contrary to general expectations Centerville easily took the crown.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\* JULY 4<sup>th</sup> 1911 CELEBRATION \***  
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The committee In charge of the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, which will be held in Centerville this year, has completed all arrangements and one of the greatest observances of the day ever held in Alameda County is looked for.



Miss Mabel Mathiesen, who will impersonate Goddess of Liberty

Cooperating with the Centerville committee are committees from all the surrounding towns. Plans have been made by the Niles Chamber of Commerce to place appropriate floats in the big parade. The Newark Fire Department will also participate and a float representing the Dumbarton Bridge will be shown by Newark.

The Native Sons parlors of the township will turn out in their white uniforms and the Washington parlor of Centerville will represent the "Spirit of 76," led by a fifer and two drummers, with General George Washington on a white charger and a score of Continental soldiers dressed in their regimentals and carrying old flint lock rifles.

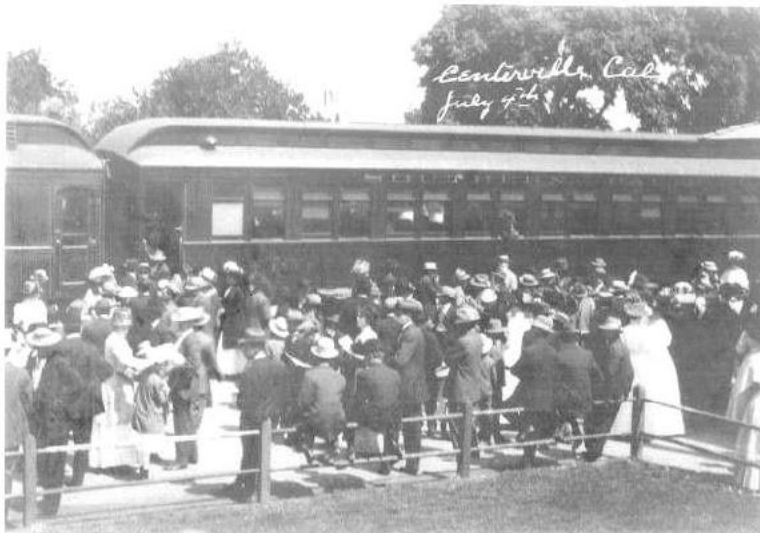
The Union High School will have a float and floats have been promised by the Centerville Grammar School, the Ancient Order of Druids, Woodmen of the World, Ladies' Catholic Sewing Society of Centerville, U. P. E. C. Council, Knights of King Arthur, Queens of Avalon a Japanese float and many others. Miss Mabel Mathiesen will impersonate the "Goddess of Liberty."

But there was something new in Centerville for this years' celebration, for on Saturday morning May 29, 1909, the first steam-powered passenger train into Centerville and received a hearty welcome. A cannon was fired, the locomotive was decorated with flags, and the train crew was presented with Centerville's choicest fruits and flowers.

But for more than a year after this celebration, local Centerville citizens complained about the boxcar that served as the town depot. Before any improvement could be made, property had to be purchased and Niles Road (later renamed Peralta Boulevard) had to be relocated to make room for a full-sized depot. Finally, more than a year after train service began to the town of Centerville, the Southern Pacific Railroad completed a new wood depot in September of 1910. The depot was built as a variation of what Southern Pacific called its "One Story Combination Depot No. 23."

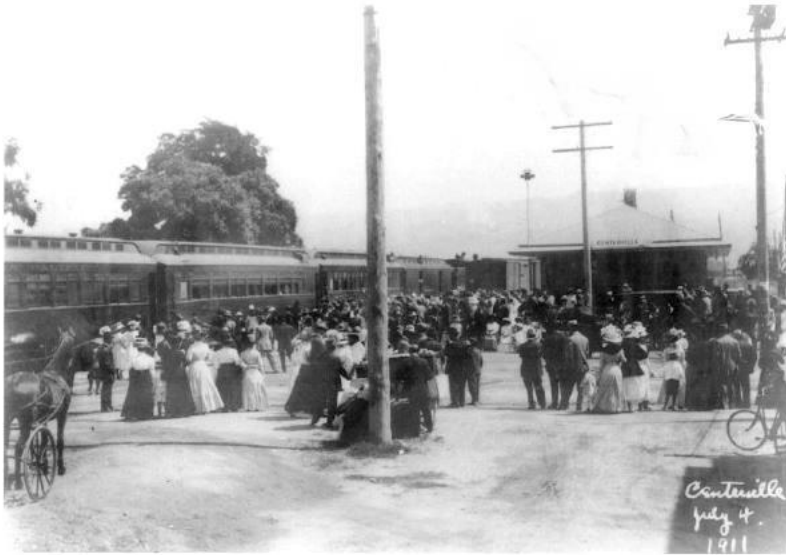


The Centerville Depot, July 4, 1911 Parade  
From the Dr. Robert B. Fisher Collection  
Museum of Local History, Fremont Calif.



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The Centerville Depot, July 4, 1911  
From the Dr. Robert B. Fisher Collection  
Museum of Local History, Fremont Calif.

The festivities of the day commenced with the parade headed by E.H. Stevenson, grand marshal, assisted by the following aides: George Botelho, Joseph Roderick, G. Wales, and S.B Vandervoort of Centerville; Robert Gallegos of Mission San Jose; M. Brown of Warm Springs; J. Walpert of Niles; Henry May of Decoto, F.B. Granger Jr. of Alvarado; E. Brown of Newark; J.J. O'Keefe of Irvington; Emanuel George and J.F. Rose, both of the Alviso District. In countermarching past the judge's stand, near the Southern Pacific depot, Sheriff Barnett joined the parade. The parade was half a mile in length and took more than an hour to pass the reviewing stand. The judges were H.E. Bruner, W.F. Sperbeck, and Jesse E.H. Woods.

In the parade were floats representing every fraternal organization, school, Chamber of Commerce, and many civic and industrial organization from the township. Miss Mabel Mathiesen, "the Goddess of Liberty" was seated on a throne of white and gold, attended by Cupids in white, the float being drawn by four white horses. A platoon of National Guards from Hayward, under the Captaincy of J.J. Bouree, was a feature of the parade.

### **Following Were the Divisions:**

#### **First Division:**

The first division was led by the San Francisco Concert Band followed by Grand Marshal E.H. Stevenson and his aides, George Botelho, Joseph Roderick, G. Wales, S.B. Vandervoort, Robert Gallegos, M. Brown, J. Walpert, Henry May, F.B. Granger Jr., E. Brown, J.J. O'Keefe, Emanuel George, and J.F. Rose; National Guard, Goddess of Liberty, and floats from the high school and the grammar schools.

#### **Second Division:**

The second division was led by the Centerville Brass Band followed by aides, civic orders, and women of the U.P.E.C.

#### **Third Division:**

The third division was led by the Decoto Band followed by aides, women driving family carriages, floats, Japanese, and the Warm Springs delegation.

#### **Fourth Division:**

The fourth division was led by the Clown Band followed by aides, women on horseback, cowboys, and automobiles.

#### **Prizes Awarded:**

##### **Best float in Parade:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Washington Crossing the Delaware, J.J. Santos Builder; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Japanese Association, Battleship; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Mission bell, Mission San Jose.

##### **School Floats:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Centerville Grammar School; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Warm Springs Grammar School, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Union High School

##### **Fraternal Organizations:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Eagles of Alvarado, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Native Sons of the Golden West, Centerville; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Portuguese Society

##### **Industrial Displays:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: California Nursery of Niles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Alameda Sugar Company of Alvarado, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: P.C. Hansen & Co., Centerville & Niles

##### **Juvenile Riders:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mission San Jose children.

##### **Equestriennes:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Miss Maud Pererra of Alvarado, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Miss Helen Blacow of Centerville.

##### **Best Decorated Autos:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: United artisan of Centerville, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: I. Harder of Hayward.

##### **Best Decorated Buildings:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: J.A. Coney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: W.E. Rogers.

The afternoon program opened with folk dancing by the children and young men and women of Centerville, under the direction of Miss Edith Jackson in the Centerville School grounds, followed by literary exercises of a patriotic nature also led by Miss Jackson. In the intervals a band played national airs.

The "Declaration of Independence" was impressively read by Judge J.T. Power, preceded by a few remarks from Mayor F.T Hawes. Then came the rendering of the "Star Bangled Banner" by Mrs. J.E. Thane, a vocalist of accomplishment. Hon. W.H. Donahue delivered the oration of the day and was wildly cheered by the crowds at its close. This section of the celebration end with the signing of "America" by Miss Netta Anderson.

During the afternoon the San Francisco Tamalpais Club furnished some excellent boxing and wrestling exhibitions on a raised platform near the Southern Pacific depot. Hundreds of pleasure seekers witnessed the bouts, the principals being given hearty receptions.

A number of wrestling exhibitions given by the Japanese residents of Washington Township were one of the interesting events of the day and were enjoyed by the crowds. Dancing in the Town Hall was indulged in 2 to 5 p.m. and was followed by a Grand Ball in the evening when Miss Mabel Mathiesen, Goddess of Liberty, was the honored guest. Dancing continued until a late hour.

The baseball game played between Centerville and the Bass Heuters teams resulted in a score of 15 – 9 in favor of Centerville. The afternoon close with the horrible parade, prizes were awarded for the best make-up. During the night thousands of fireworks were sent into the sky. The Devil’s Dance, preceding the Grand Ball, was a great success and presented a weird appearance.

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\* **SANITARY SYSTEM** \*  
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The Hunt Bros. issued a communication in March 1911 in which they stated that would soon commence work on building a cannery at Centerville provided that the people of Centerville would provide Hunt Bros with the necessary sewer system to handle their effluent.

A movement was then started to form a sanitary district of Niles, Centerville, and Newark to build a sewer system to serve all three towns. A meeting was held at Newark April 12, 1911, by committees from the three towns to take measures toward that end. Messrs. Runckle, Ellsworth, and Rev. Mr. Jones of Niles, W. Wyatt, Louis Ruschin and George Meeks representing Newark, and for Centerville the delegates were F. T. Hawes and Doctor Emerson at this meeting. The undertaking would cost not less than \$75,000 and would involve the construction of seven miles of main sewer and several times that length of laterals. Owing to an inadequate sewer system a number of large factories have hesitated about locating in the Centerville district.

The project laid dormant for a number of years until again picked up with vigor in May 1918. The F.E. Booth Packing Company had located in Centerville in 1917 and indicated that they would amenable to footing part of the cost of a sewage system to carry their effluent.

A resolution was introduced organizing a sanitary district for Centerville and Newark, calling for an election of five trustees and an assessor for July 2, 1918. The action was preliminary to the issuance of bonds for the district. The resolution did not describe the boundaries of the district except to include the two towns. The action was the result of a protracted agitation for sewerage in the towns, and it is believed the organization of such a project will materially increase the growth potential of the area.

We now fast forward one year; June 1919: It has been one year since the citizens voted in the Union Sanitary District with virtually no opposition, but since that time progress has stood still. The next step was to call for a bond election, but it has not been called owing to the war conditions at that time other than completing the organization of the district.

The directors were now free to move forward. A public meeting was called to discuss the detail concerning the location of the proposed sewer, the laterals to be constructed and the tax rate.

The bond election was been scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup> in the sum of \$75,000 cost for the taxpayers. In addition the F.E. Booth Packing Co. has agreed to contribute quite a portion of the cost, this sum to be in addition to the bond issue.

The directors of the district were Messrs. Coit, McGeorge, and Bernardo of Centerville; and Ruschin and Moses of Newark.

The bond issue for the sanitary district bonds went down to defeat when it failed to meet the 2/3's margin of victory. The vote was 162 in favor and 161 against. This is where the sanitary district stood at the end of 1919.

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\* **SPORTS** \*  
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This decade saw an increase in the popularity of what was to become our national pastime. The big increase came in the form of the popularity of home town semi-pro teams. There was Pacific Coast League of Triple A Baseball (the Major Leagues at this time were not west of the Mississippi River), which in 1910 consisted of Portland, Sacramento, The Oakland Oaks, The San Francisco Seals, Los Angeles, and Vernon.

Local baseball did feature a Centerville team, in July 1911 the Centerville team bested the Bass-Heuter Painters 14 to 9 at a game played in Centerville. The Centerville players were: Mathiesen, Doherty, Falk, Emerson, Wales, Rodgers, Hansen, Burdick, and Purdy.

In 1912 the San Jose Independents battered Centerville 10 to 2. The battery for Centerville was Purdy and Peixotto.

In 1913 Washington Township set up their own league Irvington, Niles, Decoto, Centerville and Newark offered franchises. Clubs in the league had to pay to get franchise spot in league lineup, the amount of the franchise fee would be considered nominal by today's standards.

Were the teams competitive? Read this article about the Centerville team coveting a player on another roster in June 1913:

“Manager Simas of the Centerville Baseball team lost no time in sending for Fred Selaya as soon as it was learned that he had been released by the Irvington club and immediately signed him as the catcher for the Centerville team for the remainder of the season. Manager Witherly (of the Irvington ball club) and Selaya had some difficulties over the amount of wages Selaya was to be paid.”

Big Jim Wiggs shuts down Centerville in a 7 -1 Newark win.

Standings as of June 29, 1913:

Newark	7	1	.875
Niles	7	2	.778

Decoto	4	3	.571
Centerville	2	7	.223
Irvington	1	7	.117

The 1914 semi-pro league opened in June 7<sup>th</sup> in a new league called the Santa Clara Valley Baseball League with the Centerville Pacific leaguers facing Newark. The fans could look forward to a good, fast game between these teams as they are both made up of many of the best semi-pros in the State. The standings in the Santa Clara Valley Baseball League July 26, 1914:

Irvington	7	1	
Newark	5	3	
Centerville	4	4	
Berkeley Owls	0	2	Replaced a team from Santa Clara

On June 27, 1916 it was reported that Centerville was defeated at the Bay View ball grounds by the St. Josephs Athletic Club 6 to 5. The lineup for Centerville was: Rose, C.; W. Wales, C.F.; Smith, S.S.; H. Wales, L.F.; Collins, 1B.; J. Wales, R.F.; Calhoun, 2B.; Soares, 3B.; Perry, P.

In April 1918 the F.E. Booth Packing Company of Centerville would back a baseball team in the semi-pro league. The team was in the process of formation and new uniforms had already been ordered and the field in Centerville was put in shape. Garrett Norris managed the team for the Booth Company. Garrett will begin practicing his players before the end of the month.

In May 1918 a new baseball semi-pro league was formed in Spalding's Fan Room in San Leandro. The new league will be called the Mission League. The teams will be: Alameda, Centerville, Melrose, San Jose, Fruitvale and San Leandro.

The managers of the six Mission League teams met to decide whether to admit Newark as a seventh team in the league after that town had organized a team and asked for admittance into the league.

Two other teams are also under consideration for admittance, they are Vitt's Grays and Brooklyn Native Sons. The league must now come together and set up a playing schedule and make the final decision on the teams. Also discussed was the other two semi-pro leagues in the area; the Shipbuilders League and the Central California League. For the stability of the three leagues it was decided that teams cannot steal players from other teams and other leagues.

On May 8, 1918 The Mission League was solidified at a meeting held with one exception, Centerville team (sponsored by the F.E. Booth Cannery) withdrew from the league as they felt the timing was not right for Centerville to host a spot in the league. In their place the Newark Wedgewoods replaced Centerville.

Centerville did go on to play some games in 1918 under the banner of F.E. Booth. They defeated the Brooklyn (Oakland) Native Sons 4 to 0 in May and then also defeated the Elcho team of Richmond 1 to 0 in June.

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\* **SPEEDERS** \*  
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With the advent and growing popularity of the automobile came the next step in evolution of the roads. Speeders! First disdained by people on horseback and in carriages, the automobile advanced as the roads that carried them improved. Autos became faster and with speed came danger. The next advancement in the automobile came without saying, the speed limit. And with the speed limit came the traffic officer and the judge.

Fine weather in the spring of 1915 and other ideal motoring conditions tempted twenty-four auto enthusiasts into a trap set by speed officers in the town of Centerville. They appeared before Justice of the Peace John G. Mattos, Jr. and the county road fund was enriched to the extent of \$800 as a result. The only local speeder caught in the net was Charles Coons of Newark.

But like motorists today some speeders did not learn nor pay heed to signs. In the spring of 1916 motorists who sped in excess of fifty miles per hour would be given a term in the county jail, according to the ruling of Justice of the Peace Mattos, who had founds that speeders are not deterred from the dangerous practice by the imposition of heavy fines. This decision was come by the magistrate after more than twenty accidents to pedestrians by speeding autos were reported in the month of April 1916. It appeared that carelessness of automobile drivers was increasing and hereafter no excuses would be admitted for abnormal speed while passing through the town of Centerville. Sixteen men and one woman were caught in the latest speed trap in Centerville, among them a Stanford student who was caught speeding on successive days. He was fined \$75.

Motorists quickly learned to try different tacks to avoid the dreaded imposition of a fine. One offender sent his pretty young wife as a proxy to advance excuses for his speeding in an effort to sway the decision of Judge Mattos. The fair woman pleaded tearfully for the speeder, who she said was her husband and was unable to be present. Judge Mattos listened attentively and smiled graciously, but imposed the usual \$25 fine. The thirty speeders at this week's court was the largest of the summer season of 1916.

In one of those occurrences some would call justice served was an incidence that occurred in October 1916. Two women were knocked down an injured by an automobile driven by Justice of the Peace John G. Mattos, Jr. the strict speed court magistrate, and a stickler for careful driving. A moment before they had been saved from being hurt by jumping from a jitney bus which went over an embankment on the Niles Road.

The women were standing by the roadside near the wreck of the jitney when Mattos' car, going in the direction of Niles, struck and ran over them. They were pinned underneath the machine and were extricated with difficulty. Their injuries were not serious and they were able to go home after small lacerations and bruises received attention.

One of the women, a little worse for the wear of two automobile accidents within a few moments, pointed to her disheveled clothing and told Judge Mattos he would have to buy her a new hat.

At the end of the decade Judge Mattos was interviewed on the subject of being a traffic court magistrate by a reporter from the Oakland Tribune:

"Judge Mattos is back on the bench after spending the summer in the Santa Cruz Mountains in an effort to regain his wife's health, which was shattered last spring with after a bout of pneumonia from Spanish Influenza. Their hopes were fulfilled and Mrs. Mattos is now in almost normal health now.

Mattos, besides being Justice of the Peace, is a member of the State of California Prison Directors, president of the Bank of Centerville, and almost the sole advisers of the Portuguese people of this section in business affairs.

So it can be seen that while minutes are but little things, they mean a whole lot to him in the course of a day. Yet he conducts affairs so as to spare as many minutes are required to meeting friends in a social way.

One thing Judge looks sternly at is drivers that speed. "The desire to speed," said Mattos, "is about as great now with people as it has been at any time in the past. You would be surprised to know that during the past seven years I have collected more than \$20,000 in fines from violators of the State automobile law."

"I listen to a great variety of stories," said the judge, "as excuses for stepping on it."

- I started late and wanted to keep an appointment...
- I was trying to pass another machine that was going slow...
- The speedometer was out of order...
- I don't see why the officer didn't arrest the other two drivers going faster than me...
- I wanted to reach Oakland before dark as my lights were out...

"These are the more popular stories of speeders, but I do not let them get away with it. When violators make a clean breast of their reasons for consuming so much gasoline I am inclined to being lenient on them, but when the angles of their stories do not connect on cross examination they have to pay for their pleasure."

"The speeders court can almost be called a young man's court, for most of the offenders are youths or young men on life's first stretch and willing to take a chance. Often when they are brought before me my thoughts revert to the time when I too was a young man and worked at the carpenter trade. I have a great deal of sympathy for the fellow, who after a week's hard work, steps on the accelerator a little too hard."

"What does arouse my ire, however, is the habit of some speed-law offenders bringing in letters from influential friends commendatory of their good behavior. In such cases the offender is asked if he would prefer to be cleared of the charge and see the other fellow without friends shoulder the fine. The answer is that generally the letter is to show that the defendant is not a law-breaker. I then tell him that he is only charged with speeding and nothing

else. I unfailingly extend a good deal of sympathy to youths who are working their way through the university in order to get an education."

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\* **NOTEWORTHY EVENTS** \*  
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**February 28, 1910,**

**M.S. Francis & J.T. Amaral:**

M.S. Francis and J.T. Amaral applied for liquor licenses.

**March 14, 1910**

**S. Hansen:**

A liquor license has been approved for S Hansen.

**April 16, 1910:**

**John Jacob Riser:**

Jacob Riser died in Centerville, Calif. on April 16, 1910. John was a native of Germany, he passed away at the age of 85 years.

**September 14, 1910:**

**H.N. Beveir:**

The Oakland Presbytery held its fall session on September 14, 1910, and the Rev. H.N. Beveir of San Francisco was assigned to the combined Centerville and Alvarado Presbyterian Church.

**September 24, 1910:**

**Dumbarton Cut Off:**

The town of Newark was crowded on Sept. 24, 1910 to celebrate the completion of the Dumbarton cut off of the Southern Pacific Railroad, which causes all the freight intended for the metropolis on the other side of the bay to pass through the town of Newark. The most demonstrable delegation at Newark was that from Centerville. The celebration in Newark was, at the same time, a celebration for Centerville for the reason Centerville has become a regular railroad town since the extension of the Dumbarton cut off. Instead of becoming a terminal in a hybrid system they are now on regular train system.

**December 1910:**

**SF Consolidation Draws Ire:**

An organization was formed at a meeting of East Bay Chambers of Commerce and the Merchant's Exchange of Oakland in December 1910 to take steps against any legislation which may be attempted at the coming session of the legislature looking toward the consolidation of any or all of the East Bay cities with the City of San Francisco. Comment against coming into San Francisco was unanimous, with delegates from Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Niles, Centerville, and Hayward speaking against it. T.C. Huxley of Centerville and Chris Runckel of Niles said that the four outside townships of the county were in favor of coming into Oakland providing certain inducements could be made.

**February 1911:**

**Flag Stolen:**



The pride of Centerville, an immense American flag purchased by a subscription of the locals was stolen in February 1911. The residents of the town have set Constable Roderick on the trail of the flag and hope to recover it, but in the meantime the daily ceremony of flag raising by the school children has been discontinued.

**February 3, 1911:**

**Mayo Poisoning:**

A combination of mayonnaise dressing, shrimp salad and whipped cream nearly caused the death of twenty-one people, all prominent residents of Washington Township, on February 3, 1911 at a dinner party given to the members of the Sweet Sixteen Club at the home of Garrett Norris at this place. Within a time after eating the salad the entire party' except two of the guests were .seized with a violent attack of ptomaine poisoning. Mrs. Walter Smith and Monroe Norris are in the most serious condition. For a time their lives were despaired of last night, but it is believed they will recover. Most of the others who suffered an attack were able to return home today, but several will be confined to their beds for some time.

**May 15, 1911:**

**J.M. Terry:**

A liquor license has been approved for J.M. Terry.

**May 24, 1911:**

**Howard Overacker:**

The Howard Overacker Funeral was held May 24, 1911 at Centerville. He was 82 years old. Surviving him were his widow and five children, Mrs. John A. Bunting, Howard and Michael J. Overacker, Mrs. T. H. Palache and Mrs. A. T. Barst.

**December 2, 1911:**

**Jail Break:**

With the assistance of accomplices who broke into a plumber's shop and stole two cold chisels, Martin Gusman and Joseph Telaney escaped from the local jail December 2, 1911, and were still at large. The men had been locked up in the calaboose to sober up and evidently had friends on the outside. In the morning the jail was found empty and two chisels were reported missing from the plumber's shop. These were found later, badly nicked by unskillful but effective use near the open door of the empty cell.

**December 26, 1911:**

**First Passengers across Bay:**

Regular passenger trains traversed the Bay for the first time on December 26, 1911 when a daily train service was established at Niles, Centerville, and Newark across the Dumbarton Bridge to Redwood City. The first passenger train carried three passengers from Niles, Centerville, and Newark crossed the Bay this morning and arrived at Redwood City at 9:00 a.m.

**February 1, 1912:**

**Dr. C.A. Wills:**

Dr. C.A. Wills of Centerville was appointed superintendent of the county infirmary. He assumed command on March 1, 1912, the date his predecessor's resignation took effect. Dr. Wills is a graduate of the University of California and the affiliated colleges with the class of 1903. Later he was the house surgeon for Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco, and for several years has been building a practice about Centerville in Washington Township.

**February 28, 1912:**

**William Barry:**

William Barry, who for more than 30 years was horticultural commissioner for Washington and Murray Townships, died in his home on February 28, 1912 after an illness that lasted over four years. He was 81 years of age. Barry was appointed in 1878 by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and retained the position until 1908, when a law was passed allowing one commissioner of horticulture instead of three. Barry was born at Rochfort Bridge, Westmeath, Ireland in 1831 and came to San Francisco in 1851 via Valparaiso. He moved to Alameda County in 1852.

**December 13, 1913:**

**A.M. Souza:**

December 13, 1913: Rev. A.M. Souza, who served at one time under Father Governo has been named to replace the late priest at Centerville.

**March 6, 1914:**

**Samuel Sandholdt:**

Samuel Sandholdt, Justice of the Peace for Centerville for the past 21 years, died last night following a year's illness from heart trouble. Judge Sandholdt came to California 40 years ago and for 30 years had resided in Centerville. He was 63 years of age. Judge Sandholdt was a member of the K of P and IOOF.

**December 16, 1914:**

**Joseph Thomas:**

Joseph Thomas has applied for a liquor license.

**February 1, 1915:**

**M.S. Simas:**

M.S. Simas has applied for a liquor license.

**June 22, 1915:**

**Balloon Ride:**

Edward Unger of Los Angeles, who arose in the balloon "Jewel City" on the exposition grounds (San Francisco), on the afternoon of June 22, 1915 with Clarence Drake of Spokane and T.M. McClain of Oakland who were aboard as human ballast, reached an altitude which established an American record of 29,900 feet. The balloon landed in a beet field in Centerville, 35 miles from the starting point at 5:35 p.m.

At an altitude of 6,500 feet McClain jumped from the balloon, supported by a parachute, and descended in the southwestern part of the city, three miles from the start. Drake jumped at an altitude of 14,000 feet and fell into the San Francisco Bay. He was recovered uninjured.

In descending the balloon struck an electric light wire, breaking it, and plunging the town of Centerville into darkness. The world's altitude record is 35,420 made in Berlin in June 1901.

William Andrade, the owner of the beet field, protested against the destruction of his beets and asked for \$6 in compensation. Unger left the field without paying.

**May 1, 1916:**

**John A. Bunting:**

John A Bunting died on May 1, 1916 at Centerville California. Mr. Bunting had been ill with throat trouble and was under a doctor's care for a long time. As a last resort he was operated on a few weeks ago, but to no avail.

Bunting was a native of New York and was 61 years of age. He was married to Mrs. Fleda O. Bunting and fathered the following children: Mrs. John C. Chandler, John A. Jr., Howard, and Lawrence Bunting.

A few years ago John Bunting was a conductor on the S.P. Railroad, but through a lucky happenstance he received a deed of land in Kern County as collateral on a loan. Mr. Bunting struck oil on that land and he came to be known as "Coal Oil Johnny" in southern California.

#### **June 4, 1916:**

##### **E.H. Stevenson:**

June 4, 1916: E.H. Stevenson was elected as a director of the Alameda County Farm Bureau

#### **July 1916:**

##### **Ballot Officials:**

Ballot officials for Centerville for 1916 were:

Precinct 1: Inspector: Richard B. White; Judges: May A. Lewis, Antone Francisco; Clerks: Thomas Silva, John S. Sequeira, and Mrs. Christie Hurd.

Precinct 2: Inspector: J.M. Norris; Judges: Mary I. Silva, F.W. Noya; Clerks: Robert Blacow, Anthony J. Rezendez, and Mrs. Agnes Hatch.

#### **August 2, 1916:**

##### **Mountain Lion Attack:**

Frank Perry, who worked for the Spring Valley Water Co. as a pump man in the Calaveras Dam, was attacked by a mountain lion while walking to the dam from Sunol on August 2, 1916. The mountain pounced at Perry from a bank, but by a quick movement Perry was able to avoid the beast as it lunged straight for him. With claws outstretched the brute missed its aim by a few inches. Growling ferociously it returned to the attack. Perry was unarmed and realized he would be overtaken in flight, he decided to stand and fight. By well-aimed rocks Perry held off the lion as it sprung a second time while he further disconcerted it by throwing his coat in its face. Time and again, by quick movements and a fusillade of rocks, was the young man keep the lion from springing on him. After a fight lasting fifteen minutes during which Perry was saved from injury the lion ran off.

#### **July 1917:**

##### **Selective Service Draft Lottery Numbers:**

July 1917: Draft Lottery Numbers Chosen

Draft lottery numbers assigned to eligible draftees for Centerville are:

#458, Paul Ferrante; #1530, Atillio Viarisis; #1331, Jose Sanchez; #75, Antone Edward Alameda; #757, Antone Duarte Lewis Jr.; #1769, Robert Fischer; #350, Fred Richard Rogers; #2365, John Soito; #1764, Iwkchi Syrie; 1543, Jiro Ushijima; #1765, Manuel Fortado, #1722, Manuel Vierra Tellen, Jr.; #1185, George W. Mathiesen; #1763 Jung Jow; #1723, Theodore Nissen Taft; #552, Melfred Peter Mathiesen; #2364, Frank N. Silva; #2370, Antone Edward Rodrigues; #90, Lawrence O. Bunting; #1978, Antone Perreira; #1390, Frank A. Schumrigger, #1181,

Manuel S. Machado; #1702, One Soar Wah; #1785, Tony Rose; #1667, Manuel A Enos; #1766, Manuel F. George; #1174, Joseph S. Calveira; #1820, Frank L. Henry; #481, Anthony A. Furtado; #2027, Antone L. Silva; #1350, Jesse C. Freitas; #1767 Frank F. George; #851, William B. Beal; #61, John A. Bunting.

**July 4, 1917:**

**Fourth Celebration**

A patriotic celebration arranged by the merchants of Centerville was held in the town on the July 4, 1917. The program consisted of flag raising exercises, addresses, patriotic music, and a parade in which members of the SPRSI took part. The whole community joined in the different events.

**January 14, 1918:**

**John F. & Joseph F. Serpa:**

John F. & Joseph F. Serpa have applied for a liquor license.