

Early Families of Union City



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Introduction

It is hard to understand the history of Union City without knowing the families that made Union City.

This document covers the early families of Union City, those that created the town and made it what it is today. Some of these names may be familiar. Some of these names are documented in the names of Union City streets. Others still are only familiar to those who have studied the history of Union City.

This document covers the details and documents the genealogy of each of these families. The reader will find that quite a number of these families are linked by marriage. In the early days of Union City, the number of families was limited so there was a very strong chance that someone growing up in Union City married someone from Union City.

Use of Town Names

When Union City incorporated in 1959, it joined the towns of Alvarado and Decoto. To this day, the term Alvarado and Decoto are used to refer to the west and east sides of Union City. What is now called Alvarado was originally two small settlements, started in 1850. John Horner started Union City close to what is now the corner of Veasy and Horner Streets. Henry C. Smith started New Haven near what is now the corner of Smith Street and Union City Blvd. Eventually these two towns grew together and were called Alvarado. Up until 1900, many people would still refer to Union City as separate from Alvarado.

A Sanborn fire insurance map from 1887 shows a dividing line through what we know as Alvarado, dividing Alvarado and Union City. The terms used in the biographies below use Alvarado, New Haven, and Union City in their original terms.

Town names from Fremont are Centerville, Niles, Irvington, Warm Springs, and Mission San Jose. A town name from Hayward is Mt. Eden, the western part of Hayward.

James Barron

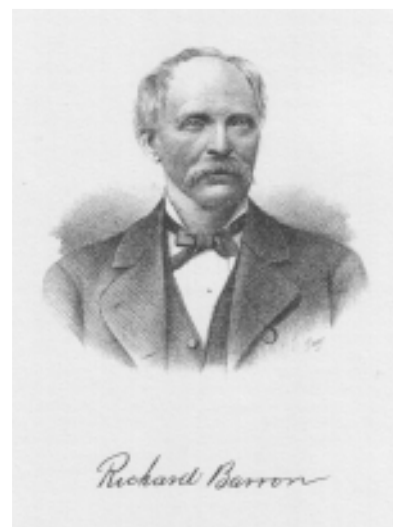
James Barron was born in 1828 in County Tipperary, Ireland. He was the son of Edmund and Ellen (Helin) Barron. In 1834, his family came to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. James came to California in 1861, via Nicaragua. He bought Union City Landing about 1862 from his brother, Richard. He ran the wharfs at Union City Landing selling building materials shipped in from San Francisco.



James married Agnes Myler on August 12, 1851, in Detroit, Michigan. They had seven children; Mary E. (born about 1853), Matilda (born about 1856), Agnes E. (born about 1857), James Thomas (born July 1858), Isabella (born about 1866), Grace (born about 1868), and Gertrude (born about 1871). James passed away on November 28, 1890 and was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, California.

Richard Barron

Richard Barron was born in County Tipperary, Ireland on June 22, 1824. He was the son of Edmund and Ellen (Helin) Barron. In 1834, his family came to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1850, Richard took an overland route to California. After some time in the mines, he traveled to San Francisco where he spent five years in the shipping business. In 1855, he moved to Alvarado and bought Union City Landing from Capt. Benson, who had purchased it from John Horner. The artesian wells that Benson had put in, were diverted to a pond and a lake was formed. Richard created an island in the lake and visitors were allowed to rent boats to paddle around the small lake. About 1862, Richard moved to Mt. Eden, selling Union City Landing to his brother



James, and establishing Barron's Landing, at then end of what is now Winton Road, and Eden Landing, just south of Mt. Eden. Near his Eden Landing, he created a salt works that produced a thousand tons of salt in the 1882-83 season.

Richard married Mary Foley on August 5, 1852. They had 5 children; Ellen M. (born about 1853), Catherine V. (born about 1855), Emma (born about 1857), Richard E. (born September 1857), James G. (born about 1861). Ellen married John Scribner, Catherine married T. Stratton, and Emma married H. C. Martin. Richard passed way 1896.

August M. Church

August Church as born in Allen's Hill, New York, on June 19, 1816, the son of Lovett and Sally Church. He grew up in Richmond, New York. August arrived in California in October 1849, coming via an overland route. He was able to find some luck in the gold mines. He returned East but his gold earnings were stolen from him. August returned again to California in 1851 and joined with Henry C. Smith in a mercantile business in newly formed New Haven. He was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 1852 and served until 1853. At this point, Alameda County was created out of the northern part of Santa Clara County and the western part of Contra Costa County. August was elected the first County Clerk and Recorder. He held this position for nine years. In 1867, he was elected to the state legislature as the representative from Alameda County. In 1870, he moved to Healdsburg to open a mercantile business. He would later move back to Alameda County, moving to Livermore, where Henry C. Smith was located. In 1877, he moved to Oakland and was elected Justice of the Peace for Oakland.



August married Ellen Cronkhite (born 1821) in 1838 in Berrian County, Michigan. They had five children, Helen (born about 1842), Sarah (born about 1851), William H. (born about 1855), Roderick W., and Lincoln S. August passed away September 1, 1889, in Oakland.

Edward Clawiter

Born on May 27, 1818 in Gammin, Prussia, Edward Clawiter came to California in 1847 while serving on a sailing ship and returned to California in 1849. He arrived with miners tools and headed for the gold fields of Sonora and Angel's Camp. After some success mining for gold, Edward returned to Germany



taking with him some gold and was the first person to display California gold in Germany.

Upon his return to California in 1851, he settled in Union City, opening a general store.

Edward's first child, born August 7, 1851 was the first white child to be born in Union City, so Edward named her Union. Upon hearing this, John Horner, the founder of Union City, gave Union a plot of land in Union City. In the 1860's, Edward raised cattle to sell to the restaurants and hotels of San Francisco. After running his general store for three years, Edward sold his holdings in Alvarado and purchased land just to the north in Mt. Eden. In 1877, Edward



handed over the Mt. Eden property to his son, Edward Jr. and moved to Alameda for his retirement. Edward passed away on December 18, 1884, at the age of 67.

Edward married Mary Gading, born November 3, 1830, in her native town of Bremen. They had 4 children; Union (born August 7, 1851), Mary, Ida, and Edward Jr. (born November 27, 1852). Edward passed away on December 13, 1884. Mary passed away on May 1, 1906.

Antone Davilla

Antone Davilla was born in 1866 on St. George Island in the Azores. Antone arrived in Alvarado in 1882. He worked in a number of business, including a barber shop and the Peerless Saloon. In April 1905, a fire burned down the Peerless Saloon and other buildings close to it. The fire was started on the second story of the Peerless Saloon, where two Portuguese men were using a gas stove to cook. By October of that year, a new building was built and occupied. In 1925, the highway through Alvarado needed a curve to be widened. Antone donated the property needed for the widening.

Antone married Mary Foster (born August 9, 1874). They had seven children; Isabella (born November 12, 1894), Clara (born 1896), Minnie, May (born October 20, 1903), Veronica (born October 1907), Genevieve (born February 25, 1912), and Morris (born May 19, 1915). Minnie died at the age of two and Veronica died at the age of 6 months. Isabella married John Menezes, Genevieve married Joe Dutra, Clara married Joseph Jacinto, Mae married Antone Santos, and Morris married Mary Pearl. In January 1950, Morris was murdered while working at the Bear Cat Tavern in Centerville. Genevieve was postmaster of Alvarado from 1936 to 1956. Antone passed away July 16, 1948. His wife, Mary passed away on July 16, 1962.

Ezra Decoto

Ezra Decoto was born on September 2, 1833 in Canada, the son of Charles and Mary (Gerbeto) Decoto. He left New York on April 15, 1854 to come to California. He sailed on the 'Moses Taylor' to Panama, then from the Pacific side of Panama, he sailed on the 'George Law' and arrived in San Francisco on May 18th. He started farming in Alameda for two years, moved to San Leandro for four years, and then to Hayward where he farmed until 1867. He and his brother purchased three hundred and thirty four acres of land from Jonas Clark, in the area now known as Decoto. In 1871, he sold two hundred and eighty-four acres to the Central Pacific Railroad. The remainder he kept to reside on. Ezra was a Board member of the Decoto School District.

Ezra married Janet Lowrie, from Scotland, on August 21, 1860 and they had eight children; Charles (born June 6, 1861), Elizabeth "Lizzie" (born April 4, 1863), Mary (born May 8, 1865), Peter (born Jan. 4, 1869), Janet (born Feb. 14, 1871), Alvina (born June 25, 1873), Ezra Jr. (born Feb. 1876), and Lewis (born June 20, 1878). Janet married August May, Jr.



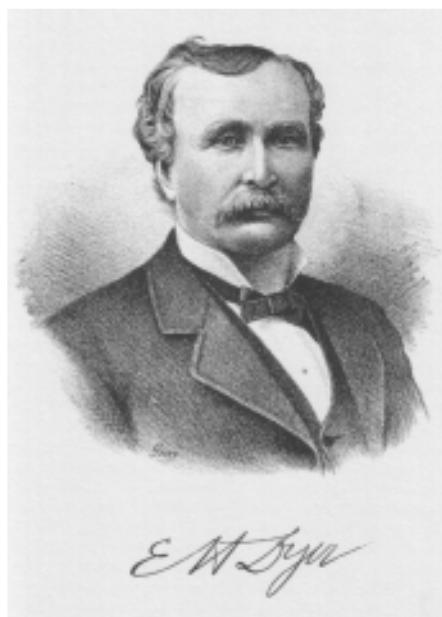
Ezra Decoto Jr.

Ezra Decoto Jr., son of Ezra Decoto Sr., grew up in Decoto and went to the University of California at Berkeley graduating with the class of 1900. He continued his studies and became a lawyer. After a few

years of private practice, Ezra became the first paid Probation Officer for Alameda County. He later became the Alameda County District Attorney. He resigned from that position in 1925 to become a Railroad Commissioner. The Assist District Attorney Earl Warren replaced Ezra. After serving as Railroad Commissioner, Ezra became a Superior Court Judge for Alameda County, and he held that position until he passed away, April 6, 1948.

Ebenezer Herrick Dyer

Ebenezer was born April 17, 1822 in Sullivan, Maine, the son of Joshua and Elizabeth. Ebenezer arrived in Alvarado in late 1857. After a few months in Alvarado, Ebenezer returned to Maine to get his wife and children. In 1860, Ebenezer was elected County Surveyor of Alameda County, and held that position until 1864. In 1866, Ebenezer founded the San Joaquin Canal Company with W. H. Graves and W. B. Carr, and served a chief engineer. On February 13, 1863, Elizabeth drowned leaving Ebenezer a widower. Ebenezer married Olive Ingalls, sister of Marion. In 1864, Ebenezer as active in the local Odd Fellows lodge and helped organize the fund drive to build the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1870, Ebenezer formed the California Beet Sugar Manufacturing Company and built a sugar beet factory on his land just outside of Alvarado, next to Alameda Creek. The factory was built by Ebenezers' father-in-law, Benjamin Ingalls. The factory lasted until 1874, when his business partners wanted to move to a different location. It is considered the first successful sugar beet factory in the United States. In 1879, Ebenezer formed the Standard Sugar Refinery, using the 1870 factory with new equipment. This factory was destroyed in 1887 by a boiler explosion. In 1888, Ebenezer formed the Pacific Coast Sugar Company with a new plant. In 1899, a new company was formed as the Alameda Sugar Company, and the factory was expanded. After Ebenezer passed away, this factory was sold to Holly Sugar, rebuilt in 1935 and ran until 1976. By 1890, Ebenezer, with Edward (son) and Harold (nephew) had formed "E. H. Dyer and Company," a business that designed and built sugar beet factories. The company built over 70 sugar beet factories all over the United States and the world, including Asia and South America



Ebenezer married Marion Wallace Ingalls on June 15, 1850. With Marion, Ebenezer had three children, Abitha Marion (born April 21, 1857), Ellen Frances (born December 23, 1855), and Edward Franklin (born July 22, 1858). Ebenezer married Olive S. Ingalls. With Olive, Ebenezer had three children, the twins Hugh Thomas and Guy Sawyer (born May 8, 1868), and Nina (born December 29, 1878). Edward has heavily involved in the sugar beet business with his father. Ebenezer passed away July 10, 1910 at the age of 88.

Ephriam H. Dyer

Ephriam was born March 2, 1828, in Sullivan, Maine, the son of Joshua and Elizabeth. In 1850, Ephriam headed to the gold fields of California, arriving in San Francisco on September 17, 1850. He worked in construction in San Francisco. Soon, Ephriam came to the East Bay, visiting Elias Beard in Mission San Jose looking to buy some land to farm. He share-cropped on land owned by Mr. Cheney in Alvarado. Ephriam then worked for John Horner, hoping to sharecrop with him. In 1852, Ephriam traveled to Los Angeles and worked in packing and shipping grapes to San Francisco. In 1855, he returned to Alvarado, where land prices were depressed. He purchased some land and created a produce business selling what he grew on the land. In 1857, he sent for his brother Ebenezer, to assist him with his company. In 1858, Ephriam headed back East. He traveled through Illinois where he met up with the Ingalls family from his

home town in Maine. While in Illinois, Ephriam married Ellen Frances Ingalls on June 2, 1859. He returned to Alvarado via the Overland Stage Mail Line. In 1861, Ephriam was appointed U.S. Deputy Surveyor for California. He was also appointed Assistant and Deputy Surveyor of California, Oregon, and Nevada by Lt. Beale, the U. S. Surveyor General. In 1862, the Alvarado Home Guard was formed and Ephriam was elected as Captain of the unit. At the same time, Ephriam was active with the local Odd Fellows lodge.

Ephriam married Ellen Frances Ingalls, sister to Elizabeth and Olive (Ingalls) Dyer. They had six children, Harold Parker (born May 29, 1860), Henry Sawyer (born August 19, 1864), Hubert Paul (born December 23, 1867), Edith (born March 13, 1870), Ernest (born September 4, 1872) and Ephriam Ingalls (born July 18, 1881). Harold and Hubert were involved in the sugar beet business with their uncle, Ebenezer. Ephriam passed away on October 31, 1883 at the age of 55.

Farley B. Granger

Farley Benjamin Granger was born in Phelps, New York, on November 17, 1829. He worked on his father's farm, then moved to Michigan to work as a shinglemaker. He moved to Chicago and worked as a storekeeper. He joined the Church of Latter Day Saints and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, the Mormon settlement. He went west with a Mormon immigrant company in 1844 to help found Salt Lake City. In 1851, he moved to San Bernadino, California to help pack freight. He later worked in some gold mines near Sacramento, California. In 1861, Farley moved to Alvarado and bought 45 acres of land. He built the Riverside Hotel in Alvarado close to where the Alvarado train station was built. He bought 100 acres on the other side of Alameda Creek and grew chicory. He later sold this land to E. H. Dyer to build the beet sugar factory. Farley bought the land around the old Union City landing and started a water company based on the artesian wells already in place. This was later sold to the Oakland Water Company. At some point, Farley bought a 35 acre fruit ranch near Decoto. Farley was active in the local Odd Fellows lodge.

Farley married Annie Robbins on June 24, 1854 in Salt Lake City. They had three children, Farley B. Jr (born June 26, 1855), Clarence A. (born November 6, 1859), and Edith Anna (born June 24, 1867). Farley Jr. attended the California Military Academy in Oakland and took over the family ranch. He helped organize the Jackson-Granger Dairy Company near Decoto, which existed until 1916. He was Vice

President of the Bank of Alvarado when it was created. He was appointed Overseer of the Alvarado Road District. He was a selected Trustee of the Alvarado Grammar School. He was active in both the Republican Party and the Odd Fellows. Clarence became a chemist and worked with E. H. Dyer in the beet sugar industry. After working at the Alvarado sugar mill, he was the first Superintendent at the Utah Sugar Company factory in Lehi, Utah. He later managed the sugar mills in Greeley and Longmont, Colorado. Edith Anna married Elmer E. Chase of San Jose. Farley B. Granger passed away on December 5, 1899 and is buried at the Cypress Cemetery in Decoto. His wife, Annie, passed away just before him on July 2, 1898 and is also buried at the Cypress Cemetery.



Riverside Hotel

John Hall

John Hall, born about 1822 in Ohio, owned a large and successful ranch bordered on the north by the Oakland-San Jose Highway (Alvarado Blvd). He started raising thoroughbred horses in 1864. In 1876, he was showing the horses at the California State Fair. During the 1870's, John was a member of the State Agricultural Society. When the South Pacific Coast Railroad came through Alvarado, it crossed through his property. The railroad built a rail stop call "Hall Station" on his property. John was married to Phoebe, a native of New York.



Frederick C. Harvey

Frederick Chapman Harvey was born in Alvarado on March 19, 1873. He was the third child of Sylvester P. and Sarah (Hills) Harvey. His sister was Sarah Hills (born Oct. 31, 1869) and his brother was Edward S. (born in 1871). Frederick, known as F.C., was a local merchant and owned F. C. Harvey and Company. Prior to that, in 1896, he had owned a store with I.V. Ralph called Ralph and Harvey. By 1901, Frederick had struck off on his own. His store was located at the corner of Smith and Vallejo Street, which was first owned by Mr. Lyle, and later owned by Mr. Dinsmore. In 1903, the barn behind his store was destroyed by fire. In that same year, he joined in business with Daniel Jackson, Farley B. Granger, S. H. Granger, and T. F. Jackson in the Jackson Granger Dairy Company. Frederick bought the Centerville general store of Joseph Herrscher in 1904. In 1912, while driving in Hayward, Frederick hit a bicyclist with his car. Frederick agreed to pay for damages despite the woman being on the wrong side of the road. In 1926, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph added a night operator to the telephone exchange at Fredericks' store. Frederick was a Trustee for Alvarado Grammar School and a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Alvarado Fire Protection District. He resigned the Fire Protection District post in 1936. In the summer of 1926, Frederick took an around-the-world trip, stopping first in Hawaii and then Shanghai. In 1934, Governor James Ralph, Jr. appointed Frederick to the Alameda County Farm Debit Adjustment Committee.

Frederick was married to Selma Ingemundsen in 1898. Selma was born January 19, 1875, passed away November 26, 1924 and is buried at Cypress Cemetery. They had two children, Frederick Jr. (born 1901) and Theodore Perkins (born March 28, 1904). Frederick Jr. died at the age of six and was buried at Cypress Cemetery in Decoto.

Theodore P. Harvey

Theodore Perkins Harvey, son of F. C. Harvey was born March 28, 1904 in Alvarado. He attended Alvarado Grammar School and graduated from Washington Union High School in 1922. He attended the University of California at Berkeley where he met Marguerite Galbraith. The couple were formerly engaged in November 1925, planning their wedding after graduation. Theodore graduated in May 1926, was married June 3 at the First Congregational Church and settled in Alvarado. Theodore and Marguerite brought a large piece of property on the Oakland-San Jose Highway (Alvarado Blvd) and built a large Tudor style home with an acre dedicated for gardens. After a trip to the East Coast, the Harvey's moved into their new house in January, 1928. In 1930, there was an auction on the Harvey Ranch where 157 dairy cows, 2 bulls, a team of horses, and farming equipment were sold. In that same year, Theodore attended a reception for Dr. Robert Sproul, President of the University of California at Berkeley, whom they had met while traveling in Alaska. In 1934, Marguerite gave birth to Eleanor Jean. When Eleanor was 4 years old, her parents went through a divorce. Marguerite complained of "cruelty and indifference, unexpected absences from home and occasional blows." Theodore complained of "continuously accepting and persistently seeking" the society of an 18 year-old boy, still in high school.

On May 1, 1940, Theodore married Elizabeth Hebbner, from San Mateo, in Carmel, California. With Elizabeth, Theodore had four additional children, Robert I. (born May 29, 1941), Sarah Sue, Patricia Ann, and Frederick C. On May 18, 1952, Theodore took his son Robert fishing along Dry Creek, which passes through his ranch. While returning home, Theodore told Robert to go on ahead of him and that he would meet him at home. Robert returned home at 5:30 pm, but his father never did return. The next day Theodore was found along the banks of Dry Creek, dead after suffering from a heart attack.

James Hawley

James Hawley was born on September 14, 1822 in Birmingham, England. His parents emigrated to Brooklyn, New York when James was 4 years old. He came to California in 1849. Settling in Mission San Jose, he took up the business of carpenter and builder. James built the first frame buildings in Mission San Jose, including the Red Hotel. He brought his wife, and then two daughters, to California in 1852, and they ran the Red Hotel until 1853, when James bought a farm near Alvarado. The farm was called the Bell Ranch, because of a bell from Mission San Jose was hung on the property. James was a founding member of Crusade Lodge #93 of the International Order of Odd Fellows. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Alvarado. James was still involved in building, as he built the Patterson house which now stands in Ardenwood Regional Park.

James married Betty "Hattie" in Newark, New Jersey, in 1844. They had six children; Charlotte (born about 1846), Emily (born June, 24, 1848), Clara (born about 1853), Elizabeth (born about 1857), Edwin (born August, 1859), and May (born June 1865). Charlotte married Charles Whipple. Emily married into the Ingalls family, Clara into the Layson family, Elizabeth into the Beard family, and May into the Patterson family. James passed away in his Alvarado home February 9, 1906.



James Hawley, wife Betty, and family

Phillip Hellwig

Phillip Hellwig came to California in 1856, from Germany. After failing in mining, he joined a cousin in the meat business, in Alvarado. In 1864, Phillip bought out his cousin and renamed the business P. J. Hellwig and Company, with new partners F. D. Wiegman and William Jung. Within a few years, Hellwig & Company had a number of retail outlets, including Pleasanton and Hayward.

In 1865, Phillip married Elizabeth Schweitzer, who had recently immigrated from Germany. They had three children, Frederick (born August 1870), George (born July 26, 1876), and one additional child. Phillip Hellwig passed away in 1903. His wife passed away in 1912, and they are both buried in Cypress Cemetery in Decoto.

Frederick P. Hellwig

Frederick P. Hellwig was born in August 1870 in Alvarado, the first son of Phillip Hellwig. Fred went into the meat business with his father, and became the President of the Hellwig Meat Company. In 1901, Fred Hellwig took the Thirty-second degree in Masonry. That same year, he joined F. B. Granger Jr. in an oil business, with himself as the President. The business purchased 120 acres in the McKittrick oil field in Kern County, California. In 1902, the Bank of Alvarado was established with Fred as Treasurer.

In October 1897, Fred married Emma Eichter and had two children, Earl (born about 1898) and Eloise (born after 1900). Fred died on May 10, 1909 at the age of 38 years.



Hellwig Meat Market - 1910

George P. Hellwig

George Hellwig was born on July 26, 1876, the son of Phillip Hellwig. He took a commercial course from the Pacific Business College in San Francisco and then joined his father in the meat business. He was the Secretary

and Treasurer of the company. After the death of his father and his brother, George took full ownership of the business. In 1910, George sold part of the business to Victor La Grave and the company became Hellwig La Grave Meat Company. In 1943, John Brugge was George's business partner. George was a member of the Alvarado lodge of the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. George was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a fire commissioner for Alvarado. In 1937, George was appointed by Governor Mirriam to fill the rest of the two-year term of County Supervisor Ralph Richmond, who had recently passed away. In 1940, George, an amateur gardener, was awarded first prize at a flower show on Treasure Island, for his gladiolus.

In March 1914, George married Louella (Willa) Cecil of Los Angeles. On February 16, 1948, at the age of 72, George passed away. George and Louella did not have any children.

John Joyce

John A. Joyce, was born in February 1843 in Canada and emigrated to the United States in 1860. John worked as a carpenter in Alvarado.

John married Isadora Scribner, the widow of Joel Scribner. They had three children, Dora, Frederick, and Arthur. Dora married Edwin Richmond. Isadora passed away in November 1913.

Fred Joyce

Fred W. Joyce, was born about 1887 and the son of John Joyce. Fred worked as mill wright in a local salt works. In 1926, Fred was a trustee of the Alvarado School Board.

Fred married Madel (born about 1889). They had four children; Frederick Warren (born in 1913), Rosalie (born in 1912), Ruby, and Benny.

Patrick Joyce

Patrick Joyce was born in March 1846 in Ireland, emigrated to the United States in 1850, and lived in Connecticut. Patrick came to Alvarado in the middle 1880's, with his wife and three children.

Patrick married Harriet (born 1856). They had three children, Kate, Mary (born May 1875), and Harriet (born November 1881). Kate married Leo Aurich and Mary married John L. Olson. Patrick passed away in November 1904. Harriet passed away on July 16, 1914. Both Patrick and Harriet were buried at the Holy Spirit Cemetery in Centerville.

William Jung

William was born in Bingen, Germany on June 27, 1839. He was partners with Phillip Hellwig and F. D. Wiegman as P. J. Hellwig and Company in 1864 in Alvarado. He was also in the investment business with August May. William married Christina Penke (born July 22, 1859) from Mt. Eden, on February 28, 1889, and settled in a house on Vallejo Street. They had three children, Herbert (born July 15, 1890), Charlotte (born December 1891) and Mildred (born January 1898). In 1910, William was stricken with blood poisoning and required the amputation of one leg just below the knee.

William passed away on January 23, 1912. Christina lived over a hundred years and passed away Sept. 8, 1961. Herbert married Margaret Sutherland and moved to Hayward. Charlotte became a teacher and taught for many years at Alvarado Grammar School. Mildred became a nurse, but soon came down with Tuberculosis. Charlotte moved back to the family home to help take care of her sister. Mildred passed away Feb. 1938. Charlotte passed away in 1963. Due to the condition of the Jung home, it was demolished soon after Charlotte passed away.



William M. Liston

William Morris Liston was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in July, 1813. His family moved to Wayne County, Indiana in 1823. In 1831, he moved to Berrian County, Michigan, where he worked as a trader and a butcher. On December 31, 1838, William moved to South Bend, Indiana, working as a lawyers clerk. In June, 1846, he moved to St. Joseph, Michigan where he owned a saw mill. He married Catherine Kelly (born 1828 in Canada) on November 18, 1847 in Berrien, Michigan. After his saw mill burned, on June 1, 1851, he packed up his family, and headed to California via New York. His passage was on the "Prometheus" on the Atlantic and the "Sea Bird" on the Pacific. He arrived in Mission San Jose on July 29, 1851 and worked for Henry C. Smith. William came to Alvarado in 1852 to manage the warehouses of Henry C. Smith. He built the third home in the area soon after arriving. William moved to San Francisco and managed the Montgomery House, located on Montgomery between California and Pine Streets. William tried his luck in the mines, but like many, he found it unprofitable. He returned to Alvarado, worked on a farm for a while, then he started a grocery business in Alvarado. He started a stock business until 1861, when business turned bad. He then opened the Brooklyn House, a hotel and ran it for four years. His next business venture was running stages from Warm Springs to Oakland, including a contract for carrying the mail. He next opened the Alvarado Tavern. In 1864, when the Alvarado Home Guard was established William became a member. In 1874, William was appointed Road Overseer for the Alvarado District. William was also a Justice of the Peace for Washington Township. In 1876, he gave up proprietorship of the Brooklyn House hotel. That same year, William helped found the "Pioneer Society" of Washington Township and was elected its First Vice President. When the Odd Fellows Crusade Lodge #93 was founded, William was one of the founding members. William last home was on Vallejo Street, next to the Odd Fellows Hall.



Liston House on Vallejo St.

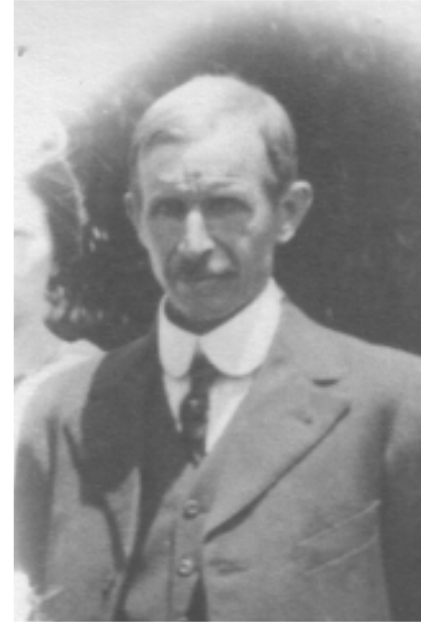
It was in Michigan that his first two children, Margaret (born about 1848) and Catherine (born about 1849), were born. His other children, Mary (born about 1852), William Jr. (born 1854) and James (born about 1861), were born in California. Catherine M. Liston married Wilfred Fisher Ingalls on August 8, 1870, and they had four children; Marian W. (born May 1871), Wilfred Jr. (born 1874), Edna M. (born October 27, 1875), and Everett Alden (born July 15, 1890). William Sr. passed away in 1885.

James Logan

James was born in Maghera, County Londonderry, Ireland in May, 1866, and emigrated to the United States in 1887. James came to Alvarado and became a farmer. James was involved in the Alvarado Presbyterian Church, the Odd Fellows and the Masons. In 1926, James Logan was appointed an Election Inspector. He had previously worked with the elections in 1922. In the spring of 1931, James Logan ran for and won the position of Trustee of the Washington Union High School District. In July, 1931, James Logan was installed as Noble Grand of the Crusade lodge of the Odd Fellows in Alvarado. The Noble Grand is the head of an Odd Fellows Lodge.

In October 16, 1931, James Logan, along with James Cleveland Whipple, were killed in a car crash in Hayward. The two men were returning from a fishing trip and the crash happened at Niles Rd. and Orchard Ave about 3 p.m. The car went across the highway and struck a gravel truck. Mr. Whipple was

killed instantly, and James Logan passed away about 3 hours later in the hospital in Hayward. Both men were Trustees with the Washington Union High School District. The 1932 yearbook for Washington Union High School was dedicated to James Logan and James Whipple.



James married Rebecca Kerr (born in Ireland in May, 1874 and emigrated to the United States in 1891). They had 12 children; Andrew K. (b. 1894), Annie (b. 1895), John M. (b. 1897), Jennie Ross (b. 1899), William Fyffe (b. 1902), Matilda "Tillie" Gilmore (b. 1904), May Rebecca (b. 1906), Alma E. (b. 1908), Clarabelle (b. 1911), James (b. 1913), Theodore (b. 1914) and Ralph Gordon (b. 1910). Andrew married the former Vivian Millington, Jane married Verne Gordon, May married Dr. Paul Elwood, Clarabell married Judge Allen Norris, William married Evelyn Mae Holbrook, Theodore married Estelle Mae Martenstein, Alma married Harold Alwin Searles, Annie never married.

Andrew Logan

Andrew K. Logan, son of James Logan, was born in 1894 and grew up in Alvarado. By 1927, Andrew was working as an agriculturist at the sugar beet factory in Alvarado. When his father died in 1931, Andrew, was appointed to finish his fathers' term as Trustee. Andrew would continue with the Washington Union School District until 1955. In 1942, the Air Raid Observation post was moved from Hall Station to the Alvarado sugar mill. Andrew Logan, Assistant Chief, was able to secure the use of the gatekeeper's office. Andrew also donated the wood for the stove in the office.

Andrew married Vivian (born about 1897) about 1921. They had 2 children; Vivian (born 1922), Sally Anne (born 1927). In 1952, Andrew's wife, Vivian, was killed when her car was struck by a train.

Katsusaburo Matsumoto

Katsusaburo was born February 9, 1865 in Japan. Once Katsusaburo came to Alvarado, he worked in the salt industry. Katsusaburo ran a contractor business called Matsumoto & Co, contracting labor for the salt and sugar industries. In 1908, Matsumoto & Co. sponsored a celebration banquet for New Year's Day for the local Japanese. In 1917, Katsusaburo built a grocery store on Smith Street. Next to the store was a two-story boarding house, with the Japanese Association and pool room on the first floor. The boarding house burnt down in 1924. Newspaper reports show that the Matsumoto store faced attempted robbery in 1921 and 1922.

Katsusaburo married Fusa (born August 13, 1881), also from Japan. They had four children, Ben, Grace, Alice and Dorothy. Fusa passed away on February 16, 1948 and Katsusaburo joined her a few months later on November 1, 1948. The store was taken over by their son Ben and continued for many years until the family sold the business.

August May

August May was born on May 11, 1831 in Hessen, Prussia. He emigrated to New York when he was twenty years old. He came to California in July, 1852, via Cape Horn. He worked in San Francisco as a butcher, until he came to Alvarado on October 24, 1854. He joined in a partnership with A. Main, and worked as a butcher until 1874. During this time he was able to build up a farm of 1,600 acres.

August married Sophia Pratt on September 27, 1862. They had four children, George (born about 1862), August Jr. (born December 1866), Bertha (born about 1868), and Henry (born about 1871). August Jr. married Jenny Decoto. Henry married Clara Hawley. Bertha married Henry Haight Meyer, the well-known architect. August passed away in 1889 and is buried at the Mt. Eden Cemetery in Hayward. Sophie May passed away in 1930 at the age of 89 years.

August May Jr.

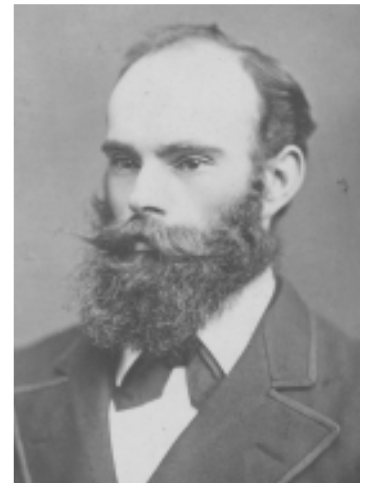
August May Jr., the second son of August May, was born in December, 1866 in Alvarado. August Jr. continued with his fathers butcher business. In 1903, August Jr. became a cashier at the Bank of Alvarado when the bank was founded. By 1912, August Jr. was the bank president. In 1914, August Jr. built a new home on Vallejo Street. On October 13, 1920, three armed masked men robbed the Bank of Alameda County (formerly the Bank of Alvarado) escaping with \$50,000, and shooting and seriously wounding, August Jr. August Jr. was able to recover from his wounds.

August Jr. married Jenny Decoto, and had one son, Henry. August Jr. passed away August 24, 1940 of a cerebral hemorrhage while staying at an Alameda hospital. Jenny May passed away March 4, 1954 at the home on Vallejo Street.

James McKeown

James McKeown was born in 1835 in Ireland. He came to Alvarado in 1863 to join his brother Joseph. He was the owner of the McKeown Ranch, an 150 acre ranch located on the road to Newark, near the corner of Marsh Road (Union City Blvd) and McKeown Road (Lowry Road).

James married Annie McKay (born about 1850) a native of Canada. They had five children, Elizabeth (born May 1882), Joseph (born May 1882), Alex W. (born August 1885), Nancy (born November 1886), and Flora (born 1892). James was a director for the First Presbyterian Church of Alvarado. In 1909, James went to London to have surgery on his eyes. His daughter Nancy accompanied him. Annie passed away February 1929 at the age of 79.



Joseph McKeown

Joseph McKeown was born in 1830 in Ireland. He came to Alvarado in 1855 and opened a carriage shop and blacksmith works. In 1863, he was appointed as 2nd Lieutenant of the Alvarado Guards. He was a founding member of the Crusade Lodge #93 of the International Order of Odd Fellows and was active in the organization for many years. In 1876, he was Clerk of the Alvarado School District and a state assemblyman in 1889. He passed away February 7, 1897.



Charles Nauert

Charles Nauert was born November 9, 1841 in Buffalo, New York. Charles arrived in Alvarado about the time that the foundry opened. The Nauerts home was on Smith Street, right



Oscarna Nauert

next to the Odd Fellows Hall and the Alvarado Hotel. The area of the home and the Odd Fellows Hall is currently an empty lot, unused since the buildings were demolished in the late 1960's. In 1870, Charles became the Superintendent of the George Tay & Co Foundry, housed in the Horner warehouse buildings at Union City Landing. In 1876, Charles was appointed Alvarado Poundmaster.

In 1898, the Nauert home was one of the first in Alvarado to have natural gas installed. Charles and his family were active in a number of social organizations and the general Alvarado social scene.



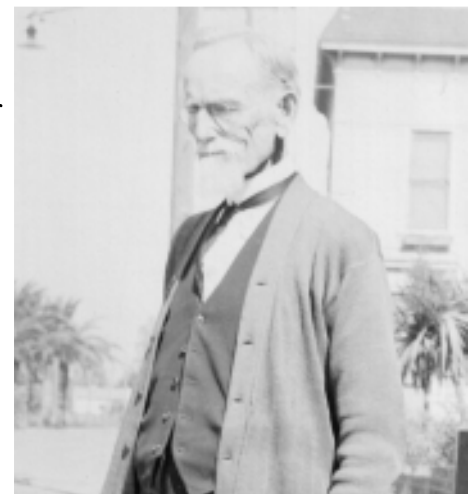
August Nauert

Charles married Hattie Heyer (born about 1855). They had 5 children, Mildred H. (Millie) (born March 28, 1876), August B. (Gus) (born August 28, 1878), Katheryn Alva (Dot) (born October 13, 1881), Oscarna B. (Ossie) (born June 18, 1884), and Henry P. (born February 15, 1891). Mildred did not marry and stayed in the family home. Gus was employed by Pacific Steel & Wire. Oscarna married Harry D. Heitmuller in the family home. When Henry passed away in 1948, she moved back to the family home. On August 9, 1908, Hattie passed away at the age of 53. Sometime after 1931, the year of his 90th birthday, Charles passed away.

Albert Norris

Albert Norris as born in Farmington, Iowa, on February 25, 1851. His family came to California in 1853 and settled near Placerville. Albert went to San Francisco and attended Heald's Business College, and later worked in the book department of A. Roman and Company. Albert spent some time in the grocery business, then moved to Chico and was a book keeper for the Sierra Flume and Lumber Company. He moved to Pleasant Valley and taught school for eight years. He moved to Colfax and served as principal for their school. In 1898, Albert came to Alvarado and was the principal of the Alvarado Grammar School for ten years. He had to quit the position due to ill health. In 1910, the Alvarado Library was founded and hosted in the IOOF Hall with the IOOF Library, and Albert was appointed librarian. In 1915, he was appointed Postmaster for Alvarado and held that position until 1934.

The library moved to be joined with the Post Office and Albert stayed the librarian.



In 1875, Albert married Rosalie D. Colman in San Francisco. From this union, six children were born, Albert Martin (born January 4, 1876), William Henry (born March 21, 1881), Oliver P. (born July 1883), Lester (born April 1886), Joseph (Dec. 1889), and Alma Rose (born June 12, 1892). William attended University of California at Berkeley and earned a degree in Chemistry. In 1919, he was a chemist and superintendent of a sugar plantation near Santiago, Cuba.

John Ludwig Olson

John L. Olson was born about 1875. In 1891, he was working at the George Tay Foundry. In 1903, John and John Ralph purchased the general merchandise store of Mr. Young in Decoto at the corner of 10th and I streets. John Ralph would soon be on his own when he purchased a store in Alvarado.

Prior to purchasing the store, John Olson worked as a delivery clerk for Ellis Bros store. Also in 1903, John was appointed Postmaster for Decoto and held that position until 1936. In 1913, John was member of the Decoto Chamber of Commerce.

John married Mary Joyce (born about 1875) in June, 1901. In August, 1906, Mary passed away at the age of 33. John passed away on December 24, 1941. Both John and Mary are buried at the Holy Spirit Cemetery in Centerville (now Fremont).



Olson's Market - 1936

John A. Plummer

John A. Plummer was an early pioneer in the salt industry. Plummer came to California from Boston in 1849. In December, 1852, his wife, Elizabeth and two sons, John Allen Jr.(born June 3, 1839) and Charles Albert (born October 16, 1841), left Boston on the "Golden West" and arrived in San Francisco on April 13, 1853. John Plummer purchased salt ponds, near Newark, from John Johnson in 1864. John Plummer worked the salt ponds creating a profitable company. By placing wooden planks at the bottom of the salt ponds, Plummer was able to improve the purity of his salt, making it safe for human consumption. The beef and fish curing industry in San Francisco was the largest market for Plummer's salt. In 1869, Plummer purchased land from Lyman Beard and started the Turk Island Salt Works just south of Alvarado. John Jr. and Charles, when they came of age, got into salmon fishing on the Eel River. They later worked in San Francisco as a grain inspector for E. D. Headly. John then moved to Santa Clara to run a flour mill, then moved back to San Francisco to work for I. Friedlander as a grain inspector. In 1870, John Jr. joined his father at the Crystal Salt Works and the Alvarado Salt Works. In 1872, Charles joined his father and brother in the salt business.

On May, 3, 1868, John Jr. married Gertrude Blaney and they had two children, Crystal and Walter. Charles married on September 24, 1872 to Annie M. Miller, who was originally from New York. They did not have any children. Charles was active with the Alvarado Odd Fellows lodge becoming a Grand Noble. He was also a member of the Washington Township Pioneer Association. John Sr. passed away in 1883. Charles passed away September 18, 1907 and was buried in the Centerville Cemetery.

The Crystal and Alvarado Salt Works were run by the Plummer family until 1925, when the Crystal Salt Works was closed. The Alvarado Salt Works continued until 1927. The ponds from both salt works were purchased by other salt manufacturing companies.

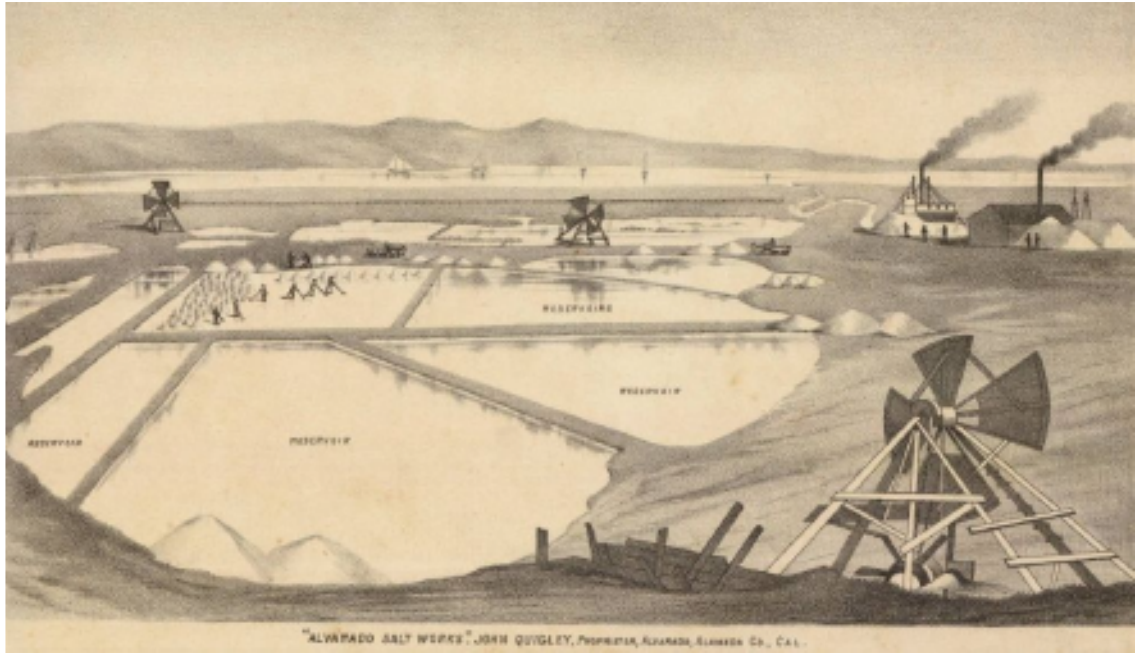
John Quigley

John Quigley came to California from Tipperary, Ireland, bringing his wife and children with him. He started his salt works in 1862, with land just south of the landings at Union City. John was married to Mary and had four children, Thomas (born about 1836), John Jr. (born May 1840), Sarah and Kate. John passed away on April 6, 1879 at the age of 69 years. His wife passed away on November 17, 1884 at the

age of 75 years.

Both John and Mary are buried at Mission San Jose. John Jr. continued in the salt business.

He passed away on March 15, 1919 at the age of 81, and left his estate to his two sisters, Kate Sinclair and Sarah Nicherson.



Joseph Ralph

Joseph Ralph, born in New Jersey in 1819, came to California in 1852, arriving in San Francisco in August. He came to Union City and opened a hotel, which he ran for two years. He lived in the first home built in Union City. He purchased a hundred acre ranch near Alvarado. Joseph married Fanetta Horner, in New Jersey in 1842. John had six children; John H. (born about 1842), William Taylor (born about 1848), Ivens (born about 1854), George C. (born about 1856), Sarah Ann (born about 1846), and Althea (born about 1849).

Ivens V. Ralph

Ivens Verent Ralph born about 1854 in Alvarado. He was in the mercantile business in Alvarado with partner F. C. Harvey (as Ralph and Harvey). Ivens was an Alvarado Grammar School Trustee in 1898.

He was postmaster from 1899 to 1903. Ivens was the founder and President of the Bank of Alvarado in 1902. He was active in the Masons, receiving his thirty-second degree in 1901, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen (AOUW). Sometime around 1903, Ivens sold his businesses and moved to Oakland. Iven married Alice A. Blacow. They had four children; Joseph Carlton (born June 9, 1883), Ivy Belle (born October 1884), Edna (born November 1885), and Robert Melvin (born August 24, 1887). Ivens passed away August, 1922.

John H. Ralph

John was born December 7, 1875 in Alvarado. His father, John H. was a farmer and the son of Joseph Ralph. He worked in the mercantile business for a number of years. In 1903, he purchased a market in Decoto with John L. Olson. In 1905, he purchased a mercantile business in Alvarado and went into business with John Scribner, as Ralph and Scribner. From 1911 to 1915, John was the Alvarado Post Master. In 1924, Scribner moved out of Alvarado, and John ran the business himself. In 1924, John was Chief of the Alvarado Fire Department and was still active in 1941. John closed his store on August 1950.



John married Laura Elizabeth Lowrie in June 1900. Laura passed away May 10, 1933. John married again, but there is no documentation on who he married. John passed away August 18, 1968.

Edwin A. Richmond

Edwin was born in Taunton, Massachusetts, on December 16, 1837. In 1860, he departed New York and, after a voyage of one hundred and ninety days, landed in San Francisco on May 2, 1860. Edwin worked in a number of places, including Virginia City, Nevada, San Francisco, Contra Costa County, and Sacramento. He finally settled in Alvarado and was appointed Postmaster in 1877 and held that position until 1899. He was re-appointed to the post in 1903 and resigned in 1911. Edwin served as Justice of the Peace for Washington Township for 26 years.

Edwin married Elizabeth Brook, born in March 1853 in England, on July 3, 1872. Their children were William Brook (born April 11, 1871), Edwin A. Jr (Feb. 22, 1876), Allen B., Ralph V. (born about 1881), Joseph Allen (born Apr. 17, 1879), Harvey H. (born about 1884), Robert Emery (born Jan. 12, 1886), and Everett Gleason (born Jan. 29, 1891).

Ralph Richmond attended Alvarado Grammar and then Union High School #3 in Hayward. In 1905, he took a position with J. L. Olson of Decoto, working in his market. By 1915, Ralph was a Justice of the Peace for Washington Township. By 1936, Ralph was a County Supervisor for Alameda County, representing Washington Township. Edwin A. Richmond became the General Manager of Alameda County Water District, leaving them in 1953.

Francis Robie

Francis (Kelly) Robie was born April 7, 1867. She married Walter Starr Robie. Francis was a trustee of the Alvarado School Board for 32 years from 1912 to 1944. In 1942, she was the only women school board trustee in Alameda County that had served for more than 25 years. She was also President of the Country Club of Washington Township in 1929. In 1932, she was a voting inspector for the polling place at the Odd Fellows Hall.

Francis had two children, William Russel (born April 1, 1892) and daughter, Evangeline. William Russel married Alice Young. Evangeline married Fred Muller. Frances passed away on November 11, 1957.



Antone Santos

Antone Santos was born on October 10, 1889, in Lisbon, Portugal. He arrived in Alvarado in 1908.

Antone worked at Leslie Salt in Hayward, where he met his wife, Mae. In 1917, Antone was drafted for WWI into the California National Guard, where he served for 3 years. Antone and his wife ran a couple of businesses in Alvarado, including a pool hall and an ice cream parlor. In 1927, Antone built the U-Auto Stop Service Station at the corner of Horner and Vallejo Streets. When it opened, the service station sold gasoline from Shell Oil, General, and Richfield. In 1928, the service station was the first to move exclusively to Shell Oil. The original service station was demolished in 1961, and a new station was built. The business ran until 1978. The service station was demolished on February 24, 2003. Antone built the Silver Dollar Cafe next to the Service station. When the Alvarado Grammar School was rebuilt

in 1925, Antone salvaged the original flag pole and used it at the service station. In 2006, the flag pole was moved to the Union City Historical Museum to be preserved. Mae was active in the local PTA, St. Anne's Catholic Church, the Alvarado S.P.R.S.I., and the White Elephant house, a thrifty store for St. Anne's Church.

Antone married Mae Davilla (born October 20, 1903). They had two daughters, Alvina Elizabeth (born November 11, 1920) and Winifred. Alvina married Antonio Brune and Winifred married William Harper. Antone passed away September 11, 1959. Mae passed away February 2, 2003.

John M. Scribner

John M. Scribner was born September 28, 1871 in Alvarado. He was the son of Joel Scribner (born about 1831) and Iradora Shipman (born June 1845). He had three older sisters, Alice (born about 1863), Ethel (born about 1868), and Louise (born about 1870). Sometime after 1870, his father Joel passed away and Iradora married John Joyce. In 1897, John was working at the George Tay & Co. Foundry. In March 1901, John smashed his third finger badly, but was happy that it was not his whole hand. In 1905, John went into the merchandise business with John Ralph, as Ralph and Scribner. The building was located on Levee Street (now Union City Blvd) next to the Hotel Chanteclar. In 1924, John was president of the Board for the Alvarado School District. Later that same year, John moved his family to Livermore.

John married Nellie Beebe in January 1897. They had three children, John Moultrie (born August 17, 1904), Mavis Rhodotta (born May 29, 1901) and Dean (born about 1898). Dean died in 1902 and is buried in the Centerville Cemetery. On August 28, 1949, John passed away at the age of 77 and he is also buried in the Centerville Cemetery.

Henry C. Smith

Henry C. Smith was the founder of New Haven, which would later become known as Alvarado. Born in Fort Defiance, Ohio, on October 25, 1824. He was the son of Maj. Timothy S. Smith. In 1826, his family moved to St. Joseph, Michigan. On August 12, 1845, he left Fort Independence, Missouri. On Christmas Day, 1845, he arrived in Sacramento. During the Bear Flag Revolt, Henry signed up with the Americans and served under General Fremont. He served in the Army until the Mexican-American War was over.

He was appointed Alcalde of Mission San Jose by General Riley, Military Governor of California. He also owned a store at Mission San Jose. In 1852, he was elected to the California Legislature from Santa Clara County (Mission San Jose was part of Santa Clara County at that time). Henry Smith sold the store and built two warehouses at the landing at Union City, a new town built by John Horner.

Henry Smith laid out a town just to the east of Union City and called it New Haven. It was laid out close to the elbow in Alameda Creek. The location is roughly the corner of Smith Street and Union City Blvd. In 1853, he helped with the formation of Alameda County out of parts of Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties, with New Haven as the county seat. The county seat was in the second story of Henry Smith's store, where he was given \$200 a year for its use. He was elected County Supervisor for Washington Township in March 1855. In 1859, he ran for County Clerk on the Democratic ticket, but lost to Joseph Mason. He left for Nevada, in 1861 and returned to Washington Township in the summer of 1864. In 1867, he moved to Livermore.



Henry married Mary A., a native of Iowa, born about 1828. They had four children, Julia A. (born about 1848), Emma C. (born about 1850), Franklin P. (born about 1852), and Charles F. (born about 1854). All

of the children were born in California. Henry passed away on November 24, 1875 at the age of 51.

The house in which Henry Smith lived sat at the northern end of Vallejo Street. Built in 1852, the house was a one and a half story wood frame building with rustic siding on front and bevel siding elsewhere. The center element has two stories with the second story partly on roof with gable and having ornamented band-sawn large board and sun burst in apex. The porch is supported by ornamented wood posts with a gable with sun burst over the center bay. It was part of the HABS survey of 1940. At some point the home was owned by the Schmidt family. By September 1961 the building was destroyed.

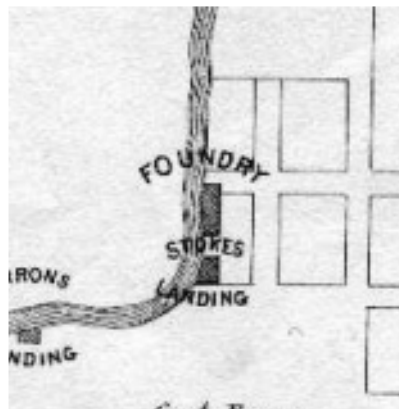


Henry Smith House at end of Vallejo St.

James Johnstone Stokes

James J. Stokes was born in Gloucestershire, England on October 7, 1816. He emigrated to the United States in 1829 and came to California in May 1849. Like others in that year, he headed for the gold mines, ending up in Auburn, where he stayed for 18 months. In 1851, he went to Oregon for a year then returned to California and was engaged in a number of jobs around the state. In 1859, James came to Union City and was engaged in merchandising. He soon moved to Alvarado and bought a store. The earthquake on the Hayward fault in 1868 caused damage to the stock in the store. In 1876, that store burned down, so he built a new one adjacent to it. In the later part of his life, James moved to Berkeley, where he passed away in 1896.

In 1854, he married Mary S. Hart, and had ten children, Franklin R., James J., Henry H., Philip A., Edward A., Harold L., Walter S., Guy H., Mary E. and Tomas. All of the children were born in California.





John Cleveland Whipple

John Cleveland Whipple was born January 25, 1820 in Duanesburg, New York, the son of Samuel and Phoebe Whipple. John came to California via overland route of the Isthmus of Panama, arriving in San Francisco on February 5, 1853. He worked in San Francisco for 5 years, then started farming near Point Richmond. In 1863, John purchased 200 acres of land near Decoto. Eventually he added acres to his land increasing it to 427 acres. He grew mostly grain, but he did have a 27 acre orchard. John was a confirmed bachelor and never married. John passed away on August 21, 1905.

Edwin Whipple

Edwin was born December 29, 1842 in Pennsylvania. Edwin arrived in Alvarado in 1878 to join his brothers John and William in farming their large acreage. Edwin served as a trustee of the Masonic Home in Decoto. He also served as a trustee of the Decoto School Board.

Edwin married Emily C. Fisher on November 10, 1879. They had nine children; Zady (born June 4, 1881), Izobel (born November 9, 1882), Edwin Marsh (born January 12, 1885), Arthur (born January 8, 1887), Doris (born August 23, 1889), Theodore (born April 4, 1892), Homer Louis (born February 5, 1895), Annis Cleveland (February 18, 1898) and Mary Pauline (born March 22, 1901). Edwin passed away on June 5, 1929.