

# CHAPTER 04

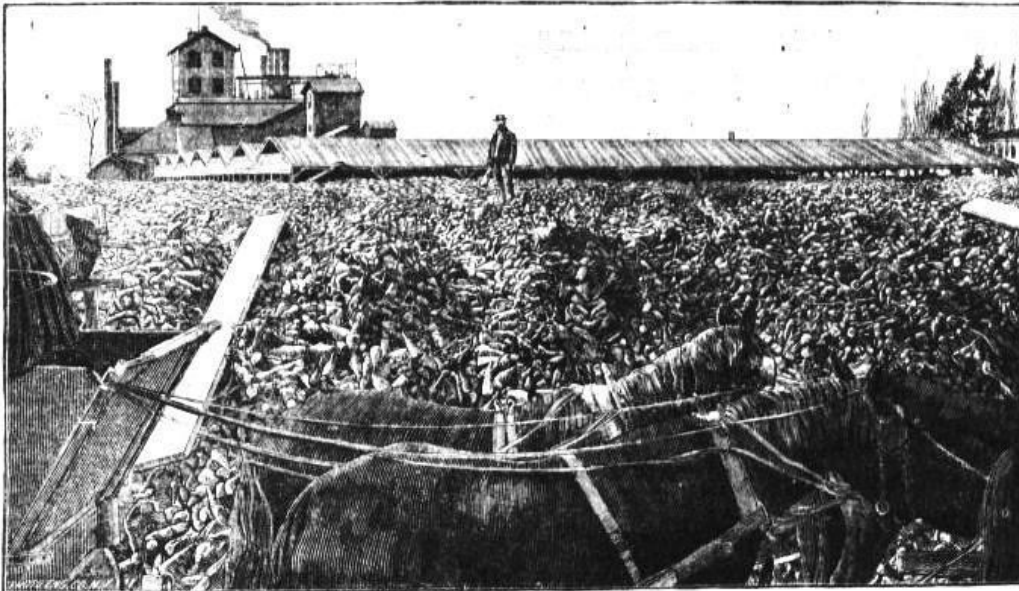
## 1880 - 1889

<u>Category Heading:</u>	<u>Page</u>
Commerce	1
Bios of Notable Citizens	15
Notable Chinese Citizens	28
Alvarado Grammar School	32
Water	33
Baseball	37
Floods	38
Anti-Chinese Sentiment	38
Social, Civic, & Religious Orgs	42
Memorable Events	47

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **COMMERCE** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

*Sugar Mill / Foundry / Hotels / Ducks / Oyster Beds*

### **SUGAR MILL:**



Twenty Thousand Tons of Sugar Beets at the Factory in Alvarado California.

At the beginning of 1880 there were but three beet sugar factories in the U.S. One was at Isleton in Sacramento County, which was idle. Another was at Soquel, in Santa Cruz County, but 1880 would be its last year of operation. The third factory was at Alvarado, and its future was not any brighter than the other two (this according to the *Decatur Daily Review* in Illinois).



**A sluiceway to carry beets to the factory in Alvarado, Calif.**

The Alvarado mill (The Standard Sugar Refinery) reopened in 1879 after five years of inactivity. After the beginning of 1880, the mill was finishing the local beets from 1879, and some work was done on the syrup, which was brought from the old Sacramento Sugar Company along with the machinery one year prior. When the mill stopped processing there was 300 barrels of syrup waiting for the close of the season. But the mill decided not to process this leftover syrup, and the whole lot was sold to the Pacific Distillery for making into alcohol.

*The Grocer*, a San Francisco newspaper, makes an interesting statement concerning the production of beet sugar in California in 1880. This table shows the three mills in California output of refined sugar:

<b>January 1881</b>		
	<b>lbs.</b>	<b>lbs.</b>
<b>Standard Sugar Refinery Alvarado Stock on Hand January 1880</b>		<b>219,120</b>
<b>Standard Sugar Refinery Alvarado product, 1880</b>	<b>1,574,233</b>	
<b>Isleton Factory product 1880</b>	<b>298,427</b>	
<b>Soquel Factory (estimate) 1880</b>	<b>300,000</b>	
<b>Processed Beets 1880:</b>		<b>2,172,660</b>
<b>Beet Sugar for Distribution</b>		<b>2,391,780</b>

The figures above were official, with the exception of those relating to the production of the Soquel factory, which was estimated by an agent of the company. The only beet sugar mill now in operation in the U.S. is the Standard Sugar Refinery at Alvarado, but this one has already made a good record, and has a bright prospect for the future.

The Alvarado sugar mill had an average season in 1881, and a fair supply of beets at a moderate price made for a profitable year. But a problem with the longevity of the harvested beets kept the Alvarado mill from enjoying an even better year. The quality of the beets was good, and the only drawback appeared to be in the difficulty of keeping the beets for a sufficiently long winter campaign. If the beets are placed in silos, as is the general custom in Europe, they will heat and sprout in a short time, and if it is placed within easy reach of the factory, they are apt to suffer from frost at night and warm sunshine during the following day. This prevents the season to be carried into the spring, as it would be most desirable to ensure financial success. But at the end of the 1881 campaign, California laid claim to the distinction of having a beet sugar mill that had a sugar mill running for three years in succession (1879 - 1881). Three consecutive years is a long life for a beet sugar enterprise in the United States.



**Receiving Beets at Alvarado**

Showing the outside of the shed and pile containing several thousand tons of beets. Observe the long line of teams ready to discharge their load of beets.

The Alvarado Sugar Mill showed a net profit of almost \$45,000 for the first three years of operation. This successful performance was tempered by a boiler explosion on the morning of September 27, 1881, which caused a delay in processing and \$3,200 in damage.

Reportedly, the accident was the result of the carelessness of the fireman on duty, George Smith, who allowed the water in the boiler to settle too low, and then turned a supply of cold water into the heated boiler. Instantly the boiler exploded, and the unfortunate Smith was thrown through the building several feet distant. When found

by his fellow-workmen he was endeavoring to crawl away on his hands and knees to a place of safety. He was fearfully scalded, and he died at four o'clock the same afternoon. The force of the explosion completely demolished the boiler-house, and the main building took fire, but it was subsequently extinguished. Work at the mill was suspended until the repairs could be made.

At the end of the 1883 campaign, the Alvarado Sugar refinery declared a 10 percent stock dividend. They had worked up 7,150 tons of beets during the season of three months. They claimed to be able to make sugar at one cent a pound less than the cost of cane sugar imported from the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii).

All of the beet sugar made in the United States during the season 1883-1884 was manufactured at Alvarado, Cal. Beet sugar manufacturing had been attempted in Illinois, Wisconsin, California, Delaware, Massachusetts and Maine. In all of these states, those who had embarked in the business had been overtaken by financial failure. In Sacramento County, and other portions of California, hundreds of thousands of dollars were sunk into the beet sugar business. These failures were entirely owing to the processes employed, and not to the industry itself. The beet sugar factory in Alvarado was the only one in operation in the United States.



A scene of plowing, pulling, and loading sugar beets at Alvarado taken from the front gates of the sugar mill looking southeast towards Mission Peak. In the background is the three story home of Eph Dyer, later to be the home of the Cheng family after WWII. The home stood on Alvarado-Niles Road, and today is the site of the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the I-880 cloverleaf.

*The Wellsboro Agitator*, Wellsboro PA wrote an interesting article on the success of the factory at Alvarado, California in 1885. The article cited that the Alvarado sugar mill made 1,000 tons of refined beet sugar this season. This was said to be four times greater than the total sorghum-sugar product in the United States. The Alvarado factory had been in production for six years and its profits were computed at \$104,000 on an investment of \$125,000. The growers got \$4.50 a ton for beets, and the yield was said to average twenty ton to the acre. The factory paid out about \$20,000 a year for beets. But the mill's success was shown in a different perspective when compared to the beet sugar success of Europe. It shows that the mill at Alvarado was the only plant in the U.S. refining beet sugar, and as the table below



points out, our production as a nation was pitiful when compared to the output of the rest of the world.

<b>Beet Sugar Produced 1885 (tons)</b>	
<b>Germany</b>	<b>1,155,000</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>557,000</b>
<b>Russia</b>	<b>380,000</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>325,000</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>90,000</b>
<b>Holland</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>United States*</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>*All the beet sugar in the U.S. was manufactured at Alvarado, California</b>	

In 1886 a new company was proposed to make extensive additions to the present capacity of the factory, which at the time was only 80 tons of beets a day. It was proposed to erect a frame factory, covered with corrugated iron for cheapness of construction and to secure low insurance. Its capacity would be 200 tons of beets per day, which would yield 20 tons of refined white sugar daily. The season would last 150 days, making a total of 3,000 tons, or 6,000,000 pounds.

The 1886 campaign started in August and was fed by about 1,500 acres of beets. Extensive additions that were made greatly improved the capacity of the mill. The 1886 campaign went along smoothly until January 30, 1887.

Then, according to the *Sacramento Union*, a tremendous blast took place at the Alvarado Sugar Mill. The article follows:

Wreck of the Alvarado Beet Works – Engineer injured.

"Yesterday morning, January 30, 1887 at 2:30 o'clock, a terrific explosion occurred at the works of the Standard Sugar Refinery at Alvarado, completely demolishing the boiler house and wrecking the surrounding buildings. The steam for the refinery is supplied by seven fifty-inch Buckeye tubular boilers, fifteen feet long, set in three pairs and one singly.

At the commencement of the year's run they had been overhauled and tested by expert James Hamilton, of the Union Iron Works San Francisco. It was the left boiler of the middle pair, which exploded, damaging the other six, as they cannot be used without extensive repairs.

The factory had just finished grinding the last beets at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and would have completed all work by Monday next. The refinery was still full of semi-refined juice and sugar, which would be impossible to save.

The scene of the disaster was one of wreck and ruin. Where a house 50 by 80 feet once stood, there was now but a pile of kindling wood.

At the time of the explosion the fireman (engineer), Gabriel Dennis, was alone in the boiler room. He stated that he was carrying the usual amount of steam, sixty-five pounds. The water was foaming badly, making it hard to tell

just how much water there was in the boilers. He was standing near the exploded boiler, when he suddenly felt himself lifted in the air and thrown on his face to the ground. Assistant Engineer Blood quickly rescued the wounded man from the flames, which were then raging fiercely.

The boiler, which had burst had been in use at the works of the Sacramento Sugar Refining Company, and at the time this factory started was taken out and placed in position there."

Gabriel Dennis, the engineer who was injured in the boiler explosion at the sugar refinery at Alvarado on January 30th, died on the morning of February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00.

Two months later the sugar mill announced that it would not have an 1887 beet sugar campaign. The accident damaged them several thousand dollars, but it could have been repaired in three or four weeks. The mill offered no reason for the shut down. This was quite a serious loss to those raising beets for the mill, as a large number of farmers depended a good deal on this business throughout the valley.

On June 20th, 1887 the Pacific Coast Sugar Co. was incorporated. The trouble in the old establishment was settled by legal methods, and Mr. Dyer became owner of the old plant at a valuation of \$125,000. He then organized a new company, which he incorporated under the name of the Pacific Coast Sugar Company.

The company then announced that the company will begin the construction of a new mill, on which \$75,000 would be spent, leaving a working capital of \$50,000. The mill would be ready for work for the season commencing in August 1888. The new mill would be much more scientifically constructed than the old, which was built up from time to time as additions were needed, and was consequently in great measure a patchwork affair. The most improved European and American machinery was to be used, but it would all, or nearly all, be made on this coast, by the Union Iron Works of San Francisco.

Work continued on the new sugar mill at Alvarado, but management was not idle at this time. News had come out that the sugar mill had put out feelers to the east in Murray County (Pleasanton & Livermore), and the San Joaquin Valley (Modesto). With a new mill coming on line next year, and with the added capacity, the sugar mill would have to insure that there were enough beets in the ground to sustain the new mill. Prospects had also brightened because the new railroad passed right by the new mill.

The year 1887 was almost devoid of the production of beet sugar in the U.S. with the destruction of the Standard Sugar Refinery at Alvarado. Still there was optimism at the Alvarado plant for when they complete the new mill, they expected to turn out 6,500,000 pounds of white refined sugar in a campaign of 160 days. The company had already made plans for the commencement of the 1888 season, which they expected to open in August.

Besides the Alvarado plant there was now, in the course of construction, another factory of about the same capacity at Watsonville (Claus Spreckel's, Great Western Sugar Co.), which was expected to begin operation this coming fall.

The 1888 sugar beet crop for the Alvarado sugar mill was a complete failure due to the lack of rain. January of 1889 brought more bad news when the Spring Valley

Water Company brought a lawsuit against the Pacific Coast Sugar Company to acquire and hold, the right to take, appropriate, and divert the waters of the Alameda Creek for the company's use for its San Francisco patrons. The sugar mill was owner of seventy-three acres, and this land had a frontage of 980 feet on Alameda Creek.



ALVARADO, PACIFIC COAST SUGAR CO.

Built 1889 by E. H. Dyer & Co.

At the end of March 1889, the sale of the Pacific Coast Sugar Company was announced. On February 20, the newspapers gave notice to the incorporation of the Alameda Sugar Company, which was organized to deal in and manufacture sugar. The new plant, headed by E.C. Burr, had purchased the Alvarado beet factory. It was the intention of the Alameda Sugar Co. to try and operate the factory as a more profitable business. Mr. Burr had recently occupied the position of superintendent of the American Sugar Refinery.

The new Alameda Sugar Co. geared up for the 1889 sugar beet campaign by adding new equipment. They employed about 55 men, who would operate in two shifts on the consumption of 200 tons of beets daily, as against 80 men with a consumption of 90 tons daily last season. They expended \$20,000 to \$30,000 on improvements, and the plant was put in first-class condition. It was calculated that the works could be operated upon a larger scale to greater profit, and probably the plant would be enlarged in another year.

The 1889 campaign brought in all the beets just before a large storm hit. By early December the plant was still running at full steam, and by Christmas all the beets were done. While the crop was below the average in quantity, the yield in sugar was

large and the season's run highly satisfactory. The buildings were to be enlarged next year and the capacity of the works doubled.

## **FOUNDRY:**

### **Geo. Tay & Co.:**

#### **Charles R. Nauert, Superintendent:**

The foundry ran throughout the 1880's. However there were periods of time when the plant shut down due to lack of work. Such periods occurred in 1881, and again in February 1889, when the town of Alvarado seemed almost deserted owing to the number of people out of work.

In February 1884 a strike was called for by the molders at Geo. Tay & Co. The strike was brought on by a 15% cut in pay to molders by the management. Advertisements for molders during the strike period brought forth many applicants. But the strikebreakers were met at the train station each morning by their brother molders from the Tay Co. in the hopes of discouraging the new applicants from taking their jobs.

## **HOTELS:**

### *Riverside Hotel / Alvarado Hotel*

When 1870 began, Alvarado had two hotels; the Brooklyn House Hotel, located on the corner of Smith and Levee Street, which was built in the early 1850's. The other hotel was the American Exchange Hotel, although I have no exact knowledge of its location or when it was built, I strongly suspect that it was located on the NE corner of Levee and Horner Street. The American Exchange Hotel burned to the ground in 1876, and the Brooklyn House Hotel burned down in 1877. For almost two years there was not a hotel located in Alvarado until Farley B Granger Sr., built his Riverside Hotel, near the South Pacific Coast Railroad Depot, on New Haven Street. The grand opening of the hotel was held on December 24, 1878.

### **Riverside Hotel:**



The Riverside Hotel after turn of the century, from the *Union City Patch*, Timothy Swenson.



The Riverside Hotel had been opened for a little over one year when the new decade of 1880 began. Farley B. Granger Sr. did not sit on his laurels, but kept building up his hotel and the adjacent grounds. In February 1880, F.B. Granger and son purchased all of the picnic fixtures at the Dry Creek Picnic grounds in Decoto. The fixtures were then moved to Mr. Granger's premises at the Riverside Hotel in Alvarado. Mr. Granger would make a picnic grounds at his hotel for parties and company picnics. Mr. Granger also included a trout pond with 1,200 fish.

Farley Granger kept busy fixing up the grounds of his Riverside Hotel, and in March 1880 this description was given of his hotel:

"The hotel is 50' by 60' with two stories and a basement. The hotel contains a large parlor, private and public dining rooms, a saloon, and servant's quarters, which take up the ground floor. Upstairs are five suites, a bridal suite, and 15 single rooms, all nicely furnished with hot or cold baths. The culinary department is under the charge of Mrs. Granger. There is a large farm attached to the hotel, and the table is first class! Pure water comes from an artesian well, which supplies the hotel and grounds.

Mr. Granger is in the midst of planting 15-acres of trees, consisting of many different varieties, planted so closely together as to form an almost impenetrable shade. The grove of trees will also offer a pavilion for entertainments, and a dance floor. The pavilion and dance were formerly housed at the Dry Creek Picnic Grounds in Decoto. Mr. Granger has also laid walks and arbors, erected swings, etc., in the piece of woods near his hotel.

There is also ample lumber on hand for picnic tables and benches. Connected with the picnic grounds will be a shooting range, as an inducement to military companies. Nearby is the Alameda Creek, where guests can relax on the bank beneath shady trees and enjoy fishing, reading, bathing, or boating."

Members of the Republican Party from San Francisco, Oakland, Alameda, and other Alameda County cities came by the train to the depot at Alvarado in October 1880. Over eight hundred congregated at the train depot in Alvarado and led a torch-light parade through the streets of the town, and then met back near the train depot at the Riverside Hotel.

The crowd gathered at the Riverside Grove, the beautiful thickly wooded spot near the Riverside Hotel, where a platform had been erected, tables arranged with regulation tin cups and plates, and the pavilion handsomely decorated.

The throng crowded to the seats, and the scene was one of brightness and cheer. The brilliant hues of the uniformed men, the waving of banners, swaying of lanterns, and the cheers rising from the loyal throats of the thronging multitude created an intense enthusiasm that took some time to control. Garfield and Arthur, the Republican candidates received prolonged cheers when their names were mentioned to the crowd.

W.F. Ingalls called the session to order and said, "The Garfield and Arthur Club of Washington Township bids you a hearty welcome to this beautiful grove, and to the town of Alvarado, and the township of Washington. We are here to add to the organized effort for the benefit of the Republican Party and Republican principles."

The meeting went through several more speakers, loud cheering, and support for their candidates.

There was a barbeque to be held at Alvarado on October 18, 1884. The planning for this major event was held at a meeting held in the Riverside Hotel in Alvarado. The committee to plan for the barbeque was comprised of Farley B. Granger Sr., Farley B. Granger Jr., William T. Ralph, M.B. Sturgis (Centerville), Samuel Poorman, Joseph Rogers, Ebenezer Dyer, Weston F. Emery, Tony Lee, John C. Whipple, and John Quigley.

The Republican barbecue was held at Alvarado on October 18, 1884, on the grounds of the Riverside Hotel. By two o'clock more than 4,000 people were jammed into Alvarado. The roads were absolutely blocked by all types of vehicles. There were two bands to entertain the throng. Harry Meek of San Lorenzo drove up in his ten-horse team. A large delegation from Haywards and Mt. Eden arrived to add even more people to the crowd.

But I said this was a barbecue! An ox weighing 1,000 pounds had been fixed on a long iron bar, and hung over a trench filled with charcoal. It had been slowly roasting for almost 24-hours, a walled structure was built alongside the ox to retain the heat. Men turned the spit as needed, and the result was as tender and juicy beef as one could desire. Besides the ox several quarters of beef were barbecued along with the ox.

But people cannot subsist on beef alone! They had cut up and roasted fifteen sheep and six hogs, they had baked a thousand loaves of bread, and when the people started coming in, 180 gallons of fresh coffee was started. There was fresh fruit also available. Several women were on hand to carve the meat and serve sandwiches. When the dinner bell rang there were 5,000 people on hand to enjoy the feast.

But after the grand Republican barbeque was held in October 1884, reality returned to Alvarado and the Riverside Hotel in December 1884. The rains of December had so swollen the Alameda Creek that it overflowed its banks and flooded the surrounding countryside. The Riverside Hotel was accessible only by a bridge built from the train depot. A gentleman who attempted to drive from the hotel to some point in the neighborhood had to turn back after proceeding 100 yards, the water reaching the wagon bed. The flood was almost unprecedented in height, and it was estimated that four square miles are under water, the depth ranging from one to six feet.

In January 1887 the *Oakland Tribune* came calling to the town of Alvarado and had the following splendid things to say about the Riverside Hotel:

"The Riverside Hotel at Alvarado, F.B. Granger and Son proprietors, is pleasantly situated on the South Pacific Coast Rail Road, only one hour from San Francisco, and contains about twenty-five sleeping rooms, all large and airy. An artesian well supplies the purest water, and also forms trout and carp ponds. Adjoining the hotel is a beautiful grove of about five acres, where picnics and parties are held throughout the season. The Alameda Creek runs within 100 yards of the hotel and affords fine boating and fishing. A good stable is connected with the hotel, where horses, buggies, and stages can be had at reasonable prices. The Granger's also have wood, coal, and lumber yards at the depot."

## Alvarado Hotel:

The 1870's saw both of Alvarado's hotels burn to the ground. One was replaced by the Riverside Hotel, built by the Farley Granger and Son near the Southern Pacific Coast Rail Road. As we entered 1880, Alvarado had only one hotel, the Riverside.

William M. Liston had lost his Brooklyn House Hotel on September 18, 1877, due to a fire started by an arsonist as retribution of Mr. Liston's continued dealings with Chinese nationalists on property Mr. Liston owned on Smith Street.

In 1881, William Liston began building a new hotel on the very spot where his Brooklyn House Hotel had burned in 1877 Then on October 3, 1881, the Alvarado Hotel was opened by William M. Liston.

On July 1, 1885 William K. Liston passed away and was buried at the Mt. Eden Cemetery. His wife Catherine joined him on May 4, 1898. Sometime after the death of William Liston the hotel fell into the hands of John and Peter Henningsen, who had been prominent in Mt. Eden and Hayward. In August 1890 the Henningsen's applied for, and received, a liquor license for their Alvarado Hotel. In March 1891, the Henningsen brothers sold the Alvarado Hotel to the Alsing brothers of San Rafael.



The Alvarado Hotel as owned by the Henningsen brothers near the turn of the new century. Photo from the Washington Township Historical society.

In March 1896 the Henningsen brothers were again to operate the Alvarado Hotel. Upon their return they had the hotel raised, new windows installed, and the rooms were all refurnished. The hotel was put in a first rate condition. John Henningsen would operate the hotel.

In August 1896 the Henningsen brothers sold their Henningsen Lodging House and Saloon on the corner the corner of Castro and "B" Streets in Hayward. Peter Henningsen had been the operator of the lodging house.

In 1904 the Henningsen brothers received a liquor license in their names, the final notice of such an event. The next mention of the Henningsen's was in May 1909

when a newspaper article mentioned that John Henningsen, former operator of the Alvarado Hotel from Castro Valley was in town visiting friends.

## **DUCKS:**

*Ducks? Yes Ducks! / Alvarado Fair Maidens of the Marsh / Duck Hunter Shot / Using Dogs to Hunt Ducks / Market Hunters / Hunting from the Road*

## **Ducks? Yes ducks!**

Citizens from Mt. Eden to the Alviso sloughs in Santa Clara County enjoyed good duck hunting right out of their back doors. Within a mile of Alvarado was some of the best hunting in the East Bay, and the boys of Alvarado took part in duck hunting during the season. With the coming of the South Pacific Coast Railroad through Alvarado many people outside the area of Newark, Alvarado, and Mt. Eden rejoiced at being able to quickly get to Alvarado from Oakland and San Jose.

But Alvarado duck hunters would come to rue the coming of the railroad, for within a few years of its presence, came duck hunters from northern Alameda County and northern Santa Clara County. And these were not men with their JC Penny 12-gauge shot guns either. These were men of means, corporate executives, judges, lawyers, etc.

In the 1880's the area from Mt. Eden south to Newark became a duck-hunting haven. Prior to this, it had mostly been a local sport, but with the San Francisco to Oakland ferry, and the South Pacific Coast Rail Road coming through Alvarado, interest in duck hunting in our area grew. And it wasn't just the occasional hunter that came our way; it was the well-to-do businessman, politicians, and civil employees who banded together to build hunting lodges in leased ponds. Also to be found about Alvarado were the market duck hunters, that is, hunters who hunted for a livelihood, delivering their dressed catch to stores and restaurants around the Bay.

As the popularity of our area grew, more duck hunting clubs began to settle around the Alvarado area. Turk Island made some extra cash by leasing out their marsh land. After a number of decades it became difficult for the locals to find a spot to hunt that wasn't posted.

Duck hunting was not only a boon to the marsh owners but also to the hotels and restaurants of Alvarado who could count on extra money coming in on the weekends as the hunters headed for their lodges.

Early on, 1880, the Pelican Gun Club was formed to shoot on the Alvarado marshes. In 1884 the Pacific Life Gun Club of San Francisco leased the marshlands of Mr. C.A. Plummer of Alvarado. The members planted fifteen sacks of wheat to entice hungry ducks to their blinds, and their boats were always in use in the ponds. The club also hired a keeper to guard against poachers. In 1887 the Willow Lodge Preserve in Alvarado was added to the growing number of preserves owned by wealthy out-of-towners. By the end of the decade it was difficult to find a spot near Alvarado that was not posted as private reserves.

Throughout the 1880's monstrous bags of ducks were reported taken from the Alvarado area. With lax duck hunting regulations in effect at the time, some hunting ventures turned into a slaughter. Here are some examples:

Henry Marlin of San Lorenzo and a friend from San Francisco bagged 103 ducks at Alvarado in November 1881. They could have bagged a thousand, but they ran out of ammunition at the best time of the shooting. In December 1883 Henry Marlin and two companions killed 308 ducks in two days. Charles T. Boardman and Emil Nusbaumer (San Francisco) returned from a hunting trip to Alvarado in January 1888. They had bagged 126 ducks.

On the morning of January 7, 1882, the hunter's train left Oakland bound for the marshes of Southern Alameda County, aboard the South Pacific Coast Railroad in Oakland. Nearly two hundred duck hunters were aboard the train in four cars. The debarkation began at Alvarado, where many hunters got off of the train, a few debarked at Newark, but the majority of the hunters were bound for Drawbridge in the Coyote Slough area between Alameda and Santa Clara County.

### **Alvarado Fair Maidens of the Marsh:**

This is the story of the Alvarado Fair Maidens of the Marsh. The story tells of a solitary sportsman, roaming over the Alvarado marshes in February 1884 in pursuit of ducks, which were few and far between, when he saw an artesian well in the distance where he might slake his thirst.

When he reached the desired spot he saw two girls seated on the margin, dressed in a peculiar and striking costume. They wore tunics extended to the knees; long rubber boots, hunting coats and caps, and were provided with an excellent brace of breech loading shotguns. Beside them lay a pile of teal, widgeon and rail, ample testimony to their skill in the use of their weapons.

The hunter raised his hat, and, presuming on the fraternity of the sport, inquired if the ladies were having any good luck. They pointed triumphantly to their pile of birds, and then glanced sympathetically at their interrogator's flaccid game bag. Both were unusually pretty girls, their cheeks brown from exposure, showing that it was not their first excursion, and the hands with which they dabbed their heated faces were white and dimpled. They confess that the oddity of their costume made them shun the male hunter, though the sportsman confessed he had never believed that rubber boots could look so cunning.

Just then a bunch of teal came down the wind with lightning speed, and both girls squatted on the marsh in a moment. Along swept the birds, bang went both guns, and three birds fell to the ground. They picked them up and, with great generosity altogether unknown to the sportsman, offered him a brace of the birds, as he had the courtesy to allow them to do the shooting.

They explained how they came to be hunters. One was extremely delicate, and, after graduating from a well-known Seminary in Alameda County, was recommended outdoor exercise by her doctor as the only escape from consumption. Tired of objectless strolling, the girl, under the tutoring of her uncle, learned to shoot, converted a companion to the sport, and both are now passionately attached to hunting. They visit the best passes in Alameda County hunting snipe, quail and seldom return without generous bags.

### **Duck Hunter Shot:**



Of course where ever many men congregate over a specific object there are bound to be disputes. But when it involves guns it can get very dangerous. On December 30, 1884, John Sullivan shot and wounded William J. Keneally on the Alvarado marsh in a dispute over a duck. Keneally was only wounded and Sullivan was later acquitted the shooting being determined as accidental.

### **Using Dogs to Hunt Ducks:**

A number of hunters came to Alvarado on a novel duck hunt. John de Vault, Jr. brought with him about a dozen dogs. Instead of using guns, the hunters dispatch the dogs after the young mallard ducks that are said to be very plentiful now in the coverts of the marsh about Alvarado. The young birds, not being able to fly, fall easy prey to the canines. Previously Mr. Vault had bagged over two dozen fat young mallards in this way.

### **Market Hunters:**

Two market hunters (hunters who kill and sell the meat) who hunt at Alvarado had, for the sum of \$200 a year, leased from Mr. Poorman all his marsh west of Alvarado for gunning purposes in November 1887. These parties and the Pacific Life Gun Club now hold all the marsh available for duck hunting in that vicinity, and warning signs can be seen all along the boundaries. Sheriff Hale has, by request, appointed a special deputy to guard these preserves, of course, without any expense to the county.

### **Hunting from the Road:**

The enclosing of marshland around Alvarado into "preserves" is naturally rough on the hunters not in the combination. Two crack shots of Mt. Eden went gunning near that burg in December 1887. The ducks were flying thick. The nimrods occupied the county road so that the keeper could not arrest them. When the ducks sailed over them their guns did wonderful execution, and the keeper was nearly wild as he charged up and down the fence trying to capture any ducks that fell inside the enclosure. After getting a bag full they returned home, not forgetting to thank the keeper for his extreme kindness.

### **OYSTER BEDS:**

The discovery of oyster beds along the eastern shore of the Bay near Alvarado was reported in 1880. The bivalves were found by a sportsman from San Francisco, who said that there were millions of them there and that they were equal to the Eastern article. His discovery set off a flurry of activity as the newspapers believed that these were wild oysters.

It was later discovered that Swanberg & West, the San Francisco oyster company, had purchased a 160 acre Bay parcel at Alvarado, and had seeded the oyster beds. Swanberg & West, whose commercial location is at No. 107, Summer Street, San Francisco; is a wholesale canner and producer of oysters, which not only supplies San Francisco City and suburban trade, but they ship all over the Coast, and as far East as Salt Lake City, where they are supplanting the Eastern cannery. Swanberg was the pioneer canner of oysters in California, and had the best facilities on the west coast.

Mr. Swanberg, of Swanberg & West, oyster cannery of San Francisco, spoke of the poor quality of eastern canned oysters versus those of his company, which gets its

oyster from the Bay at Alvarado and Millbrae. Mr. Swanberg spoke of the pleasing acceptance of his company's "Deep Shell" and "Blue Point" canned oysters. He commented that several years ago the west coast was introduced to cheap canned oysters from the Atlantic coast. Those oysters canned from the east contained stale oysters, which suffered in flavor from being frozen and poorly packed.

In January 1883, Swanberg & West kept on hand the largest, and the fattest bi-valves, which they receive daily from their beds located at Millbrae, Alvarado, and Sausalito, and they keep fresh canned oysters on sale at 107 California Market.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*Barber / Bartender / Blacksmith / Butcher / Carpenter / Day Laborer / Farmers / Foundry / Harnesser / Merchant / Shoemakers / School Teachers / Steamboat Captain / Sugar Mill Superintendent*

**BARBERS:**

*William Biddinger, Jr. / Antonio Faria*

**William Biddinger Jr.:**

William Biddinger Jr. was the son of William and Sophia Biddinger. He was born in New York in 1861. He came to Alvarado with his parents where his father was a boot and shoemaker in Alvarado. Nothing was found for William after 1880.

**Antonio Faria:**

Antonio Faria was born in 1863 in California to Manuel & Maria Faria. In 1880 Antonio served as an apprentice barber in Alvarado. I could not locate Antone Faria after 1880.

**BARTENDER:**

**John Robbins:**

John Robbins was born in England in July 1843. He entered the U.S. in 1845. He was residing at the Riverside Hotel and was employed there as a bartender in the late 1800's. Farley Granger Sr., owner of the Riverside Hotel, passed away in December 1899, and left John Robbins \$1,000 in his will. John Robbins was the brother of Miss Anne Robbins, who would become the wife of Farley Granger Sr. John Robbins never married, and in 1904 was mentioned as being on vacation with F.C. Harvey in Yosemite. Nothing was found after this for Mr. Robbins.

**BLACKSMITH:**

**Charles King:**

Charles King, an old-time resident of Alvarado, who had been conducting a blacksmith shop near the Riverside Hotel, died mysteriously in February 1886. He walked up the railroad to the trestle above the Riverside Hotel, and fell through. When they found him he had already died. Nothing further was found for Mr. King.

## **BUTCHER:**

### **John O. Laughlin:**

John O. Laughlin was born in Connecticut circa 1851. His wife, Adeline Laughlin was born in Connecticut in December 1853. They had a son Edward who was born in Connecticut in August 1874. They also had a son Clarence who was born in October 1887. While in Alvarado John worked as a butcher. Adeline Laughlin was widowed after 1888 and moved to the Centerville area.

## **CARPENTERS:**

*William Lattin / Mifflin P. Buckley / William J. Griffith / Fred Joyce, Sr.*

### **William Lattin:**

William Lattin was born in Michigan to Ambrose and Almira Lattin. He came to California with his parents when they settled in Alvarado. In the late 1870's William took up the trade of carpenter in Alvarado. In 1894 Will Lattin moved to Seattle.

### **Mifflin P. Buckley:**

Mifflin Buckley was born in Pennsylvania in 1830. Mifflin first shows in Alvarado in the 1860 census as a carpenter. He was rooming with Michael McMansary, the Alvarado shoemaker and Asa Putney the Alvarado blacksmith at this time. He is showing his occupation as a carpenter. In 1870 Mifflin is living in Centerville with William Baker and he is still working as a carpenter. 1880 finds Mifflin back in Alvarado working as carpenter and living with J.J. Naumer a bartender in Alvarado. Nothing further is found for Mr. Buckley after 1880.

### **William J. Griffith:**

William Griffith was born in Massachusetts in 1809. He was shown living alone in Alvarado in 1800 and working as a carpenter. Nothing was found for Mr. Griffith after 1880.

### **Fred Joyce, Sr.:**

Fred Joyce (Sr.) was born in Alvarado in April 1884 to John and Dora Joyce. John & Dora Joyce had three children, Arthur, Dora and Fred Joyce. There was also three children from a previous marriage of Dora Joyce: Alice, Louisa & John M. Scribner.

Fred Joyce moved to San Francisco in the late 1890's to live with his married sister Mrs. Louisa Winegar, who was married to a San Francisco hardware salesman. Fred was employed as a hardware salesman in San Francisco at this time. Arthur Joyce, Fred's brother, was also a resident in the Winegar home working as a machinist in San Francisco.

In March 1901 Fred Joyce returned to Alvarado and accepted a job as a clerk with the F. C. Harvey Co., however he resigned that position in July 1901.

Fred found his way back to San Francisco and in 1905 he was married to Mabel A. Joyce, They had a daughter Ruby Joyce. The year 1910 found Fred living with Edward Kamps, his wife Mabel's step father in San Francisco.

By September 1918 Fred Joyce was back in Alvarado where he was working at the sugar mill as a carpenter. His daughter Ruby was eleven years old and he had added a daughter Rosalie who was six years old at this time.

Fred loved the game of baseball and in 1918 he was embroiled in a controversy over the best baseball team in Washington Township. Fred Joyce believed that it was his Alvarado team, of which he was the manager. But the Newark Wedgewoods disputed this and they laid claim to being the best. A three game series was planned to determine the champion. In that series Newark took Alvarado two games to one.

In 1926 Fred Joyce was a member of the Alvarado Grammar School Board of Trustees. He joined Clerk of the Board Fannie Robie, and F.C. Harvey, President of the Board.

Fred's oldest daughter Ruby became engaged to Mr. George Harvey, son of Edward Harvey. The couple would marry and live in the home built by Sylvester Harvey, which today is the centerpiece of the S.P. Harvey Park off of Alvarado Boulevard.

An Employees Cooperative Association was formed at the Holly Sugar Company plant in April 1937 with the approval of company officials. The association was formed for the purpose of collective bargaining. All employees signed up for membership in the union. Fred Joyce was chairman of the union. The association would cooperate with similar organizations in other sugar mills at Tracy, Woodland and Manteca.

Plans for a new fire hall was floated in December 1941. The project was led by Fred Wiegman and was in the hands of the Alameda County architect. The site for the building had been purchased on Smith Street where "Little Tijuana" had once been located. The Fire Commissioners who cooperated on the building of the new fire hall were A. A. Lee, Joe Lewis, Fred Joyce, John Ralph and Fred Wiegman.

About the same time the new fire house was in the planning stages there was also a severe problem with sewage in Alvarado. The entire town was on cesspools, and many were in poor condition, which could lead to severe health problems. A sewage district was formed and implemented. On September 16, 1946 a vote was held for the Board of Directors for the district. Those chosen were: F.W. Joyce, Sr., Manuel P. Goularte and Elvin Rose.

When Alvarado and Decoto were forced to consider incorporation due to the land grab by the City of Hayward, one of the problems facing the new city was the lack of a modern sewer system in Alvarado. In April 1956 the Alvarado Chamber of Commerce urged a merger of the Alvarado Sanitary District and the Union Sanitary District. Joseph Lewis asked that a letter to that effect be sent to President Elvin Rose and Secretary-Treasurer Fred Joyce

of the Alvarado District advising them of merging their system into the Union Sanitary District.

Fred was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and served as Treasurer of the Christian Endeavor Society of the Presbyterian Church in Washington Township.

Mabel Joyce became a member of the Country Club of Washington Township along with Mrs. George Harvey and Miss Mildred Nauert.

Fred Joyce passed away on September 28, 1966, Mabel Joyce passed away on September 10, 1969.

## **DAY LABORER:**

### **Patrick Joyce:**

Patrick Joyce and family came to Alvarado in the early 1880's. Patrick was born in Ireland in March 1846 and entered the U.S. in 1850. His wife Harriet was born in Ireland in November of 1856 and entered the U.S. in 1860. Together they had four children, three of which lived until adulthood. They had three daughters, Katherine (birth year unknown), Mary born in May 1875 and Harriet T. born in November 1881. Harriet graduated from Alvarado Grammar School in June 1897.

Patrick worked as a day laborer in Alvarado and he and his family had many friends.

Patrick passed away suddenly on November 10, 1904. He had been suffering from heart problems for several months.

### **Miss Katherine Joyce:**

Katherine Joyce married Mr. L. Aurich of San Francisco, where Katherine had relocated after school.

### **Miss Mary Joyce:**

Mary Joyce also relocated to San Francisco where she was a dressmaker. However in 1901 she married John L. Olson of Alvarado and settled down to a life with her husband. John became partners with John Ralph and they had bought a general merchandise store in Decoto. In a few years John Olson would buy out John Ralph and Mary Joyce Olson settled in Decoto with her husband. John Olson would be a leading citizen of Decoto for decades to come.

But a gloom was cast over the town of Alvarado when it learned of the sudden death of Mrs. John Olson of Decoto on August 29, 1906. As Mary Joyce, she was well known much beloved by the people of Alvarado. Most of her life was spent in Alvarado and it had only been five years that she was led to the altar by John L. Olson, one of the Alvarado boys. The funeral was held at her late home, thence to the Catholic Church in Centerville. The deceased was born in Connecticut thirty-three years ago and leaves besides her husband, her mother, Mrs. H. Joyce, two sisters, Mrs. L. Aurich of San Francisco and Miss Harriet Joyce of Decoto.



### **Miss Harriet Joyce:**

Harriet Joyce was born in Connecticut in November 1881 to Patrick and Harriet Joyce of Ireland. In 1903 Mrs. Mary Olson (Harriet's sister) moved to Decoto with John Olson to open a general merchandise store with John H. Ralph of Alvarado. Within a few weeks after the purchase of the store Mary Olson moved to Decoto with her husband.

Patrick Joyce, father of Mary, Kathryn and Harriet Joyce; passed away in Alvarado in 1906. Mrs. Harriet Joyce and Miss Harriet Joyce then moved to Decoto to live with John and Mary Olson.

On August 29, 1906 Mrs. Mary Olson (nee Joyce) died. Mrs. Harriet Olson and Miss Harriet Olson continued to reside with John Olson in Decoto.

On July 14, 1914 Mrs. Harriet Joyce passed away at Decoto at the age of 59 years, leaving her daughter Miss Harriet Joyce and son-in-law John Olson.

Miss Harriet Joyce had apparently spent a good deal of time working in the general store, for in 1909 *The Oakland Tribune* wrote that: "Miss Joyce, the postmistress, was in the metropolis during the week on a shopping tour." I could not find where Miss Harriet Joyce was officially appointed as Postmistress of Decoto and the designation was probably a symbolic gesture given to her for her work in the Post Office as John Olson's sister-in-law, for it was John Olson who was the Postmaster.

The following year, 1915 Miss Harriet Joyce is shown as Mrs. Harriet Olson. John and Harriet would run the general store until the death of John Olson in 1941.

### **Mrs. Harriet Joyce:**

Mrs. Harriet Joyce would continue to make many trips to visit her valued friends in Alvarado over the years. As a regular member of the Alvarado Whist Club she was able to maintain her friendship although she had moved to the town of Decoto. On July 14, 1914 Mrs. Harriet Joyce passed away at the age of 59.

## **FARMERS:**

*Sebastian Franz / Farley B. Granger, Jr. / John Ahern / George Simpson / John Beard / Alexander Simas / Peter J. Campbell*

### **Sebastian Franz:**

Sebastian Franz was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany in December 1824. He arrived in the U.S. in 1852 and was recognized as a Washington Township Pioneer. His wife, Clara Franz, was born in Switzerland in 1824. She passed away at the age of 64 years on March 27, 1889. They had a son Emil who was born in 1857.

Sebastian was a farmer and was shown in the Alvarado censuses in the years 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900. This means that Mr. Franz would have been in Alvarado in the 1850's. M.W. Woods reports that he was also the road overseer for Alvarado in the 1880's.

Sebastian was born in December 1824 in Germany. He immigrated into the U.S. in 1852. Sebastian was married to Clara Franz, who was born in Switzerland circa 1825. Clara Franz died on March 27, 1889. It appears that the Franz' had no issue of their own, however they show an adopted daughter, Klara Ludwig, in the 1880 census. Her name was later changed to Klara Franz, records show Klara was born in California in November 1867. Miss Klara Franz was extremely active in Alvarado society and in January 1907 married John Stevens of San Francisco.

In June 1892 Sebastian was elected to a seat on the Alvarado Grammar School along with I.V. Ralph. Mr. Franz was also a member of the Washington Township Argonaut Society, and offshoot of the Washington Township Pioneer Society. At their 1901 meeting, there were only seven members left alive (which included Sebastian) of this last man standing organization. Mr. Franz also served as a ballot official for the town of Alvarado.

The Washington Township Pioneers (Argonaut Society) held their annual election of officers and banquet at the Gregory House in Centerville in April 1920. From a membership of 111 they had dwindled down to eight. Those present were H. Dusterberry, J.C. Whipple, William Barry, F.C. Rose, John Buchanan, and Sebastian Franz from Alvarado. Absent were Ed Niehause, who was in Fresno and C.G. Healy. The pioneers met first November 29, 1876 at the suggestion of William Barry and William M. Liston of Alvarado.

The date of Sebastian's death is not known, but he would appear to be a resident of Alvarado for 55 years or more.

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

Farley B. Granger Jr. was born in Alvarado on June 26, 1855. He attended the California Military Academy (McClure's) in Oakland. After graduation he worked as a teacher at the Academy and had charge of the military department for several months. He then accepted a position in the Recorder's Office in Oakland for two years before returning to Alvarado to go into the hotel business with his father.

When his father passed away he took over management of the family estate. He leased out the Riverside Hotel to other operators and managed the family warehouses and farms.



*Farley Granger Jr.*

Farley Jr., along with his father, was the first in Alvarado to agitate for the commercialization of the Alvarado artesian wells in favor of Mr. Wm. Dingee of Oakland. The Oakland Water Company's water system water from the artesian wells at Alvarado, which were largely located on the Granger property in old Union City.

On December 29, 1894, Farley Granger Jr. wed Miss Sue Harvey, a native of Alvarado and daughter of S.P. Harvey and brother of F.C. Harvey and Edward S. Harvey. They had two children, Helen Sarah and Farley Granger III.

Farley was a devout Presbyterian and a member of the Masonic Lodge of Centerville where he served as Worshipful Master from 1888 to 1891. On October 14, 1896 the Masonic Widows & Orphans Home cornerstone was dedicated at its site on the Decoto foothills. Farley was in charge of the feast for this dedication, which was held under the greenwood tree in a grove surrounding the Decoto Grammar School.

On January 26, 1901 he bought M.R. Lyle Building on the corner of Smith Street and Vallejo Street. The building was to become an Alvarado fixture with F.C. Harvey operating it as a General Merchandise store who sold the inventory to Sam Dinsmore in the late 1920's.

Farley was one of the founders of the Bank of Alvarado in 1902 (later the Bank of Alameda County) and served on the board as well as being named a Vice President. He served for many years at the turn of the century as Alvarado's Roadmaster, keeping the roads well graveled and free of ruts from the iron-wheeled wagons of the day.

In August 1903 Daniel & T.F. Jackson, F.B. and Sue Granger and F.C. Harvey organized the Jackson-Granger Dairy Company, which milked 300 dairy cows in Alvarado and became one of the largest dairies in the South County.

Mr. A. Boysen bought the Riverside Hotel from Farley in June of 1905.

In December 1912 Farley and Sue Granger, and their children, moved to a new home in Broadmore (San Leandro). For a period of 24 years there would not be a Granger in Alvarado.

Farley was active in the Alvarado Native Sons Lodge and the Masonic Order. In 1904 he helped found the Union League of Alameda County and was elected to the board of directors. He was a staunch Republican and was recognized as one of the leading orators of the Southern County.

He also served on the Board of Trustees for the Alvarado grammar School. Sue Granger was very active in Alvarado's Presbyterian Church and its activities. She was also a member of the Country Club of Washington Township.

Farley Granger Jr. and Susan Granger had four children: Helen, Farley B III, Clarence L. and Harvey T. Farley Granger Jr. died on August 27, 1936. Mrs. Sue Granger passed away on December 16, 1941.

### **John Ahern:**

John Ahern was born in Ireland circa 1834. He was married to Hanora Sara Ahern who was born in Ireland in 1834. They had five children; Daniel, Mary, Julia, and twins Nellie and John.

Michael was a farmer in Alvarado, his farm of 48 acres, was just within the Washington Township border on the road to Mt. Eden north of Alvarado.

Michael died on November 9, 1888, when he was thrown from his buggy by his runaway team near the corner of Adeline and Eighth Streets in Oakland. He had come to Oakland with a wagonload of potatoes.

### **George Simpson:**

George Simpson was born in Ireland circa 1830. The date of his arrival in the U.S. is not known. Both M.W. Woods and Noble Hamilton report that George Simpson came from Berrien County, Michigan in 1852. His wife, Fanny Simpson, was also born in Ireland circa 1831.

George was one of the charter members of the Alvarado IOOF of November 26, 1859. He is also listed as one of the Washington Township Pioneers. George was a farmer and was shown in both the 1870 and 1880 Alvarado censuses.

Mrs. Fanny Simpson Died in December of 1891 in Alvarado at the age of 73 years. Her birthplace was given as Lindendale, Ireland.

George Simpson is not mentioned after a January 1877 article showing him serving in an official capacity of the Alvarado IOOF. The date or place of his passing is not known.

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

John L. Beard was the son of Elias. L. Beard. He was born in La Fayette, Indiana, on June 18, 1845, and resided there until coming to California with his mother in 1850.

He lived with his father at the Mission San Jose until the year 1867, when he took up residence on his farm on Beard Road, 1.2 miles south of the Hall Station in Alvarado.

John was engaged in farming and fruit raising. John L. Beard was elected State Senator in 1896. Married, and had two children, Jessie and Eldridge L. John L. Beard died at Alvarado on November 19, 1903.

In an interesting side note, John, when just a lad in 1852, made an earnest request of a travelling photographer to take a daguerreotype photograph of the Mission San Jose. This was the first, and only good picture ever taken of this interesting landmark.



### **Alexander Simas:**

Alexander Simas was born in the Azores in February 1844. His wife, Maria (also shown as Josephine), was born in the Azores in January 1846. Alexander entered the U.S. in 1864, and became a U.S. citizen. Maria entered the U.S. in 1844. They had five children that I could locate, Mary Ann, Anna, George, John, and Alexander Jr.

Alexander was a long-time farmer in Alvarado. In August 1900, his son George, was sleeping on the second floor of Henry Henrickson's blacksmith shop (formerly the Jos. McKeown blacksmith shop) when the building burned to the ground, killing the young Mr. Simas. It was supposed that he had carelessly threw a match or cigarette on the floor when retiring. George's moth was lying at the point of death and was not notified.

After a sickness of a year, death relieved Mrs. Alex Simas of her sufferings on October 1, 1900. Mrs. Simas had lived in Alvarado over 35 years, and was beloved by all who knew her. She was the mother of the unfortunate George Simas, who was burned to death in the blacksmith shop in August. She was 60 years of age and left her husband, two daughters, and two sons to mourn her.

The final article on the Simas family occurred in 1909 when Alexander Simas found himself in a predicament in front of the post office, as the rim of a wheel from his wagon came off, but fortunately a smithy's shop was only a half block distant, where the vehicle was taken for repairs.

## **HARNESSER:**

### **George Goodell:**

George Goodell closed his harness shop in Alvarado in 1885, and moved his stock and tools to his Hayward shop. Nothing further was found for Mr. Goodell in Alvarado.

## **MERCHANT:**

### **Gerard F. Wissman:**

Gerard F. Wissman was born in Germany circa 1859. Gerard first shows in our area in 1884 when he appeared in Decoto and became a partner with Ed Salz. Wissman and Salz would take over the grain warehouse business of A.J. Hare in 1884 after his business failed.

On November 24, 1886 Gerard (27) married Miss Lizzie Decoto (23), daughter of Ezra Decoto. After this, Mr. Wissman relocated to Alvarado. In 1887 the *Oakland Tribune* refers to Mr. Wissman as the leading merchant in the town of Alvarado. In 1889, Mr. Wissman left Alvarado for health reasons. In April 1890, Gerard F. Wissman passed away. Nothing was found for Lizzie Decoto Wissman.

## **SHOEMAKERS:**

*J. Anderson / Karl Schaefer*

### **J. Anderson:**



J. Anderson was an Alvarado shoemaker in the 1880's. In March 1885 he sold his shop to Karl Schaefer. Nothing further was found for J. Anderson in Alvarado.

### **Karl Schaefer:**

Karl Schaefer bought out J. Anderson's shoemaker's shop and will carry on the business at the old shop. Nothing further was found for Karl Schaefer in Alvarado.

### **SCHOOL TEACHERS:**

*John F. Wayman / O.S. Ingraham / Ambrose Megahan / Myron Mills / Egbert A. Seaman / E.W. Walker / Miss Susan Harvey (Granger) / Miss Mary Brier / Miss Emma C. Parker / Miss Clara Gregory / Miss Edith Granger / Miss Mary Riley / Miss Kate Riley / Miss Sophia Smithurst / Miss Kate Harrell*

### **John F. Wayman:**

The Alvarado School opened on August 6, 1883 with Dr. John F. Wayman, of Proctor, West Virginia, as the principal. In August 1884, the State Board of Education issued a life diploma to Principal Wayman of the Alvarado School. In 1885 Dr. Wayman left for Lincoln Nebraska, where he had accepted a position as Professor Physiology at the University of Nebraska. The offer of the position came without his seeking, through the recommendation of his old medical college instructors. His place at the Alvarado School would be taken O.S. Ingraham, of the County Board of Education. The IOOF Crusade Lodge of Alvarado held special services for the death of one its former esteemed member, John F. Wayman, in March 1887. Miss Kate Harrell of Oakland will teach the intermediate department, and Miss Smithers will retain her position in the primary department.

### **O.S. Ingraham:**

O.S. Ingraham was a member of the Alameda County Board of Education. When John Wayman resigned his position as the Principal of the Alvarado Grammar School, Mr. Ingraham was temporarily made his replacement. Mr. Ingraham would be replaced by Ambrose Megahan in December 1884.

### **Ambrose Megahan:**

Ambrose Megahan was born in Berlin, Pennsylvania in March 1851. His wife, Christiana Laumeister was born in Washington Township in July 1860. They were married in 1886 and had four children by the 1900 census, Amber C., Mabel, Bruce and Muriel. The Megahan's made their home in Mission San Jose with their four children.

In 1880 Ambrose was teaching in the Hayward School District. In December 1884 it was announced that Ambrose would be the new principal of Alvarado Grammar School. How long he stayed is not known but in the year 1900 the Megahan's were still living in Mission San Jose. Newspaper accounts of the time indicate he was the superintendent of the Washington School District, which is the Irvington School District.

Ambrose Megahan was located in Oakland in 1903, as the Principal of the Peralta School. In December 1903 it was stated that trouble began brewing with Mr. Megahan before the last term of the 1903 school year when Mr.

Megahan made an appearance before the Board of Education and made charges against superintendent McClymonds to fact the latter was prejudiced against him. Shortly after this Mr. Megahan took a leave of absence of several months.

When he returned Mr. Megahan seemed to be more or less in private and his behavior warranted the opinion that his mental balance had become seriously become impaired. In December 1903 Mr. Megahan took his own life by ingesting strychnine.

### **Myron Mills:**

Professor Mills intended to leave Alvarado to take charge of a private school in Modesto in 1886, but so many of the patrons of the Alvarado School expressed their desire to have him stay with us, that he has relented and will remain in Alvarado.

In July 1887, Myron Mills continued as principal of the Alvarado School with Miss Kate Riley and Miss Edith Granger as his teaching staff. Unfortunately, this is the only information I could come up with on Myron Mills.

### **Egbert A Seaman:**

In March 1888 it was noted that Mr. Egbert A. Seaman was in charge of the Alvarado School with Miss Susie Harvey and Miss Kate Riley as teachers. In July 1889 Mr. Seaman left Alvarado for the Decoto School. He was replaced by E.W. Walker

Teachers at the Alvarado School: Egbert A. Seaman, Miss Susie Harvey, Miss Kate E. Riley.

### **E.W. Walker:**

E.W. Walker of Biggs, of Butte County, replaced E.A. Seaman as principal in July 1889. Mr. Seaman left to take a position in the Decoto School. In July 1890 Mr. Walker, the principal of the Alvarado Grammar School, was elected principal of the Livermore School in July 1890. Mr. E.E. Hollipeter of Gridley, Butte County, would replace Mr. Walker.

### **Miss Susan Harvey (Granger):**

Susan Harvey was born in Alvarado in October 1868 to Sylvester P. and Sarah Harvey. Upon her graduation from high school Sue enrolled at the San Jose Normal School (then the name for San Jose State University). She graduated in December of 1887 and commenced to teach at the Alvarado Grammar School.

Sue was active in many Alvarado social and civic organizations. She was instrumental in organizing the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Olivina Parlor No. 61 at Alvarado and was elected its first president. She also organized an Alvarado Debating Society, and was also an active member of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church.

On December 29, 1894 Sue married Farley B. Granger Jr., thus uniting two of Alvarado's wealthiest and most influential families. After marriage Sue turned her focus toward community activities and gave up her teaching career at the

Alvarado Grammar School. She did remain on the school staff as a substitute teacher when the need occasionally arose.

Sue & Farley B. Jr. were known to give delightful parties. In July 1895 the Granger's built a new warehouse near the Riverside Hotel. They gave a delightful party and dance in the new warehouse, and danced to the music of Hyman Orchestra of San Francisco. At midnight they retired to the Riverside Hotel for sumptuous midnight feast.

In November of 1912, Mr. & Mrs. Farley B. Granger, Jr., moved to a new home in Broadmore (San Leandro). Farley B. Jr. and Sue had four children: sons Farley B. III, Clarence L, and Harvey T. and Daughter Mrs. Helen Morgan. On December 16, 1941 Susan Harvey Granger passed away.

### **Miss Mary Brier:**

Mary Brier was born in California in 1853 to William W. and Elizabeth Brier. William Brier was the first Presbyterian minister of Centerville and also ministered to the faithful in Alvarado. He was also the first Superintendent of School for Alameda County in 1853. Mary was listed as a schoolteacher in the 1880 census, but did not specify which school in Washington Township that she taught. Nothing was found for Mary after 1880.

### **Miss Emma C. Parker:**

Miss Emma C. Parker would teach the primary department in the Alvarado Grammar School in February 1885. Nothing further could be found for Miss Parker.

### **Miss Clara Gregory:**

Miss Clara Gregory, teacher of the primary department last term at Alvarado Grammar School in November 1884, has resigned her position and went to Reno, Nevada where it is understood that she would soon be married.

### **Miss Edith Granger:**

Miss Edith Granger was born in Alvarado in 1868 to Farley B & Anna Granger. In July 1886 Edith was appointed a teacher in the Alvarado Grammar School. But within a few years she would marry a Mr. Chase and move to San Jose.

### **Miss Mary Riley:**

Miss Mary Riley was appointed as a teacher at the Alvarado Grammar School in July 1886. Miss Riley was from Oakland and her parents were the Drennan's. After a few years Mary would move to Newark California.

### **Miss Kate E. Riley:**

Miss Kate E. Riley was the sister of Miss Mary Riley and came to teach in Alvarado after her sister relocated to Newark. Kate was very sociable while in Alvarado becoming one of the favorites of the "young ladies of Alvarado." In October 1889 Kate invited her friends and relatives for a get together at the Riverside Hotel. Attending were her sister, Miss Mary Riley plus the Misses Annie & Alice Drennan of Oakland and from Alvarado were the Misses Nellie Beebe, Sue Harvey, Bertha May, Mollie Cossi, Blanche Ingalls, Annie Ralph

along with Messrs: Farley Granger, Hugh Dyer, Emil Burr, Walker, John Scribner, Mr. Jones and J. Atkinson.

In June 1891 Miss Kate Riley resigned her position in the intermediate department in the Alvarado School. She expected to secure a position in the Livermore School. It had not been confirmed that there would be a vacancy in Livermore and as a consequence several young ladies are endeavoring to secure promises from the trustees.

By the following year Miss Riley had returned to her position as a teacher in the Alvarado Grammar School. In October 1896 Kate got together with the "Young Ladies of Alvarado" to plan a Leap Year Dance for October 24, 1896 in the Odd Fellows Hall. The planning group included the Misses: Blanche Emery, May Laurie, Kate Riley, Edna Babb and Mildred Nauert. The last Leap Year Dance given by them some months ago was such an enjoyable affair and decided success that they deemed it well to do it again.

In August 1902 Miss Kate Riley resigned her position at the Alvarado School to take a teaching position at the Emery School in Oakland.

### **Miss Sophia Smithurst:**

Miss Sophia Smithurst was born in California circa 1871 to John and Rebecca Smithurst. John Smithurst ran a saloon and sold retail liquor in Alvarado. Sophie taught at the Alvarado School in the primary department in January 1884 under Mr. John F. Wayman, and with Miss Kate Harrell in the intermediate department. Later Miss Smithurst would marry Frank G. Curtis and relocate to Alameda.

### **Miss Kate Harrell:**

The Alameda County Board of Education issued a certificate for second grade studies to Miss Kate M. Harrell of Oakland in June 1882. In January 1884 Miss Harrell had charge of the intermediate studies in the Alvarado School.

### **STEAMBOAT CAPTAIN:** **Captain Clement Randall:**

Clement Randall was born in Australia in June 1862 to Captain Samuel B. and Helen Randall. In 1880 Captain Samuel Randall was a sea captain that lived in Alvarado, but I could find no evidence that he operated a steamboat out of Alvarado or old Union City. While in Alvarado Captain Randall was known to attend several large birthday parties of local residents. He would later become well-known as a west coast sea captain.

Clement was married on March 30, 1887 to Miss Fannie Simpson. Fannie was born in California in December 1868. Clement was born in Australia in June 1862, and entered the U.S. in 1867. Later became an American citizen.

In June 1885, Captain S.B. Randall hosted a birthday party for his son, Clement Randall at his home in Alvarado. Among the many persons attending was the cream of Alvarado young society. Among the names were found the Misses: Laura Vandeeper, Annie Smithurst, Belle Barron, Grace Barron, May Barron, Tillie Barron, Aggie Barron, and Maud Miller.

Messrs attending: Clement Randall, William Randall, Al Charvoz, F.B. Granger Jr., Newton Farley, H.P. Dyer, H.S. Dyer, Hugh Dyer, Ed Foley, N. Plourde, and O.J. Emery.

Clement would follow in his father's footsteps and take to the sea. In November 1890, Clement Randall was named a second pilot at the convention of California Harbor No. 15, American Brotherhood of Steamboat Pilots, held at the Albion Hall in San Francisco. By June 1891, Pilot Clement Randall was now Captain Clement Randall in the California Harbor No. 15 association.

October 5, 1906, the steamer St. Paul smashed into a nest of rocks near Point Gorda. The steamer had been bound from San Francisco to Astoria, and Portland Oregon, and ran onto a nest of rocks at Point Gorda. Point Gorda is 184 miles north of the Golden Gate, fourteen miles south of Cape Mendocino, and 32 miles south of Eureka. She was under the command of Captain Clement Randall and carried eighty-seven passenger, seventy-eight of whom were in the cabin. All passengers were safe, but the boat would be a total loss.

Later Capt. Clement Randall would become tug boat captain about the San Francisco Bay, and in 1921, Captain Clement Randall was noted as a Vice-President of the Golden Gate Ferry Company operating out of San Francisco.

## **SUGAR MILL, SUPERINTENDENT: William Kullberg:**

William Kullberg was born in Austria circa 1827. His wife Mary was born in Pennsylvania circa 1844. The couple had two children, Mary born circa 1875, and Arthur born in 1879. Mary had four children by a previous marriage, Charles, William, Dollie, and Susan Lollo. In 1880 William was employed at the sugar mill as the superintendent of the operation. Nothing could be found for the Kullberg's before or after 1880.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* **NOTABLE CHINESE** \*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BARBER:**

*Ah Chew / Ah Gong*

### **Ah Chew:**

Ah Chew was born in China circa 1838. He showed he was a barber in Alvarado, and he also showed that he was married, although he did not show his wife living with him. After 1880 nothing could be found for Ah Chew.

### **Ah Gong:**

Ah Gong was born in China circa 1850. He showed he was a barber in Alvarado, and he also showed that he was married, although he did not show his wife living with him. Ah Gong was boarding with Yong Gee in Alvarado. After 1880 nothing could be found for Ah Chew.



## **CHINESE BOSS:**

*Ah Jep / Tan & Ah Chung / Standard Sugar Co. / Ah Fong / Ah Geb / Ah Mug / Charles Hop Kee / Ah Lem / Ah Joh*

### **Ah Jep:**

Ah Jep was born in 1847 in China. His occupation was that of a China Boss, a leader of gang of eight Chinese national workers for which he supplied room and board. They were all employed by a salt co. Mr. Jep showed that he was a single man.

### **Tan & Ah Chung:**

Tan and Ah Chung were father and son, and both were leaders of a group of eight Chinese nationals who all worked for the sugar mill. Both were born in China, Tan in 1823 and Ah in 1857. Tan was married, but did not have his wife living with him, and Ah was single. Also living with was a Chinese school teacher living as a boarder.

### **Standard Sugar Company:**

The Standard Sugar Company of Alvarado showed that they employed a gang of thirty-three Chinese national laborers, and offered them room and board. All were laborers in the beet fields of the sugar company, with the exception of one man, who was the cook for the men. The Standard Sugar Company paid their Chinese workers 80¢ a day, they paid their occidental workers \$1.50 a day.

### **Ah Fong:**

Ah Fong was born in China in 1828. He was single and he showed he was the boss of a gang of four Chinese nationals that worked for the Plummer Salt Co.

### **Ah Geb:**

Ah Geb was born in China in 1851. He was married, but his wife was not living him. Ah Geb was a partner in a room and boarding operation of 38 Chinese nationals that all worked for the Union Pacific Salt Works of Union City.

### **Ah Mug:**

Ah Mug was born in China in 1856. He was single and was a partner with Ah Geb in the boarding of 38 Chinese nationals as a work gang for the Union Pacific Salt Co.

### **Charles Hop Kee:**

Charles was born in China in 1846. He was single. Charles was a partner of Ah Lem in a room and boarding operation of 17 Chinese nationals that all worked as salt company laborers.

### **Ah Lem:**

Ah Lem was born in China in 1840. Ah Lem was a partner of Charles Hop Kee in a room and boarding operation of 17 Chinese nationals that all worked as salt company laborers.

### **Ah Joh:**

Ah Joh was born in China in 1822. He showed he was married, but did not show a wife or children living with him. Ah Joh offered room and board to three Chinese nationals what made up his work gang.

### **DOCTOR:**

#### **Sewey Gong:**

Sewey Gong was born in China in 1830. He showed being single and gave his employment as a Doctor.

### **FISHERMAN:**

#### **Ah Hang:**

Ah Hang was born in China in 1824. In Alvarado Ah Hang made his living by being a fisherman. It was noted at this time that he was nearly blind.

### **LAUNDRY:**

#### **Ah Chong:**

Ah Chong was born in China in 1837. His date of entry into the U.S. is not known. Ah showed he was single and operated a laundry with five employees working for him in the 1870's. They were all Chinese, all born in China, and none of the six showed any spouses or children. Nothing is known about Ah Chong before or after the 1880 census.

### **MERCHANTS:**

*Ah Yow / Ring Fon / Ah Wood / Kim Wah / Kee Wah / Ah Kim / Ah Jew / Ah Chong*

#### **Ah Yow:**

Ah Yow was born in China in 1851. He showed that he was single and he was a merchant in Alvarado. He was in partnership with Ring Fon. They also had six Chinese nationals boarding with them.

#### **Ring Fon:**

Ring Fon was born in China in 1851. He showed that he was single and he was a merchant in Alvarado. He was in partnership with Ah Yow. They also had six Chinese national boarding with them.

#### **Ah Wood:**

Ah Wood was born in China in 1852. He gave his occupation as a merchant and he showed that he was single.

#### **Kim Wah:**

Kim Wah was born in China in 1835. He showed he was a single man and gave his occupation as a merchant. He had four Chinese nationals as boarders as well as another Chinese national as a cook.

#### **Kee Wah:**

Kee Wah was born in China in 1850. He showed he was a single man, and that he was a partner in a merchandising store in Alvarado.

### **Ah Kin:**

Ah Kin was born in China in 1855. He did not show a marital status. He indicated he was a partner in a merchandising store.

### **Ah Jew:**

Ah Jew was born in China in 1840. Ah Jew showed he was married but did not have a wife or children living with him. His occupation was given as a merchant.

### **Ah Chong:**

Ah Chong was born in 1855 in China. He showed he was single in Alvarado. He gave his occupation as a merchant

## **PROSTITUTION:**

*Kim Wo / Ung Gee / Ah Gow / Gum Yo / Sam Su / Loy Yow / Sy Say*

### **Kim Wo:**

Kim `Wo was born in China in 1856. He showed that he was married, but he did not have a wife living with him. Kim gave his occupation as that of a keeper of a house of ill repute.

### **Ung Gee:**

Ung Gee was a woman born in China in 1856. She gave her marital status as being a single lady, and she gave her employment as a prostitute.

### **Ah Gow:**

Ah Gow was a woman born in China in 1862. She gave her marital status as being a single lady, and she gave her employment as a prostitute.

### **Gum Yo:**

Gum Yo was a woman born in China in 1859. She gave her marital status as being a single lady, and she gave her employment as a prostitute.

### **Sam Su:**

Sam Su was born in China in 1858. He showed that he was single, and gave his occupation as that of a keeper of a house of ill repute.

### **Loy Yow:**

Loy Yow was a woman born in China in 1854. She gave her marital status as being a single lady, and she gave her employment as a prostitute.

### **Sy Say:**

Sy Say was a woman born in China in 1857. She gave her marital status as being a single lady, and she gave her employment as a prostitute.

## **RESTAURANTEUR:**

*Ah Sung / Ah Sow / Ah Look*

### **Ah Sung:**

Ah Sung was born in China in 1846. He showed being a partner in a restaurant in Alvarado with Ah Sow. Ah Sung showed being married, but he did not have a wife or children living with him.

### **Ah Sow:**

Ah Sow was born in China in 1830. He showed being a partner in a restaurant in Alvarado with Ah Sung. Ah Sow showed being a single man.

### **Ah Look:**

Ah Look was born in China in 1835. He was married and showed his wife Ah See. Ah See was born in China in 1850. They showed they had a 12-year old helper in connection with their restaurant. Whether it was their son was not mentioned. His name was Ah Gun.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

John Quigley, J.G. Vandeppeer, and W.F. Ingalls, Trustees of the Board Education, put a notice for bids for the erection of a grammar school at Alvarado. Bidding would remain open until August 27, 1881. On September 22, 1881, it was announced that Haskell and Smilie, proprietors of the East Oakland Planing Mills would be named to supply a school house at Alvarado, which was to be 45' by 60' and two stories in height. The expected cost of the new school was expected to be \$4,500.



By the beginning of October 1881, carpenters were at work on the new grammar school. By January 24, 1882 the new schoolhouse was nearing completion. Desks

were put in place at the beginning of February. The new school was slated to open on February 6, 1882.

The new school at Alvarado was an imposing structure. It was two stories high, and stood upon foundation that was raised high above the level of the ground, making it one of the most imposing structures in the town. The lower story was finished and was furnished in two commodious and elegant rooms, which were sufficient for the present accommodation of the school. It was first occupied on Wednesday, February 1, 1882. On February 12, 1882, the school was fitted out with a fine new bell for the cupola of the school, donated by the citizens of Alvarado.

The Alvarado School Singing Class of the Alvarado Grammar School gave a concert in December 1882, which was a complete success. The following took part in the program: George Beebe, Ettie Graham, Nellie Cockefair, Annie Jacklyn, Bertha May, Nora Lee, Nettie Ralph, Daisy McDonald, Emma Smith, Clara Franz, Grace Barron, Nellie Beebe, Belle Barron, Kate Lowell, George McDonald, Merrill Ingalls, and Charles E. Anderson.

The Alvarado Grammar School held a graduation ceremony for students, which took place on the evening of December 21, 1883. The graduating student's names were not listed, but there was a program presented by Ellen Ahern, Susie Zollner, H.P. Dyer, Guy Dyer, Dollie Zollner, and Edith Granger.

The December 1884 local Grammar School Graduates were:

<u>Alviso:</u>	Antone Tonqua	Mary Tonqua	Maggie Buchanan
	Susan Harvey	Robert Lowrie	
<u>Alvarado:</u>	Grace Barron		
<u>Decoto:</u>	Edward Haines	Peter Decoto.	

In August 1885 a census was taken of the students enrolled in the Alvarado Grammar School. There were 33 students enrolled in the Grammar Department, 48 in the Intermediate Department, and 39 in the Primary Department.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **WATER** \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

In the spring of 1871, Washington and Murray Township citizens became concerned over the Spring Valley Water Co.'s surveying in the Sunol Valley for a reservoir project to divert Alameda Creek water to San Francisco for the benefit of their citizens. This was the start of events that would pit the citizens of Washington and Murray Townships against the water giant, the Spring Valley Water Co. of San Francisco, for almost six decades.

So greedy and rapacious was the Spring Valley Water Co. that even the citizens and the San Francisco city government eventually turned against them and tried to get out from under the grasp of this company.

The outcome of this first battle against Spring Valley Water was best said by M.W. Wood's 1883 book *The History of Alameda County*.

"In the spring of 1871 it was reported that a corps of surveyors were in Sunol Valley laying off lands for a reservoir to be built for the purpose of taking the water of the Alameda Creek to San Francisco. A public meeting was called at Centerville to adopt measures to oppose what it was believed would ruin the San Jose Valley if allowed to continue. The meeting was largely attended and enthusiastic. Resolutions were passed that the citizens should resist all attempts to divert the water of the creek, which gives fertility to the land, by feeding the gravel-beds at Niles below the surface.

A committee was appointed to take legal advice, and report at a stated time. This committee went to Judge Addison M. Crane, now of Washington, and he gave the advice that the cheapest way to keep the creek was to get up a company, and use the water for all these purposes—irrigation, family use, and machinery. He advised that the owners of lands on the creek should deed their rights in the water, and also the right of way to the company, so that no other company could condemn the creek.

This wise advice was reported to the committee, which elected the following persons to organize themselves into a company, and serve as Trustees: W. W. Brier, Wm. Whidden, John Whipple, John L. Stevens, John L. Beard, Howard Overacker, E. H. Dyer, Samuel I. Marston, and B. D. T. Clough.

On May 17, 1871, these persons met and agreed on articles of incorporation, and the company was formed according to law. Mr. Clough was elected President, and W. W. Brier, Secretary; both have held these offices ever since (up to 1883). Within five days the company was fully organized, and Mr. Whidden was appointed to secure the signatures of land-owners on the creek to a deed to the water and the right of way for ditches. This measure checkmated the company above, and that fact cooled the ardor for irrigation among the farmers.

Two years were spent in talk, and discussing plans, with a little surveying. In the fall of 1873 the water company proposed a compromise with the Washington and Murray Company, which was adopted, the former to furnish money and defend the latter in law provided they granted them the right to make a reservoir at the lower end of Calaveras Valley. A lawsuit, in which the claims of the Washington and Murray Company were established, and some compromises made, placed an open door for success. In the spring of 1874 work was commenced. A dam and reservoir were bought from Messrs. Peet & Scott. The south branch of the Alameda Creek was adopted as a ditch from which a canal, thirty feet wide and four feet deep, was dug for one half mile to Mr. Clough's farm. Here is a branch ditch, twelve feet wide, designed to supply several farms. From this point to Mr. Kelsey's farm, one and one-half miles, the main canal was twenty feet wide. From Kelsey's the design is to make a ditch twenty feet wide through the center of the valley, with branches from Mr. Kelsey's house. The main ditch was only sixteen feet wide, and continued its course toward Alvarado for four miles, passing through a large number of the best farms in Alameda County. There was also a small ditch, six feet wide, extending to Newark, a distance of four miles. The company had ten miles of ditch, two substantial dams, which cost \$2,000. It had expended over \$11,000."





The dam to impede the flow of water down Niles Canyon about one mile south of the Sunol Water Temple.

By 1888, the Spring Valley Water Company had settled itself like an old man of the mountain upon Alameda County, it had twisted its sinewy legs about the neck of Washington Township, and openly declared that what they may not be able to accomplish with coin and fair words, they would accomplish by legal force if necessary, in the condemnation of a right of way for pipes that will carry off the water of Alameda Creek, leaving the rich soil of the township as dry and unproductive as a desert. The people of Niles, Centerville, Irvington, and Alvarado were thoroughly alarmed at the prospect, and were murmuring against the great wrong which was contemplated.

In the meantime, the water company, through its agent, a man named Lawrence, was lavish with his propositions to all who had riparian rights along the banks of the Alameda Creek. He would not only promise these bank owners a full quantity of water, summer and winter, and water sufficient for all purposes of irrigation, and for watering their stock. They were also willing to give a money consideration as well, in direct payment for the transfer of riparian rights privileges. As in the cases of James Shinn, H.G. Ellsworth, and Joseph Nichols of Niles, many of these privileges were of thirty years standing, and were unassailable even by a powerful and wealthy corporation.

Said J.T. Walker, one of the oldest residents of this valley in Irvington:

"If I owned a ranch in this vicinity, I would sacrifice it rather than allow the Spring Valley Water Co. to take the water from me. I might as well give my farm to the lawyers as to the water company, as would be the case if I lost the benefits of the water that enriches this soil. In my opinion the wells would not only become dry, but the soil itself would lose all of its productiveness, and in two or three years we would not be able to raise a blade of grass in our fields. The area that would be affected extends from Mission San Jose on the north to Alvarado on the south, a distance of eight miles, and from this point to Niles and beyond to Decoto, a distance of about eight miles more, on both sides of the Alameda Creek, territory of land which is worth at the

present time from \$150 to \$500 an acre. I wouldn't give you \$1 an acre for the land if it is deprived of water"

In February 1889, the fruit-raisers and farmers in the Vicinity of Alvarado, Sunol, Niles, Newark, Decoto, and Centerville were seriously alarmed for the future of their crops, orchards, and vineyards, caused by the sudden sinking of the water in their wells. This, however, was not the most alarming feature of the situation. They feared that after the rains ceased in the spring, their wells will run dry altogether and they would be deprived of the means of irrigating their valuable lands. The property threatened commands a high price in the market, yet little or none of it is for sale. Unimproved land is worth \$250 an acres, and land containing fruit trees from five to six years old readily commands from \$700 to \$1,000.

This catastrophe began several years ago when the Spring Valley Water Company of San Francisco purchased large tracts of land in the area known as the Alameda Creek Watershed for the considerable price of one million dollars, and for the stated purpose of using it to supply the growing needs of San Francisco's water consumers. The interest payments on this large amount of money was immediately saddled upon the water-rate payers of San Francisco, although for years the land was used as a sheep and cattle pasture only.

In 1888, the Spring Valley Water Company dug a ditch near Newark, up to Centerville, and then to Niles along the county road. This ditch received a three-foot iron water-pipe. The pipe ran up Niles Canyon about a mile and a half, and between Niles and Sunol.

A part of the canyon was dug down to bedrock, and a dam was constructed so as to form a reservoir, and about eight million gallons of water a day was thusly supplied to the people of San Francisco.

The water was diverted from this creek into the pipes on about August 25, 1888, and in about a month or six weeks after, all the wells in the vicinity began to run dry. On the December 26, 1888, after some heavy showers, a flow of water came down the Alameda Creek and the water rose again in the wells. Mr. Thane of Niles called on Mr. Howard of the Spring Valley Water Company to discuss the problem. All Mr. Howard offered was to deepen the wells in question. Thane said the wells would be useless without new pumps, Mr. Howard refused to commit to supplying farmers with new pumps. Said Mr. Howard, "You people (farmers and ranchers) have no rights in the premises, we (the Spring Valley Water Co.) have got the right of way and we propose to use it."

In an interesting note, *The San Jose Mercury News* opined in an article in their newspaper as far back as March 9, 1878:

"A little meditation is in order. It is claimed that San Francisco runs the present Legislature. It is shown that the Spring Valley Water Company runs San Francisco. We have now but a step to go to conclude that the Legislature is run by the Water Company, and its course thus far would indicate nothing to the contrary. It is said the strongest lobby ever in Sacramento is now there and in the employ of Spring Valley. Rather a sad spectacle it is when the Legislature of a State shall be run by a soulless corporation, and legislation can be bought for dollars and cents."

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **BASEBALL** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Baseball fever hit a fever pitch in the East Bay in the 1880's. In February 1886, a game was played in Oakland to commemorate the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first game played on the west coast (it was reported). The first game witnessed in Oakland was on February 22, 1860, and was played on the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and Harrison Streets. The game was played between San Francisco and the Red Rovers, the final score being 33 to 33, a tie. However, San Francisco was declared the winner by a decision of the umpire.

The first reported baseball game held in Washington Township occurred in September of 1875. A baseball game was played between the College boys (Washington College at Irvington) and the Centerville Base Ball Club. The game lasted almost five hours, as the boys tried their skill against each other in a match game. Captain Norris led the Centerville Club and Captain Baker the College Club, there being nine players on each side. The College boys garnered 106 runs to the Centerville Club's 36 runs, leaving the former victorious by 70 runs.

By June 1886, *The Oakland Tribune* commented on the new language caused by this sport that was sweeping the nation. People who wanted to become familiar with the sport had to learn the meaning of; "strike out," "base on balls," "curve," "corker," "home run," "base hit," etc.

The first game reported in a newspaper featuring a team from Alvarado was made in June 1886. A team called "The Ajax" from Alvarado played the boys from Niles and walked off with the victory by a score of 12 - 4. Several weeks later the town of Niles played the Alvarado club to get into playing shape, and after the game they treated the Alvarado team to a supper.

Two weeks later there was an exciting game of baseball near Alvarado played between the towns of Centerville and Alvarado. The Alvarado baseball field was located about a quarter-mile out of town on the Centerville Road on a sandy spot of ground, just large enough for the baseball diamond with the Bay at their backs. The final score stood at Alvarado 16, Centerville 14.

The Alvarado baseball club played a game at Irving (Irvington) on July 4, 1886, before a throng of people attending the big Fourth of July celebration in that town. Alvarado's opponent, Irvington, squashed Alvarado by a score of 30 to 5.

In July 1888 Alvarado had their first reported sponsored baseball team. The managers of W & B's of Irvington, Wissman's of Alvarado, and Heralds of Livermore, met to start a league of clubs from Murray, Eden, and Washington Townships. Wissman's, was a team sponsored by Gerard F. Wissman, Alvarado merchant, who unfortunately passed away at an early age in 1889.

In August the Wissman baseball team of Alvarado traveled to Livermore to take on highly touted Heralds. The Heralds was supposed to beat Alvarado easily, and that is exactly what happened. But Alvarado was highly elated as they went into the game, for they felt that they could get the better of Heralds "boy wonder" pitcher Sprague,

but Sprague fooled Alvarado, and had them breaking their backs reaching for his sharp and speedy curves.

The Wissman nine of Alvarado got their revenge against Heralds of Livermore in October 1888, when the Alvarado team got the better of Sprague this time, and H. Dyer pitched Wissman's to 14 to 9 victory.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **FLOODS** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Floods are always news in Alvarado and they seemingly hit every year. Here is a rundown of Alvarado's always news worthy watery ways:

The levee at Crandall's Slough broke on April 22, 1880, giving vent to a large body of water from the Alameda Creek. Where it crosses the country road at Alvarado and Centerville it is five feet deep, and a large amount of grain will be a total loss. About a thousand acres are under water. The track of the South Pacific Coast Railroad for nearly three miles commencing at Hall's Station is under water and some of the track is said to be washed away. A handcar with seven men started to cross but have not yet been heard from.

The rain fell in a torrent on March 16, 1882 accompanied by thunder and lightning. The gauge marked .76 of an inch at 6 o'clock tonight, making 3.77 inches for March, and 11.07 for the season. The wind is still in the south, and it is raining hard. Word has just been received from Alvarado, stating that Alameda Creek has overflowed its banks there, the water flooding a number of acres and extending up through the town.

All the creeks in Alameda County are running full, and the marshland at Alvarado is under water. February 22, 1884.

News reached Oakland December 22, 1884 that the town of Alvarado in the lower portion of Alameda County was under water owing to the exceedingly heavy rains. For Alvarado to be deluged is nothing new, for so sure as a heavy rain falls so sure is the town to be flooded.

The levee above the Riverside Hotel in Alvarado broke, and the entire district between Hall's Station and Mt. Eden is flooded. Six inches of rain has fallen since this storm has begun, 13.5 inches since the start of the season. On December 9, 1889 an inch fell between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The town has been flooded since December 7<sup>th</sup>, and today the streets are navigable only for boats. A few houses stand on islands, but most are surrounded by water. In Chinatown the water stands one to two feet inside the houses.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **ANTI-CHINESE SENTIMENT** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

During the late 1860's, cities and towns all about the Bay Area began to see a rise in the Chinese population. Many of the Chinese came from the played out gold fields, and others were simply immigrants from China. When the trans-continental railroad was completed many coolies who had worked for the railroad came back to California to live. The Chinese spread out throughout Northern California, anywhere cheap labor and an uneducated workforce was needed. In Alvarado they found employment on the farms, the salt works, the sugar mill, and as cooks and servants.

On the farms the Chinese formed their own labor gangs under "China Bosses," who acted as labor contractors. The China Bosses would offer room, board, and a job, for a fee. The sugar mill employed Chinese laborers to tend the beet fields, thinning, weeding, and harvesting the beets. As stated above, there was a large force employed in the salt industry. Jacob Sherk, who farmed hops on the Creek Road, employed 165 Chinese men during the harvesting season.

Every town in Washington Township had a good percentage of Chinese, as did most other towns in Northern California. What made Alvarado a bit different was the Chinese had created their own little town within Alvarado. This Chinatown was located between the Catholic Church and the grammar school on the north side of Smith Street on property owned by William Liston. Here the Chinese had their own grocery stores, doctor, and entertainment centers (called resorts in those days). The 1880 Alvarado census listed two houses of ill repute and five working women. Gambling was also mentioned in the census, and in later years, opium smoking and liquor was found among the various resorts in the Chinatown section.

The oriental culture was totally strange to occidentals. This, plus the fact that the Chinese tended to stay amongst themselves, and did not adapt to western culture, set them apart from the occidental culture. Anyone who was different from your culture was generally looked down upon in most societies of the world. Alvarado was no different, and many white men harbored ill will towards the Chinese. Random acts of violence against the Chinese by whites in the streets of Alvarado was not uncommon.

But the single biggest complaint was the low wages that the coolies were paid. In times of a poor economy, when jobs were scarce, the white man had to struggle to compete with the Chinese, they found the Chinese wage scale difficult to live on. It had already been shown when the Sugar Mill opened in 1870 that the whites earned \$1.50 a day, and the Chinese worker was paid 80¢ a day.

The fervor to exclude and expel Chinese nationals reached its zenith on May 1882, as told on this website: "<https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/may/06>"

"On May 6, 1882, President Chester A. Arthur signed into law the Chinese Exclusion Act. The first major law restricting voluntary immigration to the United States, the act banned all immigrants from China for ten years, prohibited Chinese immigrants from becoming American citizens, and restricted the entry, and re-entry, of Chinese nationals.

As Chinese people joined the flow of migrants to the West Coast of the United States after the Gold Rush of 1859, many white Americans resented the economic competition from Chinese workers, denounced Chinese people as racially inferior, and blamed them for white unemployment and declining wages. The Exclusion Act kept many Chinese nationals from entering the



United States and fueled mistreatment of Chinese people in America. Soon, anti-Chinese violence in states like Wyoming and Idaho left Chinese immigrants dead, wounded, and fleeing their home in fear.

Though initially authorized to last ten years, the Exclusion Act was extended and strengthened over the next eighty. In 1892, Congress extended the act for another decade, and in 1902, lawmakers made the act permanent, and added more discriminatory provisions. The legal ban on immigration from China was slightly loosened in 1943, but large-scale Chinese immigration was not restored until passage of the Immigration Act of 1965."



Alvarado's Chinatown circa 1920. Note that Smith Street is not yet paved. Also note the boardwalk used to protect foot traffic during the rainy season and when the seeming annual floods would arrive. Also note that all of the buildings are raised to the level of the boardwalk to protect occupants during the floods. These boardwalks were common throughout Alvarado, taking the place of the more traditional sidewalks in locales where flooding was not prevalent.

While most people in Washington Township seemed to favor this development, there were those that stood staunchly for the fair treatment of the Chinese. The Rev. William Brier testified in November 1876 on the proposition of barring the Chinese from entry into the U.S.:

"I employ seven Chinamen and one white man; I have fifty acres of fruit under cultivation, apples and berries. I could not raise the fruit with profit without Chinese labor; I think Chinese immigration has been of advantage to the State. I speak from my convictions, I do not know of a farmer in Alameda County who disagrees with me in my views; Democrats and Republicans have the opinion, the anti-Chinese agitation is not popular in Alameda County."

James Shinn, John L. Beard, and Howard Dusterberry were among many, who on May 15, 1886, had this to say about the recent "boycott" resolution aimed at Chinese nationals that was adopted by a convention in Sacramento on March 10, 1886. Those named above were fervently opposed to the boycott of Chinese, and they passed their own resolution:

"Whereas, the Presence of the Chinese in the State has become a source of social disturbance, inimical to the peace and good order of society by reason



of their peculiar habits and customs, but being here by treaty and invitation of the people of the United States, the Chinese, so long as they deport themselves in an orderly, quiet and peaceful manner, are entitled to equal protection of the laws in their persons and property, to engage in any of the ordinary pursuits of civilized society, and to employ and to be employed by others, with let or hindrance from anyone.”

So it is important to remember that although the U.S. passed this exclusionary act to prohibit the entry of Chinese into the U.S., it was not universally accepted by the occidental citizenry

Let’s take a closer look at the evolution of Alvarado’s Chinatown.

### **Chinatown 1870 & 1880:**

#### **1870:**

In the 1870 census of the Alvarado school district area, there were 110 persons that were considered Chinese. The town of Alvarado had a population of about 750 people at this time, so about 15% of the population of Alvarado were Chinese. Of the 110 Chinese persons in Alvarado, 106 were Chinese nationals, and four were Chinese children born in the U.S. Of those four Chinese children, three were boys, and there was one girl. Of the 106 Chinese nationals, three were female.

#### **1880:**

In the 1880 census of the Alvarado school district area, there were 220 persons that were considered Chinese. The town of Alvarado still had a population of about 750 people (like 1870), so about 30% of the population of Alvarado were Chinese. This number doubled from the previous decade. Of the 220 Chinese persons in Alvarado, 213 were Chinese nationals, and seven were Chinese children that were born in the U.S. Of the seven children (all under the age of 18) four were boys and three were girls. Of the 220 Chinese nationals, 11 were female. Of those eleven, 3 were children, 2 were wives, 1 was a keeper of a bordello, and 5 were prostitutes.

### **1870 Chinese Occupations in Alvarado versus 1880:**

<b>Occupation:</b>	<b>1870</b>	<b>1880</b>
<b>Barber</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>China Boss</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Chinese Boarding House</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Cook – Domestic Servants</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Doctor</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Farmer</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Fisherman</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Gambling House</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Restaurant</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bordello Operator</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Laundry</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Laundry – Seamstress</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Laundry Workers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Merchants</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Miner</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Prostitutes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>School Teacher</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Of the 220 Chinese in Alvarado in 1880, 68 are represented above. The remaining 152 were comprised of 7 children, and 145 were classified as laborers. Of those 145 classified as laborers, four worked for the Plummer Salt Works, 9 worked in other salt works, 36 worked for the Union Pacific Salt Works, and 41 worked for the sugar mill. The other 55 were classified as general laborers.

**Other 1880 – 1889 Events in Chinatown:**

The decision of the Supreme Court in May 1885 held that Chinese children must be received and be an education at the public schools. This action would produce some difference in the future apportionment of school funds. The rule made a difference in the apportionment of money by the State to school districts. The State apportionment of each teacher last year was \$500. It was possible that four or five Chinese school children in Alvarado could make the difference of the Alvarado School receiving an extra \$500 in the next apportionment.

**September 2, 1889**

The Alvarado Sugar Mill would open in September 1889 under the management of the Alameda Sugar Company. The company stated it would employ only white men, the mill chose not to use Chinese labor. The local press noted that this would help fill our hotels in Alvarado and would also help dispense money among the white citizens of Alvarado.

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

*A.O.U.W., Reliance Lodge, / Alvarado Amateur Minstrels / Alvarado Brass Band / Alvarado Gun Club / Alvarado Musical & Literary Club / Alvarado Social Club / Alvarado Tramping Club / Argonaut Club / Democratic Glee Club / Harrison & Morton Club / I.O.O.F., Crusade Lodge / Methodist Church / Native Sons of the Golden West / Pound Master / Post Office / Presbyterian Church / Rebekah's / Road Master*

The 1880's were a busy time for forming new social clubs, especially near the end of the decade. Alvarado has had an Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) since 1859.

**A.O.U.W., Reliance Lodge:**

The Ancient Order of United Workmen was a fraternal organization in the United States and Canada, providing mutual social and financial support after the US Civil War. It was the first of the "fraternal benefit societies", organizations that would offer insurance as well as sickness, accident, death and burial policies.

It was formed on April 15, 1881 in Alvarado with the following charter officers:

Andrew J. Hare	W.F. Ingalls	O.L. Southwick	Chas. R. Nauert
J. M. Ingalls	F.R. Stokes	W.F. Emery	Antonio Lee
A. Bain	William Wells		

Other Members found:

W. T. Ralph	S.H. Hall	F.P. Plourde	E.A. Anderson
E. A. Richmond	J.W. Robinson	A. Muller	P. Mathews

In January 1885, new officers of the Reliance Lodge, AOUW of Alvarado were seated. They were: S.H. Hall, C.E. Dennett, Antone Lee, W.H. Cockefair, M.D. Gilman, E.A. Richmond, Sr., C.R. Nauert, P. Plourde, J. Laughlin, and H.C. Muller.

The lodge met in the Odd Fellows Hall on the first and fourth Wednesday of each month.

### **Alvarado Amateur Minstrels:**

The Alvarado Amateur Minstrels made extensive arrangements for a performance in April 1882. There was considerable latent talent amongst these amateurs, which drew drawn the notice of the locals.

### **Alvarado Brass Band:**

The Alvarado Brass Band was formed in January 1880 under instructor Professor Slator. In May 1880 the band gave its first concert in the IOOF Hall. In April 1886 the Alvarado Brass Band elected new officers, they were: Al Charvoz, Henry S. Dyer, John Leal, and Guy Dyer.

### **Alvarado Gun Club:**

Alvarado organized a duck hunting club in September 1889 with the following members:

President:	John Scribner		
Vice President:	Jack Bird		
Secretary:	R. Peach		
Treasurer:	Benjamin Rayend		
Members:	Mr. Gaud	S. Davis	Peter Juhl
	Theobald Staub	Fred Griffin	

They leased the grounds of Lewis Cass Smith at Union City.

### **Alvarado Musical & Literary Club:**

A meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church in August 1885 for the purpose of establishing a musical, literary, and social society. Twenty-six members signed the roll to join the club when the by-laws were accepted. The following officers were elected: Westin F. Emery, Mrs. Seth G. Beebe, Miss Belle Barron, and Miss Bertha May. The club would be known as the Alvarado Musical & Literary Club.

The Alvarado Musical and Literary Society elected new officers in January 1886. They were: Westin F. Emery, Mrs. Seth Beebe, Miss Grace Barron, Frank G. Curtis, and Fred Hellwig.

### **Alvarado Social Club:**

Alvarado initiated the Alvarado Social Club in June 1882. Officers elected were Edward F. Dyer, president; George McDonald, vice-president; Newton S. Farley, secretary; Dr. Samuel Buteau, Treasurer; and Charles Hall, Sgt.-at-Arms. The finance committee was comprised of Edwin Hawley, P.A. Stokes, and Charles E. Anderson. The purpose of the club was both social and literary. They would meet on Friday evenings at the old schoolhouse.

In October 1882, the Alvarado Social Club elected new officers: Joseph McKeown, president; Charles W. Hall, vice president; Farley B. Granger, Jr., secretary; H.D.

Goodman, treasurer; Orman J. Emery, Sgt. At Arms; finance committee members: W.L. Zoller, C.W. Hall, and Newton S. Farley.

The Alvarado Social Club reported new officers were chosen in March 1888. They were:

President, O.J. Emery; Vice-President, Miss Nellie Beebe; Secretary, Miss Mollie Cossett; Treasurer, Peter Decoto

Board of Directors: John Liquori, H.P. Dyer, and Oscar Nauert.

### **Alvarado Tramping Club:**

The "Alvarado Tramping Club" was formed in October 1889. It consisted of Harold Dyer, Hugh Dyer, Peter Decoto, Edward Harvey and Henry May. Rather than a club in the strictest of terms, it was a collection of close friends who admired the out of doors.

### **Argonaut Club:**

The Argonaut Club was a last man standing type of club. Members of the Argonaut Club had to be members of the Washington Township Pioneer Club, however, not all members of the Washington Township Pioneer Club were members of the Argonaut Club. In March 1885, the Argonaut Club held a meeting at the Riverside Hotel. There were twenty-two members present.

### **Democratic Glee Club:**

A number of the fair sex in Alvarado organized a Democratic Glee Club in October 1888 with the following members:

Miss Bertha May

Miss Nellie Beebe

Miss Mollie Cosset

Mrs. A.T. Beebe

Mrs. Thomas Roche

### **Harrison & Morton Club:**

A club organized for the purpose of electing Benjamin Harrison President, and Levi Morton Vice-President was formed in Alvarado in September 1888.

The Alvarado Branch of the Washington Township Harrison and Morton Club was organized with officers as follows:

President:

W.F. Ingalls

Secretary:

F.B. Granger Jr.

Treasurer:

E.A. Richmond

Vice Presidents:

J.B. Haines

F.B. Granger Sr.

George W. Patterson

J.C. Whipple

W.T. Ralph

John Quigley

S.F. Brown.

### **I.O.O.F., Crusade Lodge:**

In January 1885 new officers of the Crusade Lodge, IOOF, of Alvarado were seated. They were: M.W. Ingalls, J.G. Vandeeper, N.S. Farley, H. Williams, F.B. Ganger, Jr., W.F. Emery, M.D. Gilman, W.H. Cockefair, Ormond J. Emery, Joseph McKeown, E.G. Whipple, D.G. Lowrie,

### **Methodist Church:**

The Methodist Church at Alvarado, founded in 1859, had a tough go of it. In the recent past, this now defunct church has served as the shop of a wagon maker, then it was turned into a drinking saloon, and then saw fit as the office of the Justice of the Peace, and the Post Office of Alvarado; but now (1881) is sadly empty.

### Native Sons of the Golden West:

The Native Sons of the Golden West was a fraternal service organization founded in 1875, limited to individuals born in the state of California, and dedicated to historic preservation, documentation of historic structures and places in the state, and the placement of historic plaques. In 1890, they placed the first historical marker in the state to honor the discovery of gold, which gave rise to the state nickname "Golden State" and "Golden West." Former U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren were both past presidents of the NSGW.



Alvarado organized a Native Sons of the Golden West parlor on May 17, 1888. It was known as Wisteria Parlor, No. 127.

Among the charter members were:

Farley B. Granger Jr.                      Hugh T. Dyer                                      Peter L. Decoto

On May 20, 1888, Wisteria Parlor, No. 127, NSGW, at Alvarado chose the following officers:

Past President:	E.F. Dyer		
President:	F.B. Granger Jr.		
First Vice-President:	H.P. Dyer		
Second Vice-President:	C.A. Dyer		
Third Vice-President:	Henry Hesse		
Financial Secretary:	P.A. Brown		
Recording Secretary:	H. Dyer		
Treasurer:	J.J. Liston		
Marshal:	S.F. Brown		
Inside Sentinel:	George Vandeppeer		
Outside Sentinel:	Peter Decoto		
Trustees:	August May	Ed Foley	Ed Ellsworth

### **Post Master:**

The Post Master for Alvarado during this entire decade was E.A. Richmond, Sr.

### **Poundmaster:**

On June 28, 1882, Poundmaster O.L. Southwick, of the Alvarado Pound, turned in his resignation effective today.

### **Presbyterian Church:**

The Congregation of the Alvarado Presbyterian Church needed a new organ for the church to replace the old one. So Mr. and Mrs. George Patterson, willing to assist in obtaining it, invited the congregation to a "Dime Party" that they would host on the evening of September 2, 1881.

The invitation was readily accepted by their numerous friends. Mrs. Patterson supplied all of the ice cream for the event, which was dealt out at the rate of ten cents per plate. A nice little sum was realized. Mr. Patterson fitted up one of his warehouses for the accommodation of the guests, where all who desired could dance to the violin of Mr. Twohig.

The call by the Presbytery to tend to the Centerville and Alvarado Presbyterian Churches was accepted by the Reverend Charles D. Merrill, who was installed on May 28, 1882. The reverend Merrill would preach his final sermon in December 1885. On January 1, 1886, Reverend Merrill would preach his first sermon to his new congregation at San Lorenzo.

The Reverend J.W. Lundy accepted the call to take charge of the Centerville and Alvarado Presbyterian Church's. He would replace the Rev. Merrill. The Reverend J.W. Lundy would resign his position at the Presbyterian Church in October 1889.

### **Rebekah's:**

The Daughters of Rebekah, also known as the Rebekah's, and the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies, is an international service-oriented organization, and a branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It was initially designed as the female auxiliary of the IOOF, but now allows both female and male members.

Alvarado organized an Alvarado Rebekah Lodge on October 10, 1888. It was known as the Olivina Parlor No. 142.

Officers where elected near the end of October and were:

Noble Grand:	Mrs. Ellen I. Dyer
Vice Grand:	Miss Emma Gillman
Secretary:	Mrs. Kate Dyer
Treasurer:	Miss Frankie Ralph
Warden:	Mrs. Philip Hellwig
Conductor:	Miss Emily Whipple
Inside Guardian:	Mrs. H. Meininger
Outside Guardian:	Mrs. George Williams

### **Road Master:**



The Road Master for this decade was Sebastian Franz. It was the Road Master's duties to level and gravel roads before winter set in, and then sprinkle roads in the summer so as to keep the dust down. The Road Master was also charged with reporting any deficiencies in bridges in his district.

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

**February 3, 1880**

**Augustine Alviso Passes Away:**

Augustin Alviso died in Livermore on February 3, 1880, at the home of his son, former County Supervisor Valentin Alviso. Augustine was born at Mission Delores (San Francisco) in 1809, and with his brother-in-law, Tomas Pacheco, were the grantees of the Rancho de los Cerritos Mexican land grant. The funeral took place at the Mission San Jose.

**January 29, 1880, Oakland Tribune:**

**Town Roadmaster:**

The people here and in the country around are much exercised on the proposition entertained to change the present efficient road laws. They have been tested for six years and have given general satisfaction. When a school district comprises a road district justice will be done. Each district receives its share of the road fund, and it is used as far as it goes, and the result is good roads. The roads are now in good condition, because the money is expended in each, district as it is received; while under the old law, and the proposed new law of our Road Master, to each township the roads that received the most attention were those in the" neighborhood of the Road Master. For instance, under the old law, Alvarado and its immediate vicinity received thousands of dollars, while the roads in other parts of the township were neglected and were wretched and impassable during the winter. The opponents charge that there are too many Road Masters and that they receive too much pay. Well, they would if they would work up to their limit of 100 days; but I know they do not some work 10 to 20 days. Let well enough alone, gentlemen.

The Road Masters about the township were:

Alvarado:	Sebastian Franz
Alviso:	James Hawley
Centreville:	John A. Bunting
Decoto (Cosmopolitan):	John C. Whipple
Irvington (Washington):	A.B. Montross
Lincoln (Newark)	E. Munyan
Mowry's landing:	Edward Ryan
Mission San Jose:	Charles Steyer
Newark:	C.G. Healy
Niles:	M.J. Overacker
Rosedale:	L. Hollenbeck
Warm Springs:	James H. Hudson

**March 8, 1880:**

**Carnival at Haywards:**

The carnival that took place at Hay wards on the February 20, 1880, reflected some honor on two young gentlemen who are leaders in our first society in this vicinity. Mr. John Shepard and Mr. Clarence Granger attended the ball from Alvarado, as a school girl and boy, Mr. Shepard taking the former character, and Mr. Granger representing the latter character, in a full girl's dress being well disguised, and finished off by an extensive sun-bonnet. The pair entered the hall jumping rope, and carrying a school bag and a strap with a couple of books in. We hear that the former character was exceptionally well acted and the prize for the most original character, a silver butter dish, was awarded to Mr. Shepard. Quite an honor for our sister village, Alvarado.

**March 18, 1880:**  
**Alvarado Attractions:**

Alvarado, with its natural attractions, is being brought more and more before the notice of families and pleasure seekers. Being so situated it is remarkably healthy. The winds coming over the fields become heated to a certain degree, and are health-giving and bracing.

Surrounding the village are numerous groves, principal among which is the one now being fitted up by Farley B. Granger & Son. It contains over fifteen acres of trees, comprising many varieties, and being so close together as to form an almost impenetrable shade. The timber is on hand for the floor, benches, tables, etc. Connected with the grounds will be a shooting range, which will offer inducements to military companies.

Close by is the Alameda Creek, and picnickers can lay off beneath the shady trees, and fish, read, bathe or they can row in the boats. The same parties that own the grove own the Riverside Hotel, which is adjoins the grove. This hotel is 50x60 feet, two stories high with a basement. The large parlor, private and public dining-rooms, saloon and servants rooms, take up the space of the lower floor. Upstairs are five suites, one bridal and fifteen single rooms, all very nicely furnished and with hot or cold water baths, for the accommodation of guests. The culinary department is under the supervision of Mrs. Granger, and there is a farm attached to the hotel, the table is first class. Unadulterated milk, fresh butter and eggs are always available. Only think of it, you unfortunate city folks, pure water from an artesian well supplies the hotel and grounds.

From the front of the hotel can be seen Fiddler's Green, Haywards, Mount Eden, Centreville, and the bay with sailing craft. The rear view is entirely of farms, backed with mountains. To the extreme right, nestled among the foothills, is the old Mission San Jose. The narrow-gauge depot is to the left-front of the hotel.

On March 11<sup>th</sup> another of our social gatherings took place at the residence of Mrs. Farley. Quilting's are getting to be all the style, and considering the interest and attendance are becoming very popular. Generally, at these quilting's, the work is left incomplete, but in this case the ladies completed two quilts. Refreshments were provided by the ladies, and when spread upon the table formed a spectacle to tempt an epicure.

A new millinery and fancy goods store at Alvarado, was last week, opened by Mrs. L. H. Peach. Mr. L. H. Peach contemplates starting a lumber yard near the Narrow Gauge Railroad depot, it being his intention to have the lumber brought in from

Santa Cruz. The Ladies' Aid Society have their regular meetings on the 18th, at the residence of Mrs. Lattin.

**May 4, 1880:**

**Oysters:**

Oyster men had a good day at Alvarado capturing over 2,000 oysters.

**May 8, 1880:**

**Marriage, Beard and Hawley:**

Mr. John L. Beard and Miss Elizabeth Hawley, both of Alvarado, were married April 29, 1880, by Rev. W.F. B. Lynch of Centreville.

**May 20, 1880:**

**Alvarado Brass Band:**

The Alvarado Brass Band gave its first ball at the IOOF Hall. Professor Slater of the Quadrille Band also furnished music. The Alvarado Brass Band is a young musical organization, having been in practice since last January. About forty couples attended the ball.

**July 4, 1880:**

**Alvarado School:**

The Alvarado School opened on July 19, 1880, with Mr. C.V. Osborn and Miss Hattie Paddon as teachers.

**August 19, 1880:**

**J. J. Stokes:**

Mr. Stokes is soon to take up his residence in San Francisco. The object of removal is to obtain superior educational and other advantages for his boys. The old firm of J. J. Stokes & Son will continue its business in Alvarado as before. Frank and Philip Stokes will remain here and Mr. Stokes himself will be found in his place as usual, coming up on the morning train and returning in the evening.

**September 20, 1880:**

**Polling Place:**

Polling Place:	Odd Fellows Hall
Inspector:	W.F. Ingalls
Judges:	F.B. Granger, Jr., O.L. Southwick

**October 8, 1880:**

**Santa Clara Presbytery:**

The Presbytery of San Jose elected the Rev. W.W. Brier of Centreville as moderator and Rev. W.A. Tenney, of Alvarado as temporary clerk.

**February 1881:**

**Tay Foundry has Shut Down:**

Six or seven families have moved away from Alvarado in the last month, aroused by the shutting down of the Alvarado Stove Works (the foundry).

**July 1881:**

**Death Takes Ed McDevitt:**

Edward McDevitt died in Alvarado on July 7<sup>th</sup>. He was a native of Ireland and was 32 years of age.

### **August 1881:**

#### **Train Kills Two Alvarado Residents:**

In August 1881, the Livermore train that reaches Haywards station at 6:30 p.m. ran over and killed Eli Huston, and badly injured Levy Hensley, both of Alvarado, at the Mount Eden crossing about one mile above Haywards station. The two men were riding in a header wagon with two horses attached. The horses escaped injury. Mr. Hensley is still living, but bleeding at the mouth. The gum trees on both sides of the road prevented the engineer from seeing the men in time to prevent the accident.

~~~~~

### **A Recherché Affair:**

The most *recherché*\* affair of the summer for Alvarado, was the lunch party given by Mrs. C.A. Plummer, on Tuesday last, in honor of her friend, Miss Minnie Steene of San Francisco.

\* *Recherché*: French adjective meaning exquisite, choice, exotic, rare.

### **November 1881:**

#### **Constable Southwick of Alvarado Wounded:**

This afternoon about 5 o'clock, Constable Southwick of Alvarado, was painfully wounded through the right arm by a Chinaman whom he was trying arrest for burglary. The Chinaman fired five shots, only one taking effect. The Constable tried his luck four times, but failed to hit the Chinaman.

### **February 1882:**

#### **Alvarado Wants Creek Improvement:**

In 1882, the people of Alvarado took up the problem of the navigation of the Alameda Creek. In February, the people of Alvarado took up a petition addressed to the U.S. Congress, asking for an appropriation of \$25,000 for the improvement and navigability of the Alameda Creek from Union City to the Bay. This, if it would be granted, would bring back the Alameda Creek to its former glory. But it was not to be, and petition apparently died without any activity.

~~~~~

### **James Graham Starts Newark Stove Foundry:**

James Graham, formerly a foreman at the Tay stove foundry at Alvarado, left the foundry in February 1882, to start a foundry near the site of the Ingraham's Iron Works in Newark. Mr. Graham's Newark foundry would eventually become the Wedgewood Stove Foundry.

### **April 1882:**

#### **Supervisors Petitioned to Update Drawbridge:**

In April 1882, the citizens of the town of Alvarado petitioned the Board of Supervisors to reconstruct the drawbridge in Alvarado, so as to allow water traffic from the sugar mill to pass into the Bay through the Alameda Creek. I can find where nothing was ever done as to this request.

### **July 1882:**

#### **Juan Alvarado Taken by Death:**

Former California Governor Juan B. Alvarado, who ruled California from 1836 to 1843, died in July 1882 at his residence in San Pablo, Contra Costa County. He was born in Monterey California in 1809. He was the namesake of the town of Alvarado.

**September 21, 1882:**

**The Sad Tale of Mrs. Helene Funk:**

Mrs. Helene Funk met a tragic end. Mrs. Funk apparently committed suicide by jumping off of the train at Truckee, California, on September 21, 1882. Mrs. Funk had lived in Alvarado, Calif., with her husband, Conrad Funk, in the 1850's. After 1860 nothing could be found for Mr. or Mrs. Funk. But then Mrs. Funk then came back to Alvarado in the late 1870's, showing at this time that she was widowed.

Preceding Mrs. Funk's jump from the train, she had told people on board the train that she was being followed by two men who intended to rob her of a large amount of cash she was carrying. It was later found that Mrs. Funk had \$32 in cash on her, but she did have \$3,100 in the Humboldt Savings Bank of San Francisco.

Conductor Burnett, who was in charge of the train gave this account of her death: Mrs. Funk had twice tried to throw herself from the train, but each time she was thwarted from jumping by the actions of the people on board. At one o'clock in the morning, Mrs. Funk was sitting the car talking to one of the passengers in the car when she quickly arose and darted toward the door. Burnett exclaimed, "There she goes again," and tried to stop her, but it was too late. She either fell or threw herself between the two cars, directly onto the track, and gave out a scream at the same time. Four cars ran over her body, crushing her terribly. She had told the conductor several times that men were trying to put her in the Stockton or Napa Insane Asylum.

Mrs. Funk's will contained a curious direction, which showed she was afraid of being buried alive. It read as follows: "It is my wish and desire that when I am dead, that my veins be examined before I am buried, so as to be sure that my life is extinct." The will of Helene Funk was read on September 21, 1882. The estate consisted of \$3,100 in a savings account, a shanty in Alvarado valued at \$400, and furniture worth \$100. The estate was divided up amongst four brothers and a sister, all living in Germany.

**June 22, 1883:**

**Alvarado Farm Painting:**

The painting below is framed oil on board. It is a ranch scene by Meyer Straus (1831-1905). Signed with monogram, titled "Alvarado" and was dated June 22, '83 lower left. Handwritten verso, "Portuguese Ranch near Alvarado," and bears the stamp, "Schussler Bros, San Francisco." Dimensions: (board) 12.75"h X 20.87"w; (overall) 20.5"h x 28.5"w. Straus was born in Bavaria, but moved to the United States in 1848. He eventually moved to San Francisco in 1875. The painting sold at auction at Witherell's Gallery in Sacramento on September 20, 2018, and netted the seller \$748.



*Meyer Strauss, the distinguished artist of San Francisco, was in Alvarado in June 1883, and produced several sketches which included the village church, a Portuguese farm house, the salt marshes, and a study of barn-yard life.*

The painting above is determined to be a farm in Alvarado as a news article of that period states that Mr. Strauss was in Alvarado sketching.

**February 13, 1884:**

**Mrs. S.J. Hendrickson Passes:**

Died at Alvarado, February 13, Mrs. S.J. Hendrickson, beloved wife of S.D. Henrickson, aged 50 years.

**March 1884:**

**Pests Attack Railroad Engineer:**

The old saw, "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good," was exemplified during the storm of March 1884 in that section of the County known as Hall's Station. Hall's Station was located on the Alvarado-Centerville Road south of Alvarado, where the South Pacific Coast Railroad passed over the tracks on its way towards Newark.

As the Los Gatos train was making its trip, it had to stop just after Hall's Station because the tracks were flooded, the water having entirely submerged parts of the track. The train gradually slowed down, until further progress became dangerous.

Engineer Baldy stopped his engine, put on a pair boots and waded ahead to make certain that the track was passable. He noticed on the rail numerous little animals, and a closer investigation showed them to be gophers, driven from their burrows by the flood. Their only place of refuge was on the rails, and on the fence posts alongside the tracks.

One of the little critters, not liking the approach of the engineer, revenged itself by biting him on the calf of his leg. Engineer Baldy became enraged and got even by kicking the gophers into the water. The train hands and the passengers, seeing Engineer Baldy in conflict with the critters, got off of the train, and with clubs, pieces of coal, and all manner of weapons, proceeded to killing four or five hundred of the



critters. Gophers, squirrels, and field mice are major pests to farmers in the south county.

**May 23, 1884:**

**Union City Sack of Flour:**

The first bag of flour ever made of California wheat and exhibited at a public fair, was on display in the exhibition room of the *California Farmer*. The bag of flour was milled by Mr. John Horner of Horner's Mills, Union City, in 1853. Mr. Horner took the top premium (\$50) at a fair which included flour milled from various parts of California. Mr. Horner's sample was judged the best flour milled in California.

**June 1884:**

**Fishing with Explosives:**

On Tuesday last, W.T. Ralph arrested five Chinamen who were fishing with Giant Powder in the creek near Alvarado. They had caught nineteen fish, and the fines they had to pay aggregated \$105.

**August 1884:**

**William Bittinger Dies:**

William Bittinger, a butcher doing business at Alvarado, died suddenly on Friday of last week, under circumstances that led to the belief that he had poisoned himself. A Coroner's jury found a verdict of suicide.

**October 18, 1884:**

**Republican Barbeque:**

The Republican barbeque at Alvarado, Alameda County, on October 18th, was a success in point of attendance and in other respects. Some 5,000 persons assembled at Alvarado to enjoy a Republican barbeque and to partake of the good cheer provided and to hear the speeches. Dancing was enjoyed until a late hour. E.H. Dyer of Alvarado presided, and addresses were made Aaron A Sergeant, Joseph McKenna, H. F. Page and several others.

**November 1884:**

**Presidential Election Bet:**

Presidential elections can make for heated races, and those who back their favorite pols are fervent in their ardor. So it was in 1884, when Grover Cleveland (Dem.) ran against James G. Blaine (Rep.). Alex Wegner and Charles Nauert made a friendly wager on the outcome of the race. Wegner, a native of Poland, was a molder at the Tay Stove Foundry in Alvarado, and Nauert was the manager of the stove foundry. The loser of the bet would have to haul the winner of the bet in a wheel barrow from the Tay Foundry to the Alvarado Post Office. Well, in an upset, Cleveland defeated Blaine and Charles Nauert lost his bet.

So, Charles Nauert, Supt. of the Tay Foundry in Alvarado, paid off his November 1884 election bet by wheeling Alex Wegner in a wheel barrow from the Geo. Tay Stove foundry to the Post Office, a distance of one half mile. The procession was magnificent with wreaths, bouquets, evergreens, and waving flags. The street was lined with spectators, and at the end of the route, Nauert was heartily cheered for good naturedly paying his debt. In the election Grover Cleveland defeated James Blaine, the first time since 1856 that a Democrat had been elected president.

In a sad note to this story, Alexander Wegner committed suicide in March 1885 by taking strychnine.

**November 17, 1884:**

**Mary Quigley Dies:**

Died in Alvarado on November 17<sup>th</sup>, Mary Quigley, aged 75 years.

**December 1884:**

**Grammar School Graduates:**

Local Grammar School Graduates:

The County Board of Education has ordered diplomas issued to the following grammar school graduates who have successfully passed examination:

Alviso:	Antone Tonqua	Mary Tonqua	Maggie Buchanan
	Susan Harvey	Robert Lowrie.	
Alvarado:	Grace Barron.		
Decoto:	Edward Haines	Peter Decoto.	

**March 1885:**

**Alexander Wegner Takes Own Life:**

Alexander Wegner, a molder, a native of Poland, aged 27, suicide at Alvarado yesterday with strychnine.

**May 1885:**

**Mrs. Christy Campbell Passes:**

Died at Alvarado on May 7<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Christy C. Campbell, aged 75 years.

**October 1885:**

**Dignitaries Meet at Sugar Mill:**

Senators Stanford and Fair, Representatives Morrow and McKenna, and other prominent magnates and officials of the South Pacific Coast Railroad, met at Alvarado to inspect the beet sugar mill.

**April 1886:**

**Calif. Fruit Union Members:**

Below is a list of local farmers who hold membership in the California Fruit Union. Each share of stock represents an acre of fruit.

John L. Beard, Centerville, 30 shares	W.W. Brier, Centerville, 50 shares
I.B. Haines, Decoto, 10 shares	J.C. Whipple, Decoto, 10 shares
W.F. Ingalls, Alvarado, 10 shares	George Althausser, Alvarado, 20 shares
Mrs. John Lowrie, Centerville, 30 shares.	

~~~~~

**Benson Landing Sold:**

In October 1886 Captain James Barron sold the Benson Landing to Moses Wicks, comprising 32.23 acres at Union City, for \$2,340.

**August 1886:**

**Young Girl Eats Rat Poison, Survives:**

The 3-year old daughter of John Moffitt, residing near Alvarado, by accident had hold of a slice of bread covered with "rough on rats." The child had eaten the whole of it before her danger was discovered. The drug was doing its deadly work rapidly, when, as there was no doctor near at hand, the child was given a plentiful dose of some simple antidote, which saved her life for the time, though she is still very sick.

~~~~~

**Dutch Fred Home Burglarized:**

On Friday afternoon a gang of thieves broke into the house of Dutch Fred on the John Hall Ranch, near Alvarado, and packed away all of the best property therein. The stolen property is valued at \$500. That section of Alameda County is infested by tramps, and the citizens are resolved to make an example of these thieves if caught.

**September 1886:**

**County Republican Convention:**

The Republican County Convention met yesterday in Camron Hall. Among the business was the nomination of E.H. Dyer of Alvarado for nomination of State Senator for Alameda County's eighteenth district.

**April 1887:**

**Young boy loses an Eye:**

A Portuguese boy at Alvarado picked up a gun cartridge yesterday and with a rock endeavored to break it open. An explosion followed and the boy will lose his left eye.

**May 9, 1887:**

**The Honorable Joseph F. Black Dies:**

The Honorable Joseph F. Black died suddenly in San Francisco on May 9, 1887, at the age of 52. Mr. Black arrived in San Francisco on June 1, 1853 and located at once in Alvarado, and subsequently purchased the land now owned by S.P. Harvey. He farmed there until 1856, whence he disposed of the property and moved to Murray Township.

**June 1887:**

**Wm Wicks Sells Benson's landing to F.B. Granger:**

In June 1887 William Wicks and C. Miller sold to Farley B. Granger Sr., and F.B. Granger Jr., 32.23-acres formerly known as Benson Landing at Union City. The Granger's would later sell the landing and its associated water rights to the Oakland Water Co., who supplied water to a portion of the City of Oakland circa 1895.

**November 1887:**

**Calvin Stevens Dies of Injuries:**

Calvin J. Stevens, aged 59 years, was thrown from a buggy at Livermore in November 1887, and within an hour was dead from the injury received. Mr. Stevens had settled at Union City in 1852. He later purchased the flourmill at Union City, built by John M. Horner in 1853. In 1858 Calvin transferred his merchandise business to Centerville. In 1869 he moved the flour mill and his residence to Livermore, where he has since resided.

**October 1887:**

**Alvarado Potatoes Remarkably Fine:**

The potatoes raised around Alvarado this year are remarkably fine. Samples shown us by Tony Lee Saturday weighed from 3 to 5¾ pounds each. They were Burbank seedlings, the finest potatoes in the market.

~~~~~

**Chinaman Assaulted for Walking on Sidewalk:**

A Chinaman employed at the Salt Works near Alvarado was outrageously assaulted by a man simply because said Chinaman was walking on a sidewalk, the whole width of which, was claimed by the heroic man.

**October 30, 1887:**

**Alvarado Family Injured in Wagon Upset:**

On October 30<sup>th</sup> an accident occurred on the county road between Mt. Eden and Alvarado. Michael Herron of Alvarado, with his wife and two daughters, while driving along the road attempted to pass a loaded express wagon and an upset was the result. Mrs. Herron had her arm broken at the wrist and Mrs. Herron had his back severely injured, while the two daughters escaped with having their faces bruised.

**February 1888:**

**Young John Plourde Dies:**

Died in Alvarado on February 8<sup>th</sup>, John N. Plourde son of Prosper and Estelle Plourde, late of Detroit Michigan, aged 22 years.

**March 1888:**

**Sherk Buys Land from Whipple:**

In March 1888, John C. Whipple sold to Jacob B. Sherk of Decoto, 62.11 acres, on the west side of the county road from Alvarado to Niles, next to the Meek Ranch for \$18,651. Here Jacob would successfully raise hops. Later a road leading along the edge of the property would be improved and named Hop Ranch Road.

**July 1888:**

**A.M. Charvoz Marries Miss Fanetta Ralph:**

Married in Alvarado on July 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr. A.M. Charvoz of San Francisco and Miss Fanetta Ralph of Alvarado.

**October 1888:**

**Shade Trees Cut Down Along Roads:**

People are finding that the shade trees along the Alvarado Road are disappearing at an alarming rate. This is being blamed on the high cost of stove wood in Washington Township.

**November 4, 1888:**

**Death Takes Sylvester P. Harvey:**

Sylvester P. Harvey died on November 4, 1888. He was interred at the Decoto Cemetery. Mr. Harvey was established in Alvarado in 1853, and his wife Sarah bore him three children, Edward S., Frederick C., and Susan S. Harvey. Sue would marry F.B. Granger Jr., thus uniting these two pioneer families. Edward would marry Miss Elizabeth Johanna McKeown, daughter of James McKeown, another Alvarado pioneer family. F.C. Harvey would become a premier merchant in the town of Alvarado. These children of Sylvester Harvey would produce the grandchildren that took this storied family into the 1950's: George Harvey, Theodore P. Harvey, Farley Granger III, Harvey T. Granger, and Clarence Granger.

~~~~~

**Michael Ahern Killed in Wagon Accident:**

Michael Ahern, an Alvarado Farmer, aged fifty-seven years, came to Oakland yesterday and sold his load of potatoes. In the vicinity of Eighth and Adeline Street his team became scared and took to flight. Ahern was thrown out and killed. He was dragged some distance before he let go of the reins.

**January 1889:**

**Assemblyman Joseph McKeown:**

California State Assemblyman Joseph McKeown (January 1889) has been a blacksmith at Alvarado for more than thirty years. Somehow the report gained circulation that Mr. McKeown was a schoolmaster. Though he never taught, he was a member of the Alvarado School Board of Trustees, as the clerk of the board. As for being a State Assemblyman he said, "I have not yet any bill to introduce. I have been looking at some of the laws and I think that those on the books are pretty good, if people would only obey them. I have not had an application for a position from anybody in my district and I have not had a request for any legislation. I shall examine the bills introduced and vote as I deem best on each one."

**February 28, 1889:**

**Wm Jung Marries Miss Christina Penke of Mt. Eden:**

On Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, in a small ceremony held in San Francisco, William Jung of Alvarado and Miss Christina Penke of Mt. Eden were quietly married. The groom is one of the firm of Phillip Hellwig & Company, doing business in Alvarado and is a well-known meat company in this valley. Miss Penke was formerly a resident of Haywards and Mt. Eden. They will reside in Alvarado.

**March 1889:**

**Man ends up in Creek:**

In March 1889, an Alvarado citizen arose rather early and took his morning walk. In passing the creek he spied a large salmon (steelhead were known as salmon in the early days), swimming peacefully along. He ran into his barn and procured a pitchfork, with the intention of having salmon for breakfast. He stood on the bank and made a lunge at the fish. The bank suddenly caved in and he gently slid into the creek. At last reports he had not yet caught the fish.

**March 26, 1889:**

**Miss Kate Ryan Passes Away:**

Died in Alvarado on March 26<sup>th</sup>, Kate M. Ryan, daughter of John and Mary Ryan, at the age of twenty years.

**March 27, 1889:**

**Mrs. Clara Franz Passes:**

Mrs. Clara Franz, wife of Sebastian Franz, died March 27<sup>th</sup>. She was a native of Germany and was 64 years of age.

**May 1889:**

**Peter Madsen Purchases Smithurst Saloon:**

Peter Madsen this week purchased the well-known Smithurst Saloon and property in Alvarado for \$1,200. He has taken in a partner named Adolph Lassen. This property was located at the NE corner of Levee and Smith Streets, and was also known as the "Old Corner."

**May 17, 1889:**

**Young Samuel Randall Dies:**

Died in San Francisco, May 17, Samuel B. Randall, youngest son of Captain S.B. and Catherine Randall, a native of Alvarado, aged 5 years, 7 months and 2 days.

**June 1889:**

**Pacific Coast Refinery is Now Alameda Sugar Co.:**

The Pacific Coast Sugar Refinery, now called the Alameda Sugar Refinery, has been started up under new management at Alvarado. This season there will be 1,200 acres in beets.

**July 1889:**

**Niles Hayride:**

On a dark July 1889 night, a company of merry young people from the Niles area enjoyed the pleasure of a hayride, taking a lantern along to shed light along the way in the place of the moonlight, which usually provided light on such occasions. The neighboring towns of Decoto, Alvarado, and Centerville were visited, and the people were aroused from their slumbers by the sound of the melodious horn, which furnished the music for the party. At an early hour of the morning the horn was hushed, and the revelers sought their homes.

**August 1889:**

**Althauser Sues Spring Valley Water:**

George Althauser and his wife this afternoon brought a lawsuit against the Spring Valley Water Works to enjoin them from diverting the waters of the Alameda Creek and for damages the plaintiffs suffered on their 55 acres of land near Alvarado with frontage of 4,093 feet on Alameda Creek.

**September 1889:**

**A Visit to Historic Alvarado:**

(Originally published in the *Haywards Journal* in September 1889)

From *The Oakland Tribune*:

“During our short sojourn (in Alvarado) we could not leave town without paying our respects to the dispenser of justice in this section of the township, Judge Richmond, who is likewise Postmaster. We found Mr. Richmond enjoying good health and speaking most hopefully of the change for the better taking place in the town.

Another thing that causes a person to speak well of the ex-county seat is the way the new Road Overseer is doing his duty. Many a time we have driven between the post office and Granger’s, and had our teeth nearly shaken out in trying to skim over the big chuck holes. Now it is as level as any road in the county and is sprinkled every day. The sprinkler also does his good work through the principal streets to the stove works. Road Overseer F.B. Granger Jr., is the boy for the position, and the traveling public can well afford to bless him, as the road throughout his district are well attended to.

Alvarado enjoys the proud distinction of having an Assemblyman, Rep. Joseph McKeown, who has for years successfully conducted an agricultural works here. He is a wealthy bachelor. Now it seems to us that such a model gentleman, not at all bad looking, should fight so shy of the matrimonial halter. Alvarado has any number of handsome maidens, and there is no more eligible bachelor than Rep. J. McKeown.”

**September 1889:**

**Augustus Church Dies:**

Augustus M. Church, one of the pioneer residents of Alameda County, died in September 1889 at the family residence in San Francisco. The deceased was the first clerk of Alameda County, the seat being then, in 1853, at Alvarado. His general store was the first county seat in 1853. He was for a number of years Justice of the Peace of Oakland Township.

**October 1889:**

**Alviso and Alvarado School Trustees:**

County Supt. Fisher has prepared a list of the school trustees in the county:  
Alvarado District: John M. Ingalls, Joseph McKeown, and Ivins Ralph.  
Alviso District: Peter Lowrie, John Laughlin, and John Silva.



**Kate Riley at Teacher's Institute:**

The annual Teacher's Institute of Alameda County convened in Hamilton Hall in Oakland this morning at 9 o'clock. The conference was called to order and County Superintendent of Schools P. M. Fisher called the meeting to order. The Primary Grades teachers held a conference in the main hall; and Miss Kate Riley, of Alvarado, read a paper on the theories of education



**Annie Howell of Alviso School Takes Teachers Examination:**

Miss Annie Howell of Alviso School sent up a substitute while she remained in Oakland to take the teachers examination last week.

**November 1889:**

**Judge Noble Hamilton on Early Alvarado/Union City:**

Recalling the Old Days of Alvarado, a poignant memory of Alvarado as printed in The *Oakland Tribune* in November 1889:

"In the year 1853, Alameda County, by an act of the legislature, was formed out of the territory taken from the counties of Contra Costa and Santa Clara. New Haven, or Alvarado, was the first county seat. Judge A.M. Crane was the first County Judge of the county, who, as such, under the law as it then existed, held what was then called the Court of Sessions, which transacted the business of the county now performed by the Board Supervisors. There were also associated with him two Justices of the Peace, more ornamental than useful. The Honorable A.M. Church was the first County Clerk and Recorder, both offices then being held by the same person, and served a term in the Legislature.

Mr. Coombs, known as "Black Hawk Coombs," was the first District Attorney; Captain J.S. Marston was the first County Treasurer, and Andrew H. Broder, called "Tom Snooks," was the first Sheriff, whose duty it was to also collect taxes.

Sol Hopkins, a one armed man residing at Alvarado, was Justice of the Peace, and as a sample of how justice was administered in those days, I will relate an incident that occurred in his court in 1873. Hamilton & Coombs, lawyers, had their office in one corner of the room used for a district courtroom and in important cases also by the Justice of the Peace. There was a case being tried



before Judge Hopkins and a jury. Hamilton & Coombs were on one side and W.C. Pease on the other side. In the midst of the trial a box of champagne, sent to Hamilton & Coombs by J.J. Vallejo, who had just received news of the granting of his patent (legalizing his Spanish Land Grant), was brought into the courtroom.

The Justice immediately adjourned court for five minutes, as he said, for the purpose of ascertaining what the basket contained, thereupon it was opened and one half of the bottles were disposed of, the court, jury, parties, witnesses and attorneys on both sides of the case assisting in the operation, after which the case proceeded. A reasonable time having elapsed, another adjournment was had, when the remaining bottles were sampled, and disposed of as before. It is needless to say that Hamilton & Coombs won the case.

In 1853 Henry C. Smith, an early pioneer, who came to California, I think, in 1846, made money and returned to the State, and induced a number of his friends and neighbors to come out to California with him. He was in the Legislature at the time, and was instrumental in procuring the passage of the act of the Legislature organizing Alameda County.

Lyman Beard and John M. Horner, who resided at or near the Ex-Mission San Jose, were the leading and most wealthy citizens of the county. Beard and Horner had located upon, and subsequently purchased the grant of the lands of the Ex-Mission of San Jose, containing about 30,000 acres, and had portions of it, as well as portions of the Rancho de Los Cerritos under cultivation.

The latter rancho was granted by the Mexican Government to Tomas Pacheco and Augustin Alviso, the father of Valentin Alviso, the latter of whom is now a prosperous farmer in the Livermore Valley, having served a term in the Legislature and held an honorable position in the Custom House. These lands were covered with Spanish or wild cattle, attended by vaqueros, but as the lands were brought under cultivation by settlers, called squatters, who took them up under what was the possessory law, and commenced farming operations, producing immense crops of wheat, barley, potatoes and onions, for which they received fabulous prices, cattle became a huge nuisance. Messrs. Beard and Horner cultivated some of the lands near Alvarado in 1852, in potatoes and onions, from the proceeds of which they realized large fortunes, potatoes finding ready buyers at 12½ cents a pound.

Of course, under such conditions the herds of cattle being in the way, commenced to thin out, and many found their way without knowledge of, or consultation with owners, to the slaughterhouses of, and beef marts of San Francisco.

Don Jose de Jesus Vallejo had a grant from the Mexican government for the Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda, containing upwards of 17,000 acres, lying on the north side of the Alameda Creek, which formed the northern boundary of the lands of the ex-mission aforesaid and of the Cerritos Rancho, all being bounded on the west by San Francisco Bay.

Niles and Mt. Eden were on the Vallejo Rancho, and there was upon his land, he claimed in 1853, 9,000 head of horned cattle, besides several hundred head of horses. When the settlers commenced to go upon his land these cattle commenced to disappear. Many of them found their way, or rather many ways, by and through the agencies from abroad with or without the connivance of the "vaqueros" on board vessels of various capacities to the marts of San Francisco. So much so, that Vallejo estimated his losses at \$50,000. He sought other pastures for the residue of his cattle in Sonoma County and Monterey, but the same elements were at work there, and he received meager returns for his cattle.

True the law forbade this sort of thing, but what is law in a community where the majority makes no effort for its enforcement. But after the disappearance of the cattle of the Mexican Californians, and parties acquired cattle of their own, the law was enforced with more vigor, so much so that the owners of the cattle were ready to hang, and sometimes did hang, without jury or judges, persons who failed to recognize the property of the owners of cattle and horses.

The towns of Alvarado and Union City were located upon the Arroyo de la Alameda on Cerritos Rancho and soon became a noted place all over the state. A steamer owned by John M. Horner plied regularly twice or thrice a week carrying passengers and produce from both Alvarado and Union City to San Francisco, and bringing back supplies of goods for said towns and country surrounding.

There was a large settlement about Alvarado from Berrien County, Michigan; prominent among them were Henry C. Smith, A.M. Church, Socrates Huff (now our distinguished and obliging County Treasurer), his brother L.B. Huff, General John S. Chipmen, Ebenezer Farley, C.J. Stevens, Mario Chancy, and many others whose names I have forgotten.

Besides these there were from various states, William Patterson, a wealthy farmer near Alvarado, Mr. Horace M. Vesey, who afterward became our County Clerk, Joseph Coombs, "Black Hawk" Coombs, Tom Coombs, his brother, who served a term in the Legislature; Hon. A.M. Crane, afterwards a judge in the Superior Court; W.C. Pease, a careful and able lawyer; W. H. Chamberlain, Benjamin Williams, a lawyer now residing in Haywards; Red Horner, Joseph Ralph, Dr. Frans, P.E. Edmondson, J.A. Trefry, William Hayes, Benjamin Marston, R.S. Farrelly, George Simpson, Joseph Black, (?). Munyan and Jerry Reedy, the last of whom kept a livery stable and had the best team and training roadster ever known, also George and Justin Moore, J. McCormick, James Dubois, and others whose names have escaped my memory, most of whom have crossed over the dark river.

In the early part of 1853 Red Horner (brother to John Horner), who had recently married a young wife, built a large hotel in Union City, to which all hands resorted of nights and Sundays to drink whisky and play poker, as such were about the only amusements that were practical, as there was but few ladies there at the time to form other society, and a new comer had a choice of four things, that is, to drink, to gamble, to smoke or get out. But for the advent of Dr. Morrow, a faithful Methodist minister of the old school, who made his

appearance on Sunday twice a month at the hotel, and held services in the dance hall, just above the barroom where the drinking and sporting were going on, it is doubtful if many would have remembered when, if at all, Sunday came.

It was not an uncommon thing in the midst of religious services overhead to hear the jingle of coins in the barroom below, and it was not small coins either, but California made eight-sided \$50 slugs that were more common than \$10 pieces are now. Everything was push; everybody had money, and if not could easily get it. One man squatted on a 100-acre of land of Vallejo in 1852, and put in potatoes. Before it was time to take them from the ground he sold them to the owner of the land for \$7,000, rushed to San Francisco, and in the building on the corner of Washington & Kearney Streets, called the "Eldorado," at the game "faro," which was openly played, in a few hours had not a dollar left. When he was leaving the building he met a friend just entering it with a bag of slugs, who desired him to return and assist him to buck off the \$8,000 he had just received for his crop. That night or so much of it as was left they spent sleep upon the billiard table, not having money to procure lodgings elsewhere.

Once in a while the ladies, the few that were at Union City and Alvarado, would get up a party at the Horner Hotel, at which the whole country would turn out and dance until daylight in the morning. The ladies being but few men never lacked for partners, and comparatively few of the men could even get one for a dance.  
N.H."

The above article was signed simply, "N.H." But to my mind it could only be Noble Hamilton, an Alvarado lawyer at the time when the county seat was located at Alvarado. Mr. Hamilton married the daughter of William Liston, and maintained an interest in Alvarado, long after he moved to San Leandro with the county seat. Later he would become a Superior Court Judge for the City of Oakland. The above article about Alvarado and the East Bay, is one of the few early recollections from a person of education, which was actually alive at the time when Alvarado was the county seat in 1853 and beyond.

#### **November 10, 1889:**

#### **Death Takes Alvarado Old Timer, August Heyer:**

August Heyer, the genial old-timer of Alvarado, who was well known throughout this valley, was suddenly taken from his wife and children at the age of 65 years on November 20, 1889. Mr. Heyer was a native of Hanover, Germany, and first settled in Alvarado in 1855 after spending time in San Francisco and in the gold fields. He first arrived in the U. S. in 1852, and a year later he was married to Hattie Goldsmith, to whom he was engaged to in Europe. Mr. Heyer at that time owned some of the most valuable lots in San Francisco, and sold the lots where Platt's Hall now stands for \$500. He went to the Frazier River, lost all of his money, and came to Alvarado in 1855. He then sent for his youngest brother, Julius Heyer, who afterwards died at Haywards. He was most happily married and leaves a wife and two children, Charles Heyer, being bookkeeper in the German Bank in San Francisco, and his daughter, who is the wife of C. R. Nauert, superintendent of the Alvarado Stove Foundry (Geo. Tay & Co.); besides three nephews, Charles, Julius and William Heyer, all of Haywards.