

THE HISTORY OF CENTREVILLE
CHAPTER 03
1870 to 1879

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* **BIOS** *

Frederick Hilton / William J. Mayer / Thomas Nelson / William Walton / William A. Yates / M.B. Sturges / Sigmund Salz / Thomas C. Huxley / Conrad Prag / James Hagan / John L. Beard / John & Fleda Bunting

Frederick Hilton:

Fred Hilton, the town shoemaker, was repairing shoes in the town of Centreville before 1870, but exactly when is not known. Fred was born in Nova Scotia circa 1818. His wife Mary was also born in Nova Scotia circa 1822. They had three children, all born in Nova Scotia: Emily H. born circa 1848 was a school teacher; Frederick was born circa 1852; and Adelia born circa 1858. Also living with the family was a shoemaker named Mathew Prendergast who was born in Ireland in 1844.

After the turn of the century Fred Hilton was retired living with his wife. Also living with them was daughter Delia and grandson Harold Rogers. Delia showed she was divorced.

William J Mayer:

William J. Mayer came to Centreville during the 1860's. He was born in New York State circa 1838. His wife Anna was born in Massachusetts circa 1849. They had two children, Mary born in 1869 and Victor born in 1866.

William Mayer was the proprietor of the American House Hotel at Centreville. Then on July 6, 1871 at 3 o'clock in the morning a fire was discovered in the building. All efforts to save the building proved fruitless and the structure burned to the ground. Strenuous efforts were made to save the Salz store, which was located about 50 feet from the American Hotel. The loss was said

to be \$12,000 with \$6,000 insurance coverage. 1880 finds the Mayer's living in Placer County California where William was engaged as a farmer.

Thomas Nelson:

Thomas Nelson was a longtime resident of Centreville, having been in business as a butcher before 1870. Thomas Nelson was born in Germany in February 1824 and entered the U.S. in 1850. His wife Mary was born in Ireland in March of 1830 and entered the U.S. in 1859. They showed no children living with them, but they did have a young man named Gordon Willis working with Thomas as a butcher's helper.

Thomas retired in Centreville and in his remaining years he lived on his income as a capitalist. Thomas Nelson passed away December 26, 1905 and Mary passed away on March 2, 1903.

William Walton:

William Walton was born in Vermont in July 1833. It is not known when he came to Centreville but in 1860 he was living with James Bezell and was working as a blacksmith along with Herman Crowell. Also living with James Bezell in 1860 were Edward Niehaus and Henry Dusterberry. At this time William did not show a wife or children.

Circa 1864 William Walton married Laura Agniss Marston who was born in Maine on May 3, 1846. They had daughters Ella and Josephine and sons: William, George, Henry, Frank, and a baby born October 1880 that had not yet been named.

George remained a blacksmith in Centreville for many years, but by 1900 he had been divorced from his wife and was living with Frank N. Smith working as a blacksmith's helper. On August 1, 1907 William Walter passed away and was buried in Centreville's Pioneer Cemetery. Laura Walton passed away in 1929 and was buried in Oakland.

William A. Yates

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

William was a school teacher at the Centreville School in 1880, but by the year 1900 he had left teaching and had become a business agent for the Spring Valley Water Company of San Francisco.

William not only taught at the Centreville Grammar School, but William was also very busy in the financial affairs of the town of Centreville. He was the corporate secretary for the Alden Fruit Dryer, which began operations in 1874. In February 1878 he posted the legal notice for the sale of the failed Centreville Fruit Preserving Co., which was an Alden Fruit Dryer factory.

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

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

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

In December 1898 an important lawsuit involving valuable riparian rights in and to Alameda Creek, was filed in the Super Court of Alameda County by Jane R. Clough against the Spring Valley Water Works, et al. The other defendants were the Washington & Murray Township Water Co., Charles Webb Howard, W.A. Yates, W. Brooks, John Mosier, and Howard Overacker Sr. The suit was brought to restrain the Spring Valley Water Works from diverting the water of Alameda Creek and quiet title thereto. In 1871 the Washington & Murray Township Water Company had acquired the right to the water in the creek.

On November 27, 1901 testimony in the Clough-Spring Valley Water case developed that William Brooks and W.A. Yates, employees of the Spring Valley Water Works, had been presented with stock in the Washington & Murray Township Company after it had been purchased by the big corporation. They admitted that after receiving the stock they took no interest in the township ditch and hardly knew of its existence, the intention of their employers being to establish that it had been abandoned.

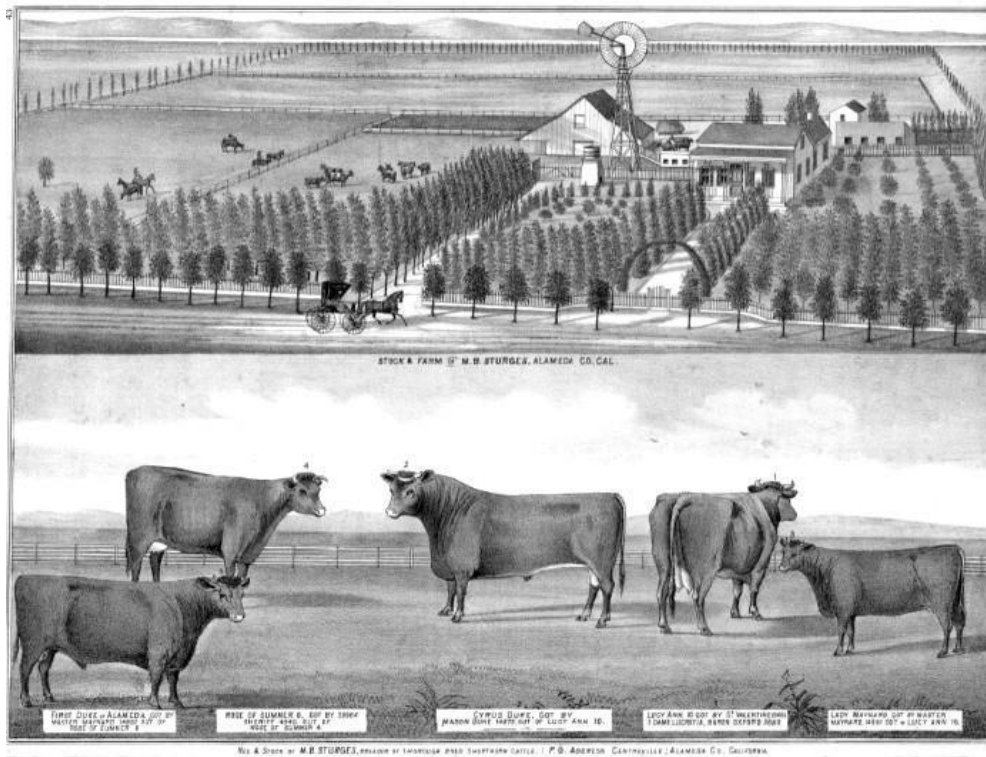
In 1910 William and Kitty Yates were back in Centreville where he was again teaching school. In 1920 they had moved to Berkeley he was retired and had Mabel Yates, his unmarried daughter living with them working as a librarian.

M.B. Sturges

Mr. M.B. Sturges purchased a farm situated about 1½ miles SE of Centreville. He had relocated here, with his wife Eliza, after moving from San Francisco in January 1871. M.B. (Mahlon B.) Sturges was born in Ohio in 1822. His wife Eliza was born in Ireland in 1840.

At the time Mahlon bought this place it was bare ground. Mr. Sturges turned it into one of the prettiest places in this part of the countryside. He planted a great number of Australian blue gum trees from seed and planted them all around his orchard. Though he only planted began planting them in January 1873, some of them had reached a height of 26 feet by December 1874. Mr. Sturges also planted Chilean pepper trees and Australian willow besides a great many varieties of the evergreen, all from seed, and he had no trouble in raising them successfully.

Mr. Sturges considers consider Australian blue gum trees very healthy, since he left San Francisco in very poor health, he is now enjoying excellent health, which he attributes to inhaling the atmosphere surrounding the trees.



In April 1884 M.B. Sturges put up for sale his property on the Centreville Irvington Road, which included 50 acres of land, a house, two barns, well with windmill, 5,000 gallon tank and complete service of pipe. And all of his livestock.

M.B. Sturges passed away in San Francisco on August 20, 1898. The filing of his will brought to light the details of a more romantic life than is usually found among the pioneers of this State. Some of the provisions of the showed clearly that the peculiarities of this Alameda County early settler stayed with him to the close of his long career at sixty-eight years. For the greater part of his life Sturges lived on a ranch between Centreville and Irvington, purchased with money that he took out of the gold mines half a century ago. At his death he left an estate which was willed to two sisters whom he quarreled with a generation ago over his wife. He has not seen or heard of them since but in his closing days he decided to leave them his property. These sisters were Mrs. Lucretia Crowell of Toledo, Ohio, and Mrs. Erdolia Wilcox of Adrian, Michigan. Sturges and his wife lived together for many years at Irvington and the old man took a prominent part in politics, being nearly always a delegate to county conventions. It was partly due to his wife's thrift that he accumulated such a comfortable fortune. About six years ago she was taken with her last sickness and prior to her death Sturges engaged a musical widow to act as her nurse. The widow made a good nurse and, her musical powers charmed the pioneer to such an extent that shortly after his wife's death he married the ex-nurse by contract. The contract was apparently in due form and the couple lived in peace for four months. Mrs. Sturges then claimed one-half of the old man's property and importuned him to deed it to her. This he declined to do, and after some legal procedure the musical widow consented to take \$750 and a divorce. About this time Sturges met a Mr. and

Mrs. English of San Francisco, and he became very, cordial and confidential with both of them, particularly with Mrs. English. He furnished a house in which the English's lived and with whom he boarded. He then decided to put up a beautiful home on Fell Street near the panhandle (S.F.), and this was completed about two years ago in consideration of taking care of him for the rest of his life he deeded this property to the English's, and after the deed was recorded a coolness sprung up between them, and Sturges spent several hundred dollars in having the property deeded back to him. It is now encumbered to some extent, and so is his ranch near Centreville, he having found it necessary during the closing year's of his life to raise money to supply funds for his numerous escapades. Sturges was a crank regarding wills. He studied will making half his life, and as a result he left behind him one of the most peculiar and original wills ever filed. He declares that he has no widows to leave his: money to, and no children, and if any shall substantiate their claims to be such each is to get \$5. He also leaves all his property to his two sisters, and says that, if they will undertake to cover his grave with a marble slab or tomb to cost not less than \$500, and to exhume the remains of his first wife so that they may repose with his, that the executors are to permit this to be done. Otherwise, he wants to be buried In Mountain View. Cemetery under a \$1,500 tomb, in which his wife's remains are also to be placed. In case his sisters are dead and have left no descendants, his estate is to go to the orphan fund of the Grand Lodge of Masons of California. Sturges also bequeathed \$1,000 to the Oakland Commandery, of which he is a member, for the purpose of keeping his tomb in good order.

The misuse of a cipher in a newspaper proved to be an expensive mistake to two young men and an attorney from the East, who had just arrived to claim an estate left by M. B. Sturges, the old Centreville pioneer farmer and capitalist. When Mr. Sturges died a will was discovered in which he left his estate to his two sisters, Mrs. Lucretia Crowell and Mrs. Eudisia Wilcox of Michigan. Twenty years ago Sturges quarreled with these two sisters regarding his marriage, and from that time they never communicated with each other. After his death a report of the will was published, which stated that the estate was worth about \$100,000, and that the missing sisters could not be found. This statement very quickly brought to light the missing sisters, one of whom lives at Adrian, Mich., and the other at Chicago. Each had grown children, and when the prospect was held up of obtaining \$50,000 from their forgotten California relative, a son of each of them, accompanied by City Attorney Priddy of Adrian, came to the coast. When, the case was called in court it appeared that a host of attorneys had written to the absent heirs, asking for an authorization to take care of their interests. Several of them had assured the court that their authorization to act would be received in a couple of days, and then Attorney Priddy astonished everybody by stating that he had come from Michigan to handle the case. Attorney Fred Whitney was appointed by the deceased executor, and it was his unpleasant duty to inform the nephews and their attorney that there had been a great mistake made in the published report of the value of the estate. Mr. Whitney informed them that the estate would probably net the sisters about \$3,000 each after the mortgages were paid.

Sigmund Salz:

Sigmund Salz came to California in 1866 from Bohemia where he had been born in October 1851. He immediately came to Centreville where he was employed as a clerk in his uncle's (Jacob Salz) store. He did so until 1874 when his uncle Jacob married Miss Kullman from San Francisco whose father was in the tanning business. Jacob bought into Kullman's enterprise and Sigmund took over his Uncle's store in Centreville.

Later Sigmund would partner with Ed Niehaus and form the company Salz & Co. in Centreville. They dealt in general merchandise but later fanned out into hay and grain, real estate, and the mortgage surety business.

On December 11, 1885 Edward Niehaus was appointed as Postmaster of the Centreville Post Office, taking over this office from his partner Sigmund Salz. Ed Niehaus would continue as Postmaster for Centreville until he was arrested on February 12, 1890 for reporting more stamp sales than he made in order to increase his salary. He was arraigned before Judge Hoffman and pleaded not guilty and was released on bail.

Sigmund Salz came to his defense when he averred that he alone attended to the post office business as Deputy Postmaster. It was Salz who made the returns and he thinks if there is any blame it should be attached to him. On March 14, 1890 Judge Hoffman dismissed the indictment against Ed Niehaus who was charged with making false returns to the Treasury Dept.

Financial woes hit Salz & Co. about the same time as the Post Office misunderstanding betook Mr. Niehaus. Salz & Co. gave an assignment Moritz Nickelsburg of San Francisco in January 1889, for the benefit of creditors.

The firm of Salz & Co. had the largest store and did the largest general business in Centreville, and had for years done a general brokerage business, loaning money on mortgages and collaterals. They also had a branch store at Decoto, on the line of the railroad west of Niles. The failure has caused consternation that part of the county. Niehaus was sixty years of age, and has been in business in Alameda County since 1858. Salz is thirty-seven years of age, and has been in business since 1872. The commercial standing of Salz & co. was rated at \$40,000 to \$75,000, with fair credit. They owned about \$16,000 worth of real estate in Sunol, where they also had a warehouse; and they are assessed for \$10,000 worth of personal property at Centreville. Salz was individually assessed at \$7,000 in mortgages.

Later it was reported that Salz & Co., which had recently made an assignment, were settling with their creditors on the basis of 40 cents on the dollar in February 1889 and the firm then resumed business.

Sigmund Salz continued in business in Centreville and in 1910 he was dealing in grain and hay with his son Clarence. Sigmund Salz died in San Francisco on August 17, 1918 at the age of 67 years. In 1877 he was married to Fannie Salz who was born in Germany in 1853 and entered the U.S. in 1853. They had four sons and a daughter: Henry, Moses, Clarence, and Arthur; and a daughter Elma.

At the time of Sigmund's death his was married to Harriett (Hattie) Salz, his second wife. This was also the second marriage of Harriett. After Sigmund's death Harriett Salz moved to the City of Oakland.

Thomas C. Huxley:



Thomas Huxley came to Washington Township in 1875 and in 1880 was lodging with Mr. Crosby Palmer at Mission San Jose. Mr. Huxley was born in New York State on May 15, 1851. He relocated to Centreville where he and his wife Grace raised their family. They had two daughters Grace and Marjorie, and two sons Richard and Thomas. Thomas was an attorney and continued with his practice in Centreville. In one high profile case he represented the widow Clough and the Washington-Murray Township Water Co. versus the Spring Valley Water Company in December 1898 in a battle over water rights. On September 5, 1921 Mr. Huxley passed away

Conrad Prag:

Conrad Prag was appointed as the Centreville Postmaster on January 15, 1877. Sigmund Salz replaced Mr. Prag as Postmaster on July 12, 1882. Conrad was listed as a merchant in Centreville in 1880. He was born in 1828 in Germany. Where he came from before Centreville is not known. However in October 1882 Mr. Prag went into partnership with Edward Salz of San Francisco (formerly of Decoto) in the manufacture of paper boxes.

James Hagan:

Mr. James Hagan was born in England in October 1842 and entered the U.S. in 1865. His wife Sarah was born in Canada in December 1846. She entered the U.S. in 1867. They had three children.

On February 23, 1878 the Fruit and Vegetable Preserving Company's factory (Alden Fruit Dryer) at Centreville was sold to the highest bidder. The highest bid was only \$1,225. Mr. James Hagan, the winning bidder in the foreclosure sale, made an extraordinarily good purchase and planned to put the establishment to use in making tin cans and filling them with fruit for all the world.

Mr. Hagan had been a tinsmith in Hayward before he came to Centreville. In Centreville he followed the same occupation until he purchased the fruit dryer.

James Hagan placed in connection with his fruit drier a cannery with a capacity of filling 1,000 cans per day and employing ten hands. Soon after his drier and cannery up to full speed he received an order for 6,000 cans of cherries, which were sold at such a figure as to pay the expenses and leave a profitable margin.

In July 1883 it was reported that the Centreville Drying and Packing Company was employing 18 persons and running night and day during the harvest season.

Then on the night of January 24, 1884 a building worth about \$500, owned by Thomas Nelson, and used by James Hagan as a fruit warehouse, was burned. James Hagan lost about \$1,000 worth of canned fruit, insured by the Home Mutual Insurance Company.

On February 3, 1884 W.W. Montague & Co. brought an attachment suit against James Hagan of Centreville, whose cannery was recently burned down to recover \$454.45 for goods supplied.

James Hagan was next found in the 1890's operating an undertaking parlor on Valencia Street in San Francisco.

John L. Beard:

John L. Beard was the son of Elias L. and Jane M. Beard of La Fayette, Indiana. John was born on June 18, 1845. In the year 1850 Jane Beard came to the Mission San Jose to join her husband Elias and brought her two sons, John L. Beard and Henry G. Ellsworth.

In 1852, a daguerreotype of the Mission buildings by a traveling artist was taken at the earnest request of John L. Beard, then a little lad. This is the first and only good picture ever taken of this interesting landmark.



John lived with his father at the Mission San Jose until the year 1867, when he took up his residence on what is today Beard Road in the Alviso District of Fremont. By 1870 John valued the worth of his farmland on Beard Road at \$10,000.

John's wife, Elizabeth Beard was born in California in June 1856. They were married circa 1880 and had the following children: a daughter Jessie, born February 1881; a son John L., born December 1888; a son Hawley, born December 1889; and a daughter Clara, born December 1892. In total they had 6 children, four of which lived until adulthood.

The farm of John L. Beard was about a half mile south of the road toward Alvarado. It was inherited from his grandfather, Mr. Jesse Beard, who came here in 1854 and engaged in farming and fruit culture, which has been carried on successfully ever since. Some of the pear trees were still bearing fruit in 1904. They were those brought across the plains in the pioneer days by Jesse Beard. Many fine California walnut and elm trees ornament the grounds. One walnut tree, probably the largest in the county, measures fifteen feet in circumference four feet from the ground.

Besides farming John Beard was a regent of the University of California at Berkeley and also served as a State Senator in 1896.

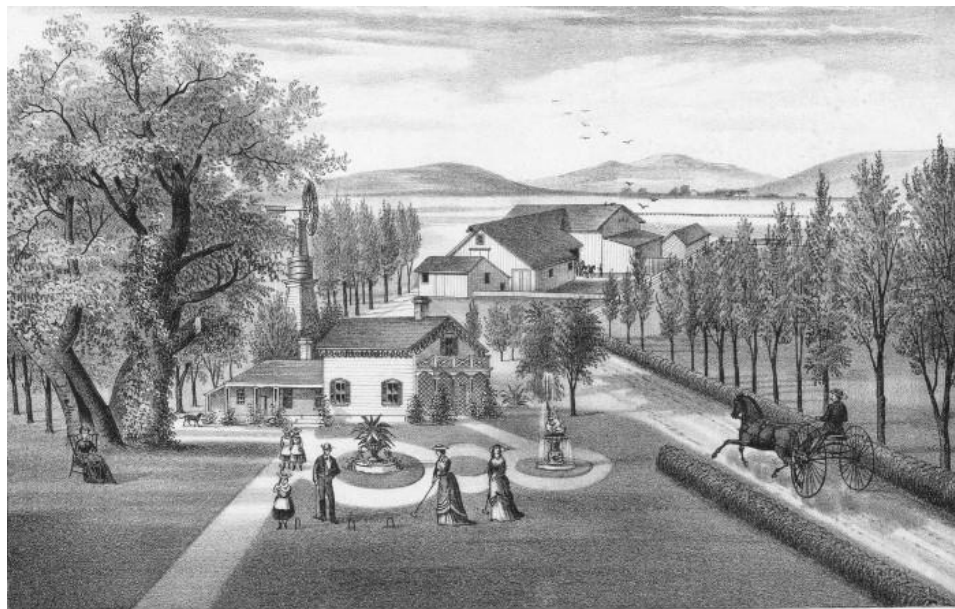
John Beard passed away on November 19, 1903.

John A. & Fleda O. Bunting:

John A. Bunting was born in the State of New York in March 1854. Miss Elfleda Overacker, daughter of Howard Overacker, was born in Centreville on June 30, 1857. On December 5, 1877, Mr. John A. Bunting and Miss Fleda Overacker were married. After their marriage John & Fleda settled down on a farm on the Centreville to Newark Road.

In March 1881, it was noted by a San Francisco newspaper that John A. Bunting was successfully carrying farming on what was known as the Marston ranch. He had 25 acres of fruit of all kinds that were yielding beautifully. His apples were especially fine, and had been in special demand at good prices for the China market. He was adding 15 acres more, chiefly in apricots.

In July 1882 John was elected to the California State Horticultural Society as a member. In August 1882 John added an Ely-Meeker solar fruit drier on his farm, and placed ad in a San Francisco newspaper inviting farmers to come view the new technology.



RES. & FARM OF JNO. A. BUNTING, CENTREVILLE, ALAMEDA CO., CALIFORNIA.

The farm and residence of John Bunting on Thornton Ave. from the Thompson & West Atlas

On May 24, 1894, several of Jon Bunting's creditors filed a lawsuit to have him declared insolvent. On January 11, 1896, Mrs. Fleda Bunting was granted a divorce from John A. Bunting.

John Bunting struggled to exist after his divorce, but good fortune would look his way, as explained in this *Hayward Daily Review* article of April 5, 1901. This callous tongue-in-cheek article about John A. Bunting outlines his life after his divorce:

"The "poor child" in the gutter looking through the rich child's window, and sees the rich child stuffing itself with cake, oblivious to the poverty outside. John A. Bunting, of San Francisco, used to keep a railroad water-tank on the desert near Tucson, Arizona.

After years of hard luck he became a freight brakeman. He was still poor. As he turned his brake or stood about in the cold, he thought of the lucky millionaires, of their heartlessness, of the injustice of fate.

From his salary he saved a little money and lent a friend a small sum, receiving as security a mortgage on forty acres of land. The man could not pay the mortgage. Did the brakeman sympathize and say, "Never mind?" Not at all.

John Bunting foreclosed on the mortgage and took the land. He discovered an oil well on the land, and he is now a millionaire. He arrived in San Francisco the other day. His business was important. Possibly you will think that he came to spend his millions to help men and women as poor as he had been. Think again. He came to order a private (rail) car of the best kind that can be built. He is a millionaire and he is acting like his fellows, thinking mainly of himself. When he was a poor devil he acted like his fellows and thought mainly of himself."

The article above shows the callous thinking of the *Daily Review* to a man who received good fortune. This dramatic change of fortune happened to Mr. Bunting in about 1899.

He had loaned a friend \$170, and took as collateral a watch and a mortgage on 40 acres of land in Kern County, Calif. The friend did not pay, so Bunting sold the watch and foreclosed on the land. Bunting later struck oil on the land and became a multi-millionaire. But the story of John and Fleda Bunting is a fascinating one that most people only dream about; what if I had a million dollars. Here is a man who lived that story.

In August 1900, four years of single life following a divorce decree separating John A. Bunting and his wife Fleda Overacker Bunting, came to an end when the couple reconciled. They evidently became convinced that their happiness would be more complete if they took up anew the marriage ties that bound them for seventeen years. Bunting secured a license to and remarried his former wife.

John made most of his money in the period of 1899-1900. He settled up past debts and began improving Sycamore Farm. The old Marston buildings were moved to the back of the farm and he erected new ones; the house, barn, four-story tank house, and a steam plant were completed by 1901. In July, the family moved into the new home and celebrated with a big dance for 138 guests on the upper floor of the new barn.

The new mansion was three stories with a full basement and 10 bedrooms. Wide steps led from the front walkway to a veranda that extended across the front and halfway around the side. The woodwork, oak furniture and library shelves were especially nice. The dining room table could be extended to seat 16. Sycamore Farm, named for three sycamore trees near the house, was recognized as the showplace of Washington Township.

The steam plant was fired with crude oil from Bunting Wells and pumped water and provided electricity. John shipped his crude oil in tank cars and hauled it from the railroad in horse drawn tank wagons to Sycamore Farm.



The Bunting's moved into their new mansion on Sycamore Farm in July, 1901. The house was set back about 500 feet from Thornton Avenue, surrounded by beautiful landscaping, said to be designed by John Hays McLaren, superintendent of Golden Gate Park and designer of the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition. This photo was taken from the *Tri-City Voice*.

The ladies of the Country Club gave this description to the new Bunting place built in 1901:

"On the road to Newark is "Sycamore Farm," the home of John A. Bunting. The house, grounds and barns are lit by electricity manufactured on the place, the first plant in the township. The engines used for this purpose and for pumping water for irrigating, burns crude oil brought from the oil wells owned by Mr. Bunting in Kern County.

A pomegranate hedge extends across the whole front of the place on the county road, a large conservatory and an aviary are other attractions of this hospitable home. Near the house are some fine old sycamores, which give name to the place."

The *Evening Sentinel*, of Santa Cruz, printed this article about John Bunting in February 19, 1901. The article covers John Bunting's encounter with J.E. Fillmore, General-Superintendent of the Southern Pacific Railroad in San Francisco. Not long after he had acquired his millions, Mr. Bunting called at the headquarters offices in San Francisco of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Scribbling his name on a card, he sent it to Supt. Fillmore.

"Mr. Fillmore says he's sorry," said the office boy, handing back his card, "but you saw fit to resign and there's no job open for you just know." John A. Bunting, a former freight conductor on the Southern Pacific, flushed a little and then he said impatiently to the boy:

"Tell Mr. Fillmore that I'm seeking a job. I want to buy a private car if has one for sale."

An audible smile rippled among the waiters on providence cooling their heels in the General Superintendent's ante-room. Here was a game. Perhaps the man was a harmless crank. He did not look dangerous. At any rate, he was shown into the presence.

Mr. Fillmore, with his eye on the bell, put a few questions. It was well to be civil to a man who could talk in that tone of voice of private cars and things, even if he had once known him as a freight conductor, and before that as a pump tender in Arizona.

He soon discovered that John A. Bunting could deliver the goods and pay the freight. He was a new Monte Cristo, or it might be Coal Oil Johnny, come to his own. Bunting had struck oil, and struck it big. He was a millionaire. He has offices in the Crocker Building. He lives across the Bay, his country residence being Sycamore Farm near Centreville.

Luck and a great deal of shrewdness in manipulating California's new fuel oil had made this man, within twenty-two months, very rich. His fortune is placed all the way from \$700,000 to \$4,000,000. Reticence about his affairs is one of the main characteristics of the man. Not from him can the size of his pile be ascertained. But those who know something of his affairs do not hesitate to say that he is more than a millionaire, and that every night while he is sleeping his fortune keeps on increasing.

A hard experience most of his life has made Bunting cynical. He is not a man of education, but he has some expensive tastes, which he proposes to gratify. One of them is to have a swell private car. The order for it has already been given. The Pullman Company is to construct one for him at a cost of \$30,000. That will give him as a good a private palace on wheels as even the Stanford's, Crocker's, or

Huntington's used (all Central Pacific RR tycoons). And that is what Bunting wants.

Up to a short time ago Bunting was working for the Southern Pacific. The highest he ever got in the company's employ was as a freight conductor. The first pay he drew from the (rail) road was as a humble pump man at a water tank station in Arizona.

"Take a seat," said Fillmore as Bunting entered the room. "What is this you say about wanting to buy a private car?"

Bunting explained that he had made a fortune out of oil, expected to add to his fortune, had occasion to travel very often between San Francisco, Bakersfield, and Los Angeles, and as he was able to afford it, desired a car of his own.

"Why, I had a terrible time trying to go to Los Angeles from Bakersfield the other night," Bunting went on to explain.

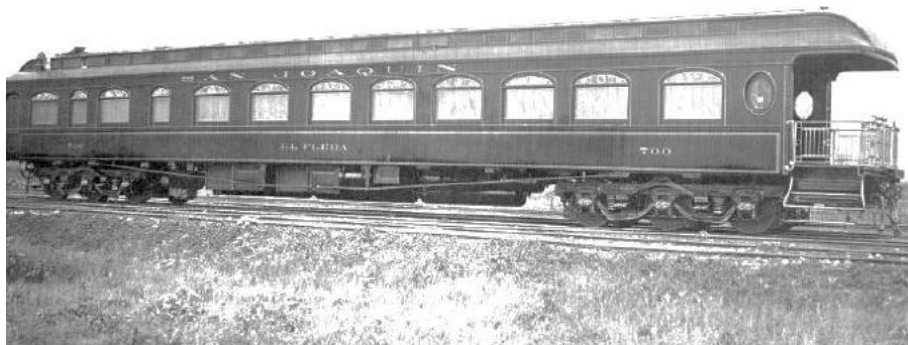
"How's that?" inquired the railroad superintendent.

"Well," rejoined the California Monte Cristo, "all the trains were crowded. Only one upper berth could I find vacant. I wouldn't have it. Luckily, I found a spare Pullman on a sidetrack. I chartered it for myself."

Bunting asked Fillmore if he had a private car or director's car to sell. He was told there was one to be had for \$15,000. The oilman drew out a checkbook to make a check for that amount the railroad official said to him.

"Bunting, if you've got the money to blow for a private car, order a new one. Get the very latest design and you'll be better satisfied in the long run, or as long as your money holds out. In the meantime, if you want a private car, we'll give you one at a reasonable rate."

The newly-made millionaire decided to accept this advice, and that is how he happened to give the order to Pullman as mentioned."



Private Pullman business railroad cars, a glamorous way to travel, were popular in the early 1900s. John A. Bunting ordered this one and named it El Fleda (Noble Beauty) in honor of his wife. It was 80 feet long, efficiently designed with sleeping, dining, kitchen, bathroom, and servant's quarters.

In November 1911, John Bunting ordered a new Pullman car. It seems that he went down to Mexico in 1910 and wrecked his original car and sold it to a mining man down there. Bunting had a mania for private cars and cigars. He was very generous with the latter to his friends and they also frequently used his car. When he takes a round trip to New York the round trip costs him \$2,800. The car and his cigars are his two extravagances and he tells his friends he can afford them.

John Bunting's fame throughout California gained as the years progressed and he grew tired of the interviews he had to give to various newspapers, for his story made good copy. One such of these occurrences was in August 1912, Mr. and Mrs. Bunting were staying at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. He was engaged with a San Francisco Examiner reporter on a telephone call at his apartment in the Palace Hotel, and John had listen to question about his wealth, his \$30,000 railroad car, and his \$1 cigars.

At the conclusion of the call John said to the reporter, "Don't mention my cigars or private car, please," remarked Bunting at the end of the phone call.

"Why? They are of no interest to anybody but myself, and, to tell the truth, I can't see for the life of me why I should talk on such a personal subject. So let me whisper gently, but insistently and in language that no doubt ought very properly to be blue-penciled, 'nothing doing in the cigar and private car matters' "

John A. Bunting died of cancer on May 1, 1916. His funeral was held in Centreville California. Former oil associates gathered to pay homage to one of the leaders of the California oil industry who died at the age of 61 years. Services were held in St. James Episcopal Church in Centreville.

All five of the children of John and Fleda were born in Centreville. Their daughter Evelina married John Chandler under the large sycamore trees at Sycamore Farm and followed him in his career as a mining engineer. Their son James died before he was two years old. Another son, John, attended Anderson's Academy in Irvington, and later married Margaret Nelson, daughter of James Nelson, who established the Del Monte Brand. John and Margaret operated the Mission Hereford Ranch. Their other son Howard was an expert mechanic, graduate of Kentucky Military Institute, and pilot for the Associated Oil Company. He married Leah Stanfield. Finally there was Lawrence who worked for the shipyards, local gravel and cannery companies, and the Water District. He married Genevieve Garvey, the nurse who cared for him when he was injured in a motorcycle accident.

When John visits a railroad point the employees rejoice, as he mingles freely with them, distributing Havana cigars bearing his name. His charities are extensive, but are confined for the most part to the widows and orphans of railroad men.

El Fleda Olive Overacker:

Miss Elfleda Overacker (Fleda), daughter of Howard Overacker, was born in Centreville on June 30, 1857. She attended Washington College in Irvington, in Washington Township, and graduated in May 1876.

Fled Overacker married John Antrim Bunting on December 5, 1877, and lived together at Centreville until June 1894, when the John and Fleda Bunting were separated. Fleda secured a divorce in January 1896 on the ground of extreme cruelty.

The *San Francisco Call* of November 18, 1893, commented on the agricultural acumen of Mrs. Fleda Bunting in this article:



Mrs. Fleda Overacker Bunting

“Another woman of literary and artistic tastes and abilities, who is a successful orchardist, is Mrs. Fleda O. Bunting of Centreville, Alameda County. Mrs. Bunting comes of farming stock, her father, Howard Overacker, being a pioneer-fruit grower in the pioneer in the pioneer fruit-growing section of California.

While over all the rest of the state, the people have gone mad for the search of gold, which they were endeavoring to dig from the earth, dwellers in the southern part of Alameda County were picking their gold from trees and vines, in the form of peaches, apricots, plums, oranges, berries and grapes.

With these antecedents it was only to be expected that when Mrs. Bunting assumed charge of her fine orchard farm of forty acres, a mile from Centreville, she would make a success of it, and she has. The entire work of the place is done under her intelligent supervision.

During the fruit season she is constantly in the orchard; picking, directing, attending to the shipment of fruit, and keeping a close watch on the work. Telegraphic communication directly between her office and the city keeps her constantly informed as to the markets, and her practical knowledge of the preparation and packing of fruits, together with good shipping facilities, makes it possible for her to take advantage of every rise or fall in prices.

Besides being a successful orchardist, Mrs. Bunting is a social leader in the delightful section where her ranch is located, and her home is one of the most popular gathering places in the countryside. She finds time to paint and write, read, and make frequent trips to the city to keep in touch with the leading thought of the day; is first and foremost in every good work in the neighborhood, and yet conducts the “ranch” as successfully as any of her masculine neighbors manage their places.”

Fleda was a member of many clubs and committees for the betterment of the town of Centreville, Washington Township, and Alameda County. Among her activities were:

Fleda Bunting joined with Mary Gregory, Dora Overacker, Louise Overacker, Susan Bunting, Susan Milton, Caroline Simpson, Laura Beck, Hester Trefry, and Mary Mathiesen in August 1892, to form a committee to take back the Centreville Town Hall, built in 1868, which had fallen into private hands. The building had been built with public money.

In Sept. 1898, the Women's Club of Washington Township elected new officers. Those elected were: Mrs. Clara Patterson of Ardenwood, President; Mrs. W.W. Brier of Centreville, Vice President; Mrs. Fleda Bunting of Centreville, Secretary; Mrs. Helen Ford of Niles, Treasurer; Mrs. Mary Allen of Centreville, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Fleda Bunting was elected as a delegate to State Federation of Women's Clubs in March 1906 to represent the Country Club of Washington Township at the general convention in St. Paul.

In an unmatched display of bravery, Mrs. Fleda Bunting was in charge of a trained nurse and three helpers at the Catholic Church's emergency hospital in Centreville in November 1918. Mrs. Bunting took to caring for Spanish Flu victims at the parish house at the request of Father's Casey and Souza. The hospital was modeled closely on the plans of the municipal hospital in Oakland. The women of the town took over the kitchen and the preparation of food. The number of patients was reduced to eight persons at this time.

In November 1923, Fleda participated with Mrs. Howard Chadbourne in efforts to promote the Del Valle Preventorium for children maintained by the Tuberculosis Society. This was in conjunction with the Christmas Seal campaign.

Fleda was a long time member of St. James Episcopal Church in Centreville, and in May 1925 she acted as hostess for the new Helper's Club of Niles, which was a branch of the St. James Episcopal Church.

In May 1926, Fleda resigned her chairmanship of the Washington Township Red Cross Committee in order to go on a trip around the world.

Upon her return she again took up a life of service to the community and social standing. Mrs. Bunting was a member of the "Sweet Sixteen Club," the "Dora Overacker Club," the Southern Alameda County Welfare Club, and was President of the St. James Episcopal Church Guild.

As one of her final acts, Fleda became active in the rewriting of the "History of Washington Township," which had been published in 1904. The sequel would be an addition to where the original book left off. The book was first published in 1904, with the financial assistance of Mrs. Bunting and the editorial staff headed by Mrs. J.E. Thane.

On May 3, 1930 Mrs. Elfleda Olive Overacker Bunting passed away and was buried with her husband, John Antrim Bunting, in the Irvington Cemetery.

*** CENTREVILLE BUSINESSMEN OF NOTE ***

Here is a short list of the major businessmen in the town of Centreville for the year 1870. This list does not include farmers who were the largest single occupation the town.

Dr. Cyrus Allen	Physician	David H. Beck	Harness Maker
Rev. Wm W. Brier	Minister	Daniel Faulkner	Blacksmith
Henry C. Gregory	Retail Grocery	Frederick Hilton	Shoemaker
James Lewis	Hotel Keeper	Rev. Wm F B Lynch	Minister
Wm & Fred Mayer	Hotel Keeper	William Milton	Carpenter/Hostler
Thomas Nelson	Butcher	Matt Prendergast	Shoemaker
Jacob Salz	Retail Grocer	Calvin Stevens	Miller
James Allen Trefry	Constable	William Walton	Blacksmith
Dr. Lorenzo Yates	Dentist		

*** WASHINGTON MURRAY TWSHP WATER***

In the spring of 1871 Washington and Murray Township citizens became concerned over 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 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 Centreville 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 Calaveras 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 is 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 is only sixteen feet wide, and continues its course toward Alvarado for four miles, passing through a large number of the best farms in Alameda County. There is also a small ditch, six feet wide, extending to Newark, a distance of four miles. The company has ten miles of ditch, two substantial dams, which cost \$2,000. It has expended over \$11,000."

* **ALDEN FRUIT DRYERS** *

In 1874 Centreville had an active Alden Fruit drying business in operation. The fruit dryer was automated rather than having to lay fruit trays on the ground to facilitate solar drying. Centreville joined San Lorenzo, Sonoma, San Jose and Vacaville as active Alden Fruit Dryers in the area.

The Alden Fruit Drying system was coming into wide use because their dried fruit could be enjoyed for consumption in the winter, and in camps, on shipboard, and in other places not within convenient reach of good fruit. The Alden fruit when soaked in water for a short time, swells out and take the shaped and size it had had before drying, and preserves all its original color and flavor, it was asserted by its promoters.

The Alden fruit was dried by the rapid circulation of air, accurately adapted and graduated heat, and considerable humidity. The process was an evaporation in moist

air, in the presence of heat, thus directly imitating nature in the organic process of ripening, the whole being so quickly accomplished that there is no time for the slightest decay to set in. The product was claimed to not be at all discolored and preserved intact the fresh flavor and texture of the original article.

The Centreville operation had three (drying ovens) Alden Fruit Dryers. The daily product of each dryer was estimated to be worth one hundred dollars a day each, or the equivalent of \$300 a day for the Centreville location.

The annual report of the Centreville Fruit Preserving & Vegetable Company prepared by Secretary William A. Yates in April 1877 indicated that the company was not a financial success. There was little doubt at this time the property would have to be sold to pay the debts, and if some energetic man should buy it, it is probable that it might be so managed as to become profitable as other Alden Fruit Dryers have become. It was stated that the fruit dried in Centreville was of an excellent quality.

On February 23, 1878 the Fruit and Vegetable Preserving Company's factory (Alden Fruit Dryer) at Centreville was sold to the highest bidder. The highest bid was only \$1,225, and Mr. James Hagan was the purchaser. The amount of the sale would still leave \$1,500 to be borne by the stockholders in order to liquidate the debts of the old concern. Each shareholder had to contribute about \$12 for each share they owned in order to prevent creditors from bringing suit against them to reclaim their losses.

BASBALL: EARLIEST REPORTED GAME

As Centreville began to mature some time was given to the divertissement of clubs, social organizations and sports. The first sporting event (other than hunting and horse races) held in Washington Township occurred in September of 1875. A baseball game was played between the College boys (Washington College at Irvington) and the Centreville 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 Centreville Club and Captain Baker the College Club, there being nine players on each side. The College boys won 106 runs and the Centreville Club 36 runs, leaving the former victorious by 70 runs.

*** WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PIONEERS ***

In November 1876 William Barry of Centreville and William M. Liston of Alvarado suggested the organization of a pioneer organization. The two called for a meeting of all interested persons in the township. The meeting was held on Thanksgiving Day, November 30th, at Centreville with the following persons being present: Charles Kelsey, John J. Riser, James A. Trefry, Edward Ross, Emory Munyan, Ed Niehaus, Caleb C. Scott, William H. Cockefair, Daniel C. Bane, George W. Bond, and William Barry. Messrs. Riser and Kelsey were appointed a committee to prepare the constitution and rules of a permanent society.

On December 9th a meeting was held, at which the committee's report was received and adopted; but the organization was not completed until December 23rd. The first officers elected were:

President: George W. Bond
1st Vice President: Caleb C. Scott
2nd Vice President: William M. Liston,
Treasurer: Luther E. Osgood
Secretary: William Barry

The regular meetings of the society were held on the second Saturday of April, August, and December. All residents of Washington Township who were in California before March 26, 1853, also the sons of pioneers over twenty-one years of age, were made eligible to membership.

The object of the organization was declared to be to "collect and preserve information concerning the settlement of the township," and "advance the interests and perpetuate the memory" of its pioneers. It cared for the sick, and had a ritual for the burial of the dead. But the more practical object was to form a social rallying point for the renewal and continuance of old friendships.

One hundred and two pioneers signed the constitution, all of whom were residents of the township at this time, and who had arrived in California prior to March 23, 1853. These members have their annual banquets at the Gregory House in Centreville.

The Washington Township Pioneers held their annual election of officers and banquet at the Gregory House in Centreville on Saturday, April 16, 1901. From a membership of 111 they had dwindled to eight. Those present were H. Dusterberry, J.C. Whipple, William Barry, F.C. Rose and John Buchannan, and Sebastian Franz. Absent were Ed Niehaus, who is in Fresno and C.G. Healy.

* **CHINESE IMMIGRATION** *

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."

Rev. Brier's brave words fell on deaf ears. Congress had already passed the Chinese Exclusionary Act in May 1862, prohibiting the immigration of Chinese into the U.S. But the act was not enforced and this riled many people. In Alvarado, for example, a Chinese made half the wage of a Caucasian in 1870 when the sugar mill first opened. The Chinese were used as farm hands on the sugar mill owned lands.

Wage earners despised the Chinese and farmers embraced them. With the ending of the Transcontinental Railroad and the gold fields panning out Chinese descended on Washington Township. Chinese nationals were treated roughly by some people of the township. The Chinese endured racial slurs and outright beatings. In Alvarado one Chinese national was found hung from the stringers of a bridge.

Things did not improve for the Chinese in the township for in 1885 there was a meeting in the Germania Hall in Oakland, chaired by the illustrious August M. Crane, first county judge from Alvarado. The resolutions produced at this meeting included the following as an example of the ill feelings of the time:

"The Anti-Chinese League of Alameda County met in Germania Hall (Oakland) on December 27, 1885, and the room was filled to the doors. F.W. Hunt presided. Addresses were made by F.W. Hunt, T.D. Hanniford, Mrs. Anderson, D.S. Hirshberg, ex-Mayor Andrus, Judge A.M. Church, and B.G. Haskill of San Francisco. The following preambles and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, The policy of the National Government which induces Chinese immigration to this country has filled the State of California with Chinese greatly to the detriment of her citizens; and

Whereas, If the policy of evading and nullifying the laws passed by Congress for excluding the Chinese from this country by the executive and judicial branches of the Government continued, it will rapidly fill the Pacific Coast States and Territories and eventually the whole United States with the class of laborers belonging to a race who are directly opposed and antagonistic to our race and nation, politically, morally, and socially, and whose presence is a constant menace to its welfare and prosperity; and,

Whereas, From our experience with the Chinese we know that unless they are excluded from our country they will ultimately bring upon it a greater calamity than was entailed upon us by the introduction and establishment of African slavery; and,

Whereas, The further discussion of the subject without action will not only be useless but a waste of time, therefore,

Resolved, That we have within our power the Constitution and laws which are the means to rid our country of this curse;

Resolved, In mass meeting assembled, that we will not patronize any Chinese.

Resolved, That we will not patronize anyone who does.

Resolved, That the Chinese must go.

* **NOTEWORTHY EVENTS** *

July 1870:

New Post Office in Washington Township:

In July 1870 a new Post Office was established in Washington Township at Washington Corners (Irvington) with Timothy Rix as Postmaster. This was the first office in that place, the people of that locality having had previously to go to Centreville or Mission San Jose for their mail business.

November 1871:

Presbyterian Church:

In November, 1871, C. Park, a licentiate was engaged for one year to preach at the Centreville Presbyterian Church. He continued to preach until August, 1873.

Rev. Wm. Alexander, D. D., a professor in the San Francisco Theological Seminary was engaged as a temporary pastor on August 1, 1872 for the Centreville and Alvarado Presbyterian Churches. Under his ministry the Centreville church, which had decreased in membership ever since 1860, was increased by many additions, especially from the children of the church and those who had grown up in the Sabbath school. He continued as pastor until April, 1878.

May 1872:

Notaries Public:

George Bond	May 1872
David H. Beck	May 1876
Dr. Lorenzo G. Yates	Sep 1876

July 8, 1872:

Daily Mail Delivery:

The U.S. Postal Department had recently reduced the mail service in Alameda County from a daily to a tri-weekly mail between San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Hayward, Mt. Eden, Alvarado and Centreville. The people receiving mail matter at these points found much fault with the new arrangement, and upon a proper representation of the matter by Nabb, the San Leandro Postmaster, the daily mail was resumed on July 8, 1872

July 1872:

Washington College:

Washington College was established at Washington Corners (Irvington) and would accept students in July 1872. The trustees had secured the services of Mr. and Mrs. Harmon, who formerly had charge of the female college of the Pacific at Oakland, and who for several years have been conducting a flourishing academy for young ladies and gentlemen at Santa Barbara. They were expected early in June to assume charge of this new institution. The first term will commence on July 31st. E.L. Beard of Mission San Jose is President and W.F.B. Lynch of Centreville is Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

1873:

Mrs. Emeline Marston:

In 1873 Mrs. Emeline Marston of Centreville exhibited the Grand Excelsior American Chart for the cutting and fitting of ladies' dresses. This chart was the patent of Sarah Abbey of New York and was highly endorsed by those understand its merits. Mrs. Marston also gives instructions to student in the art of dress making.

November 13, 1873:

Centreville Grange Established:

Washington Township farmers formed the Centreville Grange on November 13, 1873. James Shinn was elected Master and John L. Beard Secretary. One of the primary purposes of the Grange when founded was to set out a program of planting trees along the wayside and thoroughfares of the area.

December 22, 1873:

Robert Blacow:

Robert Blacow of Centreville died on December 22, 1873. Mr. Blacow was well known as a successful breeder of choice French Merino sheep and was much respected as a citizen and as a neighbor. Robert was a member of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry of Centreville.

1874:

Salz & Kullman:

In 1874 Jacob Salz married the niece of the Kullman brothers, Moses and Herman, who operated a tannery in San Francisco. Jacob Then purchased an interest an interest in their tannery firm and moved to Stockton where he operated one of the Kullman's tanneries. He left (or sold) his Centreville store to his nephew Sigmund Salz.

1875:

Michael J. Overacker:

The road Overseer for the town of Centreville in 1875 was Michael J. Overacker.

January 1875:

W.W. Brier:

W.W. Brier advertised that he had 35,000 Languedoc Almond Trees that are one and two years old from the bud for sale. He stated that this is the only almond planted on a large scale, that it is hardy, late blooming, and a beautiful tree. The almond is large and sweet with a soft shell. Mr. Brier also has two year old peach and English walnut trees for sale. He would give liberal terms to the trade and persons planting large orchards.

June 1875:

Dr. Lorenzo G. Yates:

Lorenzo G Yates was been elected to the office of Secretary for the California State Dental Association in June 1875.

February 1876:

California Fruit Grower's & Dealer's Association:

At a meeting of the California Fruit Grower's and Dealer's Association in February 1876 voted the following Washington Township farmers as officers in the statewide organization: W.W. Brier of Centreville as Treasurer and James Shinn as a member of the Board.

September 1876:

Centreville School

In September 1876 the trustees of the public school at Centreville bought a site on the south end of town for school purposes. It lies on the east side of the main San Jose Road and contains two acres of ground, costing \$800, on which a suitable school building is to be erected with ample playgrounds attached.

October 6, 1876:

Baby Lowrie:

To the wife of George Lowrie a daughter on October 6, 1876

October 9, 1876:

Baby Chipman:

To the wife of J C Chipman a son on October 9, 1876

November 18, 1876:

Baby Walton:

To the wife of William Walton a son on November 18, 1876

1877:

Drought:

The year 1877 saw a severe drought in Washington Township and April crops began showing the signs of drought. By April 10th it had already been conceded that there would be no grain crop in the vicinity. The Washington-Murray Township Water Co. had a large irrigation canal that ran from the Alameda Creek through a large portion of the valley. The main canal was seven miles long and has many tributaries capable of irrigating a vast amount of land. Farmers along the line of this canal were taking advantage of it for irrigating purposes, and of course where the land can be irrigated a large crop is assured. The Alameda Creek water proved to be a blessing to the farmers who could avail themselves of it.

July 1877:

Pope Children:

Charles Pope died on July 11, 1877, of diphtheria at the age of 7 years.
Frances G. Pope died on July 17, 1877, of diphtheria at the age of 3 years.
Both were children of Samuel and Maria Pope.

November 27, 1877:

Garrett Norris:

Garrett Schuyler Norris died on Nov 27, 1877, at the age of 51 years.

December 5, 1877:

Bunting & Overacker:

John A. Bunting married Miss Fleda Overacker on December 5, 1877.