

THE HISTORY OF CENTERVILLE
CHAPTER 06
1900 to 1909

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* **DEMOGRAPHICS** *

Centerville demographics are based entirely upon where you were born and these simple rules.

If you were born in a foreign country then you are classified as "Foreign Born" under the country of your nativity.

If one or both of your parents were "Foreign Born" then you are a first generation you are classified as "1st Gen US Born."

If your parents were both born in foreign countries, but not the same country, then the first generation born is assigned the father's foreign country. For example, if your father was born in Portugal and your mother was born in Ireland, then I would consider you a first generation Portuguese.

If both of your parents were born in the US then you are considered as being of US descent.

1900 Centerville Demographics				
Country	Foreign Born	1st Gen U.S. Born	Total	Percent of Total
Australia	1	1	2	0.1%
Austria	5	7	12	0.5%
Brazil	3	0	3	0.1%
Canada	22	48	70	3.1%
China	120	5	125	5.5%
Denmark	2	0	2	0.1%
England	13	46	59	2.6%
Germany	28	67	95	4.2%
Ireland	42	70	112	4.9%
Italy	10	11	21	0.9%
Japan	118	0	118	5.2%
Mexico	2	0	2	0.1%
Nova Scotia	7	19	26	1.1%
Peru	1	0	1	0.04%
Portugal	485	765	1,250	54.8%
Scotland	5	15	20	0.9%
Sweden	5	6	11	0.5%
Switzerland	4	0	4	0.2%
U.S. Born of U.S. Parents	347	0	347	15.2%
TOTAL:	1,220	1,060	2,280	100.0%

 * **BIOS** *

Samuel C. Archibald / Benjamin C. Mickle / August Lernhart / Rev. Father Dominic Governo / Henry Crosby / Peter Mathiesen / Harry W. Lynch / Alonzo Olney / Frank T. Hawes / Frank T. Dusterberry / Samuel Sandholdt / John J. Santos / William S. Santos / Joseph D. Norris / Dr. Harry W. Emerson / Joseph Dias / Antone A. Amaral / Manuel S. Bettencourt / Dr. Elon Arwin Ormsby / Manuel Oliveira

Samuel C. Archibald:

Samuel C Archibald was born in Canada in June 1854. His wife Clara E. was born in New Hampshire in January 1854. A daughter Clara M. was born in September 1879. A son Earl was born circa 1883 and passes away on March 19, 1900 at the age of 17 years. Sam entered the U.S. in 1872.

He is first shown in Centerville in April 1898 when he moved into the vacated J.W. Robertson residence. Samuel could have been in Centerville well before this date.

Samuel was appointed Postmaster of Centerville on June 28, 1898. He held that position until October 6, 1902 when relinquished the position in favor of Frank T. Hawes.

Miss Clara Archibald was a student at the California School of Oratory in July 1899. She was also active in the Centerville Presbyterian Church, serving as Secretary of the Christian Endeavor Society.

In August 1900 Sam threw his hat into the ring by running for a seat on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors against George Cash of Irvington, and incumbent F.C. Horner. Sam, who was the Postmaster at this time decided that a certainty of selling postage stamps was better than an uncertainty on the Board of Supervisors and he withdrew, leaving the field to Horner and Cash.

In May 1902 Sam volunteered as a member to help orchestrate the 4th of July celebration in Centerville. He was appointed as a member to the finance committee.

This is the final entry for Sam Archibald in Centerville, in 1910 he was found in National Township, San Diego, self-employed as a farmer.

Benjamin Mickle:

Benjamin C. Mickle was an attorney in Centerville. Benjamin was born in Tennessee in November 1859. Benjamin attended the Cumberland Law School and moved to Hanford California. Here he was appointed a Notary Public for Tulare County in December 1886.

Benjamin was married to Miss Mary Lowrie on January 11, 1890 by Rev. W.F.B. Lynch. They would honeymoon in Monterey and then reside in Hanford, Tulare County, where Mr. Mickle is a promising attorney.

On May 7, 1890 Benjamin Mickle was admitted to the California State Bar. Then in on December 9, 1890 Benjamin was appointed as a Notary Public for Han

The exact date Mickle's relocated to Centerville is not known, but on August 31, 1896 it was noted that Mrs. Mary Mickle was elected as recording secretary for the Centerville Good Citizens Club.

In May 1902 Benjamin was named as one of the persons on the finance committee of the Centerville 4th of July celebration to be held here.

Benjamin and Mary Mickle had five children: John Lloyd, b. Aug 1891; Aileen, b. July 1895; Benjamin Jr., b. April 1898; Mary, b. May 1900; and Allen, b. circa 1903. Benjamin Mickle continued to practice law in Centerville and he passed away in 1929. Mary Lowrie passed away in 1947.

August Lernhart:

August Lernhart came to us from Napa California where, in 1880, he was married living with his parents and was clerking in a drug store. He was born in September 1860. In 1880 he was married to Agnes Lernhart who was also living with August's parents. Both August and Agnes were born in California.

It is not known exactly when August came to Centerville, he is first noted when he was elected Treasurer of the Centerville Athletic Club in April 1896.

He opened and owned his own drug store in Centerville. Besides his drug store August had a passion for racing pigeons. He would travel far to release his pigeons and have them timed to determine their flight speed.

For a spell it appeared the couple was headed for a separation, but in February 1902 a divorce suit brought by Agnes Lernhart was dismissed by Judge Hall after the couple had reconciled. It was noted that Mr. Lernhart was a prominent druggist of Centerville and owned considerable property.

Mrs. Lernhart was a member of the Country Club of Washington Township and took an active part in the club.

Mr. and Mrs. Lernhart had three daughters: Edith b. January 1888, Beatrice b. May 1891, and Agnes b. March 1893.

The final articles about the Lernhart's were in 1913 about the social affairs of the daughters. Nothing else was found on the family after that date.

Rev. Father Dominic Governo:

Domingos (Dominic) Duarto Governo was born in Portugal in 1851. He was ordained at Hallows College in Ireland. He entered the U.S. in 1880. His first station in California as a Catholic Priest was at Mission San Jose.

In 1886 Father Governo was put in charge of the construction of the new Catholic Church in Centerville at the foot of Central Avenue. The church was the largest in Washington Township with a seating capacity of 1,000 people.

Father Governo married many couples from the township area and saw many infants Baptized. He was highly regarded by both Protestants and Catholics alike. His residence adjoined the church and his garden was always beautiful with flowers.

Father Governo passed away on November 20 1913 and was buried at the Holy Ghost Cemetery in Centerville. In his will he asked for no special services. He left \$100 to cover his burial costs, and the remainder he left to Father de Souza.

Henry Crosby:

Henry was born in Centerville in January 1868 to Edward and Mary Crosby who farmed in Centerville. On January 22, 1895 Henry Crosby married Miss Mary Decoto, daughter of Ezra Decoto Sr., one of the Decoto brothers for whom the town of Decoto received its name. Mary Decoto was born in Decoto in May 1866.

Henry Crosby began his career as a tinner in Centerville. A tinner was a person who repaired or made kitchen pots and pans from tin. However the name also applied to a person in the plumbing trade. And this is the trade that Henry followed. He became so successful in Centerville that he opened a branch office in Alvarado in February 1891.

After the turn of the new century Henry branched out into well drilling. During the year 1903 he spent almost the entire year working Nevada drilling wells for the Southern Pacific Company.

After 1910 Henry Crosby relocated to Oakland where he specialized in the well boring business.

Peter Mathiesen:

Peter Mathiesen was a long time butcher in Centerville having been in the business prior to the year 1900 and into in the 1910's. In 1920 he changed his occupation to a bank teller while his oldest son Melford continued the business in Centerville until the late 1920's when Melford retired at the age of 43.

Peter Mathiesen was born in Denmark in March 1862. His wife Mary was born in Denmark in June 1868. They both entered the U.S. in the early 1880's, though separately. They were married circa 1886. They had three children, Melford, George and Mabel.

Harry W. Lynch:

Harry Lynch was the son of the Rev. W.F.B. and Rachel Lynch of Centerville. Harry was born in March 1891 in Iowa. At age nineteen he was working as a clerk in a grocery store while attending college.

In July 1888 Charles S. Fisher resigned his post as principal of the Centerville Grammar school in order to complete his medical course at Cooper Medical Institute. Harry W. Lynch was elected as his replacement.

On March 23, 1890 Harry Lynch was wed to May Hilton of Centerville. May's parents were Charles and Elizabeth M Hilton, both pioneers of Centerville. Harry's father, Rev. W.F.B. Lynch performed the ceremony. May was born in Centerville in May 1862. In June 1899 Harry and Mary Lynch began the erection of a seven room cottage in the town of Centerville.

Harry W. Lynch met death on January 21, 1905, under circumstances which cloud the case in a shroud of mystery. With the side of his head and face blown off by a shotgun charge, the weapon lying near him, Lynch's body was found at 9:30 o'clock this morning in a field two miles from Centerville by two dairymen, F.T. Pexoto and Joseph Nevis. The corpse was lying near a fence along the county road. The muzzle of the gun pointed at the mangled head. The stock was at Lynch's feet and inside the lower rail of the fence. The general indications seemed to show that the schoolmaster had accidentally killed himself while dragging the loaded gun through the fence, over which he had climbed to wander after birds.



Lynch seemed to be in his usual good spirits this morning when he left home in his customary way to go the school. But after arriving there he took a horse and buddy shortly before 9 o'clock and drove away. On his journey

Lynch stopped at the residence of Richard Blacow. He met Mrs. Blacow and borrowed a shotgun and two shells, only enough to load the weapon. Lynch told his neighbor he intended to go hunting. He was not seen again alive.

Deputy Coroner Francis, who was summoned to take charge of the body, declared that his investigation satisfied him that Lynch had been accidentally killed. Francis found no letters nor any other evidence that Lynch intended to commit suicide, although the circumstances under which he went away appeared unusual.

At the school Lynch's absence gave rise to alarm. It was not long after he had departed that the news was sent to Miss Treadwell, the teacher temporarily in charge, regarding the finding of Lynch's remains. The dead principal's wife was also notified, and she was prostrated by the shock.

Lynch had long been an active worker in Republican politics in Alameda County. He was a candidate six years ago for the Republican nomination for County Supt. of Schools, but was defeated by S.W. Waterman of Berkeley. T.O. Crawford defeated Waterman at the election. At the last county election Lynch won the nomination, but Crawford defeated him. Lynch made a hard canvass and spent considerable money. His defeat greatly worried him, but his friends do not think it would have preyed upon his mind sufficiently to have induced a thought of suicide. In a recent business venture in the musical line, Lynch did not fare well financially, but even this does not give sufficient cause in his friend's eyes for an act of self-destruction.

In educational affair Lynch had been active. He was an authority on school questions, particularly in the matter of district school government. At county and state institutes and other educational assemblages he was always a leader in the work. He was 45 years old and had conducted schools at Centerville for many years. Besides his widow he leaves four young children. He was a brother of Dr. W.F.B. Lynch of Elmhurst. Lynch was identified with the Woodmen of the World and was known in fraternal circles throughout the State. Coroner Mehrmann will hold an inquest.

At the inquest held January 22, 1905 death was ruled by an accidental shotgun blast. Harry Lynch was the son of Rev. W.F.B. and Rachel Lynch of Centerville. Harry left a wife Mary and three small children.

Alonzo Olney:

Alonzo Olney operated a hotel in Centerville in 1900. His son Silas worked in the hotel as a clerk. Alonzo was born in New York in 1843 and his wife Catherine was born in New Jersey in 1852. They had a son Silas and daughter Louise and Alice. In the 1880's Alonzo was in Minneapolis Kansas working as a house mover.

In December 1898 Louise Olney married Robert T. Moses of Centerville. They had been married since May 1898 but they just announced their wedding. At this time the Olney's were already in Charge of the Gregory House Hotel in Centerville.

Alonzo considered running an automobile between San Jose and Newark for the benefit of the local people. This must have been a novelty idea as this was discussed in July 1899 where good roads were non-existent and automobiles were in their infancy.

Meanwhile a group of thespians of the town put on an entertainment, a farce entitled "A Bunch of Roses" on February 16, 1900. Those in the cast were: A. Borst, J. Blacow, William Patterson, F. Hawes, Miss E. Turner, Miss A. Olney, Mrs. C. Hatch, and Mrs. F. Bunting

Then on May 25, 1900 Union High School No.2 (Centerville High School) held its closing exercises, the class paper and an address was given by Dr. George Pardee of Oakland being the principal features. The class paper contained well-written articles by Guy D. Craft, Charles Haley, Jay McCullough, Elsa Ehrman, C.F. Cummings, J. Leonard Rose, W.D. Patterson, and J.C. Whipple. The class prophecy was given by Alice Olney.

Alonzo Olney purchased the Rose Hotel in Pleasanton in July 1902 from its former proprietor, D.F. Tillman. Mr. Olney was already well known for his management of the Congress Springs Hotel and later the Gregory House in Centerville. His management of these two hotels was such that he has now the name of being one of the best and most efficient hotel managers on the coast. Silas W. Olney is associated with his father in the management of the hotel.

In August 1902 the new proprietor of the Gregory House Hotel was Mrs. M.A. Graves. Meanwhile Mr. Olney had relocated to Pleasanton but by 1910 Alonzo Olney was living in Berkeley with his son-in-law where he was a street inspector for the City of Berkley.

Frank T. Hawes:

Frank T. Hawes gave his date of birth as May 1860, but his grave marker indicates he was born in 1861. He was living with his parents in 1880 in San Andreas, in Calaveras County. At the age of 20 years he was a school teacher, but did not indicate whether it was a private or public school. Frank was married to Minnie Hawes and they had two children, a daughter Zadie and a son Benjamin. Minnie passes away just after the turn of the new century.



Frank operated a general merchandise store in Centerville for many years. He first comes to light in Centerville in 1896 when he is elected president of the Centerville Athletic Club. Frank was also an active member of the Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 170 of Centerville where he served as Keeper of Records and Seals in 1898. Frank was also a member of a thespian group in Centerville, the name of which was not shown. He was an actor in the farce "A Bunch of Rose," performed at the Centerville Town Hall on February 16, 1900.

The year 1902 saw the town of Centerville prepare for a large 4th of July celebration in which all of the towns in Washington Township would take part.

A large group of volunteers from Centerville were needed and Frank was named to the executive committee along with F.M. Smith, S. Sandholdt, J.J. Santos, A.J. Rodrigues, W.W. Walton, M. Joseph, H.W. Lynch, Joseph Dias, and W.T. Ralph.

Frank was also served the town of Centerville in civic matters also. On October 6, 1902 Frank appointed U.S. Postmaster for the town of Centerville, replacing Samuel Archibald. In 1910 Frank led the effort to form the Centerville Chamber of Commerce from the old Centerville Improvement Club. Their first matter of business was to open First Street from the Newark Road to the cemetery. In 1911 Frank was the Centerville representative for a township committee to form a combined township chamber to be known as the Washington Township Chamber of Commerce. Frank also served as a ballot official in some elections and he was a staunch supporter of the Republican Party.

In 1916, again in 1917, burglars broke into stores on Main Street, but got away with little in monetary value. Frank Hawes' General Store was one of the victims and in the 1917 robbery the thieves netted about \$40, most of it coming from the Post Office in the form of cash and stamps.

Frank T. Hawes passes away on February 26, 1926.

Frank T. Dusterberry:

Frank Dusterberry was born in February 1869 to Henry and Ellen Dusterberry in Centerville Calif. Henry Dusterberry was an influential farmer and civic leader of Centerville having served several terms on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The Henry Dusterberry family included son Frank and two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth and two other sons Henry Jr. and Fred.

The early part of Frank's career was spent as a general merchant in the town of Centerville. On December 19, 1893 Frank Dusterberry was appointed Postmaster for the Centerville Post Office, taking the office from Lewis Gregory. Frank held this office until June 28, 1898 when Samuel Archibald took over the Post Office.

Frank became associated with The Bank of Centerville at its founding on July 15, 1905. Frank was elected Vice President of the bank and John G. Mattos Jr. was elected President. Frank saw the transition of the Bank of Centerville becoming a branch of the Bank of Italy under A.P. Gianini, and then the renaming of the Bank of Italy into the Bank of America in the early 1930's. Frank would stay with bank of America until his retirement in 1938.

But Frank was more than just a banker. He was a staunch supporter of the town of Centerville, which his father helped build. In 1898 he was elected as a member of the Centerville Board of Trustees for the Centerville School. He would serve on this board for thirty years.

In February 1909 Frank helped found the Centerville Improvement Club where he served as Treasurer upon its founding. In November 1910 the Centerville Improvement Club was renamed and chartered as the Centerville Chamber of Commerce, a club more closely aligned to civic improvement and

betterment of the town for the benefit of its citizens. F.T. Dusterberry was again elected as Treasurer of the organization.

In other civic areas Frank served on the committee to create a large celebration on the 4th of July in Centerville in 1902. All towns in Washington Township would participate. Frank worked on the finance committee to make the celebration a success.

In July 1911 the town of Centerville planned the largest celebration of the Fourth of July ever given in Southern Alameda County. All towns in Washington Township were invited to participate. The officers of the committee were: F.T. Hawes, F.T. Dusterberry, and J.A. Coney.

Frank served as president of the Washington Township Men's League in 1922, in 1942 he was president of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce, he served as a Water District Director for six years, and during WWII he was the Washington Township Red Cross Director.

Frank was also a faithful member of the Centerville Knights of Pythias Lodge where he served as Vice Chancellor in 1898. In 1937 Frank served as Chancellor for the California Knights of Pythias.

On August 21, 1922 the sleepy town of Centerville was suddenly thrown into a tizzy. The *Oakland Tribune* explains:

"The peace and quiet of the Centerville Justice Court was rudely shattered by the loud and raucous ringing of the burglar alarm in the hardware store next door. The alarm is connected with the Centerville Bank just a few doors down the street.

Judge J.G. Morton lost his judicial dignity in the twinkling of an eye and started hastily for the door. Deputy District Attorney Frank Shay was just one jump ahead of his honor in reaching the exit, while Traffic Officers Leon Solon and Louis Elke, both of whom had their weapons drawn.

Out in the street they encountered Fred Dusterberry, who runs the hardware store. He had snatched up his shotgun and was losing no time in getting to the bank. He was joined by others from the courtroom and the impromptu posse was swelled by many others of the town who had heard the long and continued ringing of the alarm.

As one man they rushed into the bank. There they found but one man. Frank Dusterberry the Cashier of the bank. He was standing calmly at the counter calmly counting over the day's cash.

"Wassa matter?" he inquired.

"Nothing particular if you will move your big foot off that burglar alarm," replied his brother, who had taken in the situation at a glance.

On August 11, 1944, Frank T. Dusterberry passed away while living in Palo Alto. His wife Margaret passed away in 1959, also while living in Palo Alto.

Margaret Dusterberry:

Frank's wife Margaret was born in Canada circa 1885 and entered the U.S. in 1892 where she later became a naturalized citizen.

Margaret Dusterberry was very active in civic affairs of Centerville and the county. In August 1928 Mrs. Frank Dusterberry was named to chair the committee to write the Constitution for newly organized children's department of the Southern Alameda County Welfare Board. Mrs. Dusterberry was also a member of the California Federation of Women's Clubs where she had served one term as President of the organization in June 1939. Mrs. Dusterberry was also active in the Washington Township Christmas Seals annual campaign, and the Ladies Country Club of Washington Township.

The ladies of the Country Club encapsulated Frank Dusterberry's achievements and service to the Centerville community in one brief sentence:

"He (Frank) was a banker for 32 years, school trustee for 30, Postmaster for eleven, Water District Director for six, and township chairman of the Red Cross for many years, giving his full time to this during World War I."

Samuel Sandholdt:

Samuel Sandholdt was a long time Justice of the Peace for Washington Township based out of Centerville. He first appears as Justice of Peace in 1895 and held the post until his passing in 1914, although the final year he had a temporary Justice hold his office due to his illness.

Samuel Sandholdt was born in Denmark, as was his wife Johannah. They both entered the U.S. in 1869, but it appears separately as they were married circa 1875. They had a son Peter and three daughters: Carrie, Elsie and Lillian. Samuel was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF).

John J. Santos:

John J. Santos was born in the Azores in April 1852. He entered the U.S. in 1870. His wife Emilia was also born in the Azores and also entered the U.S. in 1870. They had eight children, four born in Massachusetts and four born in the California. They had seven daughters: Amalia, Mary, Katherine (Kate), Louisa, Rita, and Emilia; and one son Frank.

John Santos came to California in approximately 1878 from Massachusetts and settled in Stanislaus County at a place called Empire. Here he worked as a farm hand. Later he came to Centerville and purchased some land on the Centerville to Niles cut off road, later to bear his name; Santos Road, and today is the eastern part of Mowry Road.

Besides farming John was very active in the State Republican Party, being named several times as a delegate from the 46th Republican District.

John was also active in the California Portuguese Union (UPEC), and was a member of the Young Men's Institute (YMI) of Centerville.



The photo above is a picture of the Santos farm at 1481 Mowry Avenue taken in the 50's or 60's. Back then the location of the farm was Santos Road, named after John. Later it was changed to Mowry Ave.

John was very active in the planning and execution of the yearly Fourth of July celebration and parade in the town of Centerville. Centerville's Fourth of July celebration was well-known in Washington Township and drew visitors from around the Bay. John was joined fellow townspeople: F.T. Hawes, J. J. O'Keefe, W.T. Ralph, D B Eaton, M S Francis, W. W. Walton, and M. J. Sousa on the planning committee for the events. Besides his participation in the Fourth of July Celebration John helped with the 1899 Centerville School census.

John was the Roadmaster for Centerville for many years. He was responsible for maintain Centerville town roads in good order, grading and graveling roads for use in bad weather and sprinkling them with water in the summer to keep down the dust.

On November 1930 Funeral services were held at the Holy Ghost Church in Centerville for John J. Santos. Santos was born in Azores and came to the U.S. when a youth. The Santos Road (today part of Mowry Avenue), which ran east of the Centerville-Irvington Road and connected with Peralta Blvd. bore his name prior to being renamed as part of Mowry Avenue.

William S. Santos:

William S. Santos was born in Connecticut in February 1861 to Joseph and Frances Santos who both were born in the Azores Islands. By 1876 the family had moved to Centerville where Joseph was a farmer and the two eldest boys, William and Joseph Jr. helped their father on the farm.

William took a wife, Mary J. circa 1883. They would have twelve children: ten daughters: Mary, Ida, Frances, Louise, Camilla, Cecilia, Lillian, Anita, Theresa, Margaret. They had two sons: William Jr. and Camille.

William Santos showed his occupation as a hotel keeper after the turn of the new century. Newspaper accounts noted that he had been the proprietor of the U.S. Hotel in the Centerville area.

Later accounts give him operating a hotel or a saloon. This is where William Santos ran into a serious problem in December 1906. William Santos was engaged in a game of stud poker in his hotel when he accused Angelo Gemignani of dealing from the bottom of the deck.

Gemignani became incensed at the accusation made by Santos and rushed at him and a fight ensued. According to Frank Enos, a witness at the time, he saw the men rolling on the floor and that Gemignani was making a hard fight against Santos. Santos picked up a bottle and slammed it into Gemignani's head, fracturing his skull. Gemignani lost his power of speech over the blow and three months later died of blood clot in the brain.

On June 14, 1907 the trial of William Santos ended after being charged with manslaughter. The jury took ten minutes to find William Santos not guilty. Santos rushed at Attorney Church, who had secured his acquittal, and throwing his arms about Church's neck, imprinted several resounding smacks on his lips. Santos then assured Church he was the greatest man in California and was destined to be governor of the state. Afterward he thanked Judge Melvin and the jury and the bailiffs. Finally he embraced his wife and rousing his numerous children from the slumber into which they had fallen while their father was on trial for a penitentiary offense, he embraced all around.

The following day Santos brought oranges and fruit for the prisoners at the county jail and then returned to his home in Centerville.

Following his acquittal William Santos operated a livery stable in Centerville in 1920. By 1930 he was living with daughter Mary and her husband Joseph Rose Jr. in Centerville. Then in 1940 he was living with son Camille Santos and wife in Centerville.

William Santos passed away in 1943 and his wife, Mary J., in 1959.

Joseph D. Norris:

Mr. Norris was born in Centerville, November 3, 1858, the son of Garrett and Johannah (Connor) Norris, the former a native of New York State and the latter of Ireland. Garrett Norris came to California, by way of the isthmus route, landing at San Francisco, where he lived until 1854, when he came to Centerville. For a while he worked for Mr. Blacow, but after a few years began farming on his own account, buying eighty acres of land, to which he later added eighty more. He developed this into a good farm, which he cultivated during his remaining years, his death occurring in 1877, at the age of fifty years. His wife passed away in 1865, and in 1871 Garrett Norris married Miss Margaret McGuire, who survived him until 1925.

Joseph D. Norris received his educational training in the public schools of Centerville, and at the age of eighteen took charge of the home ranch, his father having died. In 1897 Mr. Norris was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Smith, who was born in St. Johns, New Brunswick. Mr. and Mrs.

Norris had four children, Joseph, Allen G., Walter and Marcella. Allen, who received his education in the schools of Centerville and Berkeley is now serving as justice of the peace and stands among the substantial and influential citizens of this locality.

J.D. Norris was a staunch Republican and participated in local and state wide Republican activities. But Joseph Norris was most active with the Native Sons of the Golden West, Washington Parlor No. 169. Joseph was active in the local parlor holding many offices in the many years that he was a member. He was elected Grand Outside Sentinel of the State Grand Parlor on August 30, 1896.

As a member of the Knights of Pythias #170 he was elected keeper of records and seals for lodge.

On March 26, 1896 Joseph was elected to the board of the newly created Centerville Athletic Club along with: F.M. Smith, A. Lernhart, F.F. Dusterberry, H.C. Gregory, W.W. Walton, H. Emerson, F.F. Howell, and J.B. Ritter.

When the Centerville Native Sons took on the task of restoring the old Mission San Jose, Joseph served on the committee to get the ball rolling along with: C.F. Cummings, Frank T. Dusterberry, J.J. O'Keefe, and F.T. Hawes

Joseph served as a ballot official in December 1922 for an election to float a bond issue for the Union Sanitary District. This would bring a sewer system to the area served by the sanitary district. Later Joseph would be elected as the district assessor for the Union Sanitary District.

Joseph Norris was able to recall the early days of Washington Township. When he came here San Francisco was the nearest market place. Boats docked at Mayhew Landing and later Jarvis Landing and then Larkin's Landing were established. The land was unfenced and cattle roamed at large for many years. Stages were run from Oakland, San Jose, and Union City to the docks, but with the advent of railroads the country began to improve and thereafter developed rapidly, until today this is one of the choicest sections of Alameda County. Mr. Norris has always maintained his farm at a high standard of excellence and has erected a splendid set of farm buildings, making it one of the best and most desirable farms in this locality. Because of his sterling qualities of character, his kindly and generous disposition and his friendly manner, he has a host of warm and loyal friends and is held in high regard by all who know him.

Joseph D. Norris passed away in 1936 followed by his wife Margaret in 1937.

Dr. Harry W. Emerson:

Harry Wyle Emerson was born in Iowa in 1863. His wife, Carrie Emerson was married to Dr. Emerson circa 1896. Carrie was born in California in 1869.

Dr. Emerson first comes to light in Centerville in October 1899 when the Alameda County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution appointing Dr. H. Emerson Health Officer for one year at \$50 per month.

In July 1911 Dr. Emerson contracted with H.M. Lewis to build him a \$6,000 in Centerville.

There are numerous articles citing Dr. Emerson helping patients with accidents and maladies through the years in Centerville. His tombstone cites his passing in 1923 and his monument is bedecked with a Masonic symbol. Mrs. Emerson passed in 1933.

Joseph Dias:

Joseph Dias was born in December 1871 in California. His wife, Alice, was born in California in June 1870. Joseph & Alice were married circa 1896. They had three children, Thomas, Alice and Paul.

Joseph's first teaching position in Washington Township was circa 1896 when he taught and was principal of the Alviso Grammar School. Joseph would teach at Alviso for over eight years. In April 1904 the Alameda County Board of Education bestowed a permanent Grammar Grade Certificate of Teaching to Joseph Dias.

Joseph became principal of the Centerville Grammar School in 1905 when Principal Harry Lynch was accidentally killed in a hunting accident. Joseph Dias worked hard to upgrade and maintain the best academic level in the Centerville Grammar School. In 1911 Joseph was named president of the newly formed Principal's Club of Washington Township.

In 1921 the president of the San Jose State Teacher's College came to visit Mr. Dias and the Centerville Grammar School. He found a school that was operating on a high plane and, with Mr. Joseph Dias' enthusiastic support, began a program of assigning undergraduate students at the college as teacher's aides in the Centerville School. The plan was a success and the program was expanded.

Fast forward to 1926 and the program had twenty to twenty six cadet teachers each year serving twelve to eighteen weeks in the classroom augmenting regular teachers. By 1926 this program had saved the school \$10,000 a year in salaries, lowered classroom sizes to 12 to 14 students per class, and gave the student teachers real-time training in a real classroom environment before they would graduate and go out into the field.

In December 1925 Joseph Dias, accompanied by his entire seventh and eighth grade classes, paid a visit to the Chevrolet factory in Oakland. They were guests of Sid Holman, the Centerville Chevrolet dealer. The pupils were shown through the big plant and each process in the manufacture of a Chevrolet automobile was explained in detail. A Chevrolet touring car was loaned the Centerville school by Holman for the purpose of further instructing the students in "Economical Transportation."

In January 1926 the Centerville Grammar School reportedly became the first school in the State to use the radio as a teaching tool. The radio was installed in the auditorium, and a period a week was set aside to entertain the pupils with a conglomerate of subjects from baking a cake to installing a radio. The plan was conceived by Joseph Dias, Centerville Grammar School Principal,

and received very favorable comments from school officials and parents alike. Dias received letters of congratulations from various parts of the State as well as from the northern and eastern states.

In September 1929 Joseph Dias presided over a meeting of grammar school principals at Hayward. Washington, Eden and Murray Townships were represented in the meeting that focused on essentials of examinations for the promoting of 8th grade students.

As well as his teaching duties Joseph was active in the Centerville annual July 4th festivals held in Centerville after the turn of the new century. Joseph was a regular on the decoration committee for the annual festival.

Joseph Dias served as secretary on the Washington Township Republicans Club, serving with J. Wamsley and E.H. Stevenson.

Joseph lived in Centerville up until about 1920 when his family was noted living in San Jose. In the 1920 census Joseph achieved a remarkable feat, he was included in the Centerville Census and the San Jose census. He was shown living alone in Centerville and also as head of his household in Centerville. Joseph would reside in San Jose and commute to Centerville to teach school.

Funeral services were conducted for Joseph Dias, 63, of San Jose California on December 28, 1934. Mr. Dias was 63 years of age and had been principal of the Centerville School for 30 years. He left his wife Alice, who was a Doctor of Optometry in San Jose, and a son Paul who was a public school teacher in San Jose.

Antone A. Amaral:

Antone A. Amaral was the son of Antone B. and Della Amaral. Antone was born in the Azores in October 1880 and he entered the U.S. in 1891 with his father, mother and sister Mary. For Antone's father this was the second time he entered the U.S.

At the turn of the new century Antone A. Amaral was employed as a blacksmith's helper in Centerville in the same blacksmith shop he built in 1898. The following year he hired out to the proprietor to learn the trade at \$1 a day. In 1912 he moved to Decoto and built the smithy and machine shop he operates now.

Records show that Antone A. Amaral was married to Mary Amaral circa 1907 and that they were living together in Centerville in 1910 on Baine Avenue, which was the road from Centerville to Newark by the railroad tracks. By 1920 Antone was living in Decoto and was married to Emma Amaral who had a son by a previous marriage, Lawrence Pimentel.

The story of Antone B. and Antone A. Amaral from *The Oakland Tribune* of May 14, 1950:

"After having spent the 20 years between 1850 and 1870 mining in and about Weaverville and Yreka, Antone B. Amaral, who had left his

home in the Azores when he heard of the gold rush to California, decided that the gold "in them thar hills" was too elusive.

With no more money in his pockets than he possessed when he landed in San Francisco, he began to look for a more lucrative occupation. During the next five years he worked as a carpenter in Santa Cruz County where he assisted in building the Cowell cement plant in Davenport and later the Sea Beach Hotel in Santa Cruz.

The savings of those five years induced him to return to his native land, though not by the Isthmus of Panama route that he had traveled 25 years before. He was married soon after his arrival in the Azores, and within the year thereafter a daughter was born. However, the quarter-century he had passed in California had left its imprint, and in 1879 he returned to California, leaving his family in the Azores.

Eight years passed before he saw the son who was born soon after his second departure from his island home. That son, now "The Village Blacksmith" of Decoto, arrived in Centerville in 1891 with his parents and sister. The senior Amaral took up the work where he had left off three years before and continued carpentering until his death in 1898.

Many of the older buildings in Washington Township are wholly or partly the products of his workmanship. His life was typical of the lives of hundreds of sturdy Portuguese immigrants who assisted in the agricultural, industrial, and cultural growth of Alameda County.

Pioneer A. B. Amaral's only son, who happens to be Antonio A. Amaral, "The Village Blacksmith" of Decoto and one of the few smithies left in Southern Alameda County, was 11 years old when he came to America. Most of his school days were passed in the Alviso School where he had Nellie Cockefair as teacher, which probably accounts in the main for the good English he uses in his conversations. His life, though spread over a much smaller sphere, has been almost as adventurous as that of his pioneer father.

His lifetime hobby has been fishing, and he is familiar with practically all fishing grounds and clam beds between Monterey and the Oregon border. For years Thursday has been his fishing day, and no sooner would he take time off on that day to shoe a horse than he would to shoo flies. He is an interesting story-teller.

Two of his interesting stories with historical background follow: "When a boy of 18 I was employed by Pires Company of Centerville to assist in drilling a well on the Patterson ranch between Newark and Alvarado. At a depth of 35 feet or more the drill hit a hard object that made drilling difficult. Finally pieces of the skull of some prehistoric animal came to the surface. Then' all the workers were rewarded with huge teeth four inches in length. To my sorrow, no excavation was ever made to uncover the bones of the mammoth."

At a later date Mr. Amaral visited the light house at Pigeon Point. As he signed Centerville after his name on the register, an old man who was acting

as assistant keeper said, "So you are from Centerville. I lived there at one time. I owned much of the land at the intersection, of the roads al Machado Corners. I sold the land below the main road at \$25 an acre. The land between the road and the creek was better, and I received \$30 an acre for that. I built the first house between Centerville road and Alameda Creek. Later I built a big house near the creek. That I sold to Joseph Sequeira. What is that land worth today?" When told that the land was selling for as high as \$500 an acre, the old man, whose name was Crandall, casually remarked that he wished he owned one acre of it.

Had that conversation been held last week, Mr. Crandall could have wished for much less than an acre. Incidentally, the name Sequeira is how spelled Secada, and Claremont Secada, one of, the descendants is a prominent banker in Centerville.

In 1898 Antonio Amaral built the Bettencourt blacksmith shop that stands in Centerville today. The following year he hired out to the proprietor to learn the trade at \$1 a day. In 1912 he moved to Decoto and built the smithy and machine shop he operates now. In 1915 Mr. Amaral was married to Emma Silva, member of a prominent Alameda County family. No children were born to the couple. The only known relatives of close relationship to Mr. Amaral are M. S. Lemos of Centerville and Dr. S. Lemos of Hayward. —THE KNAVE"

Antone Amaral became a fixture in Decoto, but he was not only known for being the "Old Village Smithy," for Antone spent 35 five years as a commissioner for the Decoto Fire Department. Then in March 1959 he resigned his post saying, "I'm getting too old to take orders from a new boss." The new boss was, of course, the new Union City just incorporated two months prior. As a fire commissioner Amaral, served along with fellow fire commissioners Bernie Joseph and Frank Borghi

Manuel S. Bettencourt:

Manuel S. Bettencourt, who owns and cultivates a well improved and productive farm at Centerville, is a man of good business judgment and industrious habits and has well merited the success which has crowned his efforts. He was born on his father's ranch at Centerville, on the 15th of March, 1872, a son of Manuel and Rosa (Veiria) Bettencourt, both of whom were born in Fayal, Azores islands.

The father came to the United States in young manhood and for a time followed the sea, serving on a whaling vessel, but later engaged in mining. Coming to Centerville, he bought ten acres of land, which he improved, and then went back to his native isle, where he was married, soon afterward bringing his bride to his California home. Here he prospered, buying several other farms, which he cultivated until his death, which occurred in 1906, at the age of seventy-four years. He was survived about ten years by his widow, who also died at the age of seventy-four years. Mr. Bettencourt was a republican in politics and a splendid citizen, in every respect worthy of the esteem in which he was uniformly held throughout the community.

Manuel Bettencourt spent his boyhood on his father's farm and attended the Alviso School. For several years he worked on various ranches and in the

lumber camps of northern California, and then returned to Centerville, taking over the care of a farm of twelve acres which his father deeded to him. He set out a nice orchard of apricots and cherries, made other substantial improvements and is very comfortably situated.

He was also the owner of a half interest in the Ford garage in Centerville. On July 4, 1903, Mr. Bettencourt was united in marriage to Miss Lena Roderick, who was born and reared in Centerville, a daughter of Frank S. and Lena Claudina Roderick, the former born in the Azores islands and the latter in New Bedford, Connecticut. Mr. Roderick came to Centerville in young manhood and bought fifteen acres of land, which he improved and developed into a good farm, and here he has lived ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Bettencourt have two children, Herman and Eugene. Mr. Bettencourt gives his support to the Republican Party and is a member of the U. P. E. C. He is a man of substantial qualities, public spirited in his attitude toward local affairs, and a generous supporter of all worthy causes, and is held in high regard.

ELON ARWIN ORMSBY, M. D.

One of the leading physicians of southern Alameda County is Dr. Elon A. Ormsby, of Centerville, where for over two decades he has successfully practiced the healing art, having built up a large and remunerative practice. The Doctor was born at Petaluma, California, September 8, 1870, a son of Walter Alfred and Lucy Grace (Price) Ormsby, the former born at Ypsilanti, Michigan, and the latter at Waukesha, Wisconsin.

His father was a watchmaker by trade and was long in the employ of the Illinois Watch Company, serving as foreman for many years. In 1868 he came to California, locating at Petaluma, where he engaged in watchmaking and where his marriage occurred. Later he became associated with his father in the operation of the first planing mill in Petaluma, but the mill and lumber yard were destroyed by fire, entailing a heavy loss. Mr. Ormsby then went to work at the Blethern & Cary mill, at First and Washington streets, in Oakland, but later resumed watchmaking, and his death occurred in that city in 1877. He was a Republican in politics.

Elon A. Ormsby attended the public schools of Oakland, graduating from the old high school at Twelfth and Market streets, the first high school in that city. He then matriculated in the California Medical College, in San Francisco, and won the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1896. He engaged in the practice of his profession in Oakland, but about two and a half years later moved to Ransberg, this state, where he remained two and a half years, going from there to Concord and thence, three years later, to Linden, where he practiced two years.

For the past twenty-one years the Doctor has been in Centerville and has gained a wide reputation as an able and dependable physician. In 1897 Dr. Ormsby was united in marriage to Miss Augusta N. Rodgers, who was born in England, a daughter of Dr. Samuel and Elizabeth (Nicholson) Rodgers. She came to this country at the age of eighteen years with her parents, who located first in San Francisco, but later moved to San Diego. Her father, who

was a graduate of Oxford College, England, was a physician and was on the medical staff of the Bartholomew Hospital. He has also been a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church and had built several churches in England. Dr. and Mrs. Ormsby have five children, namely, Virginia Grace, Phoebe C., Arwina Elizabeth, Arwin Elon and Dorothy Marjorie.

The Doctor is a staunch republican in his political views and is ready at all times to cooperate with his fellow citizens in all movements for the betterment of the community along material, civic or moral lines. He is a member of Alameda Lodge, No. 167, A. F. & A. M., of which he is a past master; Oakland Consistory, A. A. S. R.; and Aahmes Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Oakland. Cordial and friendly in manner, he has a wide acquaintance and commands the unqualified confidence and esteem of the entire community.

MANUEL OLIVEIRA

One of the old residents of Centerville, whose useful and industrious life has gained for him a high place in public esteem, is Manuel Oliveira, who is a successful orchardist, while his citizenship has been of a type that has benefited his community.

Mr. Oliveira was born in Centerville, September 3, 1875, and is a son of Antone and Marie (Lewis) Oliveira, who were natives of the Azores islands and were married in Boston, Massachusetts. The father left his native land in young manhood, landing at Boston, Massachusetts, and thence proceeded by train to California.

Locating at Centerville, he was employed for a short time as a farm hand, then bought a small tract of land, to which he added by later purchase until he had sixteen acres, which he planted to apricots and cherries, developing a valuable place, to which he devoted his attention until his death, in 1926, at the age of seventy-four years. He was a Democrat in his political views and was interested in the affairs of his community, contributing to its improvement and progress.

Manual Oliveira was educated in the public schools of Centerville, after which he was engaged in the nursery business for twenty years, during the last seven years as a foreman. In the meantime he bought land and is now the owner of fifty-six acres, of which sixteen acres are in cherries and apricots, and all of the land is well improved, comprising one of the good farms of this locality. Mr. Oliveira also buys and dries fruit for Rosenberg Brothers & Company, with which firm he has been associated for twenty-eight years, being its agent in Washington Township. He also acts as fruit buyer for the F. E. Booth Canning Company of Centerville.

On September 25, 1898, Mr. Oliveira was united in marriage to Miss Rita Furtado, who was born and reared in Centerville and is a daughter of Joaquin and Rita Furtado. Her parents were born in the Azores islands and came to this country in early life, though at different dates, their marriage occurring in Centerville. Here Mr. Furtado engaged in farming, but is now retired, at the age of seventy-six years. The mother died here. Mr. and Mrs. Oliveira have

ten children, Matilda, Carrie, Erma, Rachael, Marie, Emily, Otilia, Agnes, Clareman and Vincent.

The family lives in a beautiful home on Main Street, in Centerville, where the spirit of good cheer and true hospitality is always in evidence. Mr. Oliveira is a Democrat and has long been active in local public affairs, having served as constable for a year and a half, while for sixteen years he has been a member of the school board, in which capacity he has rendered effective service to his community. He is a member of the Ancient United Order of Druids and the U. P. E. C. Because of his upright and consistent life, his sterling qualities and his genial disposition, he well deserves the high place which he holds in public esteem.

* **UNION HIGH SCHOOL #2** *

A letter to the editor by Mrs. Mary C. Allen, Secretary of Union High School No.2, Board of Trustees to the *Oakland Tribune of February 20, 1901*:

"Quite a lengthy article appeared in last week's issue of the Niles Herald written by my friend Mrs. Thane, with foot notes by editors, "protesting against a movement to change the name of Union High School No.2 to Centerville High School." Everybody, I am sure, appreciates Mrs. Thane's interest in the school; would that every patron had as much, but I am surprised that she and the astute editors of the Herald should think that the pupils or the alumni had power to change the official name even if they desired to do so. That could not be done by them, nor "the faculty," nor "the management," nor all combined. I am ignorant of the way in which this could be done, but it is quite certain that the voters would have to take the initiatory steps, the County Board of education, and the County Superintendent of Schools might have to act, and perhaps an act of the Legislature might be required, as in changing an individual's name. As a matter of fact, however, there is no "movement on foot to change the official name of the school," nor is there any desire to do so. This has been ascertained upon careful inquiry. The school has achieved an enviable record under the present name, and it would certainly be detrimental to its best interests and confusing to its best interests to change the name now. It is discovered that their excitement has grown out of the desire on the part of the pupils to make less cumbersome the lettering of the school pin, and it is argued by them that although U.H.S. No. 1 is the official name of the Union High School located at Livermore, and U.H.S. No. 3 of the one located at Hayward, that they are often spoken of as "Livermore High" and "Haywards High," so giving a locality to the place in the Union High School District where the school is located. Hence the proposition to have the lettering on the school pin C.H.S. or C.U.H.S. This of course would effect in the least the official name of the school, which would require far more than this, and which, so far as I can learn, is desired by no one. Whether it appears to any of us to matter much about the lettering of the school pin, does it not seem fair and right to allow the pupils, those who have graduated, and those at present in school, to decide this question for themselves?

Union High School No. 2 graduates this decade:

1900:

Charles Cummings, Guy Kraft, May Mattos, William H. Norris, Alice Olney, John Leonard Rose, William Clyde Smith

1901:

Charles Albert Galt, Charles Scott Haley, Constance M. Jordan, Kullman Salz

1902:

Emma Blacow, Stuart Chisholm, Alice Hudson, Bess Hudson, Edith Jones, Josephine Noll, Inez Whipple

1903:

Mary Jackson, Belle Jarvis, Nellie Jarvis, Ivy Belle Ralph, Elsie Marie Sandholdt, Manuel Telles

1904:

Herman P. Bofelman, William A. Granville, Elma J. Salz, Edwin M. Whipple

1905:

Anna Baldwin, Jesse Graham, Clare M. Hudson, Frances A. Peters, Gretchen M. Powell, Harold Hilton Rogers, Mrs. Sophia Runckel, Emily Perry Silvera

1906:

Joseph Baer, Olive Bonner, Edith A. Granville, Julian E. Jacobus, Ruth Wetmore Kasch, Shelton P. Sanford, Eugene Shaw, Ruth Shinn, Arthur L. Whipple

1907:

John L. Beard, Olive M. Benbow, Robert A. Blacow, Bessie M. Cook, Arthur E. Haley, Lulu L. Hansen, Chester W. Hatch, Richard Hunt, Winifred Hunt, Grace Jackson, Emelita Mayhew, Nancy M. McKeown, Frances Lela Noll, Gertrude Peterson, Clement Renouf, Wolsey Shaw, W. Harrison Snyder, Edward Witherly

1908:

Ralph Feusier, Viola George, Howard Houston, Ruth Houston, Beatrice Lernhart, Edith Lernhart, Annie Lowrie, Ella Lowrie, Lucille Slayton, Doris Whipple, June Witherly

1909:

Hawley W. Beard, Frank Bernardo, Charles L. Bez, Austin D. Ellis, Clara E. Haensel, Emily Yates Mowry, Dean B. Preston, Lillian C.G. Sandholdt, Lena Van de Voort.

Washington Township grammar school pupil census of May 1905:

Alvarado 178, Alviso 88, Centerville 257, Decoto 239, Lincoln 23, Mission San Jose 208, Mowry's 28, Newark 162, Niles 260, Stony Brook 26, Sheridan 51, Warm Springs 113, Washington (Irvington) 142.

Centerville High School staff and board members July 1906:

Union High School No. 2 Board: Joseph Shinn, President; A.T. Biddle, Secretary. Teaching Staff: G.W. Wright, Principal, Miss J. Colby, Teacher of English; Mrs. L.H. Kneiss, Teacher of History; Florence T. Hudson, Teacher of Languages; and A. Reuter Dahl was elected Vice Principal, former Vice Principal Miss M.R. Thompson having resigned.

There are eight high schools in Alameda County in 1907:

Alameda High School	1875	342
Berkeley High School	1883	764
Oakland High School	1867	785
Manuel Training (Lick)	1901	300
Union High School #1, Livermore	1891	52
Union High School #2, Centerville	1892	75
Union High School #3, Hayward	1892	54
Union High School #4, Melrose	1905	197

Frederick Liddeke has resigned his position as principal of the Union High School #2 in August 1903 to accept a similar post in Yreka.

A.T. Borst has been appointed school director at Centerville in October 1901 by School Superintendent Crawford, replacing H. Overacker.

The Union High School #2 trustees had their annual meeting in July 1909 and elected the same teachers as last year. There were two new trustees this year, E. Willard Burr, Supt. of the Sugar Mill at Alvarado, and F.T. Hawes, Centerville Merchant.

Union High School #2 sports:

The schedule of football games of the Central Sub-League for Centerville High School for 1901 is:

September 14 th :	Peralta Hall vs. Centerville High
September 21 th :	Stockton High School vs. Centerville School
September 28 th :	Oakland High School vs. Centerville High School
October 5 th :	Alameda High School vs. Centerville High School
October 19 th :	Berkeley High School vs. Centerville High School
November 2 nd :	Boone's University Academy vs. Centerville High School.

Centerville High School was admitted to the Academic Athletic League of California in April 1907. They had been a member of the Academic athletic League of Northern California but have been noted in any games in the past few years.

Oakland High School played the team from the Centerville High School in September 1905. There was no scoring during the game, but as the *Oakland Tribune* reporter so astutely observed, "No scoring was done, but the game was in favor of Oakland High, who came very nearly scoring in the second half. If the halves had been a trifle longer, there is no doubt that Centerville would have been beaten on its lack of conditioning." No partisan reporting there!

Centerville High school defeated Berkeley High on the Centerville home field by a score of 10 to 6 in October 1906. Centerville had a light team, but one which has developed remarkable team work. The Centerville team this year is practically the same team that last year held Oakland High to a nothing to nothing tie.

Next the Centerville football team traveled to Alameda to engage their high school boys in a football game. The game was hard fought only one score was made with the extra goal was missed. Alameda showed well, but came up short as they could not cross the goal line on the Centerville team.

Centerville had two coaches during the 1906 season, Patterson a Stanford lad, and Chadbourne a professional player. Under the instruction of these two men the team had developed a remarkable team work. The lineup is as follow:

C: J. Beard	RG: T. Huxley	LG: Jewell	RT: R. Lynch
LT: A. Haley	RE: R. Blacow	LE: E. Witherly	RH: W. Shaw
LH: R. Hunt	FB: C. Renouf	QB & Capt.: Hatch	

Captain Hatch, who plays quarter, is an excellent field general and a sure tackler. He will lead a team behind him on October 20th against Oakland High. Centerville has high hopes of winning the A.A.L. Championships this year and so far they seem be on track.

Oakland High School came to Centerville on October 20, 1906 for a football game in the A.A.L. conference. Centerville defeated Oakland High 5 to 0 when left end Witherly made a touchdown in the second half. Centerville has defeated all teams in its sub-league with the exception of Anderson's Academy, with whom it played to 0 to 0 tie.

Oakland High travels to Alameda to face one a team that has only lost once this year. Both of the teams have lost to Centerville by identical 5 to 0 scores. Should Alameda win from Oakland and the Centerville team be defeated by Anderson's Academy, Alameda will then be tied at the top of the league with one loss.

The 1906 football season in the Academic Athletic League in northern California ended in a bizarre fashion. The northern champion was Healdsburg. Their opponent from the Bay Area was to be the winner of the Lick (San Francisco) and Centerville high school boy's playoff game. The day of the Bay Area Championship game Healdsburg withdrew from the Academic Athletic League and, in effect, made the Lick-Centerville play-off game the championship game. The problem was that the two week lead up to the game would not be advertised and attendance was almost guaranteed to be low. Gold footballs were usually awarded to winning team, but with a small gate this would have to be forgone. The game was still advertised as a "corker" as both teams go into the game undefeated.

A place kick did the trick for the Centerville football team in the final game for the 1906 championship of the Academic Athletic League. The scene of the fray between the Centerville team and the husky lads from the California School of Mechanical Arts (Lick) was played at Stege's Park, Point Richmond, and those who took the lengthy journey were treated to one of the most scrappy and evenly contested matches in late years.

The Centerville boys made a fine showing, playing the game as it should be played at all times, and worked their forward pass almost at will. The pass was practically the cause of the downfall of the Tiger team, for it was one of those plays which enabled the country lads to work into suitable position for a field goal try. It was a pretty piece of work on the part of Renouf, Centerville's fullback, for the ball went squarely between the goal posts for the only score of the day. To be beaten by a field goal, or a "fluke," as most players term it, depressed the Lick boys very much. If they (Centerville) had forced the ball over the goal line it would not have seemed so bad, because several times the Tigers were with a yard or two of Centerville's goal line. The nearest Centerville came to Lick's goal was seven yards.

Academic Athletic Championship Teams of 1900:

1900:	Lowell Beat Berkeley	6 to 5
1901:	Lowell Tied Berkeley	0 to 0
1902:	Lowell Beat Berkeley	6 to 0
1903:	Berkeley beat Polytechnic	6 to 0
1904:	Lick Beat Oakland	12 to 0
1905:	Berkeley Beat Lowell	5 to 0
1906:	Centerville Beat Lick	4 to 0

On November 30th the Centerville team traveled to Woodland in Yolo County to meet Woodland High School. Centerville was the champion of Academic Athletic League and Woodland was the champion of the Sacramento Valley Interscholastic Athletic League. The game was played in a piercing north wind on Thanksgiving Day. Woodland came away with a 12 to 5 win.

The Woodland High School, by virtue of defeating all opponent played in 1906 were declared the California State Championship football team. The title fell to them on by being undefeated and by defeating the Centerville football team, who were also undefeated and Champions of the A.A.L.

*** **SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY** ***

The water suit that was fought out before Judge Greene in the Superior Court in November 1901 revives a bit of ancient history concerning Centerville and Alameda Creek, without a statement of which the present dispute is difficult to understand.

It appears that in 1851 water was diverted from the creek to run Vallejo’s Mill, which was operated until about sixteen years ago, when the Spring Valley Water Works became the purchaser of the water right.

In 1871 a number of land owners in the vicinity of Centerville organized the Washington and Murray Township Water Company to divert water for domestic and general farm purposes from a point below the Vallejo Mill diversion but above the outlet of the latter’s discharge. A ditch some four or five miles was run through the lands of the stockholders in that concern, and this ditch has been used more or less since, though of late years it has fallen into partial disuse.

When the Spring Valley Company purchased the Vallejo Mill water right, it also acquired a majority of the stock of the Washington and Murray Township Company. At present it holds 28, 960 of the 30,816 shares of that corporation, and of course elects the directors and other officers. Now the minority stockholders, who hold altogether 1,850 shares, have brought suit in the name of Mrs. Jane R. Clough against the Spring Valley Company, alleging that their rights are being sacrificed for the benefit of the Spring Valley by collusion with the directors of the Washington and Murray Township Water Company. They claim that Spring Valley is diverting more water than it is entitled to divert and is selling water taken from the Washington and Murray ditch. Those minority stockholders, Howard Overacker, W.H. Ford, Mrs. H.B. Ellsworth, and Mrs. Jane R. Clough, are the plaintiffs in this action.

The Spring Valley Company claims the right to divert 20,000,000 gallons daily from the stream, and alleges that the Washington and Murray Company has acquired no right of diversion superior to these and in fact claims that it has no right to divert anything except surplus usage.

On the other hand, the opposition claim that the actual diversion by the Vallejo Mill conduit was considerable less than one-half of the amount claimed by the Spring Valley Company, and that whatever right ever obtained under such diversion was allowed to lapse by reason of not being used for several years.

Such are the issues. The plaintiff has proved that the Spring Valley supplies the California Nursery with water taken from the Washington and Murray ditch, but on the other hand it has minimized the value of that waterway by showing it was leased for several years at an annual rental of \$25. It has also drawn out the fact that the ditch is now under a five-year lease to Messrs. Overacker and Tilden and sets up that they alone have the right to complain of any diversion from the ditch by the Spring Valley. The case is still on trial.

In February 1903 Oakland City Mayor Warren Olney spoke of the Washington and Murray Township water problem with the Spring Valley Company of San Francisco. Oakland City Mayor Warren Olney cited that the last five years have been the driest on record for the State of California. Very little rain has fallen, and as Mayor Olney pointed in a speech before the Republican Convention:

“You all know that the last five years have been the driest five years known in the history of the State. There never was as little rainfall during the same length of time before. Yet I should like to ask those of you who have been to Niles, Alvarado, Centerville, and Decoto, if you have noticed any indications of the farms along the Alameda Creek being dried up or ruined? On the contrary, you all know that there are no richer or more productive or larger income-paying lands in the State of California than those identical lands; and yet during all these dry years the Spring Valley Water Company has been taking away sixteen million gallons of water per day for the supply of San Francisco, and during all this time also the main supply of Oakland, Alameda, and Berkeley has come from these gravel beds. Does that as if they were pumped out? But that is not all. Not only the City of San Francisco has got sixteen million gallons from the gravel beds supplied by the Alameda Creek during these dry years, Oakland has got from four to five million gallons from the gravel beds supplied by the Alameda Creek, but the Alameda Sugar Company has also got its water from there, and there are wells sunk in these beds that at any time during these dry season will supply a million gallons of water per day. Almost anywhere on the Niles Cone you can get a million gallon well by boring one hundred feet.”

Was Mayor Olney standing up for the farmers and water users in Washington and Murray Townships? Now remember, the Oakland Water Company was taking four to five million gallons a day from the 31 wells they owned on the Alvarado marshes, so they had a vested interest in the Niles Cone water, so what was Mayor Olney's interest? He explains it later in his speech:

“Now suppose that the Spring Valley Water Company does succeed in shutting off the inflow into the Alameda Creek Gravel beds? In that even what is there to hinder the City of Oakland from filing a condemnation suit against the Spring Valley Water Company compelling it to let enough water come down the creek into those gravel beds to supply **our** wants? **We** (the City of

Oakland) have first claim upon that water. It is right here at our door. San Francisco can get its water elsewhere."

* **BUSINESS NOTES** *

In March 1901 the new plumbing firm of F.F. Dusterberry and W.R. Smith is fitting up the place formerly occupied by J.W. Robertson as a plumbing shop.

The Suburban Electric Light Company has completed the installation of lights in Centerville, Irvington and other places in November 1908, and have secured a franchise from San Leandro. This company buys its power from the big Standard Electric Company and then sells it to whoever will buy. They are now trying to get into Hayward.

In January 1902 Mrs. M.A. Graves, landlady of the Gregory House at Centerville, sued Dr. H.W. Emerson, Dr. G.E. Chalmers, Health Officers of that District, and Supervisor C.F. Horner for \$5,400 damages, alleged to be due on account of a quarantine placed upon the house last December. The complaint alleges that Dr. Emerson was called to treat one of the lodgers and circulated the report that his patient was suffering from smallpox; that thereafter Supervisor Horner had Health Officer Chalmers quarantine and fumigate the place. The quarantine remained in effect for eight days. In regard to the fumigation: "Dr. Chalmers proceeded to fumigate the place in a most careless and negligent manner, throwing a disagreeable and injurious substance over the carpets, floor, furniture, and household goods in said hotel, greatly damaging same and making it not only disagreeable to the plaintiff, her guests and family, but also dangerous to the health."

In January 1903 Joseph Herrscher of San Leandro began building a new addition to his store in Centerville. The addition will be 16 x 64 and will house a line of millinery and furniture and also part will be used to sell liquor.

F.M. Smith has relocated his family to Oakland in July 1903 to be near his business interest.

L. Brissacher, who for several years has been in charge of Joseph Herrscher's general merchandise store of Centerville has been appointed general manager of Mr. Herrscher's large establishment at San Leandro in January 1904. The store at Centerville was sold to Mr. F.C. Harvey of Alvarado.

Benjamin K. Badger, who recently purchased the Gregory House of Centerville, believes he made a bad bargain and wants his money back. He began suit against Henry C. Gregory on May 31, 1904 to recover the \$1,000 he put down on the purchase and \$2,000 damages. He says that Gregory represented to him that the Hotel would bring in \$200, a stable \$150 a month, and that the bar could be worked up into a good trade. Badger says that there has been no income from the place and that he has been swindled. He took a lease for the place for five years at a rental of \$90 per month, paying \$1,000 down and giving his note for \$3,200 more.

Thieves broke into the general store and Post Office of Hawes & Dusterberry on May 9, 1905 but received little in reward for their efforts. The stamps were locked up and all that was available to the thieves was \$5 to \$10 in the cash register till. Some pocket knives were taken and the store was generally rummaged about.

A license was issued by the Bank Commissioners yesterday to the Bank of Centerville authorizing the bank to engage in general banking business after July 15, 1905.

Washington township residents were up in arms over a Realty Syndicate trying to evade just taxes. The Oakland Traction Consolidated and the San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose Railway applied to the Country Board of Equalization to reduce the company's appraised capital tax base from \$22,050,000 to \$5,000,000 in July 1905.

Those from Centerville who backed keeping the current assessments for everyone were: F.F. Dusterberry, William Smith, Malcolm Reid, James Norris, E.H. Stevenson, J.M. Norris, W.W. Walton, G.T. Norris, Joseph F. Furtado, and Charles F. Cummings.

Something new in the area recently was the skating rinks at Centerville and Irvington. Both businesses were noted as going full blast in March 1906 and people seemed to enjoy the sport.

The Southern Pacific Railroad has survey parties commencing preliminary surveys for the new Dumbarton Point line by way of Redwood City and the peninsula cutoff in September 1906. Surveys are being made for cut off line from Niles to Dumbarton Point on this side of the Bay, and a right of way between Niles and Centerville on that route being owned by the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Centerville is about midway between Niles and Newark and would be on a natural line between those points should the railroad company decide to select that route for its connecting link with the Dumbarton Point branch.

From Centerville to Newark there is a horse car line, which was part of the old South Pacific Coast Railroad, which now belongs to the Southern Pacific. This would furnish a right of way for a steam railroad to Newark and would give Centerville, for the first time in its history, a place on a railroad line.

It is the intention of the Southern Pacific to hasten its work on both sides of the Bay. A large fill would be needed west of Newark, as well as on the west side into Redwood City. Much of the debris moved out of San Francisco (from the 1906 quake) would be utilized to make sound bottom for tracks across the marshes.

On November 26, 1906 the Southern Pacific announced that they have plans to begin the construction of a bridge, of which 3,200 feet will be on piles with a draw bridge of two spans, each of 126 feet, and also new track from Niles through Centerville, via Newark, to connect with the bridge and from the western terminus of the bridge across to Redwood City. Work will begin immediately. The work must be completed within one year's time according to the government.

All the pilings for the SP Bridge from Dumbarton Point to Redwood City were completed the end of October 1907. The new line will pass through the town of Centerville where two brick buildings had to be removed for the right of way.

By 1909 the railroad tracks from Niles to Redwood City was nearing completion and in February 1910 work was commenced on a Southern Pacific train depot we of Main Street in downtown Centerville.

Murderous safe-crackers, armed with pistols and gas pipe, blew open the big strong-box in Frank T. Hawes' general merchandise store at Centerville at 2 o'clock in the morning of November 26, 1906, and stole \$400 in coin, \$500 worth of stamps and a postal money-order book. In their hurry the trio of burglars overlooked, \$150.

Discovered by Postmaster Hawes as they left his store, the robbers opened fire on him at short range, discharging several shots as they made off in the darkness. Townspeople were aroused, but before an armed posse could be organized the strangers had disappeared, all trace of them being lost.

Before the safe men went to work they entered Fred Dusterberry's plumbing shop and stole a hammer, hatchet, heavy file and a section of gas pipe nearly three feet long. With these Implements the store was broken into. The work on the safe was cleverly done. Nitroglycerine was used as the explosive. It was inserted in the crevice along the top of the safe door. Soap was smeared along the face to close the aperture, and so well executed was the job that both the outside and the inner doors were blown open without a particle of drilling. As soon as the safe was opened the coin and stamps were quickly taken and the robbers started away.

Hawes was sleeping in a tent in his yard across the street. He was awakened, but did not realize what had occurred. Still in his night clothes he walked out toward the store and yelled to the three men he saw, "Don't make so much noise over there," thinking they were roisterers in an automobile party. For reply the safecrackers opened fire on Hawes. The postmaster then realized that something was wrong. He ran into the house to dress himself, but his wife hid his clothes under a mattress and refused to let him have them.

She had been awakened by the shooting. One bullet crashed through a front window and was imbedded in the piano casing. Hawes finally dressed himself and went to the store, where the evidences of the robbery were disclosed. The stolen coin belonged to him. Manuel Bettencourt, who slept in a house at the rear of Hawes store, heard the explosion, but he did not get out to investigate, saying he thought the noise came from the saloon next door.

The Meara Construction Company of Centerville filed articles of incorporation on April 3, 1907. The capital stock is \$10,000, which is fully paid up. Robert Meara, Eugene H. Stevenson, Charles w. Meara, and H.W. Emerson are directors and stockholders.

In March 1908 the farmers of the Centerville area have banded together into an organization known as the "Washington Township Producers' Organization." The purpose of the body is shown by their motto: "Co-Operation and Mutual Protection between Producers and Consumers."

The members propose to raise, grow, and sell (wholesale and retail), all perishable products, including fruit, vegetables, eggs, poultry, grain, dairy products, etc., and they will establish and maintain a suitable market place in the city of San Francisco for the sale of this kind of produce. The city market will be in charge of the city agent. Experienced salesman will be engaged and all orders will be promptly filled.

No commission will be charged for the handling of the produce, but the seller must be a member of the association.

Some twenty-eight of the largest producers from Warm Springs, Irvington, Niles, Centerville, Decoto, Alvarado, Newark, and Arden have joined and the entire township is being canvassed for membership. All producers are eligible.

A.P. Cook's store was entered on December 15, 1909 and \$300 worth of merchandise was stolen. This is the third time recently that the store had been entered.

*** JULY 4th 1902 CELEBRATION ***

The Washington Township Fourth of July celebration at Centerville, was a gala day and one which will live in the history of Alameda County. The patriotic exercises, the monster parade, including many beautiful floats, and thoroughly up-to-date display of fireworks were the features of the day which attracted hundreds of spectators from far and near. The committees in charge of the festive occasions are deserving of the utmost praise. For the last two months they have been industriously at work preparing for the event, and succeeded beyond their fondest expectations.

The town was gaily attired and presented the true holiday appearance. In the entire town there was not a hamlet so small but what bunting and the stars and stripes floated in the wind. The main street was heavily hung with streamers of bunting reaching from one side to the other. Under the flags were lines of electric lights, donated by the Standard electric Company for the occasion. Every business in the heart of the town was heavily burdened with patriotic colors. Any of the decorations were artistic in design and tastefully decorated.

The Union High House was notable on account of its decorations. Long streamers of bunting were hung from the cornices of the building and reached to the ground. The streamers were so arranged that they spelled "Union," carrying the double significance of the principle on which the Republic was founded and of the school itself.

The decoration did not close with the town itself. The four principal approaches to the city, considered by drives in Alameda County, were handsomely decorated. For half a mile to the east, the people coming from Niles and the Niles canyon district were met with bunting strung from one side of the roadway to the other. The same beautiful sight met the incoming visitors from the three other approaches being decorated for fully a half a mile.

Early in the morning the guests of the little towns from the surrounding neighborhood began to pour in and continued in a steady stream until many hundreds blocked the streets of the town. Delegations from Niles, Irvington, Newark, Alvarado, Pleasanton, Mt. Eden, Decoto, Mission San Jose, Livermore, Warm Springs, and even from Oakland and San Francisco were present to witness the features of the day.

Exactly at sunrise the day's festivities began with the firing of the National Salute of twenty-one guns. In lieu of proper ordnance twenty-ones anvils were used to make the salute. Immediately thereafter, to the strains of the Star Spangled Banner, the thirty foot flag, the pride of Centerville, was raised in the center of the town, where it remained unfurled until the sun went down.

Four brass bands, the Newark, the San Leandro, the Masonic Boy's Home, and Stevenson's band early awakened echoes in the town and entertained the arriving visitors with popular airs until the real demonstration began at 10:30 o'clock.

Aside from a town so small supporting four complete brass bands, the features of the day were numerous. The parade itself was a demonstration well worth going to see. The procession was under the supervision of Grand Marshal C.H. Allen, and was divided into four divisions, each of which was a credit to the zeal of the townsmen. The parade occupied the best part of the forenoon. In the afternoon the literary program and patriotic exercises began at 1:30 o'clock, after which the exciting races and contests for young and old, with valuable prizes attached were held.

When the warmth of the day had subsided, a mock parade, under the captain of the "horribles" was held. The ludicrous was the object sought for, and it was the end attained. At 8 o'clock in the evening the public display of fireworks was held in the public square. The pyrotechnic illuminations were followed by a grand electrical illumination. The day's festivities were appropriately concluded by a grand ball, which was held in the town hall.

The Parade:

The parade, with its town floats, school floats, industrial floats, and hundreds of decorated carriages, was at least two miles in length, and was the most successful demonstration of the day.

The First Division:

The procession formed in front of Supervisor's Horner's residence at 10 o'clock. The first division was headed by Grand Marshal C.H. Allen, assisted by P.T. Helwick, C. Agers, J.D. Agers, and S. Vandervoort.

Next in the order of the march was the band from Newark. After the band came the floats and the private carriages.

Decoto:

The Decoto float contained twenty-four girls, all in white, seated under a canopy of flags and bunting, with palm leaves.

Alviso School District Float:

The Alviso School District sent a beautiful float, which contained thirteen young girls, all dressed up to represent the thirteen original states. The decorations of the float were patriotic colors, surmounting arches of lowers.

Newark Float:

The Newark School float was a very pretty conception. It contained thirty-five young ladies, all dressed in white each of whom held a Japanese parasol and an American flag. The effect of the gay colors was very much heightened by the oriental design of the float.

Native Sons Float:

Washington Parlor, No. 169, of the Native Sons, had a very effective float. On the sides was blazoned the legend "49 or bust," a bear and the characteristic pick and shovel, and types of the old time miners completed the float.

Portuguese Float:

The American-Portuguese residents of Centerville produced a very handsome float, which represented Lodge 27 of the Three Guardians. Queen Isabel and King Don Carlos of Portugal were represented with four soldiers, as body guards. There were twelve girls dressed in white, seated beneath the canopy of flags and flowers occupied by the King and Queen.

Goddess of Liberty:

Miss Kate Little, who was chosen to represent the Goddess of Liberty on the occasion, occupied a throne supported on one side by a shield of the American arms, and the American eagle on the other. The canopy under which she sat was composed of the American flags and bunting. The float, which was the contribution of the citizens of Centerville, was drawn by four white charges draped with American flags. Kate Little made an exquisite Goddess. She was dressed in a gown of cream color. In her hand was a trident, around which the American colors were bound. Miss Little's height is above the average, and her purely Grecian caste of features lent much to the beautiful effect of the float. The float was driven by Jon T. Stevenson, dressed all in white.

The Second Division:

The second division was under the charge of W.W. Walton, as aid to the Grand Marshal. It was headed by the San Leandro Band.

Council No. 5 Float:

The first float was that of Council No. 5, of the Portuguese Benevolent Association. It represented Cabrillo, the discoverer of the Pacific Coast. Twelve girls, half of them American, and the other half Portuguese, made the setting for a sail boat, with sails at full mast, representing the courage and daring of the pioneer Argonaut.

Centerville Float:

The Centerville float was composed of thirteen little girls dressed in yellow, representing poppies. The canopy overhead was a light green, and made a charming blend with the children's dresses. From an aesthetic point of view, this was considered one of the most effective of the floats.

Niles Vegetable Garden:

Among other floats which attracted attention was that of the Niles Vegetable Garden. The process of sowing, reaping, and turning the soil was represented. M.H. Lewis' float was that of a small house actually in the process of construction. The Modern Woodmen of the World had a typical float. Pieces of wood with the accompanying ax were displayed.

Blacksmith Shop:

A blacksmith shop on wheel, with a forge, and two small Shetland ponies was the contribution of J.M. Josephs. As an industrial float it would be hard to excel.

George Washington:

The Father of this Country was represented by a float consisting of Uncle Sam as the driver, and a carriage in which were seated Martha Washington and George Washington.

Third Division:

The third division was under the guidance of Eugene Stevenson, and was headed by the Stevenson band.

Among the carriages in the third division was that of Mrs. E. Usler which was pronounced as the most effective. It was draped in purple and contained seven young ladies, all dressed in white with cream colored parasols. After Mrs. Usler's carriage there were at least a hundred carriages, gaily decorated.

Fourth Division:

The fourth division was led by the boy's band of the Masonic Home. First were the Christian Endeavors on bicycles, bearing the banner of their organization. Then followed a cavalcade of horseback riders and their gaily decorated steeds. The end of the procession was brought up by Master Benjamin Dusterberry, driving a handsome St. Bernard Dog, and Master Lester Burdick, controlling a goat, who, for the occasion was bedecked in patriotic colors, which he attempted to eat from time.

List of Prizes:

The prizes for the floats were awarded as follows:

Best Town Float:

1 st Prize:	Centerville	One case of champagne
2 nd Prize:	Pioneers	One case of old port

Best Decorated Family Carriage:

1 st Prize:	J. Herrscher (Cent.)	One mirror
2 nd Prize:	T. Witherly (Irv)	One whip

Best Industrial Display:

1 st Prize:	P.L.I. Co.	One case mixed liquors
2 nd Prize:	J.M. Joseph	One case of claret

Best School Float:

1 st Prize:	Centerville	One bust
2 nd Prize:	Newark	One lamp

Best Fraternal Float:

1 st Prize:	I.D.E.S. Society	One case best port
2 nd Prize:	Order of Workman	One case Modoc wine

Best Decorated Buggy Driven by Woman:

1 st Prize:	Mrs. Usler	One whip
2 nd Prize:	Mrs. F.S. Ferreira	One dressing case

Best Display of Juvenile Riding:

1 st Prize:	Frank Smith Jr.	One ink stand
2 nd Prize:	aster Usler	One box fancy writing paper

Young Ladies Horseback riding:

1 st Prize:	Miss Simpson	One bottle of cologne
2 nd Prize:	Miss Vandervoort	One pair of shoes.

Best Decorated Juvenile Bicycle:

1st Prize: Miss Fischer One Doll
2nd Prize: Master Bunting One knife

*** CLUBS & SOCIETIES ***

A.O.U.W / Bridge Club / Catholic Ladies Sewing Society / Centerville Athletic Club / Centerville Harmonic Club / Centerville Tennis Club / Druids / I.D.E.S. / Knights of Pythias / Ladies Aid Society / Ladies Improvement Club of Centerville / Native Sons of the Golden West / Order of Eastern Star / S.P.R.S.I. / St. James Sewing Society / Union Cotillion Club of Washington Township / United Artisans / U.P.P.E.C. / Washington Township Country Club / Washington Township Pioneers / Washington Township Producer's Organization / Woodmen of the World

A.O.U.W (Ancient Order of United Workers):

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.

Centerville Lodge #127 was formed late in 100. By March 1901, after only six months in existence, it had a membership of eighty-seven.

Bridge Club:

The Bridge Club met at Mrs. W.R. Smith's house in May 1909. This is the first mention of this club.

Catholic Ladies Sewing Society of Centerville:

March 2, 1909, the Ladies Catholic Sewing Society of Centerville met with Mrs. A.A. Amaral

Centerville Athletic Club:

The annual meeting of the Centerville Athletic Club was held March 11, 1901 in the gymnasium and officers were elected as follows:

President: C.F. Horner
Secretary: P.S. Sandholdt
Treasurer: A. Lernhart
Directors: S. Sandholdt, G.I. Norris, J.D. Norris, A.T. Borst, R.T. Moses

This is the last article found for the Centerville Athletic Club.

Centerville Harmonic Club:

The Centerville Harmonic Club gave an entertainment at Centerville on the evening of May 10, 1902.

Centerville Tennis Club:

The Centerville Tennis Club gave a dance in February 1903 in the Town Hall. This is the first mention of this club.

Druids Lodge:

The Order of Druids, Centerville Grove #123, was formed with twenty six members on October 28, 1900. Officers of the lodge were: J W Stevenson, Joseph Secada, P.S. Sandholdt, P.G. Leonard, J M Silva, A.S. Williams, F. Margarido, and M.J. Sousa.

I.D.E.S. Portuguese Society Founded:

The Brotherhood of the I.D.E.S. Society (Sociedad da Irmandade do Divino Espirito Santo, The Society of the Divine Holy Spirit); Freitas Lodge No. 27 of Centerville was organized on February 28, 1900. The I.D.E.S. was first organized in Half Moon Bay in the year 1871. It bears the emblem of the Red Flag and Crown which is recognized the world over as the symbol of the Holy Ghost Festival.

The annual Holy Ghost festa is put on annually in town and cities throughout California as towns take turns put on lavish celebrations, in which anyone can attend. The history of the event dates back to the days of Queen Isabel of Portugal (1503 – 1539), a good ruler with two passions in her life, care of the poor and the adoration of the Holy Ghost. Birth of the celebration dates to a year of famine, the story relates.

A religious procession to the church, to pray for food, was halted by the queen while she placed her own crown on the head of a small child, to teach that all are equal in the eyes of God. As she set the crown on the head of the child, a ship bearing food was seen entering the harbor. Thereafter the king declared the day one of celebration.

The festival (festa) vows to combine religious and social observances. Queens are chosen through a succession of years of service. A little queen rules each year beside the major queen. As the years pass, she progresses through her role of attendant to side maid, and from side maid to queen. A queen must be unmarried, and must have served the required years in attendant roles before she is eligible to reign.

The Supreme Council of the I.D.E.S. of California met at San Leandro in September 1901 and elected the following officers who are from Centerville: Vice President, F.J. Rose; Secretary, T.G. Leonardo; and Treasurer, M.J. Silva.

Knights of Pythias No. 170

At a meeting held in July 1902 the Centerville Lodge No. 170, Knights of Pythias, installed the following officers:

CC:	Arthur T. Biddle
VC:	Louis Ruschin
M of E:	Judge Sandholdt
M of F:	Andy Eggers
M of A:	Pete Mathieson
M of W:	Charles Hanseding
K of R & S:	Joseph Norris
P:	C.A. Plummer
TG:	Fred Hawes
OG:	Martin Joseph

The Knights of Pythias #170 of Centerville elected the following delegates in April 1909 to attend the Grand Session: H.W. Nurnberg, R.F. Ingraham, Judge Sandholdt, and D. Norris

Ladies Aid Society:

The Ladies Aid Society met at the home of Mrs. Bunting in March 1901. Mrs. Boyd acted as hostess. The Ladies Aid Society met at the home of Mrs. C.A. Plummer in January 1903. The Ladies Aid Society met with Mrs. James Fair in June 1903.

Ladies Improvement Club of Centerville:

The Ladies Improvement Club of Centerville put on an entertainment in the Town Hall titled, "The Military Girl" on February 10, 1905. There were thirty pretty girls in the cast and they played their parts to perfection. Large audiences attended both performances. The proceeds will be used to improve the town.

Native Sons of the Golden West:

The Washington Parlor of the Native Sons elected the following delegates to the Grand Lodge meeting at Watsonville in December 1909: C.H. Hatch, J.D. Norris, J.M. Norris, and A.F. Eggers.

Order of the Eastern Star:

The first mention of the Orient Chapter of Order of the Eastern Star in Centerville was on August 23, 1900 when William Barry and Fergus McKenna were initiated into the order.

S.P.R.S.I. Founded:

This Portuguese Society was organized in Centerville on October 28, 1900. This society was founded on March 15, 1898 by a group of Portuguese Catholic women in Oakland California. The society was named "Sociadade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel," and its motto "Charity, Sociability and Protection". This fraternal organization was merged into the Luso-American Life Insurance Society in 2008.

Founding members were: Mary J. Mattos, Mary D. Amaral, Carrie Peixotto, and Mary Brazil.

S.P.R.S.I. # 4 of Centerville Installed Officers in June 1909:

President: Mrs. M.L. Silva	Vice-President: Mrs. M.S. Brandon
Secretary: Mrs. Rosida Vargas	Treasurer: Mrs. Louiza Secada
Emcee: Miss M. Bernardo	Marshall: Mrs. M.P. Machado
Inside Guardian: Mrs. M. George	
Trustees: Mrs. A.P. Machado, Mrs. Frank Pine, Mrs. Thomasia Telles	

St. James Sewing Society:

The St. James Sewing Society met with Mrs. Howard Overacker in February 1903. This is the first mention of the society.

Union Cotillion Club of Washington Township:

The Union Cotillion Club was a Washington Township organization where dances were held in varying venues. The first reported cotillion cycle was held in 1902 and was deemed very successful and among the most pleasant affairs given in the

township. The cotillion cycle was a series of four dances held in the following towns: Niles, Centerville, Decoto, and Alvarado. The Union Cotillion Club sent out 200 invitations to prospective members in October of 1903.

The executive committee was comprised of:

Miss Zadie Whipple	Decoto
Mrs. S.O. Quigley	Niles
Miss Nauert	Alvarado
Mrs. D. Cushing	Mission San Jose

The finance committee was comprised of:

Mrs. Ford	Niles
Miss Nina Dyer:	Alvarado
Miss Whipple	Decoto.

The first assembly of the Union Cotillion Club was held in the IOOF Hall in Alvarado on the evening of Friday November 13, 1903. The young ladies of Decoto served as hostesses. The hall was beautifully and elaborately decorated with stately palms and boughs of pepper. The inclemency of the weather and the big football game the succeeding day kept some of the members from attending, but those present had an unusually good time. The next assembly was held at Niles.

The last assembly of the Union Cotillion Club was held in Centerville on the evening of February 27, 1904. Cards for this event had been much sought after, as it is the most select club in Washington Township. Its members comprise the most prominent people of Washington Township, and included people from Oakland, Alameda, Berkeley and San Francisco.

In October of 1904 the Union Cotillion Club was reorganized under the following young ladies:

Alvarado:	Miss Nina Dyer	Miss Nauert.	
Decoto:	Misses E. & I. Whipple	Miss Helen Crane.	
Centerville:	Miss Huxley	Miss Salz	
Niles:	Miss Mayhew	Miss Hudson	Miss Jacobus

The first assembly of the reorganized Union Cotillion Club took place at the IOOF Hall in Alvarado on Saturday evening, December 17, 1904. The club parties are the finest affairs ever given in the township and its membership comprises the most representative young people hereabouts. All members were privileged to invite a few friends. The dances are strictly invitational. The last dance in the series was held June 10, 1905.

United Artisans, Central Assembly, No. 191:

Central Assembly No. 191, United Artisans, organized January 22, 1900, in Hansen's Hall, has a membership of sixty-nine, is a very popular order, and growing rapidly. After their organization they announced that they would soon give an entertainment in the Town Hall.

On February 16, 1900 and entertainment was put on at the Centerville Town Hall. The farce, "A Bunch of Roses," was given at the Centerville Town Hall. No credit was

assigned to the performers. This could have been done by the United Artisans of Centerville. The cast of characters was as follows:

Mr. Perlove	A. Borst
Mr. Mason	J. Blacow
Mr. Hargrove	Wm. Patterson
Hobson	F. Hawes
Mrs. Perlove	Miss E. Turner
Hilda	Miss A. Olney
Miss Pilkington	Mrs. C. Hatch
Higgo	Mrs. F. Bunting

Central Assembly United Artisans #191 of Centerville met in Hansen's Hall and elected the following officers in 1909: Mrs. J.A. Bunting, Master Artisan; Miss Grace Hawley, Secretary; and I.T. Haines, Treasurer.

U.P.P.E.C. Conselho No. 5 Founded:

Uniao Portuguesa Protectora do Estado da California (UPPEC)

In the late 1800's Portuguese immigrants founded Portuguese fraternal benefit societies to provide benefits to the families of deceased members. Newer immigrants found friendship, mutual assistance, and a transition into American society within these organizations, with local units throughout the state, engaged in public service projects, including patriotic support of the U.S.A. during WWI and WWII. They helped to fund the building of early Catholic churches in California. In 2010 with very little new immigration and with changing times, I.D.E.S., S.E.S., U.P.E.C., and U.P.P.E.C. merged to form the Portuguese Fraternal Society of America.

On October 21, 1902 Council Pride of the Union No. 19, U.P.P.E.C. was founded with the following founding members: Margaret Gomes, Filomena O. Garcia, Rita Oliveira, and Mary A.V. Caldeira.

Washington Township Country Club:

The Country Club Mrs. with Mrs. Layson (formerly Mrs. Geo. Patterson) on January 9, 1902 at Ardenwood. The coming convention of women's clubs to be held in San Francisco was discussed. After the business and regular meeting Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Bunting gave a delightful account of the Eastern trip they enjoyed in Mr. Bunting's private car (Railroad) "El Fleda." Two solos were rendered by Miss Stella Graham. On February 4th the Country Club would meet with Mrs. Lernhart in Centerville.

A special meeting of the Country Club was held at the home of Mrs. F.O. Bunting January 28, 1902 for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Federation Convention to be held in Los Angeles next week. The admission of colored clubs to Federations has been a question much discussed in the United States, generally, and is an important question to be settled at the coming California Federation Convention. It was brought before the members of the Country Club of Washington Township and a general discussion, which proved very interesting took place on this subject. After a very in depth discussion the subject was put to a vote, which carried with 21 votes for admitting colored clubs and 4 against admitting colored clubs. Delegates to the State Federation chosen were Mrs. M.C. Allen of Centerville and Mrs. M.L. Mowry of Irvington.

The Country Club met with Mrs. Hugh Mosher of Niles on January 5, 1903. Mrs. John Bunting was appointed a representative to the State Federation to talk of the Sloat

Monument. Mrs. Bunting and Mrs. C.C. Crane were elected delegates and Mrs. W.H. Layson and Mrs. Marion Mowry alternates. "Tuberculosis," a subject suggested for study by the State Federation, engaged the attention of the club. The next meeting will be held with Mrs. Howard Overacker. The president of the Country Club this year was Mrs. Laura Thane.

In May 1903 Historical Day was celebrated by the ladies with the following program:

Address of welcome, by President Mrs. H.C. Turner:

- "Auld Lang Syne," audience.
- "Early History of Mission San Jose," Mrs. J.E. Thane
- "Modern History of Mission San Jose," Mrs. T.C. Huxley
- "Alvarado and Union City," Mrs. C.C. Crane
- "Centerville," Mrs. J.A. Bunting
- Vocal solo, Miss Estelle Graham, Irvington
- "Irvington," Mrs. Julia Straven
- "Warm Springs," Mrs. M.L. Mowry
- "Niles," Mrs. G.H. Hudson
- Instrumental solo, Miss Antonita Vallejo
- "Decoto," Mrs. C.L. Haines
- "Newark," Mrs. C.S. Haley
- Summary, Mrs. C.H. Allen, "America," audience

Interesting letters from Mrs. W.W. Brier, Miss Guadalupe Vallejo, and Dr. J.M. Selfridge, pioneer residents of Washington Township, now residing elsewhere, were read. The family of Don Jose de Jesus Vallejo, original proprietor of the Mission San Jose, was represented by his granddaughter, Miss Antonita Vallejo, who, by her participation in the program, added greatly to the enjoyment of the afternoon.

A unique event took place in Centerville on February 4, 1908, about forty girls gathered in response to an invitation from Mrs. Grace Whitfield Wright for an eleven o'clock breakfast. All were dressed in colonial costumes, of which several were to take part in a minuet later in the afternoon at the Country Club. The procession of flowered gowns with long trains, powdered hair, and old fashioned jewels worn by the ladies made the scene of unusual interest. At two o'clock all the members of the company retired to the Country Club meeting for a colonial day program held at Mrs. Banning's. Among the guests were: Mesdames Overacker, Huxley, Crothers, Allen, Bunting, Turner, Wills, Lowrie, Horner, Houston, Way, Satterthwaite, Mowry, Patterson, Hawley, Layson, Beard, Emerson, Fair, and the Miss May Hawley from Centerville.

The Ladies of the Country Club will have a meeting devoted to the American Indian with displays of Indian curios in December 1909. . The California Indian Association will also supply Indian artifacts for display. Finally an Indian woman who graduated from the Carlisle Indian School will address the assembly.

Washington Township Pioneers:

The Washington Township Pioneers held their annual election of officers and banquet at the Gregory House in April 1901. From a membership of 111 they have dwindled to eight. Those present were H. Dusterberry, J.C. Whipple, William Barry, F.C. Rose, John Buchanan, and Sebastian Franz. The absent ones were Ed Niehaus, who was in Fresno, and C.G. Healy. The election of officers resulted in the choice of C.G. Healy,

president; F.C. Rose, vice-president; H. Dusterberry, treasurer; and William Barry, secretary. The latter has held this position continually with the exception of one year ever since the organization was perfected. The Pioneers first met November 29, 1876 at the suggestion of William Barry and William M. Liston of Alvarado. There were eleven present. The second meeting on December 9th was attended by fifteen. The first election of officers took place December 23rd resulting as follows:

President	George W. Bond
First Vice President	C.C. Scott
Second Vice President	William M. Liston
Treasurer	L.E. Osgood
Secretary	William Barry

The rolls were signed up early in the following year. Only those who were in California prior to the organization of Alameda County, January 1, 1853 were eligible for membership. They have met three times a year with a banquet at the annual meeting. The dinner Saturday was served by Mrs. Graves and was pronounced of the highest quality. The room was darkened and lamps lighted. The table was profusely decorated with roses. Everything was served in courses and highly enjoyed by those present.

Washington Township Producers' Organization:

The farmers of the Centerville area have banded together into an organization known as the "Washington Township Producers' Organization." The purpose of the body is shown by their motto: "Co-Operation and Mutual Protection between Producers and Consumers."

The members propose to raise, grow, and sell (wholesale and retail), all perishable products, including fruit, vegetables, eggs, poultry, grain, dairy products, etc., and they will establish and maintain a suitable market place in the city of San Francisco for the sale of this kind of produce. The city market will be in charge of the city agent. Experienced salesman will be engaged and all orders will be promptly filled. No commission will be charged for the handling of the produce, but the seller must be a member of the association.

Woodmen of the World:

Centerville Camp No. 146 of the Woodmen of the World threw open its doors to all Woodmen and invited friends in June 1905, to join with them in a jollification meeting and banquet, at which time elected officers were installed.

*** NOTEWORTHY EVENTS ***

1900s:

Postmaster Appointments:

Lewis Gregory	February 14, 1890
Frank Dusterberry	December 19, 1893
Samuel Archibald	June 28, 1898

April 23, 1900:

Mrs. Mary Gunn:

The funeral of Mrs. Mary Gunn, wife of the Rev. Gunn of Centerville, took place on April 23, 1900 from the Berkeley Presbyterian Church. At the close of the services the remains were sent to Centerville for interment. The deceased was the daughter of Mrs. Batch of Berkeley and was a graduate from the University with the class of '98. While visiting in Spokane she met Mr. Gunn who was then pastor of a Presbyterian Church in that city. Soon after their marriage Mrs. Gunn's health failed and they came to Berkeley in the hope that a milder climate would benefit her. Her health, however, continued to fail until her death occurred last Friday at the home of her mother in Berkeley. Besides her mother and husband she leaves a baby daughter only ten months old. Rev. Gunn is pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Centerville.

August 1900:

C.F. Horner:

The supervisory contest for the First District of Alameda County in August 1900, which includes Centerville, had three candidates, C.S. Archibald of Centerville, George Cash of Irvington, and incumbent F.C. Horner. C.S. Archibald, who is the Postmaster of Centerville decided that a certainty of selling postage stamps was better than an uncertainty on the Board of Supervisors and he withdrew, leaving the field to Horner and Cash.

October 1900:

Dr. Howard Emerson:

In October 1900 the Board of Supervisors appointed Dr. Howard W. Emerson as Health Officer for the town of Centerville.

October 15, 1900:

Centerville Ballot Officials:

Polling place for the upcoming election is the Ladies Town Hall:

Inspectors:	W.W. Walton	Manuel Oliveira
Judges:	George Lowry	Henry Dusterberry Sr.
Clerks:	A.H. Eggers	Frank P. Beck
Ballot Clerks:	M.S. Alameda	C.J. Rodrigues

June 1901:

Miss Carrie Sandholt:

The funeral of Miss Carrie Sandholt took place in June 1901 in Centerville. She was the daughter of Judge Sam Sandholdt and Mrs. Hannah Sandholdt. She was single and nineteen years of age.

July 1901:

Frank Rose:

Frank Rose applied for a saloon permit, July 1901

July 1901

Mrs. M.A. Graves:

Mrs. M.A. Graves application for a saloon license, July 1901 referred to committee

August 1901:

S. Hansen:

S. Hansen, applied for a liquor license, August 1901

August 1901:

F.S. Francis:

F.S. Francis, application for a saloon license, August 1901

August 1, 1901:

Plea to Regulate Cars

San Francisco, August 1, 1901

Chairman of Committee on Roads and Bridges and the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County – Dear Sir:

I noticed in the papers of the July 29th that mention was made of a communication from C.A. Plummer of Centerville, wherein he asks that the Board Pass an ordinance regulating the use of automobiles on country roads, which he considers necessary by reason of “the willful neglect of the rights of those who use vehicles drawn by horses on the county roads of Alameda County, through the presumptuous and dangerous manipulation of automobiles on the said roads.”

Speaking for the Automobile Club of California, of which I am president, I beg to express the conviction that Mr. Plummer’s complaint in some cases is well founded, and that it is eminently well founded and proper that the Board of Supervisors should, by ordinance, remedy the evils of which he and others have just cause for complaint. F.A. Hyde, President

August 26, 1901:

W.F.B. Lynch

A long, useful and successful life has just been brought to a close by the death of Professor W.F.B Lynch, which took place in San Leandro on August 26, 1901. His son, H.W. Lynch is principal of the Centerville Grammar School.

February 1902:

Tribute to McKinley:

Several organizations, and individual people, have been taking up a fitting memorial for the late President McKinley in February 1902. Suggested was to plant a tree and place a marble slab with a proper description in the Union High School grounds on Memorial Day. The tree is to be planted with earth from the Nation’s Capital and White House grounds, from the yard of the McKinley home in Canton, Ohio, and, if possible, some from the battlefields on which the fought during the Civil War.

The meeting was called to order by J.C. Shinn, who stated the object was to decide on the form of the memorial. A permanent organization was effected by the selection of I.B. Haines of Decoto as chairman and G.A. Edgar of Niles as secretary. Mr. Shinn reported 28.75 cash and \$5 in subscriptions. Mrs. G.H. Hudson reported \$10 voted by the Country Club if it was needed, while W.H. Lynch reported \$12 from the Centerville memorial exercises, which might be available. After full discussion the plan of a tree and a marble table was agreed upon and the chair was authorized to name a committee to proceed with the plans, restricting themselves to the money on hand.

J.C. Shinn for Union High School, J.E. Thane for the Country Club, and A.A. Norris for the Teacher’s Club were named. The committee eventually selected a fine specimen of the Norfolk Island pine. Mr. A.R. Waters was delegated to gather the earth and already letters have gone forth to gather together soils from various historical spots.

March 1902:

Dyer M. Lamson:

Dyer M. Lamson issued a liquor license, March 1902

April 1902:
J.J. Santos:

The Centerville Roadmaster was shown to be J.J. Santos in April 1902.

June 1902:
Frank S. Rosa:

Frank S. Rosa made an application to become the Poundmaster for Centerville.

July 1902:
Frank Rosa:

Frank Rosa applied for a liquor license, July 1902

July 1902:
William Barry:

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival in Alameda County, William Barry, County Horticultural Commissioner, gave a banquet Saturday afternoon at Centerville to about sixty guests, his pioneer friends and close neighbors. It was on July 12, 1852 that Mr. Barry settled in Washington Township, and there he has resided continuously for half a century.

Mr. Barry arrived in California in May 1852. Two months later he reached Jarvis Landing on a schooner and walked to Mission San Jose. He took part in the first election that was held in Alameda County. From that time Mr. Barry has watched the county grow from a mere cattle-grazing and stock-raising district, overrun with horses and steers, to one of the richest counties in the State, with a diversity of resources, agricultural and horticultural, that are unequaled.

When Mr. Barry arrived in the new county Oakland was nothing but an oak-studded grove, with sparsely settled homes. The half-century pioneer is now one of the most prominent orchardists of the county. For seventeen years he has been Horticultural Commissioner of Alameda County, and in such affairs is deemed one the leading men this section. Besides Mr. Barry there are now only two men residing in Washington Township who were there when he arrived. They are James Hawley and D.D. Kenyon.

July 1902:
William S. Santos:

William S. Santos was granted a liquor license, July 1902

August 1902:
Henri E. Salz

Henri Edward Salz, son of Sigmund Salz of Centerville, has returned from Berlin in August 1902, where he has been studying music during the last four years. With his return comes the announcement of his engagement to Miss Aubertine Damon, an American girl who is pursuing her studies in Germany. The couple met shortly after Salz arrived in Berlin and while they were pursuing their studies. They also devoted some time to the art of Cupid, with the result they had become engaged when Salz left to return to this country. The wedding of the young couple will take place at the Eastern home of Miss Damon as soon as she has completed her studies in Europe.

October 28, 1902:

Centerville Ballot Officials:

Polling Place:	Town Hall	
Inspectors:	M.F. Silva	F.M. Noya
Judges:	G.P. Lowrie	A.T. Borst
Clerks:	P.S. Sandholdt	F. Dusterberry
Ballot:	A.D. Morris	C.F. Cummings

November 1902:

H.C. Gregory:

H.C. Gregory was granted a liquor license, November 1902

January 1903:

Rev. Gunn:

The Rev. Gunn left for his new field of work in Oregon in January 1903, after a residence here of two years, during which time he helped build the new Presbyterian Church in Alvarado. He leaves many friends in Centerville and Alvarado who will miss him and his good works.

February 1903:

J.S. Nunes:

J.S. Nunes applied for a liquor license, February 1903

February 1903:

M.S. Amaral Jr.:

M.S. Amaral Jr applied for a liquor license February 1903

March 19, 1903:

Mrs. Helen R. Riser:

Mrs. Helen R. Riser, who came overland to this State in 1848 with her husband J.J. Riser and settled in Centerville in 1852, died March 19, 1903 at the age of 75 years. Her husband survives her and was a veteran of the Mexican War. She leaves four children: Mrs. W.A. Yates of Berkeley, Mrs. F.F. Allen of Haywards, D.W Riser of San Francisco, and F.A. Riser of Santa Rosa. Descendent was a native of Illinois, and when a girl was removed to Utah with her parents.

April 1903:

James Whipple:

In April 1903 James Whipple, for the second straight year, was chosen to coach the Cal Berkeley varsity football team. Whipple was born in Decoto, and attended Centerville High where he gained reputation as a star football player, which reputation he upheld upon entering the university in 1896. He was the captain of his freshman team and in his sophomore year was made right tackle on the varsity. In the following year he was the captain of the varsity that piled up the biggest score against Stanford that had ever been made in intercollegiate football.

August 1903:

M.S. Dias:

M.S. Dias applied for a liquor license August 1903

November 20, 1903:

John L. Beard:

John L. Beard, formerly State Senator from this Alameda County, died November 20, 1903 at his home near Centerville. Death came suddenly and was caused by heart

trouble. Mr. Beard was born in Lafayette, Indiana on June 13, 1843 and came to California with his parent in the gold rush year of 1849. They settled in the lower part of Alameda County near the old Mission San Jose. Mrs. Beard's father was associated with John Horner, father of present County Supervisor Charles Horner, in the ownership of 30,000 acres of land in the vicinity of the Mission. A part of that immense estate descended to and was in possession of the son who has just passed away. In 1867 Mr. Beard moved to a point a few miles from Centerville where he engaged in farming, fruit raising, and viticulture, having first, however, received a preparatory school training in the college of California at Berkeley. He married a daughter of a pioneer farmer and then moved to a home about two miles from Centerville. He was the father of two children, Jesse and Eldridge L. Beard, and was widely known throughout the State.

July 1904:

"500" Card Party:

A very pleasant "500" card party was given at the home of Mrs. J.A. Bunting in July 1904. Mrs. Bunting's daughter Mrs. A.W. Chandler was the co-hostess. As guests there were about fifty ladies from Centerville, Niles, Irvington, and Mission San Jose.

"500" was a trick-taking game that was an extension of Euchre with some ideas from Bridge. For two to six players, it was most commonly played by four players in partnerships, but was sometimes recommended as a good three player game. It arose in America before 1900 and was promoted by the United States Playing Card Company, which copyrighted and marketed the rules in 1904. "500" was a social card game and was highly popular in the United States until around 1920 when first Auction Bridge and then Contract Bridge drove it from favor.

August 1904

Motorcycle Endurance Race:

The Pacific Coast Motor Cycle Club sponsored a motor cycle about the Bay Area in August 1904. There was a strict speed limit to be maintained, the race was an endurance contest and not a speed contest. The length of the race was 100 miles.

The contestants started at the corner of Larkin and Market Streets in San Francisco on August 28th. The route will by way of San Mateo to San Jose, from San Jose to Centerville, and from Centerville to Oakland.

The speed limit for San Jose was set at 13 miles per hour, the speed limit within the City limits of San Francisco was 10 miles per hour, and 20 miles per hour along the country roads.

January 21, 1905:

Harry W. Lynch:

Harry W. Lynch, principal of the Centerville Grammar School and an educator of prominence in California, met death on January 21, 1905 under circumstances which cloud the case in a shroud of mystery. With the side of his head and face blown off by a shotgun charge, the weapon lying near him, Lynch's body was found at 9:30 o'clock this morning in a field two miles from Centerville by two dairymen, F.T. Decoto and Joseph Nevis. At the inquest held January 22, 1905 death was ruled by death by an accidental shot gun blast.

March 1905:

A.J. McLeod:

A.J. McLeod passed away in Livermore at the age of 68 years. A.J. McLeod was born in Ohio on January 5, 1837. He crossed the plains during the gold excitement of in 1854 and arrived at the Mission San Jose in October of that year. Being much impressed with the fertility of what is now known as the Livermore Valley, he settled at Centerville, engaging in farming. In 1866 he gave up the active life of farming to open the American Exchange Hotel at Centerville, and one year later moved to Irvington, at that time known as Washington Corners, where he built the Union Hotel. Early in 1869 he moved to Livermore and there spent his remaining days.

April 1905:

Simas & Freitas:

Simas & Freitas were granted a saloon license, April 1905

May 4, 1905:

Arson:

A fire bug set the home of Supervisor F.C. Horner of Centerville on fire about midnight May 4, 1905 and but for the awakening of the residents it would have been burned to the ground. The miscreant bored a hole with a large augur through the side of the house and put shavings and paper saturated with coal oil through the hole and then set it on fire. Mrs. Horner was awakened by what she believes to have been the augur as it broke through the wood, but after listening and hearing nothing further tried to sleep.

The blaze and the crackling of flames soon attracted her and the light in the room warned her of the danger. The greatest difficulty was experienced in the getting at the fire under the basement, but it was finally subdued, and Horner then got out his automobile and scoured the country, for it was believed that wheels were heard driving away about the time the fire was started, but he overtook no one. The community is greatly incensed over the matter and should the man fall into their hands he is apt to be summarily dealt with.

November 1905:

Mrs. David Norris:

In November 1905 the Misses Norris of Centerville threw an elaborate luncheon for their sister-in-law from San Francisco, Mrs. David Norris, who had been visiting them for the past two weeks. Those invited were: Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Tower, Mrs. David Norris, Mrs. Joseph Norris, Mrs. Monroe Norris, Mrs. Fred Horner, Mrs. Richard Blacow, Mrs. Louis Eggers, Mrs. Walter Smith, Mrs. George Lowrie, the Misses Mila Rix, Florence Chadbourne, Nellie Emerson, Alice and Helen Eggers, Elizabeth Dusterberry, Theresa Twohig, and Nellie Hughes.

March 4, 1906:

Dr. Selfridge:

Dr. James M. Selfridge, for many years prominent in the medical profession, one of the founders of Fabiola Hospital and a leader in the homeopathic school of practice, died at 10:15 o'clock in the morning of March 4, 1906 after a long illness at his residence in Oakland.

For many years Dr. Selfridge had been the victim of cancer. Dr. Selfridge's battle against the insidious malady was the marvel of his friends and associates. His experiments with the X-ray as an alleviant, if not a cure, were widely discussed in the medical world.

Dr. Selfridge was a native of New York State, of Scotch-Irish parentage. His ancestors fought in the Revolution and in the War of 1812. The Doctor came to California in 1852 and settled in Sacramento, but a fire destroyed everything he possessed, except his medical library. In 1853 he settled in Mission San Jose.

He returned east two years later and was married to Miss Elizabeth Loveridge at Holyoke Seminary. He returned to the west coast with his bride and settled in Centerville in 1857 where he established a large practice. From 1852 to 1863 he practiced as an allopathic doctor. In 1866 he moved to Oakland and began in the homeopathic work, with which he became immediately identified with.

His accomplishments were many in Oakland, including helping to organize the State Medical Society and a charter member of the Pacific Homeopathic Medical Society of California. He was president of the Consolidated California State Homeopathic Society in 1881. He founded the Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensary Association, he helped the Fabiola Hospital and from 1872 to 1878 was the attending physician for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind. He was also a member of California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Until incapacitated by his affliction for surgical work he was unsurpassed for coolness of judgement and steadiness of nerve during his operations

April 1906:

SF Earthquake Causes Flood:

In Niles Canyon large boulders dislodged from the hill by the SF earthquake of April 1906, came crashing down on the main pipeline of the Spring Valley Water Company causing a flood that washed out the tracks of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the canyon and helped to cripple the water supply of San Francisco.

April 1906:

Night Watchman:

After the SF earthquake of April 1906, the town of Centerville saw many strange faces appear in town. So they hired a night watchman to canvass the town after dark and to keep town citizens and merchants property safe. They chose a strapping young man named Manuel Oliveira. Fitted with a night stick, a revolver and hand cuffs Manuel pursued his duty touring the town.

He turned a corner and was greeted by three shiny revolver pointed directly at him. "Hands up," said the leader of the bandits. Manuel did as ordered and raised his hands while one of the trio emptied the bullets from his gun and threw it aside. They also relieved him of \$3 he had in his pocket. After they had taken his money they told him to go on his rounds, which he did, thankful for still being alive.

September 1906:

George Gregory's Inheritance:

Miss Catherine Emmerling of Johnstown Penn., who proposes to marry George Gregory of Centerville Calif. in order that he may not lose his share of an inheritance in his father's estate, left for the Golden State in September 1906, and it was understood that the result of the trip was due to the numerous letters Gregory wrote her after his father died last month.

The Emmerling's had traveled to California last year and while here met the Gregory's. The elder Gregory took greatly to Miss Emmerling and his will stipulated that his son would be cut off with \$100 unless he married the Johnstown girl. When

the news of the strange will news reached the Emmerling's, they said they merely knew the Gregory's.

April 1907:

Won Lue Sing:

A Chinese boy, thirteen years of age, was accidentally killed in Centerville in April 1907 when three boys playing with a .22 caliber rifle accidentally discharged the weapon and hitting Won Lue Sing in the brain.

September 17, 1907:

Charles A. Plummer:

Charles A. Plummer died in Oakland on September 17, 1907, Charles A. Plummer of Centerville, husband of Anna Plummer, at age 65 years. For years the Plummer family had been prominent in the salt industry about Newark and Alvarado.

March 1908:

J.P. Amaral:

J.P. Amaral was granted a liquor license, March 1908

June 1906:

J.A. Coney:

J.A. Coney applied for a liquor license, June 1906