



## William Mendenhall

### The Man and What He Did for Livermore

by Richard Finn

*The following is a somewhat condensed version of the talk that the Livermore City Historian, Richard Finn, gave on the William Mendenhall legacy at the dedication of the William M. Mendenhall Community Room in the new Livermore Civic Center Meeting Hall. The dedication, November 2, 2019, was on the 150th anniversary of the founding of Livermore by Mendenhall.*

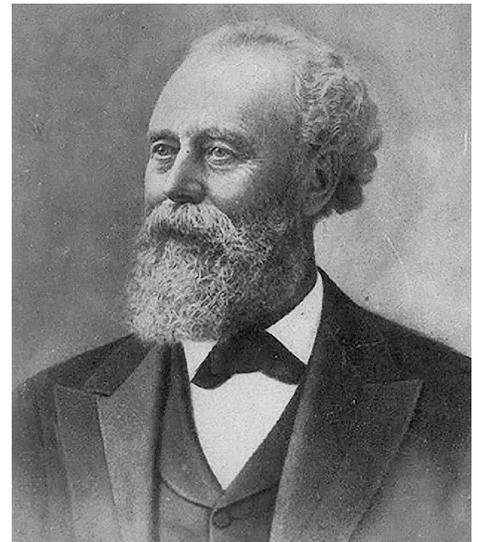
William M. Mendenhall's ancestors came to America with William Penn in 1681. Mendenhall was born in Green County, Ohio in 1823, and when he was eight years old, the family moved to the wilderness in the Territory of Michigan where they lived the life of frontier people. In July of 1845, Mendenhall crossed Lake Michigan to the little town of Chicago. By stage and steamboat he made his way to Independence, Missouri and then to Hickory Creek where he met up with L. Hastings, N. B. Smith, H. C. Smith, and several others who all planned to go to California. A lot of history in that little group! Hastings was Lansford Warren Hastings, lawyer and writer, who wrote the book *The Emigrant's Guide to Oregon and California* that the Donner Party unfortunately used. Hasting's plan was for California to break away from Mexico and make it the independent Republic of California. H. C. Smith was Henry Clay Smith – he served under Frémont, was a county supervisor, organized Alameda County out of Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties, was a justice of the peace, and one of his daughters was Livermore teacher, Emma C. Smith. N. B. Smith, brother of Henry, was Napoleon Bonaparte Smith, who became a farmer and a member of the state assembly. They tried to get others to join their group, but many had never heard of California.

In August of 1845, thirteen men broke camp and headed west. This turned out to be a very rough trip: flooded rivers, hostile Native Americans, fever, stolen horses, snow storms, two thousand miles through mainly road-less territory. Some of their group turned back. Mendenhall and others made it to near Sutter's Fort on Christmas Day, 1845, where they had their first real meal since leaving Missouri. They worked for John Sutter and others for a short time and soon joined Frémont's California Battalion in Sonoma during the Bear Flag Revolt.

Mendenhall's first visit to the Livermore Valley was in March of 1846 when some of Frémont's troops camped on Robert Livermore's property. When Mendenhall took leave of the army, he had a variety of jobs and ended up in Santa Clara where he married Mary Adelaide Allen on April 18, 1847. Theirs was the first marriage of Americans in Santa Clara or Contra Costa Counties. The Mendenhall family moved often as William pursued mining, the lumber business, and ranching, raising cattle and horses. He bought 650 acres of the Santa Rita Grant. In 1866 he bought the 608 acre ranch that had been a part of the Rancho el Valle de San José. It is said that he helped build the first schoolhouse in the Livermore Valley and he owned Mendenhall Mineral Springs south of town. In 1869, he had a large portion of his land surveyed and platted. The new town of Livermore went from Lizzie Street to Q Street and from 1st Street to 5th Street. Lizzie Street, now South Livermore Ave., was named after his oldest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth. He gave land for the Livermore College, gave a city block for a public school, donated land for the Methodist Episcopal Church, and donated twelve lots to the Presbyterians.

Perhaps the most important thing he did, as far as we are concerned, was the donation of land to the coming transcontinental railroad for a station. Somewhere between 20 and 30 acres were donated, though the exact number is still in dispute. Mendenhall skillfully laid out the new town with plenty of room for warehouses along the train tracks as well as room for residential

(Mendenhall, continued on page 8)



Above: Photo courtesy of Livermore Heritage Guild

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## Save the Date!

by Dottie Eberly

# LHG Annual Auction Saturday, May 9, 2020 at the Duarte Garage

We have a date, a location, and an auctioneer! Now we just need YOU!

We are very excited about the quality items collected for the auction so far: a Victorian dresser with mirror, a tall oak chest of drawers, a Singer sewing machine, two twin bed headboard/footboard sets, a beautiful Christmas basket of goodies, and some nice gift

certificates. Rides on the hay wagon or an LHG fire truck in one of the Livermore parades will again be offered, as well as the opportunity to use Hagemann Ranch as the venue for a special party. The auction is always a fun way to catch up with old friends, meet new friends, enjoy a delicious dinner, and go home with that newfound treasure you never knew you needed

until you saw it at the LHG auction! Be sure to put May 9th on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there.

We do have room for a few more auction items so be sure to keep us in mind as you do your early Spring cleaning. Please contact Barbara Soules at [tbsoules@yahoo.com](mailto:tbsoules@yahoo.com) with any nice auction-worthy treasures.

## The Fall of the Romans

by Meighen Eberly

Eagle-eyed readers will note that the volume number has dramatically changed on this current issue of the LHG Newsletter. As we prepared to go to print with this issue, we had numbered it as Volume L (or 50, for those whose Roman numbering skills are rusty) and were hoping to mark the occasion of 50 years of LHG newsletters. But wait...the Guild has yet to reach its 50th anniversary, so how could the newsletter have pre-dated the Guild?

Well, it turns out that it doesn't. The first issue of the newsletter was produced in October of 1973. It noted the time and location of Guild meetings and included information on various Guild projects, including the preservation of the Southern Pacific Depot. (In a lovely coincidence, please see the article on page 6 regarding the recognition of that preservation work by the State of

California.) The Guild itself was incorporated in 1973, so the newsletter and the Guild should roughly have the same birthday.

To confirm, Dottie Eberly spent hours combing through all of the newsletter archives, and we have discovered that we weren't the first to get it wrong. Over the years, the numbering system has gone decidedly cattywampus at times: skipping forward several years, repeating numbers, going backwards, and even inventing a few! (Apparently, XXIV is not the correct syntax for a Roman numeral.)

So we are hereby declaring a reset to the numbering system that matches the age of the Guild. For evidence, we present the first Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter (seen below) dated October 1973 and labeled Volume I, Number 1. And from that point, we move forward. We'll be starting the first of the volume numbers with our fall issue every year: the last issue should have been Volume XLVII (47), Number 1, which would make this the second issue of our 47th year of publication. While we are not going back to renumber archived issues, it's our sincere intention to get it right from this point on.

### LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD NEWSLETTER

Volume I Number 1 PO Box 961, Livermore, Ca. 94550 October 1973  
Meeting night: second Thursdays, Livermore Library meeting room, 7:30 p.m.

PRESERVATION OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT The Livermore City Council



## Then and Now: Trevarno Road Homes

by Meighen Eberly

Artist Michelle George came to know Trevarno Road when she began a project there three years ago to paint a watercolor portrait of each house on the street. With help from longtime residents Susan Canfield and Larry Berger, who will share their knowledge and experiences, the talk will focus on the unique history of the neighborhood.

**Wednesday, March 18th, 7pm, Livermore Public Library, Free**

## Meet a Board Member

by Dottie Eberly



**Above:** The ever-smiling Donna Stevens; photo courtesy of Donna Stevens.

The smile you see on Donna Stevens's face in this photo is the real deal. The Guild's Second Vice President and Membership Chair has a wonderfully positive outlook on life which makes her a great asset to LHG. A proud fourth generation Californian, she was born in Salinas and spent most of her childhood there. Before transferring to UC Davis, she attended Hartnell College in Salinas where she sang in the choir, was part of a small a cappella group, and was in theater, playing Leisel in the *Sound of Music*. She tells us that she met her future husband in front of the soft drink machine during her sophomore year at Hartnell. We are going to need to hear more about that encounter.

Donna and husband, Duane, lived in a two-story home in Pleasanton for 35 years. Knowing that their two sons, Ian and Shane, were planning to stay in the area, the search for a one-story home began. Donna says it took two years before they found the perfect home in Livermore. They love the friendly, small town atmosphere of Livermore, as well

as the downtown, the proximity to the greater Bay Area, and the quality entertainment offered at the Bankhead. Soon after she retired, she and Duane were attending a musical event at the Bothwell when they happened to be seated next to Jeff and Loretta Kaskey. Sweet-talking Jeff had Donna signed on as a History Center docent before she knew what had happened.

In Donna's current role as Membership Chair, she is planning a membership drive and is focusing on improved outreach at LHG events, Farmers' Market, and other community events. She would also love to see the Midway School project move forward.

When not involved in Guild activities, Donna enjoys volunteering at the Pleasanton Library and Open Heart Kitchen. She and Duane enjoy travelling and try to take at least one U.S. and one international trip each year, but Donna admits their adorable 18-month old grandson is truly the center of their universe.

## Book Nook

by Harry Briley



THE CHARM  
of  
OLD LIVERMORE

paintings by  
Janet Newton



Thirty years ago when full-color printing was expensive, Janet Newton published a 30-page booklet in 1989 of her favorite old Livermore home paintings from the 1960s. While painted 60 years ago, she had access to adult grandchildren of pioneer families. They provided lighthearted stories about some of the homes during the late 1800s. It was a rural era of horse and carriage ... and walking.

Children walked the entire distance of East Avenue to school. Adults walked everywhere locally to shop, catch the train, or visit friends. Our customers could not justify the art-quality price of this press run and we decided this fiscal year to sell the remaining stock at \$1 (one dollar) a copy. Even today, it is far too expensive to print full color books on glossy paper.

Use this delightful loss leader as a happy excuse to browse our Bookstore in person. We are located in the historic Carnegie Building on Third Street.

## Wanted: Former Manley Popcorn Popper

To the woman who visited the Duarte Garage and stated that she used to make popcorn at the State Theater in the now fully restored Manley popcorn machine on display at the Duarte Garage: Will Bolton, Garage Curator, was told that you visited, but no one got your contact information. He'd love to chat with you or anyone else who made popcorn using the Manley Machine at the State Theater.

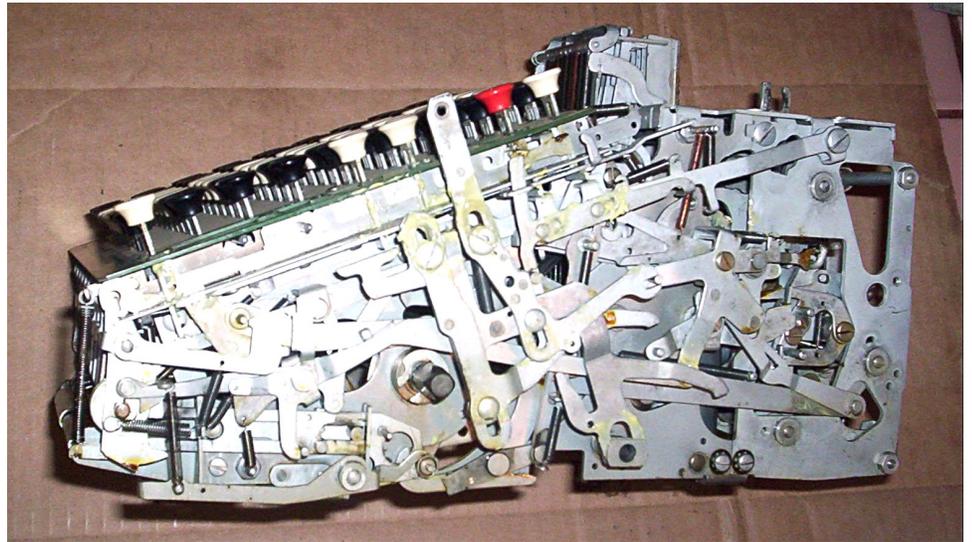
## A Message from the President



### Adding Machine

I had a “you-are-older-than-dirt” experience in January at the History Center, inviting a mom with two preschoolers to touch our manual typewriter, treadle sewing machine, and mechanical adding machine from rural-days Livermore. We show these devices to third graders who have never seen, must less operated them. We proudly let elementary-age children operate these industrial-age marvels.

However, the mom flummoxed me when she exclaimed about the adding machine, “I have never ever seen anything like this before!” My generation used these 1930’s gearboxes well into the late 1960s until replaced by the ubiquitous pocket calculator around 1974. My first one was a 4-function unit with a 9-volt battery costing about \$95 that year, down from \$150 in 1973 (over \$850 in current dollars). That high cost is why I used a



slide rule until then. A calculator is a now a free app on your cellphone.

I offer this glorious side-view of the cams and levers of our Burroughs Adding machine discovered during my repair of the machine. Would you trust your third grader with this? The sales ad claimed this 25-pound unit was so “portable” a clerk could carry it to the loading dock to process paperwork. It is only portable because it needs no power. It is too heavy to carry for long. We have many other such machines in our archives but this machine is sturdy enough for our daily hands-on display. Come visit us and try it out!

### Web and Facebook

Tri-Valley people are blessed with many local-history museums within easy driving distance. I placed their web links here: [www.lhg.org/links\\_nearby.html](http://www.lhg.org/links_nearby.html)

(I-680 North, I-680 South, and nearby Central Valley).

Did you know that event postcards on our web site ([www.lhg.org](http://www.lhg.org)) zoom to a readable size? Hover mouse over any image. If a hand appears, that usually means a left-click will jump to another page. However, for our photos and event-postcards, the left-click will display an enlarged version.

Calendar items also appear on Facebook. Please click the [[follow]] button on our Facebook Group Page (LivermoreHeritageGuild). This lets Facebook inform you whenever we post our upcoming events.

*Harry Briley*

**Above:** The Burroughs Adding machine fully assembled from the front view and mid-repair from the side view. Photo by Harry Briley.



Would you be willing to help the Guild but have very little free time? Do you shop at Amazon.com? If so, here’s an easy way for you to support the Guild!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices,

and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to The Livermore Heritage Guild.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you are prompted to select a charitable organization. Type in The Livermore Heritage Guild and then you are ready to begin shopping. It’s just that easy!

# Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

Winter at the ranch is quieter and more peaceful than other times of year. As a stiff wind blows down the lane, I hear the horses munching away at their hay and watch the kittens, now full-grown cats, rolling in the dirt. The two gardens are planted in winter crops of fava beans, some grains and winter veggies but the hectic pace of harvest is still a couple months away. The volunteer crew from the First Presbyterian Church visits on dry days. Their fourth reconstruction project is the wash house/milk house in the backyard. The exterior structure is complete with a sturdy gravel foundation and the wood shingle roof is half done, waiting for the rains to stop.

The Heritage Guild runs on 100% volunteer power. Volunteers serve as docents, plan events, do chores at all sites, do research, etc. Sometimes one of these volunteers completely surprises us with a product of unusual quality and usefulness. Such is the case with a Mr. John W. Shaffer. About a year ago, he spoke to a couple members and asked what the Guild needed. They responded that a comprehensive history of the Hagemann Ranch would be most helpful. Never did we expect the enlightening, historical document he delivered a couple weeks ago. His research included predominantly primary sources such as deed books, Danish church records, and ship manifests. The result is a very readable story of the characters and land transactions responsible for making Hagemann Ranch what it is today. As we study and absorb this report, we'll be revising, somewhat, the story we tell visitors.

I'll be writing about some of the stories from this report in future newsletters, but I'd like to share one that explains why Moravian and a bit of Chevalier barley are now planted in the Heritage Garden. Between the 1870s and 80s what had been range land was transformed into wheat and barley fields due to the increased demand for food from California's growing population. Wheat was the dominant grain until about 1880 when the amount of wheat

and barley grown was about equal. But by 1896 farmers in the Livermore Valley were growing mostly barley. Why? Because the German immigrants had introduced Americans to beer and barley is the main ingredient in brewing. The annual adult consumption of beer in 1850 was under three gallons. By the end of the century it was 23 gallons per person. Clearly, barley was an important cash crop both nationally and internationally.

In 1901, August Hagemann agreed to take part in an experiment conducted by UC Berkeley. The dominant type of barley then grown was Chevalier. They wanted to test a new strand, Moravian. His first year's harvest was a success, so he planted more the following two years, both also successful. Moravian proved well suited to our valley because its stronger stems can withstand the hot summer winds. The most lucrative aspect of growing Moravian was that it was the preferred ingredient among German brewers. Soon the majority of California farmers were growing Moravian Barley and Hagemann and his neighbor, Mass Luders, became the principal suppliers of the seed.

The Sundays at Hagemann events have started up in earnest in 2020 with *S'more Love* at the end of January. This was a wellness theme and was very well received. On a beautiful winter day, we had delicious s'mores toasted over little grills, kids lined up to make Valentines of all sorts, Choose Love asked people to add to the gratitude mural, Tai Chi lessons took place in the front yard, and experts talked about Crystals and Essential Oils. At the creativity table everyone participated in making some decorations we will be using at the *Mad Hatter Tea Party*.

You won't want to miss the event on February 23, *Music, Drama and Dance*. Two bands are on tap to perform and a youth group, Be Exceptional, will be dancing and singing for us. The Livermore High School drama class promises a surprise performance and the Del Valle Folk Dancers will teach us some dances. Hope to see you there.



**Top:** The newly created S'more cooker proved popular and was in high demand throughout the afternoon at the *S'more Love* Open House on January 26. **Middle:** The resident Hagemann cats might look like they are lazing around in the sun, but they're just taking a well-deserved break from their diligent mouse patrol duties. **Bottom:** Guests enjoyed the community craft project during the *S'more Love* event; the pieces will contribute to the decorations for the *Mad Hatter Tea Party* Open House in April. All photos by Barbara Soules.

# Livermore Depot Award

by Jeff Kaskey



Since 1986, the State of California has presented the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards, and this year Livermore's restored Southern Pacific Depot was one of the five recipients. Many of us took the day off to make the trek to Sacramento to have Livermore well represented. City Staffers Jake Potter and Debbie Bell were joined by Historic Preservation Commission chair and Guild member Jeff Williams, Guild members Don Smith and Loretta Kaskey and your humble scribe, in attending. Two of the Page and Turnbull team involved in the restoration planning also attended. All assembled in the grand restored fifth floor courtroom of the 1928 Stanley Mosk Law Library and Courts building.

The courtroom, room 500, almost became the chambers of the supreme court until the chief justice of the time realized that a fifth floor room would be much too hot in the summer, so the official chambers are on the first floor. Room 500 was far enough along however, that the grand features already built were left in place, so the varnished wooden walls extend about 15 feet up to the painted, detailed ceiling. The State Librarian, Greg Lucas, noted that the painted Seal of the State of California at the center of the ceiling was the only known version of the Seal where the bear was eating grapes. And smiling.

Other recipients showed us what good company we were in. A neighborhood in

Los Angeles had gotten their whole 1920's district, an early refuge for holocaust survivors, on the National Register of Historic Places. A group in Riverside organized events they called "Doors Open" an annual historic sites tour. The saving of an old, quirky florist shop in El Cerrito is actually an amazing story about the restoration of a Japanese family business after the family was interned during WWII, and at the Manzanar National Historic Site, the award went to an archeology program that is not only documenting life on the site during its time as a Japanese internment center, but also restoring landmark features to help visitors understand the experience of its detainees.

Lisa Mangat, the California State Parks Director, gave the presentation about the depot, briefly noting the details, and Jeff Williams accepted the award for the City with comments about the many people who had contributed to making this restoration project possible. One of the most important was unfortunately not able to be there that day. Alan Frank, historian, Niles Canyon Railway Curator, and author of a book on the depot (available at the History Center!)

was involved from the beginning as researcher, fact checker, and enthusiastic cheerleader for the project. Jeff Williams gave a copy of Alan's book to the State Librarian as part of his talk.

It was also a good time to do a little elbow rubbing. In between noshing on reception snacks, we said hello to Michael Garavaglia, a preservation architect who has worked on other projects in Livermore (and has helped us think about what to do with Midway School), as well as having a chat with the Page and Turnbull team who, besides the depot, had done a lot of the detailed analysis of the Hagemann Ranch site. I missed buttonholing Lisa Mangat, but I did get some conversation time with Julianne Polanco, the California State Historic Preservation Officer. Julie was delighted with the depot restoration and wished us well, as did a number of the other recipients.

We tend to stay focused on our own projects and community, so this was a great day to remember that communities throughout California understand the value of working hard to Save Yesterday for Tomorrow.



**Far Left:** The Historic Preservation Award, presented to the Livermore Heritage Guild. Above: the center ceiling medallion of room 500, featuring the Seal of the State of California and the only known version of the Seal where the bear was eating grapes. Photos by Jeff and Loretta Kaskey.

## Duarte Garage

by Will Bolton

In early 2013, Ken Morgan of Pleasanton, CA, came by the Garage to donate two Kwik-Way valve refacing machines. These machines were used in automotive repair facilities, like the Duarte Garage, in the early 1900s. Although Don Keech tells us that the Duarte Garage didn't have a valve refacing machine, it is the sort of tool that would have been common in similar shops in the 1920s and later decades. Shortly after they were donated, Fred Deadrick and I went through one of the Kwik-Way machines to clean it up and get it in operating condition. The second Kwik-Way machine sat on the machine shop workbench, partially disassembled, for a couple of years – until Steve Racca, a skilled volunteer at the Garage, took on the project of putting the second Kwik-Way machine back together.

Due to improvements in materials, design, and manufacturing, the core functions of modern engines (for example, bearings and valves) usually require no attention through the lifetime of the vehicle other than routine maintenance. However, in the early 1900s internal combustion engine intake valves, and particularly exhaust valves, required fairly frequent servicing to return an engine to full power. In the early years, servicing engine valves involved quite a bit of labor to remove the cylinder head and lap the valves in the engine by hand with various grades of abrasive. The developers of the Kwik-Way machine designed the first precision means of holding valves in proper alignment for refacing. They used two sets of three ball bearings to hold the valve on the portion of the valve stem that runs in the engine valve guide. This innovation allowed quick and precise valve refacing. Their company was founded as the Cedar Rapids Engineering Company in 1920. Their innovative machine gained rapid acceptance across the US and was so successful that Kwik-Way valve refacing machines are still sold today. Although improved in many ways, the modern Kwik-Way machines use the same basic principles as the early machines sold almost 100 years ago.



Steve Racca is an early-career mechanical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories and has a solid foundation in the practical, hands-on aspects of mechanical engineering in addition to the academic aspects. Steve assessed the second Kwik-Way machine and found, in addition to general cleaning and lubrication, there were some “soft parts” that needed to be replaced and some missing or broken items. A 120 volt a/c electric motor drives the Kwik-Way grinding wheel through a flat leather belt, which had been replaced by a length of rubber fan belt. Steve made a flat leather belt of the needed size and used vintage staples and bamboo rod to make the period-correct leather drive belt. Within the cast iron base of the Kwik-Way, there is a serpentine round leather cord that rotates the “six ball” chuck, which holds the valve being resurfaced. This leather cord also needed to be replaced. Steve found an online

supplier that still sells the proper diameter round leather cord, including a steel staple to make a leather loop. The Kwik-Way was missing a specialized steel screw tensioner for the leather cord. Working with a colleague who has machine tools, Steve fabricated a replacement tensioner. After chemically aging the part so it looks original, it is now installed.

The Kwik-Way machine is mostly cast iron and is quite heavy. The handle that moves the grinding wheel to the valve being refaced was broken. I suspect that someone was trying to pick up the

(continued on page 9)

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**Above:** Technology transfer of the first order as Don Keech teaches Steve Racca the intricacies of the Kwik-Way machine. Don learned some of his many skills in a similar manner a few years ago – and some of that learning was in the Duarte Garage from Fran Duarte.

## Mendenhall

(continued from page 1)

housing. His foresight in donating land to the railroad resulted in the new town of Livermore becoming the commercial center of the region. Before that, Dougherty Station (later called Dublin), had been considered the most important because it was at the intersection of the roads from San Jose to Martinez, and San Francisco to the gold fields and the Central Valley.

Before the railroad came to Livermore in 1869, produce from farms had to be hauled by horse and wagon to landings along the San Francisco Bay. The coming of the railroad and the much better market access helped change agricultural production in the valley from raising livestock to growing oats, wheat, barley, and hay (which was exported to England). By the 1880s, wine grapes, hops (which were even sold to Guinness in Ireland), and sugar beets were being grown in great quantities. The travel time from Livermore to Oakland had been cut from two days to two hours. Starting in the 1890s and 1900s, in addition to the crops, large quantities of bricks, coal, sand, gravel, magnesite, and livestock were being shipped.

From 1860 to 1870 the population of the valley shot up from 514 to 2,400. In 1870 the Dougherty (Dublin) post office served 320 while Pleasanton served 1,000 and Livermore 1,080. In 1876, when Livermore was incorporated, there were seven general stores, three shoemakers, two bakeries, four butchers, four barbers, four livery stables, six hotels, three grain warehouses, and thirteen saloons.

Also in 1876, Mendenhall built a large mansion on College Ave. In his later years, his interests turned to raising Angora goats. He had 1,200 at one time, making him the largest breeder of Angora goats in California. William died in November 1911, in the Oakland home of his daughter Louella Dora and son-in-law George Washington Langan. William was buried in Livermore at the Masonic, now Roselawn, Cemetery.

Did William Mendenhall change the face of the Livermore Valley? You bet he did.

## Alameda County Fair

by Dottie Eberly



“Road to Summer” is the theme of this year’s Alameda County Fair, June 19<sup>th</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup>, and it promises to have something for everyone. With YOUR help, there will be an additional bonus for the Guild.

The Fair uses volunteers to work various jobs in guest services, building, concert, and race track attendants, and even a few spots in shuttle services. Volunteers are not paid directly for their time but instead earn money for their non-profit organization. ACF compensates by the hour - \$4 - \$6 per hour depending on the time/area you work. For example: if we had 10 people choose to work three 6-hour shifts at \$5 per hour, LHG would receive \$900. Last year we had four LHG volunteers who earned \$300 for the Guild! All volunteers will be trained and volunteer workers receive free admission to the fair and parking for any day you are working so that you could attend the fair as a guest before or after your shift. As a bonus you receive two more admission tickets to the fair to go back and enjoy it on a day you are not volunteering.

The volunteer scheduling is done online and is on a “first come, first served” basis. When you log in to schedule you will have free choice of what is available so the earlier you log in to

schedule, the more shifts that will be available. For the shifts in the coveted spots (such as shuttle), log in time will be taken into account and they will do their best to make sure you get at least one of your choices. There are three shifts per day – the earliest shifts begin at 10:30am and range from 3-7 hours and the later shifts start after 3:00 pm, with the latest one ending at 11:15pm.

Online scheduling is tentatively set to open on Wednesday, April 1st. We encourage you to start checking their website towards the end of March. You will be able to find the link at [www.alamedacountyfair.com](http://www.alamedacountyfair.com), click on the “Fair Info” sign, then “join”, then “volunteer program” once the registration is open.

As soon as we receive the Fair Volunteer Program information it will be posted at [www.lhg.org](http://www.lhg.org) and a Mail Chimp will be sent out. Please email Dottie at [doteberly@comcast.net](mailto:doteberly@comcast.net) with any questions and let her know if you would be interested in getting together as a group to navigate the signup process.

Please consider being a Livermore Heritage Guild volunteer at the Fair. What a great opportunity to have fun and earn money for LHG at the same time!!!

### Volunteer at the County Fair!

Online sign ups begin Wednesday, April 1st

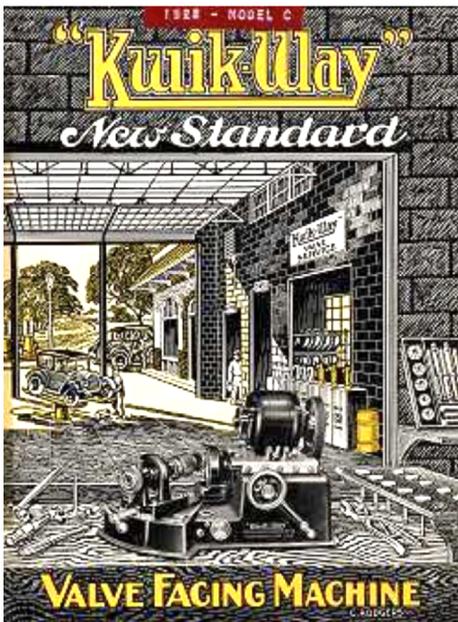
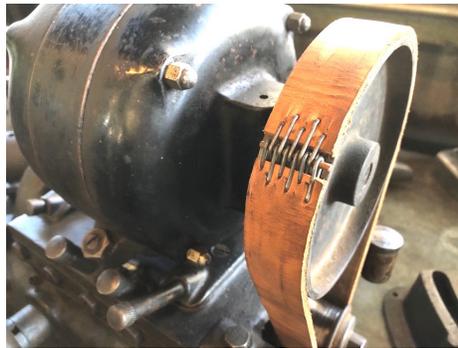
[www.alamedacountyfair.com](http://www.alamedacountyfair.com)

# Duarte

(continued from page 7)

machine by holding onto that handle and, in the process, discovered how brittle cast iron can be. Finding a replacement could be a life-long quest. In the meantime, Steve drilled and tapped the broken end, installed a handle “borrowed” from another machine, and ground the broken end to a smooth curve. The result looks original, if a little shorter.

With the Kwik-Way returned to operation, Don Keech – who has much experience with similar valve refacing machines – showed Steve the fine points of dressing the grinding wheel with the diamond stylus and refacing an automobile engine valve. Both refurbished Kwik-Way valve refacing machines are displayed on the Duarte Garage machine shop workbench.



Above: A brochure for the Kwik-Way Model C from ca. 1928, a model like the one recently refurbished at the Garage. Top middle: The new flat leather belt, stapled as it would have been in the early 1900s – with a bamboo pin holding the ends together. Top right: The grinding wheel on the right, the tool post with diamond for dressing the grinding wheel, and a freshly refaced valve on the left. All photos by Will Bolton.

*Free, Family-Friendly Activities*

## Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

**February 23, 2020, 1-4 pm**  
455 Olivina Ave., Livermore

Music,  
Drama  
& Dance

**Del Valle Folk Dancers**   **Plain Gold Band**

**Jon Hart**   **LHS Drama Class**

**EXCEPTIONAL**  
*Be Exceptional Programs  
dance and music*

Ongoing activities: Refreshments, Tours and Art Demonstrations

 LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD Presents www.livermorehistory.com	March 29—Children’s Day April 26—Mad Hatter Tea Party May 31—Vintage Wheels June 28—Ranchero Day August 30—Backyard Adventures	September 27—Science & Robots October 25—Halloween November 29—Holiday Celebration
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## Musings and Memories

by Anna Siig



Above: Anna Siig. Photo courtesy of Anna Siig.

One of the perks of volunteering at the History Center in the Carnegie Building, the Duarte Garage, or the Hagemann

Ranch, is you meet so many wonderful people.

People come to share their local history as well as find information. They come to the History Center to find information about their family, a family home, a family business, or where a grandfather worked. Many times there are photos to share and copies of newspaper articles, as well.

Two such people are Julia Schneider and her daughter, Cheyenne. Yes, Schneider. Julia is the great-great-granddaughter of Johnie Schneider, Livermore's own rodeo champion.

Seeking family history, Julia came to Livermore in July 2019. Julia didn't know what to expect when she stopped by. She was delighted and touched by the interest and thoughtfulness of the volunteers. She was able to see artifacts that had belonged to her great-great-grandfather and obtain information related to him. Information gained helped Julia find and visit the site of the

old rodeo grounds, the current rodeo grounds and Johnie's grave.

Her daughter, a bit too young to understand what all the excitement was about, enjoyed learning about a typewriter and using it!

Yes, Julia plans to come back. She will let us know ahead of time in case a docent can find more material to share.

The Schneider family has a large archive of photos and memorabilia regarding Johnie and the family. They are very interested in finding additional photos, letters or artifacts. If you, or someone you know, have articles or stories pertaining to Johnie and the family, please share them. You can contact the Heritage Guild at 925-449-9927, Wednesday through Sunday, and we will see that the family receives the items or copies, if you prefer.

If you are interested in learning more about Johnie Schneider take a look at *Historic Livermore - A-Z* by Anne Homan.

## Mystery Solved!

by Jeff Kaskey

The Whitall Tatum Company (or W. T. Co. as they identified their products) of Millville, New Jersey was best known through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as a glass factory. There were a number of glass factories in the area, apparently due to the proximity of high quality silica sand, which those of us who grew up in the area simply referred to as going "down to the beach." W. T. Co produced glass insulators, but also large quantities of bottles, in particular for the druggist business. They were able to easily

customize bottles with a particular druggist's name and address by using a removable plug in the glass mold. All this is interesting, but our Whitall Tatum artifact is not glass at all, but rather is a "No. 3 Suppository Machine." Their 1894 catalog lists the #3 machine at \$18.00, though the model in our collection shows a patent date of 1895 and so is likely an upgraded version. W. T. Co. was still fully in the glass business, but they had expanded to carry

an assortment of druggist supplies, from combs and razors to medical batteries, available with accessories such as the "Ear Electrode" or "Tongue Electrode." Thanks to our local hospitals and many druggists, the Guild collection has an interesting assortment of medical items. I'll note that unlike the previous Museum Mystery item which gathered about a dozen responses, no one ventured a guess on this item. See you next time!



## Celebrating Life Members

We wish to acknowledge the loyal commitment of our life members. The trust and support these members have shown in the Heritage Guild by purchasing Life Memberships is truly appreciated. If you wish to purchase a Life Membership, please visit [www.lhg.org](http://www.lhg.org) or inquire at the History Center.

Beverly Schell Ales  
Margaret Andersen  
Baughman's Western  
Outfitters  
Thomas Beaudet  
Judith Beery  
Will Bolton  
Kim Bonde  
Bob Bronzan  
Cathie Brown  
Sally Brown  
Alan Burnham  
Susie Calhoun  
Alice Calvert

Alice Clarkson,  
Andy Lundberg  
Nancy Cooper  
Manuel Costa  
Ellen Eagan-McNeill  
Mary Evans  
Phyllis Fachner  
Karen Faraldo  
Bruce Gach  
Roberta Hadley  
The Henry's A's  
Leslie Jensen  
Susan Junk  
Jeanette King  
James and Carol Lathrop

Steve Laughlin  
Richard and Jean Lerche  
Daren Livermore  
Len Matchniff  
Larry and Treva Mauch  
Terry McCune  
Bertha Meamber  
Nancy Mueller  
William O'Neal  
Ann Pfaff-Doss  
Robert Rich  
Karen Richardson  
Russ and Claudia Riley  
Neil Riley  
Mary Rizzo

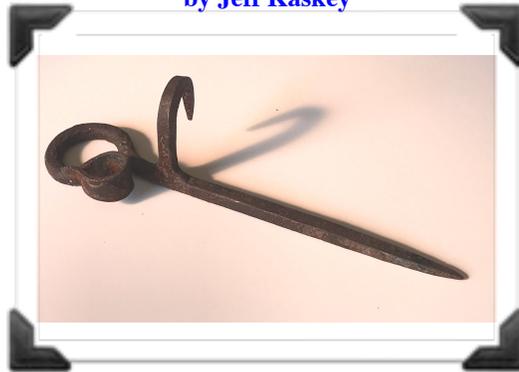
Tim Sage  
Barry Schrader  
Joan and Lynn Seppala  
John Shirley  
Anna Siig  
Ann Stephens  
Irv and Patty Stowers  
Anthony Troha  
Janet Von Toussaint  
Wendy Weathers  
Karl L. Wente  
Karl D. Wente  
Jeffrey Williams  
Jim Winnick  
Beverly Wooster

## LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, February 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	History Center
Saturday, February 15	9am — 12pm	Workday at Hagemann	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, February 16	10am — 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, February 23	1pm — 4pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Music, Drama and Dance	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, March 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	History Center
Sunday, March 15	10am — 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Wednesday, March 18	7pm - 8:30pm	History Talk at the Library: Trevarno Road Conversation	Main Library
Saturday, March 21	9am — 12pm	Workday at Hagemann	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, March 29	1pm — 4pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Children's Day	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, April 1	8am -	Alameda County Fair Volunteer Sign-Ups Begin	
Wednesday, April 8	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	History Center
Saturday, April 18	9am — 12pm	Workday at Hagemann	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, April 19	10am — 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, April 26	1pm — 4pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Mad Hatter Tea Party	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, May 6	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	History Center
<b>Saturday, May 9</b>	<b>5p</b>	<b>ANNUAL LHG AUCTION</b>	<b>Duarte Garage</b>
Sunday, May 17	10am — 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage

## Mystery at the Museum

by Jeff Kaskey



This one may be easy for some of you. The example here is from my family and maybe you have one in your family attic or barn. Like last time, I admit we know what it is – but if you have stories of one

of these being used in your family, I'd be interested in hearing.

*The answer to last month's Mystery at the Museum can be found on page 10.*

Photo by Jeff Kaskey

## Welcome New and Renewing Members! November - December 2019

### Family

William and Helena Bireley  
Jim and Karin Clawson  
Ken and Ginger Common  
Lauren Izenberg - NEW  
Neal Pann  
David and Alice Quinn  
Doris Ryon

### (Individual - continued)

Rick Knowles  
Pat Mann

### Senior

Mary Keech Butterfield  
Bill Cervenka  
Alan Frank  
Sue Frydendal  
Sharon Garrison  
Dr. and Mrs. M. Kamena  
Don Smith

### Individual

Molly Alexander  
Sylvia Chatagnier  
Suzanne Clark  
Michelle George  
Wendy Howe

### Sponsor

Gail Bryan

## In Appreciation

### Donations

Robert Bronzan  
Jeff Kaskey

**If you have not heard about our various events, then maybe we don't have your email. Please update us and we'll let you know about all the heritage happenings!**

## Contact Us

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### 2nd Vice Pres. Membership Chair

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The Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter is an official publication of the Livermore Heritage Guild. Contact the newsletter editor with comments or suggestions. Livermore Heritage Guild  
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www.lhg.org

The Livermore Heritage Guild History Center is located in the historic 1911 Carnegie Library building at 2155 Third Street.

History Center hours generally are Wednesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Phone: (925) 449-9927. Free admission.

Annual membership dues are: Individual \$25.00, Family \$35.00, Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student \$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron \$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00 and Business \$300.00 memberships are also available. Please make checks payable to "LHG." Mail to P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA 94551.