HISTORY OF LIVERMORE VALLEY

Class of 1931 L.U.H.S.
[Livermore Union High School]

Elmer Hawley, Editor

Published By
Las Positas Parlor, No. 96
Native Sons of the Golden West
Livermore, California
June 1931

In reverent memory of him who had:

- Courage to brave the unknown,
- Perseverance to hold his own,
- Willingness to do the right,
- Friendliness for all in plight - - -

… Robert Livermore

PREFACE

This book has been compiled from a group of contest essays, written on the subject by the students of **Mrs. Mason's United States History Class** of the Livermore Union High School, and from additional sources. The essay contest was stimulated by the prizes offered to the winners by the Native Sons of the Golden West, who were editor and associate editors of this volume. The Native Sons have furthered this work by publishing this book.

We [the NSGW] duplicated it as a resource for teachers about the history of the Livermore Valley. It is not intended to be read by or to children. Although parts may be useful for such purposes, the teacher must turn storyteller to impart this story. [We inserted the segment about Concannon Vineyard in October 1944.]

In writing, an endeavor has been maintained to record the events in the form of a continuous story. To establish it as a story and a history too, the happenings, from the formation of the valley to about the beginning of the twentieth century, are narrated and recorded in chronological order— from period to period and then from year to year.

A story which omits human character will not stick, and human beings cannot be made alive without many strokes of the pen. Accordingly, only the lives of a few of the men who have played indispensable parts in the history of the Livermore Valley have been sketched. The lives of others have, perhaps unjustly, been omitted for want of space.

I desire to express my sincere gratitude to those whose names appear in the Bibliography, who, by means of books, other literature, and memory, greatly aided us in producing this book as an authentic history; and whose interest made the task enjoyable.

The Editor [NSGW, June 1931]

2025 Revision: I reformatted this 1931 booklet from the Livermore Heritage Guild reference library (Object ID **2011.00.02**, typed master as updated in 1944). I added the table of contents, section headings, justified margins, and moved some paragraphs to fit its topical categories.

The text reflects social understandings as found in the Bibliography in 1931. Thus, I did not sanitize this century-old time-capsule. Some spelling errors and all passive grammar remains as originally typed. My explanatory notes appear in [brackets]. – Harry Briley, 5/2025

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GEOGRAPHY

Many thousands of years ago, the valleys of California were formed in a structural way, that is by mechanical means. Earthquakes and risings and fallings of the land were shaping the earth's crust into crevices and gorges,- overlooked by mountains and cliffs, towering and rugged. Hie slow, but powerful, forces of the elements gradually eroded and wore the jagged projections down to smooth and well-rounded mountains and hills, depositing the sediment in the valleys.

A valley formed ages back, by the action of rain, snow, and wind, is called an "old" valley. In every portion, the Livermore Valley is an "old" valley. Its formation was probably completed by a lake which almost undoubtedly existed, giving the valley the present rock and soil characteristics.

The Livermore Valley is almost perfect because it enjoys the splendors of Old Sol throughout the year. The ample showers of winter and spring and the abundant' cloudless days of summer and fall make the climate of the valley ideal. Numerous species of wild flowers, especially the California poppy, thrive on the comparatively fertile soil of the valley, while wild oats and grass glorify the rolling foothills. The surrounding mountains, overlooked by sentinel-like Mb. Diablo, the home of many wild animals, protect the area from the heavy fogs and winds of the bay region and the coast.

The geographical advantages, together with its splendid location, unite to make the Livermore Valley a typical California valley.

COSTENOAN INDIANS

The Indians, California's aborigines, were the first mortals to live in the valley. It is a vague chapter in the Livermore Valley history during which the Indians lived in the valley; and during which, only they made it their habitat.

This period is vague, for there were no villages or advanced communities to leave ruins as reminders and representatives of past life. It is supposed that the few Indians lived in temporary camps in the foothills, forming the southern and eastern boundaries of the valley. Much of the present knowledge of the Livermore Valley tribes was collected at the Franciscan mission, located at what is now Mission San Jose.

These records are in part definitely known to be facts, but some of them are tantalizing to the historian. These latter records represent the Indians as they appeared in mission life and not as they lived in their aboriginal life.

Their racial classification is definitely known. The Livermore Valley Indians, together with other neighboring tribes, formed a main division of the Penutian family, the Costenoans. The other divisions -of the Penutian family inhabited the Great Valley of California, the Sacramento and San Joaquin River valleys. The Costanoan tribes lived along the coastal region of central California, stretching from San Francisco to Monterey and as far inland as the San Joaquin Valley. This group was designated as Costanoans from the Spanish word, costanos, meaning "coast people".

These Indians were further identified as Digger Indians, so named because of a tendency to live in dug-outs and caves.

Accounts of the Indians were given by travelers who visited the Mission San Jose de Guadalupe at Mission San Jose. The Indians of the Livermore Valley came to the mission to be taught by the padres. To the travelers, the Indians made a very unfavorable impression. In general, they were dark, and dirty, and. squalid. They seemed to be void of feelings. They lacked ambition. The absence of laughter among them was very pronounced, as was sincerity. The travelers coming from the north and the south were struck by the obvious paucity and rudeness of the native culture in the Costanoan area. It is therefore the universal conviction that the Livermore Valley Indians were illiterate, wild, and crude, in their native culture.

In somewhat contradiction to this belief is the intelligence displayed by some of the Indians educated at the mission. These Indians had a better knowledge of Latin than perhaps some of the students of today. They had studied the Bible thoroughly, could read and write, and do many intelligent things.

The climate, and natural vegetation, and wild animal life determined to a marked degree the type of clothing the Indians wore and the food they ate. Deer and rabbits were plentiful. From the deer skin, the women made short skirts [coverings], one worn before and the other worn behind. The rabbit skin blanket served as bedding and as a mantle. Whenever weather would permit, the men [went] without clothing. These crude Indians lived on the customary plant and animal foods: venison, rabbit, acorns, etc. Strangely enough, tobacco was smoked.

There were many common beliefs and customs which their imaginative and superstitious minds originated. They thoroughly destroyed the property of the dead, the reason alleged being that the deceased would then no longer be remembered. They rigorously adhered to the universal custom of the avoidance of the name of the dead. Even the slightest reference to the deceased was a personal and bold affront to his kin. During quarrels such phrases as "Your father is dead", were likely to be angrily uttered and bandied about. The dead were believed to go to an island across the ocean.

In the fall of each year, the Indians engaged in a peculiar dance that was supposed to cure them from illness or make them immune from it. They would dance vigorously around in a so-called "sweat house". These structures were erected from tules [marsh reeds] and mud or consisted of an enclosure of bushy trees. Openings were left at the top and at the bottom to permit the escape of smoke and to form an opening for entrance. When a group of Indians would dance around in a "sweat house" with a fire burning within, the severe exercise and the abnormal temperature soon made the Indians perspire freely. In this condition, the dancers would immediately plunge into a stream or pool of water. They would climb out on the bank in total exhaustion. It is difficult to determine the reasons why they believed that these strenuous actions would perform the cures and preventatives of modem medicine.

Another custom equally as queer, was a dance made at the winter solstice. These were known to be [danced] at Mission San Jose. It is not known, whether this custom was a derivation of the sun worship of other tribes in the neighboring valleys.

The Livermore Valley Indians are extinct, so far as practical purposes are concerned. A few scattered individuals survive, whose parents were attached to the mission at Mission San Jose; but they are of mixed tribal ancestry, and live almost lost among other Indians or obscure Mexicans. However, this race of people accomplished much valuable, material work; and they leave a pleasant system of myths. This people built a road over the route they followed from the valley to the mission via Pleasanton. This trail could hardly be classified as a road, but the path was good and the route is still used.

The myths commence with the world covered with water, above which rises a single mountain top. This mountain was designated Mt. Diablo (Mt. Diablo was so named by the Spaniards in reference to the Indian beliefs of its habitation by spirits).- On this solitary spot are the coyote, the eagle, and. the hummingbird. .

The eagle is the chief of the three. Other accounts describe the coyote as standing alone until the eagle joins him, arising from a feather floating about on the vast expanse of water. After the ocean recedes, the land is explored and humans created by the coyote at the direction of the eagle. The coyote marries the first woman. He and the hummingbird come into conflict, but the smaller and more dexterous eludes and surpasses the coyote.

SPANISH EXPLORERS

The Livermore Valley is also typical of California in that it has an extremely important and interesting history. This began in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

In 1772, Captain Pedro Fages and Father Crespi explored the port of San Francisco in search for a site to establish a mission. They traversed the region east of the San Francisco Bay, then and long afterwards known as "the Contra Costa", or opposite shore. On the first and second of April, 1772, they passed through the San Ramon and Amador Valleys into Sunol Valley, proceeding thence to the vicinity of what was to be Mission San Jose. Fages and Crespi were the pathfinders in the beautiful Amador Valley, a part of the Livermore Valley.

Palou, California's first historian, authoritatively writes that after the founding of the mission, that is, in 1776, the captain of the presidio led an exploration through the valley which later became the Livermore Valley. The captain, Moraga by name, intended to explore the coast of the San Pablo Bay, Contra Costa, by means of two parties, one by land and one by water, he heading the one by land. His land party journeyed down the peninsula, around the foot of the San Francisco Bay and up the opposite side. Instead of continuing his journey along the shore of the bay, he cut off to the right and followed the course of the Alameda Creek (now called Niles Canyon), and soon entered the Livermore Valley.

He crossed it and left it through the Livermore pass (now called the Altamont Pass). He continued his inarch until he reached the San Joaquin River which he named after his brother. The significance of his journey, however, was not only that he discovered the San Joaquin, but that he was also the first white man to explore the Livermore Valley.

SPANISH ERA

On June 11, 1797, a mission was erected at what is now Mission San Jose. This settlement literally became the hub of a wheel and habitations sprang up all around it. The mission cattle multiplied rapidly and found good pastures in the Livermore Valley. The establishment of this settlement is important because many of the early settlers of the valley previously lived in the mission region.

Jose Maria .Amador was a Spaniard who, in his early teens, came to California. This was about the time the Colonies were declaring their independence from England. As he grew to manhood, he began holding public offices. He continued serving in high offices under Spanish and Mexican authorities until he was fifty, when he took up the life of a retired don. in 1826, he took residence in the extreme western part of the Livermore Valley, now called Amador Valley in respect to him. He built, with the assistance of Robert Livermore, an adobe house, near what is now Dublin on the land which was in 1835 granted to him as the San Ramon Grant, consisting of over four square-leagues [at three miles per league]. Part of this grant was in the Livermore Valley and part of it was in the San Ramon Valley. His house soon developed into a rancho of great size and wealth. This rancho was indeed worthy of claiming the title of the first in the Livermore Valley.

When Amador arrived in the valley, it was in its primeval state. No sign of civilization was seen. The cattle of the mission and the wild animals roamed the hills at will. The hills were heavily wooded, while the broad expanse of valley, stretching seventeen miles in length and from six to nine miles in width, was dotted here and there with mighty oak trees, many of which were more -than four and five hundred years old.

While Amador was establishing his name as the first settler, another man was becoming acquainted with the neighboring country. This man was Robert Livermore.

Robert Livermore was born in Bethnal Green, a [distant] suburb of London, in 1799. He remained in England for some time, but his feelings were too strong for the strict restraints of home. Therefore, he shipped as a cabin boy in the British naval service. He ultimately found himself in the Peruvian Fleet of the British Admiral Cochrane, where discipline was hard. Displeased, he deserted and joined the merchant marine.

In 1820, seven years after the arrival of John Gilroy, the first Anglo Saxon settler in the west, he deserted the hide-drogher [a merchant ship trading for cattle hides] that he was on in the Monterey Bay. He worked his way to San Jose where he soon made friends and found employment on the rancho of Juan Alvirez. Here he learned the Spanish language.

It was also in this vicinity that he met his friend, Don Jose Noriega. Not long afterwards, he removed to the Rancho Agua Caliente, or Warm Springs, where he stayed with the family of Fulgencio Higuera. During his employment on this rancho, his fair complexion and light hair aided in winning the Higuera daughter as a wife and life companion. Livermore then moved to the Sunol Valley where he built an adobe house and engaged in stock-raising. It is presumable that during his herding or hunting, he gazed with wonder and admiration upon the broad expanse of the Livermore Valley, and that he desired to live there.

MEXICAN ERA

As a result of the desire, Livermore and Noriega, whom Livermore had again met in the Sunol Valley, moved to the Livermore Valley. They settled in the valley in 1835 and built an adobe house under a spreading oak on the Las Positas Creek. Amador gave his assistance in the erection of the building in return for the service that Livermore tendered when Amador built his house. The house was built on land given by Las Positas Grant of 8,880 acres on April 10, 1839. According to the laws of the Mexican government, no foreigner could receive grants of Mexican land. Jose Noriega was therefore very instrumental in making a settlement possible.

Livermore immediately engaged in cattle-raising, for hides [the "California Dollar"] and tallow [for candles and soap] only, for the meat was almost worthless. His cattle were of good breed and the valley was a good herding ground. It is easily seen why within the next fifteen or twenty years the number of cattle amounted to at-least 30,000 and perhaps 50,000), as some people have estimated. The cattle were too numerous to be counted and were scattered over too vast an area, stretching from the San Joaquin to the mission hills. It seems that the present rodeo dates back to Livermore's day, for on his ranch twice a year a branding of the many cattle was held and people came from fifty miles around with their cattle and families. All the cattle hides and the tallow, or in short, all the products of the valley were either taken to Mowry's Landing on the San Joaquin River to be shipped to Stockton or hauled to the present site of Oakland.

One of the side occupations of Livermore was the preparation of bear grease from the grizzly bears that he killed in the nearby hills. Livermore spent much of his time in hunting and fishing. In the winter, he shot grizzly bears for sport and also for the oil which he could get from them. This oil was used for many purposes: to burn and in the making of soap.

The tribes of Indians proved to be very bothersome. They would infringe upon his herds and steal and slaughter his stock. Often, they would attack his house. During such occasions, Livermore and his family would have to seek refuge at Amador's rancho where the Indians never bothered. In the early forties, Livermore bought the interests of Noriega and became sole owner of the Las Positas Grant.

In 1844., he planted a vineyard as well as a pear, apple, and olive orchard on the flat near his house. He raised a little wheat—the first produced in the valley—for domestic use. By means of a ditch, Livermore brought water from the Las Positas Creek for the purpose of irrigating his fields.

On September 14, 1846, Livermore bought the Canada de los Vaqueros Grant, or what is now known as the Vasco Ranch on the Vasco Road, leading from Ulmar to Byron. This land was granted to Francisco Alviso and Miranda Higuera on February 29, 1842 and consisted of four leagues, or 17,760 acres. This addition brought Livermore's land up to 26,640 acres.

Another of the original receivers of Mexican grants was J. D. Pacheco who, in 1839 acquired the Santa Rita Rancho, located between that of San Ramon and Las Positas. Francisco Alviso occupied this rancho in 1844 as major-domo, or general superintendent, but few improvements were made on the grant.

A very famous don was Augustin Bernal, born at the Santa Teresa Rancho in the Santa Clara Valley in 1785. Bernal served as a lieutenant in the Mexican Army for more than twenty years. For his services, Governor Juan B. Alvarado in 1839 awarded him with the Rancho EL Valle de San Jose. This was a principality of eleven square miles, extending from the Sunol Valley to Livermore. This grant was the largest grant allowed under Mexican law. It originally consisted of 64, 000 acres. But when patented in 1865, the rancho had been reduced to 48,000 acres.

Augustin Bernal divided equally with his brother, Juan Pablo Bernal, and his two sisters, one of whom was the wife of Antonio Sunol, the other, of Antonio Maria Pico. Pico later disposed of his interest (the area around Pleasanton) to Antonio Sunol, who in turn conveyed it in 1846 to Juan Pablo Bernal. .

GOLD RUSH ERA

One outstanding event of the early Livermore Valley was the visit of the pathfinder, General J. C. Fremont. In 1846, Fremont and a [tiny] army of forty-two men passed through the valley to Stockton and Oregon from Mission San Jose. The party camped between Sunol and Pleasanton and marched through the valley the next day. Not long afterwards, during the Mexican War, Fremont returned and commandeered all the livestock on the Amador rancho except Don Jose's saddle horse. When the old don demanded by what right he thus deprived people of their property, Fremont responded, "By the right of my rifles."

When on January 19, 1848, gold was discovered at Coloma, there were but three settlers in the Livermore Valley: Amador on the San Ramon Grant, Alviso on the Santa Rita Grant, and Livermore on the Las Positas Grant.

The route from the San Francisco Bay led through the Livermore Valley. Many miners, or people who hoped to be miners, started from Mission San Jose, wound their way through the canyon of the Alameda Creek, crossed the Livermore Valley, and found entrance into the San Joaquin Valley through the Livermore Pass or through Corral Hollow.

While crossing the Livermore Valley, most of the people would stop at the rancho of Robert Livermore. Livermore was extremely hospitable and, for the reasonable fee of one dollar, would give all the fruit a traveler could want. His unstinching hospitality was wide-spread.

CORRECTION [1931]: The statement that "Robert Livermore sold fruit to travelers." was taken from one reference book in the Bibliography, but the accepted belief of the descendants of Robert Livermore is that he was exceedingly generous and gave his fruit to travelers.

Mountain House stands as a landmark and instrument of the Gold Rush. It was erected in 1849*;* and it was no more than a large tent, called the Blue Tent. This temporary edifice was at the San Joaquin Valley entrance to the Livermore Pass and was directly on the route to the gold mines from the San Francisco Bay district. Thomas Goodale, or Goodall, opened the tent as a place of entertainment in the same year that it was erected. For the next ten years, it acted as a relief station for the Stockton stage and for stockmen, ranchers, and travelers. Mountain House, in 1854, was taken over by Simon Zimmerman, who occupied and ran this station for twenty-seven years between 1854 and 187l. From the very start of his life there, he continued to make improvements on his land and additions to his group of friends.

Accompanying the Gold Rush was an influx of settlers in the Livermore Valley. Four brothers, named Patterson came to the valley from Tennessee and settled in the Patterson Pass. One of them, Nathaniel Greene Patterson, rented Livermore's adobe, house and started the first place of public entertainment between Mission San Jose and Stockton in 1850. His prices were one dollar per night, on bed or on unpatted [unpadded?] board, one dollar per meal, and twenty-five cents per drink. During 1850, Joshua A. Neal became major-domo for Robert Livermore. Michael Murray, who was to be an important character in the establishment of Alameda County and the Murray Township in Alameda County from Contra Costa County, came and settled near where Dublin now is located. He built his house and planted an orchard.

Murray was joined by Jeremiah Fallon, as a neighbor, in the same year. Nor were these settlers alone in their migration. In 1850, Augustin Bernal brought his family from the Santa Clara Valley, built an adobe house near Laguna Creek, and made his permanent residence there. Bernal's son-in-law, Sunol, came to live on the lands of his father-in-law.

1851 is noteworthy because it was in this year that the first frame building was built in the valley. The. lumber from which it was constructed came around the Horn to San Francisco and thence transported with much difficulty to Livermore's place. The total cost was about seven hundred dollars. There were few people of this region who had not heard of the "Around the Horn House," as Livermore's was often called.

Corral Hollow was in this year settled by three people: Edward Carroll, Mr. Wright, and Captain Jack O'Brien. Jack O'Brien engaged in sheep-raising. In 1853 and 1854, Patterson built a residence on what is now the Maclean estate about one mile east of Livermore.

The Court of Sessions on January 6, 1853 proclaimed the Murray Township with Robert Livermore as its Supervisor. The Murray Township is the largest in Alameda County. It is situated east of the Contra Costa ridge and has no waterfront. The valleys included in the township are: Livermore, Vallecitos, Amador, Alamo, and other portions of San Ramon and Tassajara. The Livermore Valley is by far the largest and most important of -these valleys.

In 1853, a R. W. Defrees built and ran an inn which was located on the road of main travel about one mile west of Robert Livermore's ranch. In 1854, a Mr. Martin purchased the Santa Rita Rancho. In the same year, Thomas Hart bought the hostelry above mentioned and called it the Half-way House, it being almost half-way between Stockton, Oakland, and San Jose. Hart held this occupation until 1860. In 1855, Hiram Bailey, a carpenter, came over to Livermore Valley from Contra Costa to erect a house for Joseph, son of Robert Livermore.

BANDITS

During the years immediately following the Gold Rush, many bandits made their rendezvous in the Livermore hills. Chief among these was Joaquin Murieta, who stayed at Brushy Peak. This so-called peak is in the northern corner of the valley, and it is much higher than the surrounding hills. It is covered with oak trees which from a distance appear to be brush, hence its name. On the northern side of the peak, there are some huge boulders of peculiar formation in which the forces of nature have worn large caves. One of these caves served as Murieta's hide-out because it overlooked the San Joaguin Valley. Whenever a party was crossing the San Joaquin Valley, a sentinel would signal Murieta of its approach by means of mirrors. Murieta would then assemble his band; and as the travelers were passing through the Livermore Pass, Murieta would attack them. Murieta was very evasive and always made his get-away.

However, his exploits were limited. He was finally tracked and killed in Kern County. Murieta was but one of numerous notorious bandits who resided in the Livermore hills. It was only through the determined efforts of the County Sheriff, Harry Morse, that the last of these were finally brought before the law.

ROBERT LIVERMORE DIES

In the summer of 1857, Robert Livermore began sinking an artesian well near his residence. The work was done under the supervision of a traveling well-borer, George Duel, and lasted seven months. During this time a depth of seven hundred feet was reached, at which depth water rose to within ten feet of the top. The work stopped when Livermore died, but one of his descendants constructed a cross pipe and put the well into operation. The total cost was not less than five thousand dollars.

Death claimed Robert Livermore as its victim on February 14, 1858. This was indeed a sad period, for Livermore had dwelt within the hill-begirted [girthed] valley which took his name for over a quarter of a century. He was beloved and honored by all with whom he came into contact and acquaintance. Livermore left many descendants to develop the Livermore Valley. He was buried under the old altar of the old church in Mission San Jose. After an earthquake, the church having been knocked down, a new one was built; but the remains of Livermore were left in the original place.

Accordingly, the location of his grave [in 1931] is not exactly known [In 1981, his marble gravestone slab was found in original floor of the mission sanctuary beneath earthquake rubble. Visitors can find it under the left set of pews of the reconstructed Mission chapel.]

VALLEY GROWTH

Settlers of principal import to the valley in 1858 and 1859 and 1860 were: Supervisor John Green, James F. Kapp, Robert Graham, Adam Fath, and William Meek.

Unprofitable beds of coal were discovered in Corral Hollow in 1860 by Captain John O'Brien. The first discoveries were of poor quality; but in the later seventies, new veins were uncovered and extensively developed. In 1860, Mr. Zimmerman employed Miss White as a school teacher at the Mountain House, his residence.

It was the general supposition that the land in the Livermore Valley was good only for stock-raising. After 1856, however, there was a complete revolution. In that year, Joseph Livermore grew a field of one hundred and sixty acres of wheat, the first to be grown on an extensive scale. In the following year, Joseph Black grew a hundred acres; and two Carrick brothers grew a like amount on an equal area on the Dougherty place. Joseph Black rented four hundred acres from Dougherty in 1860 in addition to that land he was already farming on the Fallon ranch, and devoted it to the raising of wheat. The owner of the Santa Rita Rancho, Mr. Martin, as will be remembered, increased his fields devoted for sowing grain by several hundred acres. During 1861, the acreage of sowed land was increased by Alexander Esdon by one thousand acres. Many other settlers turned .their land over to grain when they became inspired by the successes of their neighbors, and they all found great profits in this industry. By 1862, most of the valley was fenced into grain fields, and only the eastern end was left for grazing grounds for Livermore's vast herds.

Hiram Bailey cropped fifteen hundred acres of Robert Livermore's land and between 1860 and 1864, he averaged 1200 pounds per acre. The average crop was about a ton per acre, but as high as seventy-five bushels per acre. Besides wheat; barley, oats, and hay were grown.

Previously, land was almost free; but soon worth two dollars and fifty cents per acre. The cheapness of idle land is illustrated by the bargain between George Livermore and Alexander Mesa. Mesa traded the table-land in the foothills to the south, on which the Veterans Hospital is now located, to Livermore for a horse and saddle. Mesa had no urgent use for the land, and probably realized the horse and saddle would be a more practical possession.

Settlers came in great numbers and, either by purchase or by preemption, located their homes all over the valley. There was but one draw-back, the uncertainty of the boundaries of the Las Positas Grant. The United States Patent, issued on February 18, 1859, granted "two leagues more or less," within certain boundaries. However, the boundaries described enclosed some eleven square leagues claimed by the heirs of Robert Livermore. This dispute was fortunately settled on March 1, 1871, by a decision by the Department of the Interior following the Dryer survey of the territory in question. The decision granted to the Livermore's two square leagues and left open to settlers a greater amount of government land, some of which had been improved. This was divided into homesteads of a quarter section each.

HAMLET OF LADDSVILLE (1864)

The town of Livermore had its start in 1864 when Alphonso Ladd came to the valley and built himself a small dwelling. This was the first house within the present city limits of Livermore. Mr. Ladd came to California in 1850 from New Orleans. In 1850, he settled with his wife in Sunol. They had come from San Francisco to Union City in a sailing vessel, and were drawn by a yoke of oxen to the mission at Mission San Jose and over the mountains to Sunol. In June 1864, they took up one hundred and sixty acres of government land in the Livermore Extension, and removed to Laddsville. In 1865, they built a hotel. These buildings (the dwelling and the hotel) were built where the Western Pacific Railroad now crosses the Stockton Highway [then Highway 50, now Old First Street and Junction Avenue].

Up until 1869, the settlement which is now Livermore was known as Laddsville. It has been said that this group of buildings was called Nodingham; but if this be true, it was but for a short while, for it was commonly called Laddsville, in honor of the founder.

In the same year, 1865, Adam Fath, whose daughter is now Mrs. Herbert Wright, constructed a dwelling-house not far from Ladd's; and in the same year, Alexander Mesa opened a saloon, and Henry Goetjen, a little house on a hill behind Laddsville. Goetjen's house was later moved and changed into a store, as was the building belonging to Mesa when it was purchased by Ladd in 1867. A blacksmith from Hayward then located next to Goetjen. In the Spring of 1868, Robert Graham of Hayward, together with Allan, started the first general merchandise store, the Allan and Graham Store. The first post office was carried on in this establishment. As there were no such articles as rubber stamps at this time, the postage stamps were cancelled by placing the date on them, written in long hand.

Following the Allan and Graham Store, came the Italian restaurant of Anton Bardellinij soon after this, the Elliott livery-stable.

The first building used exclusively for a home was built by Israel Horton, and it still stands (1931). It is known as the Doctor Carter place. It was here that "the first child in Laddsville, Elsie Horton, was born. Soon after the construction of the first real residence. Joseph Harris built a store, Knight and Sproul started a drug store, and Booken, a saloon. Beazell and Crowell, in 1868 erected a blacksmith shop.

In 1884, Jose Munos moved from Livermore to East Oakland; he had lived in the valley for over thirty years. He was manager of the last bull fight, held in an old pen near Laddsville.

The increasing population necessitated a public school, and the need for one was felt. Accordingly, in the autumn of 1865, Israel Horton, later of Horton and Kennedy, erected a school house twenty feet wide and thirty-six feet long which was paid for chiefly by subscription. Miss Esther Weeks opened this, the first public school, in 1866 with thirteen pupils, six of which were children of George May, one of the school trustees. The school house was located not far from the big oaks, which still can be seen, near the old Livermore residence about one and one-half miles west of Livermore. A short time before the school was opened, a dancing party was held in the school house to raise money to procure the desks, for at this time there was no provision in the statutes of California for the maintenance of schools. The second teacher was J. W. Guinn, who later became a prominent California educator.

TOWN OF LIVERMORE (1869)

In the spring of 1869, the school house was moved from the original site to a lot on the eastern side of Livermore, donated by A. J. McLeod. F. R. Fassett was given charge at the new location. The growing needs of the school demanded that another building be erected. This was constructed in the following year on the same lot as the first building. Soon after, (a dispute arose over a land title) it was necessary to move again. The generous and farsighted William Mendenhall immediately gave the block bounded by Fifth, Sixth, I, and J Streets for the new school site [known as Fifth Street School and now as Del Valle High.] The two buildings were transported and the educational activities and instruction continued.

1869 was a momentous year. On September 6, -the first train bypassed the town of Laddsville on the newly laid rails. The laying of the Central Pacific Railroad in the Livermore Valley had the effect of quickening progress in the community. However, instead of advancing progress in Laddsville, it developed the new section. This section, consisting of six hundred and eight acres on which a large part of the city of Livermore is situated, was obtained by William Mendenhall in 1866.

WILLIAM MENDENHALL

Mendenhall, the Pioneer of Pioneers, came from Green County, Ohio, The first seven years of his life (1823-1830) were spent in the rural districts five miles from the smallest settlement. In this environment, he was surrounded by all of nature's most natural charms, forces, and influences. Under such circumstances, he was made to feel the need of self-reliance as a foremost instinct. In 1831, his family moved to Michigan, then a land of dense forests and arid virgin planes [plains]. Here, too, frontiersman handicraft was necessary for a livelihood. The virgin land was cleared to make fields adaptable to cultivation. Under the guidance of his parent, he became at early age a practical tiller of the soil. He received what little education the country provided, dividing his time between an agricultural life and a less monotonous one of hunting in the primeval, unmolested wilds which hemmed in his home on every side.

He resided in Michigan until he reached the age of twenty-one when the cry of Westward Ho, with its immeasurable pulling force, enticed him to start across the plains, the Great American Desert. He had learned of the formation of a company which was being formed near the Missouri River to cross the prairie. On July 3, 1845, he joined this company which broke camp on August 17, a band of only thirteen men. Their journey involved all the difficulties of the pioneer; swollen rivers had to be forged; much hostile Indian treachery and thievery were encountered; all but two of the company were attached by fever and ague; and in the Sierras, they fell victims of an unavoidable food shortage, game being scarce. However, they reached Sutter's Fort, Sacramento, on Christmas Day; and here they ate their first "square meal" since leaving Missouri. During the Mexican War, Mendenhall served under Captain Ford, a member of Fremont's staff of officers. It was on one of the marches of Captain Ford's company from Monterey to Sutter's Fort that Mendenhall first viewed the Livermore Valley.

While serving as Commissary of a force to repel the attacks of the predatory band of Sanchez about Santa Clara, he wedded Miss Mary Allen. This was the first wedding of Americans that ever took place in the three counties of Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa. Miss David Allen was also a pioneer of pioneers, having also crossed the plains in pioneer fashion. After his marriage, he made many journeys about northern California and Oregon but always returned to Santa Clara County, where his father-in-law lived. In 1851, he made his home near the Santa Clara

Mission from self-hewn redwood lumber. On this ranch he started stock-raising, which he later continued in Contra Costa County until 1862, when he removed his stock to the hills south of Livermore.

When in 1864, a dry season occurred, he lost forty thousand dollars' worth of cattle, horses, and angora goats. In the fall of 1865, he took up residence at the Santa Rita rancho part of which he purchased from J. West Martan. Mendenhall assisted in building the first school house in the Livermore Valley at Dublin. As said, he, in 1866, obtained his valuable farm of six hundred and eight acres on which the city of Livermore was to later develop. In 1869, he had his land surveyed and-laid out in the form of a town and called the settlement Livermore, in perpetuation of the name of the hearty old settler.

EARLY BUSINESS

Mendenhall won a victory over Ladd when he offered the railroad twenty acres on which to build a depot. The first depot was only a freight car, but it afforded Livermore a means of transportation, something Laddsville didn't have. The employees of the railroad needed room and board. This need resulted in the building era of 1869 which included the erection of Manus' Hotel, Bardellini's saloon, Allen and Grahams large store, Franzan's Beer Depot, a drug store, and Beazell's blacksmith shop, which was the first building in Livermore proper.

Soon after the entrance of the railroad in the valley, Mendenhall offered C. J. Stevens five acres if Stevens would move his flour mill from Alvarado to Livermore. This Stevens did, and in 1869 a grist-mill was constructed. Stevens also built a little office where the Pilot Grocery now is located. This building, now occupied by Pratt's Studio, was standing on stilts about four feet above the ground and had a large porch on three sides. It was for some peculiar reason called the Custom House. About where the Venice Candy Store now is, Stevens built a cash store. The area between these three edifices was called Mill Square. Mr. Steven's action was quickly followed by the store of A. J. McLeod, the Livermore Hotel, Mendenhall's warehouse, and Whitemore's store.

On April 30, 1870, the first brick building was dedicated. It was a two-story structure, the lower floor consisting of stores and the upper being a public hall. There was much excitement during the ceremonies. Speeches were made, a band played, and an elaborate ball was held. This building later became the store of the Farmer's Union, a one-hundred-thousand-dollar stock company of one hundred shares that was organized to sell the farmers the best for less.

The only private institution of learning in the east end of Alameda County was the Livermore Collegiate Institute. In 1870, William Mendenhall donated six acres of land, bordering the Arroyo Mocho on the north, to Dr. and Mrs. Kingsbury, who built a three- story building on the land. Five years later, R. D. Smith bought the premises and continued its operation as a private college. The Livermore Collegiate Institute taught an average of about fifty students who came from all over California.

Between 1870 and 1872, the population of the town of Livermore had doubled. This increase necessitated some form of government. Consequently, on April 3, 1875, a meeting was held in Livermore for the purpose of taking into consideration the advisability of incorporating the town. It was determined to hold a public meeting on the following Saturday, to ascertain the

opinion of citizens on the subject. The meeting was held, but most of the citizens in attendance were opposed to incorporation. But the project did not die. It was kept alive by those interested until the State Legislature passed an act on April 30, 1876, incorporating the town. Under the charter, Livermore was to have five councilmen, chief of police, judge, and clerk, who also acted as assessor. The first town hall was built on Second Street. It was the building which is now used as the Knox Apartments. The population was by census determined to be eight hundred and thirty-four.

The first Presbyterian Church was organized on February 12, 1871 at a meeting held in a school house in the old town of Laddsville by Reverend W. W. Brier, who for several months previous had held meetings semi-monthly. There were nine members ordained as elders, and five Trustees were chosen: Daniel Inman, Jessie Bowles, Hiram Bailey, W. B. Kingsbury, and F. A. Anthony. The congregation continued to hold services in the school house until the spring of 1872, when it was voted to meet in the Collegiate building.

In l874, they again changed their place for services to Exchange Hall. In 1872, on June 16, the Trustees .voted to enlarge the Board from five to nine members and to take steps in building a church. In December, two lots were given by A. D. Epivalo, Esq. and one was purchased for seventy-five dollars, on which the church was finally completed at a cost of about three thousand five hundred dollars. It was dedicated on July 26, 1874 with Reverend D. Scott of St. Johns Church, San Francisco, delivering the sermon. The dedication was assisted by Reverend W. W. Brier and by the pastor, Reverend C. W. Anthony.

In November, 1871, fire destroyed the principal portion of Laddsville, which, as most new towns, was constructed entirely of wood. The business of Laddsville was transferred to Livermore, thus giving its progress added impetus. In 1871, also, the first [fraternal] lodge was started, and by 1882, four more lodges had been organized.

Sometime in 1871 James Farley bored a seven inch well for water on his farm in the eastern end of the Livermore Valley. When down about twenty-five feet, the workmen suddenly heard a noise in the well, like the rushing of water. A pocket of gas had been struck, which escaped from the opening in large volumes. The gas was found to burn readily, and the flames reached a height of several feet. Although this well was filled up, new ones have been drilled. On one ranch in that district, gas is still used today as a fuel and as a source for light.

In the summer of 1872, a Roman Catholic Church was erected on the north side of the Stockton Highway between Junction Avenue and Railroad Avenue, The following year included the erection of the two-story Odd Fellow building.

In May, 1874, the first newspaper was started, the Enterprise. In 1877, on February 1, W. P. Bartlett took over the management of the Enterprise and renamed it the Livermore Herald. To William P. Bartlett, the Herald's editor and manager, belongs the credit for planting the many locust trees which today beautify the streets of Livermore and adorn the roads leading from the town far into the country. The locust trees seem to have been very well adapted to the Livermore Valley climate, for they have in most cases reached memorable sizes and continue to blossom forth every spring.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The Livermore Spring Water Company was incorporated on October 19, 1874 by some of Livermore's leaders. This association supplied water in 1875 from the Las Positas Springs about two miles north of the town. The water supply was stored in two large reservoirs in town at the end of the delivery flume. The water was piped from the reservoirs to the houses. In 1876, the water of the Arroyo del Valle was conducted to a third reservoir in town by means of a wooden aqueduct about five miles long. This source of water was soon abandoned, for the water developed an unsatisfactory odor and taste by the time it reached the town.

Also in 1874, the Livermore Hook and Ladder Company was organized. This was done on October 12, by some thirty charter members. During the next year, a two-story truck-house was erected on Second Street. In this building the members held their meetings. This was the senior company of the Livermore Fire Department, but it was not the sole company
.
The Niagra Fire Engine Company was instituted in Exchange Hall July 12, 1876. There averaged around fifty members. These men met in the Town Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. They had in their charge a double-decker hand engine, purchased from the Stockton Fire Department. This organization was most active and was very efficient.

By 1877, the number of pupils in the public school far exceeded the accommodations for them. Accordingly, the two buildings were sold and a two-story building was erected. It was fifty by eighty feet and was designed for eight rooms with sufficiently wide halls. The four rooms on the ground floor were large enough to house all of the children at the time of erection; but within three years, it became necessary to finish half of the upper flat for the increasing demands.

LIBRARY

In the spring of 1878, a group of public-spirited men and women, who recognized the advantages and benefits of a library, formed an organization called the Livermore Public Library Association. A ladies' minstrel show and other entertainments, together with subscriptions, raised funds enough to start a library. A building was erected on a lot donated by C. J. Stevens. Mrs. Dell C. Savage and Mr. Ellis bought some books from the old Odd Fellows' library in Oakland, then this lodge built a new library. The books and shelving were transferred to the club room on Main Street. Here Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Harp, Miss Myrtle Harp, and others fumigated and scoured their new possessions.

The erection of the building and the purchase of additional, books created a debt. This was paid within three years and the library became a successful organization—an institution which was to help the community pull itself out of ignorance.

VINEYARDS

Until the eighties had arrived, the valley was content to raise crops of grain and fruit and to herd domestic animals for its own use. But during this decade, the gold medals won by the prize wines began to advertise the Livermore Valley vineyards and Alameda County. The grape industry immediately rose to foremost importance.

Cresta Blanca

Four miles to the south of Livermore, lay the beautiful and picturesque Cresta Blanca. It consisted of four hundred and twenty acres of land in the healthful sunshine so common to the valley. In it were peach and olive orchards; but the vineyards were its pride and joy, which far surpassed the ordinary ones. The vineyard was planted in 1882 with cuttings directly from Margaur and Chateau Yguem vineyards of France. The first wine from the seemingly enchanted vineyards was made in 1886 and sold under the name of Cresta Blanca Souvenir Vintages. It became so well known that it was found on all leading hotel, club, and railroad menus. The property, at that time, was owned by Wetmore-Bowen Company.

Mr. C. J. Wetmore personally supervised the wine making and the bottling to assure himself the wine was the best. Mr. Wetmore also owned the Electra Vineyard of forty-three acres two miles South of Livermore. The wines of Cresta Blanca had received gold medals at the following places: Paris Exposition, 1889; California State Fair, 1890; Chicago, 1893; Mid-winter Fair, 1894; State Fair, 1895; and three Gold Medals at Atlanta, 1895. This should be sufficient proof that they compared considerably with the wines of France.

Mont-Rouge

The Mont-Rouge vineyard also had good old wines. Their white wine was judged the best of white vines at the World's Fair in Chicago by some very fine experts. This vineyard was planted by the well-known wine expert, Mr. A. G. Chauche, in 1884. It is located on an elevation within a mile from Livermore. As proof of the goodness of this wine, we have the one hundred thousand bottles of Haut Sautemes given away to their guest by the California Coramandery K. T., No. 1, on their pilgrimage to Boston.

Ruby Hill

The third winery to be established was the Ruby Hill Vineyard in 1887 by C. L. Crellen. Not only is it famous for its wine, but many other fruits are raised This property covered four hundred and fifty acres. The vines in it were planted in '83 and '84. These wines also won medals at our State Fairs and at Chicago. Their Haut Sauternes, and Clarets took many valuable medals. The winery is sixty by one hundred and eighty-five feet, made of fire proof brick. Today, it is covered with beautiful creeping vines that seem to hide its glory of the past.

The capacity of the Ruby Hill Winery is three hundred thousand gallons. The distillery has a capacity of eight hundred gallons of brandy in twenty-four hours. During the season of 1893, one hundred and fifty thousand gallons of wine and two thousand gallons of brandy were made. In September, 1894, the Ruby Hill Vineyard Company filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk, with a capital stock of five hundred thousand dollars;

Vienna Vineyard

In the south is the Vienna Vineyard. Joseph Altschul is proprietor. The manager was E. C. Hahn. It comprises two hundred acres of which one hundred acres are choice grapevines. Some land was devoted to other fruits and also tobacco plants which grew with great success.

Chateau Bellevue

Mr. Duvall, a French Connoisseur of wines, selected land in Livermore because of the soil and temperature which so closely resembled that of France. His vineyards were grafted to the best varieties from the Bordeaux and Burgundy district and are carefully cultivated. Mr. Duvall's interest made his winery one of the best. His place was referred to as Chateau Bellevue.

Bustelli and Pronzini

Another winery was that of G. Bustelli and E. Pronzini which they leased from the California Wine Association. The capacity of their cellars was three hundred and fifty thousand gallons. Both were expert wine makers and their wine proved it.

Olivina

The Olivina Vineyard was the property of Julius P. Smith and was managed by J. H. Taylor. It is located three miles south of Livermore on a ranch of two thousand acres, on both sides of the Arroyo del Valle. Three hundred and fifty acres of this ranch were planted, in vines, which were in a flourishing condition, and were almost a bonanza of wealth to their owner.

Wente

The C. H. Went and Company Winery was started in 1887. The company kept adding to the small building until it was a good-sized winery. It generally produced about twenty-five thousand gallons of wine. In 1897, the company broke all previous records and produced one-half a million gallons. The wine needed no advertisement, for it sold itself.

Wagoner/Croce

About the same time, or a little earlier, Mr. Wagoner built a winery. It was the first in Livermore and one of the largest, its capacity exceeding most of the others. It is now owned by Camillo Croce, and is under government bond.

Concannon

(This history of Concannon Vineyard was inserted here on October 31, 1944.) James Concannon came from Ireland after the Civil War. He settled in Augusta, Maine, where he worked as a bell boy at the Mansion House Hotel, and attended night school. He became a bookkeeper at the hotel and later manager. Here he married Ellen Rowe, whose uncle was a Captain in the U.S. Amy at the Kennebec Arsenal. The family came west to San Francisco in 1877, where Mr. Concannon had the Coast Agency for rubber stamps.

James Concannon moved to Livermore in 1883, and established the Concannon Vineyard, on the property formerly owned by Horace Overacher, a homesteader. Along with Clarence Wetmore of Cresta Blanca, he imported all his fancy white varieties from Montpellier, France, such as Semilion, Sauvignon Blanche, Pinot Blanc, Folle Blanche, Colombard, etc. His success as a vineyardist is known today wherever fine wines are served.

In 1891, James Concannon contracted with the Mexican Government, and sent millions of grape cuttings into Mexico. The contract with the Mexican Department of Agriculture, came through Porfio Diaz, then President of Mexico, who took an active interest. A large vineyard was planted at the Hacienda De La Roca in Celaya, Mexico, which was operated by a brother, Martin Concannon for fifteen years. Sweet wines were made at this Hacienda De La Roca.

Concannon Vineyard specializes in Sauterne wines, but also make sweet wines for sacramental purposes. During prohibition, Sacramental and Medicinal wines were made and sold under government supervision. James Concannon died in 1911, but his vineyards are now [in 1944] operated by his son, Joseph S. Concannon.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL (1892)

The high school was organized about 1892. For two years, the class work was done in the public-school building. Then the good people of the valley did what is a credit to their patriotism and generosity. Nine of the districts, including Livermore district, were originally included in the high school district. These taxed themselves (a direct tax); and caused to be erected in Livermore one of the handsomest and best equipped high schools in the State of California, at that time. The school and its equipment cost upwards of fifteen thousand dollars. A fine windmill and tank were erected by the building, besides a barn to accommodate between twenty and thirty horses and conveyances [of the students].

The equipment in the physical and chemical laboratories was complete, sufficient to accommodate sixteen pupils at one time. A room was fixed essentially for commercial work. The general assembly and study room contained a full reference library, besides a good circulating library of standard and classical fiction, history and poetry. A fine piano was also purchased for the school.

The act providing for the establishment of union high schools was approved March 20, 1891. The board of trustees of the Livermore school at once sent invitations to every school district in Murray Township, calling a meeting for April 4, for the purpose of organizing a union high school at Livermore. At the meeting representatives were present from the Pleasanton, Inman, May, Green, Townsend, Highland, Vista, Harris, Midway, Macho, and Livermore districts;

The movement was heartily concurred in by all the districts, excepting Pleasanton and Midway, and steps were taken to proceed with the organization without delay. According to the provisions of the law, the question had to be submitted to the voters of each district. This election was held on May 23, and in the nine districts voting upon the proposition, there were only four votes recorded against it. The erection was pushed along as rapidly as possible, and the Union High School No. 1 was formally organized on July 6, 1891, with the following board of trustees [and their then current school district]:

- J. G. Young - Highland
- A. Fuchs - Vista
- J. C. Martin - Inman
- F. Dickhoff - May
- F. H. Fasset - Livermore

F. Hartman - Green
Albert Clark - Mocho
J. L. Bangs - Townsend
H. Farmariss - Harris

J, G. Young was chairman and F. R. Fassett clerk. The school opened on August 31, in one of the rooms of the Livermore public school building, with E. Walker, teacher, and fifteen pupils.

Being the first school of the kind organized in the state, it naturally attracted a great deal of attention and, following its example, many union high schools were organized during the summer of 1891. Centerville and Hayward, in Alameda County, were among the first.

The people were not only proud of their school from the first, but they were determined it should have a building that would not only be suitable to the wants of the school, but an ornament to the town and an example of the enterprise of its citizens. An election for this purpose was held on August 27, 1892, and, "tax yes", carried by a large majority. The sum voted was eleven thousand dollars. The contract for the erection of the new building was let to J. F. Meyers, Esq., on December 31, 1892, and was completed in season for the opening of school in August 1893.

SUMMARY OF LIVERMORE

It has been seen how the pastoral life of Robert Livermore's time changed in the fifties to the grain and grape growing era of the next three or four decades. The beginning of the twentieth century was to bring about a further change. Livermore was to become industrial as well as agricultural. The climate has attracted both private and government hospitals, together with other institutions devoted to the up-building of a person's body.

The location has attracted such industries as the Coast Manufacturing and Supply Company and a plant of the W. S. Dickey Clay Manufacturing Company and the headquarters of the Hetch Hetchy Water Supply. The character of the soil along the lower reaches of the Arroyo Mocho and the Arroyo del Valle has attracted many gravel companies. Such is the picture of the Livermore of today [in 1931]—a city of modem improvements, but with many traces of an interesting past.

HISTORY OF PLEASANTON

While Sunol and Juan Pablo Bernal were developing the grant, El Valle de San Jose, Augustin Bernal was residing in the Santa Clara Valley. He only visited his possessions once a year to rodeo his bands of cattle. In 1849, a widow named Wilson, who had several sons, moved to the rancho of Juan P. Bernal, and made a contract with the proprietor whereby one of her sons should act as his major-domo. In 1850, Augustin Bernal took up residence in the vicinity, and built a house at the foot of the mountains, about a mile west of the present site of Pleasanton. This was the first settlement made in this district.

In August 1851, there came to this section John W. Kottinger, a native of Austria, who at once erected a house on a small eminence near the Arroyo del Valle and commenced stock-raising. In September, 1852, Juan P. Bernal, brother of Augustin, built his adobe on the opposite side of the creek from Kottinger.

Kottinger in 1857 permitted Duar and Nasbaumer to open a store in his house. Another store was opened in 1859 by Charles Gartbwaite, opposite the residence of Augustin Bernal. This was open for four years.

Pleasanton was primarily called Alisal after the numerous cottonwoods trees that grew there. Kottinger later changed the name of Pleasanton in honor of General Pleasanton who served under General J. C. Fremont. The new name is somewhat deceptive in that the climate is so pleasant that the origin of the name is sometimes doubted.

In 1863, Mr. Kottinger, who had become possessed of a considerable portion of the Bernal estate by marriage, conceived the idea that a town could be established. He put a few lots in the market and these were soon purchased and improved with gardens and buildings. These lots were purchased by Jacob Teeters, a blacksmith, William Wittner, a carpenter, and Doctor Goucher.

In the year, 1863, Joshua A. Neal, a native of New Hampshire and a pioneer of '47, removed to Pleasanton; and, by marriage to a daughter of Augustine Bernal, acquired over five hundred acres of land, upon which a portion of the present town is situated. Neal had been for several years the major-domo of the Las Positas rancho for Robert Livermore. He immediately built a house on a hill overlooking the valley. In the following year, 1864, a public school was organized.

In 1865, Mr. Kottinger built a house of entertainment, giving it the name of the "Farmer's Hotel". In 1867, Anton Bardellini opened a hotel and started a store in it.

Between 1867 and 1869. Kottinger and Neal made surveys of their land, plotted out lots along the county road (later Main Street) and began selling them. The advent of the railroad established Pleasanton as a permanent town. Soon after, several two-story buildings were erected, including the Odd Fellows' Hall. A plain, but neat appearing, church was built.

Pleasanton was, from time to time, the unfortunate scene of the robberies and murders of several notorious bandits, the worst of whom was Narcisco Bojorquea. Many crimes committed in towns from Mariposa County to Los Angeles County were attributed to Narcisco's evil. Several of Narcisco's attacks on innocent citizens and on Sheriff Morse were staged in Pleasanton. These deeds lowered the opinion of many people for Pleasanton. However, these convictions were not justified because the bandits hid in the hills and only came into the town to make a loot.

In the fall of the year 1865, Mr. Bilz came to Pleasanton and started to manufacture wagons and do some general blacksmithing in a small building. Later, in 1868, he erected a larger building and started to manufacture wagons, carriages, and buggies on a large scale. In August, 1882, he received a patent for his Bilz Excelsior two-wheeled buggies.

When the wagon industry was thus very profitable, it might be expected that a race track was near. And so it was. The Pleasanton track was one of the best in California and was a center for that class of attention. After the decline of the race track interest, however, there was no substitute. Therefore, Pleasanton has remained a quiet little town.

HISTORY OF DUBLIN

In l850, Michael Murray settled in the Amador Valley. An immigrant from Tennessee, J. W. Dougherty, in 1852 invested a rather large sum and purchased the ranch of Maria Jose Amador. Amador had resided on his grant for twenty-six years as an independent rancher, his work-shops able to produce almost every article needed for sustenance. Dougherty continued to live on Amador's place for over a decade, when it was partially destroyed by earthquake.
Aside from these two residents, the first house built in the locality of Dublin was by John Green, who opened a store in 1860. Six months later, Marsh's Hotel went into operation, and thus the little hamlet had its start. To the year of 1856 belongs the honor of seeing the first educational establishment in the township erected. This was a one-room school, taught by M. G. Higgins about three-quarters of a mile south of Dublin. In 1859, a commodious Roman Catholic structure was built, the first church in the Livermore Valley.

Sometimes humor is the pilot of reason. When Dublin was well-settled, a foreigner questioned Dougherty about the name. Dougherty said that the town had no name and that it was just a part of the Amador Valley. The foreigner replied with humor that the town should be called Dublin because there were so many Irishmen there. The jest carried the name through.

At one time, Dublin was an important stopping place; but its importance has continually decreased. Dublin remains unincorporated.

SUMMARY OF VALLEY

The history of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, and the country surrounding these districts constitute the history of the Livermore Valley. It is a story of peaceful conquest. First, the Spanish deprived the Indians of their hunting grounds; and then the Americans, or gringos, occupied the old romantic ranchos of the Spanish settlers.

This movement is clearly expressed in Leo Carrilo's poem.

The Passing of the Families
By Leo Carrilo

In the footprints of the padres,
Before the gringo came,
In the days of the old missions,
In the days of Spanish fame,
When those good old Spanish families
Ruled the Golden State—
Ah, what different atmosphere
Since that very early date !

The black-eyed senorita,
And the caballero, too;
And the sunbaked old adobe
Were never known to you.
Where are those good old families
Of the happy days gone by?
Listen, eastern stranger,
And to tell you I will try.

There were the Picos and Pachecos,
With their many leagues of land,
With their ranchos filled with cattle,
Which they never had to brand.
For they trusted one another
(Much different then than now)
And they did a lot of thinking
To avoid most any row.

Then you came, "Americano"
And you saw the lands we had,
And you wrote back to your mother
And you wrote back to your dad;
And when they read your letters
'Bout the beauties of our State,
They packed the many things they had
And shipped them all by freight.

Then you crowded all around us;
Inch by inch you hemmed us in
Till we'd scarcely room to breathe—
It really seemed a sin.
Then you took away our ranchos
That were given us by Spain,
And you took—our senoritas.
Oh, the answer's very plain !

Now the children of the mother
Whose grandad's blood was Latin
Are scattered from San Diego
Clear back to old Manhattan.
So there you have my story,
From your amigo in the West;
I couldn't help a-tellin' you—
Had to get it off my chest !

Recently, an Indian burial place was uncovered while construction was under progress on the Las Positas Creek. Other than this excavation and the few [stone] mortars and pedstalls [pestles], and other few utensils scattered about in private curio collections [some sets held by the Livermore Heritage Guild], we have little to remind us that a tribe of Indians once lived in the valley. This group of mortals were forced out, as we have learned, by the advance of the more important, the later, and the more influential Spaniards.

The influence of the Spanish civilization was so great, that even a stranger in the community could today detect the results of the civilization. There are a few, but very few, adobe buildings still standing. These are crumpling away; and being a black spot in the beauty of the city of Livermore, they will soon be substituted by modern cottages. A more lasting result of the Spanish life is found in the names of various ranchos, roads and buildings. Robert Livermore's grant, the Las Positas grant, means in Spanish, the "little pools" [or "muddy puddles"].

Brushy Peak was once called Las Cuavitas, "little caves", because of the prominence of caves on its north side. The section with the Wente residence was once called Agua Purca, after a spring of muddy water on this land. There are innumerable other names of Spanish origin which will continue to remind the future generations of the existence of the Spanish dons.

In a manner similar to that of the Spanish, the Americans of today are making history for the Livermore Valley. However, the history will be still more important and permanent. With the improved means of transportation, communication, and living, we have more opportunities to do greater things than they who have thus far done their work so well.

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Savage, Mrs. D. C. [Livermore Public Library Assoc., Dell was a dentist]
Still, Elmer
Young, Mrs. Fred
Young, Fred