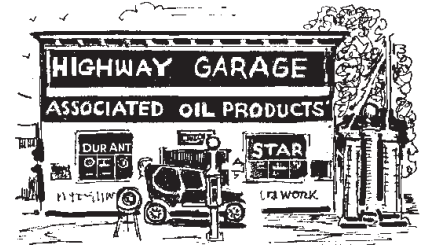


CARNEGIE LIBRARY

LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



HIGHWAY GARAGE

PHONE : (925) 449-9927

" HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW "

NEWSLETTER

WEB ADDRESS:

www.lhg.org

MEMBERSHIP OCT 1 TO SEPT 30: FAMILY \$10, INDIVIDUAL \$7, SENIOR \$3
JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

June/July 1997 Vol. XXVII No. 8&9

CALENDAR

Thursday, July 10, 7:30 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

We're OPEN again!!!

The Carnegie Building has had the damage to the floor repaired, the ceiling replastered, and has been completely repainted inside! Most of the displays have been reinstalled thanks to the hard work of Anna and Gary Drummond, Tim Sage, Bill Junk, Barbara Bunshah, Jerry Bireley to name a few. We will have a grand opening to be announced in the near future but feel free to stop by and see the progress we have made.

Auction Report

The Annual Auction was a great success: a straw pole showed we had approximately 15 new bidders who had never attended our auction before. We had lively bidding and brought in nearly \$3,000 for the Heritage Guild. We wish to thank Lynn Owens and his partner, Randy Griffith, for their help. Some of the money will be used to purchase new filing cabinets and shelving for the archival room in the Carnegie Building.

Conservation/Preservation Awards

Each year the Heritage Guild honors one or more local businesses/people for their efforts in preserving Livermore's history. We are looking for committee members to help nominate candidates for this year's awards. If you are interested in participating or if you know of a local person and/or business which you feel has helped preserve the area's history and you feel is a candidate for nomination, please contact us at 449-9927.

Andrew J. McLeod was one of Livermore's earliest settlers. McLeod Street is named after him.

Andrew J. McLeod

by Larry Mauch

In 1875, six years after William Mendenhall laid out the original town of Livermore and began selling lots, Andrew J. McLeod, a store keeper and resident of the area since 1868, filed his plan for the expansion of the town. Bordered by South Livermore Ave., Church Street, First Street and Sixth Street with McLeod Street running through its center, this addition was comprised of eighteen blocks.

Born in 1837 in Gallia, Ohio, Mr. McLeod would lose his parents at an early age. When he was seventeen Andrew would leave with his uncle, L. P. Gates, for California. Arriving at mission San Jose in October of 1854, Andrew would settle in Centerville (now part of Fremont) and take up farming. After three years ill health would force him to give up farming. A.J. McLeod would then become proprietor of the American Exchange Hotel in Centerville, a position he would hold for the next nine years. While in Centerville, in 1859, Mr. McLeod married Delia Foley, a native of Ireland. Together they would have five children, Norman, Mamie, Colin, Annie and Leah.

In 1866 the family moved to Washington Corners (now also a part of Fremont). There Mr. McLeod built and operated the Union Hotel. Six months after the hotel began operation the family decided to sell the hotel and move back to Centerville. For the next year A.J. McLeod tried his hand in the livery business.



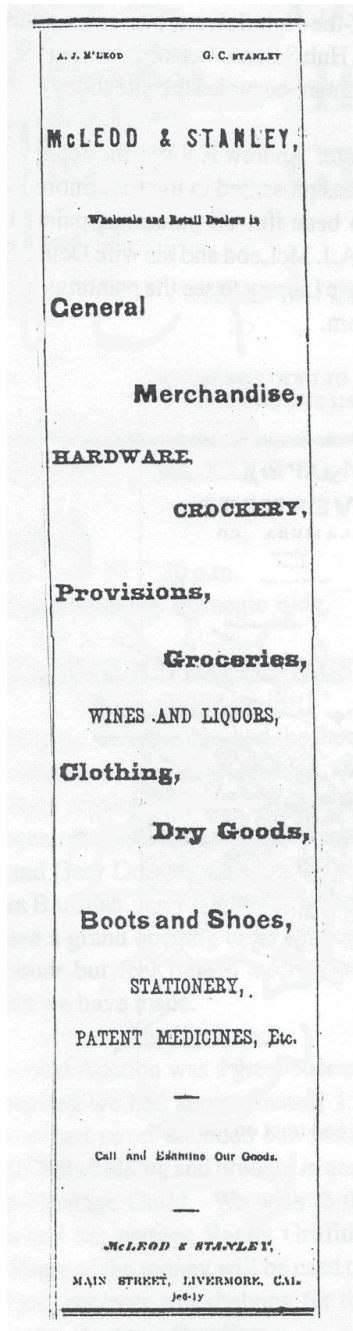
Andrew J. McLeod and Delia Foley McLeod

In 1868 the family moved to the Livermore Valley, settling on land next to William Mendenhall's recently acquired holdings. The only community in the valley at the time was located a half mile away in Laddsville. Mendenhall would soon file his plan for a new community he would name Livermore, after Robert Livermore, who had settled in the valley from 1834 until his death in 1858. Mendenhall was working with the soon to arrive railroad, encouraging them to establish a depot in his proposed new town.

In 1869 Mendenhall officially filed his map for the town of Livermore. The railroad established a depot on land donated by Mendenhall. Andrew J. McLeod built a mercantile store with his new partner Henry Meyers on the edge of the new town. That same year Calvin J. Stevens moved his flowering mills from Centerville to Livermore. This formed the nucleus of the new settlement.



McLeod Building corner of N. Livermore and First Street circa 1905



Ad from 1875 Livermore Enterprise

Meyers and McLeod operated until 1871 when Mr. Meyers sold out his interest to Mr. Anspacher. Anspacher remained a partner until 1874 when he sold his interest to George C. Stanley. Mr. Stanley was a local rancher who at one time also lived in Centerville. The firm operated as McLeod and Stanley.

In 1876 the Livermore Enterprise ran an article about the store. The article stated the firm resided in a one story building built of wood. The warehouse was 75 feet by 25 feet with an adjoining store room. The business sold every conceivable article of food, domestic utensils, and machinery. The store room held paints, oils and similar goods. The post office was located in the front of the building. There were 175 private boxes and mail was delivered on the average of once a week. The article also noted that the store's stock of goods had diminished as of late allowing for more competition from other merchants. It seems Mr. Stanley was always on his ranch and Mr. McLeod ran the store alone. The article stated that in the past the firm had enjoyed \$75,000 per year in sales. If the store was restocked the sales would surely return. One year later in 1877, the partnership was dissolved and Mr. McLeod retired from the mercantile business.

Previously in 1875, a notice appeared in the paper that Mr. McLeod had finally received the title to his land. He would soon begin selling deeds to those wishing to buy property. Mr. McLeod's venture into real-estate would last the next twenty years. Lots around McLeod Street would still be for sale in 1890. The terms were \$25 down and \$10 a month with 8% interest.

Mr. McLeod was postmaster of Livermore from 1869 until 1882. His son, Norman, served as postal clerk for his dad. As mentioned in the article in the Livermore Enterprise in 1876, the post office was located in the front of the store. The post office continued to operate out of the same location until a fire destroyed the building in 1882. A new larger three story wooden building was built by Mr. McLeod on the same site. McLeod's Saloon was located on the ground floor and was operated by Norman McLeod, A.J. McLeod's son until the mid 1990's. Norman McLeod would then become partners with Mr. Sangmaster and in 1892 together they would open the Hub Saloon across the street, a local landmark for many years.

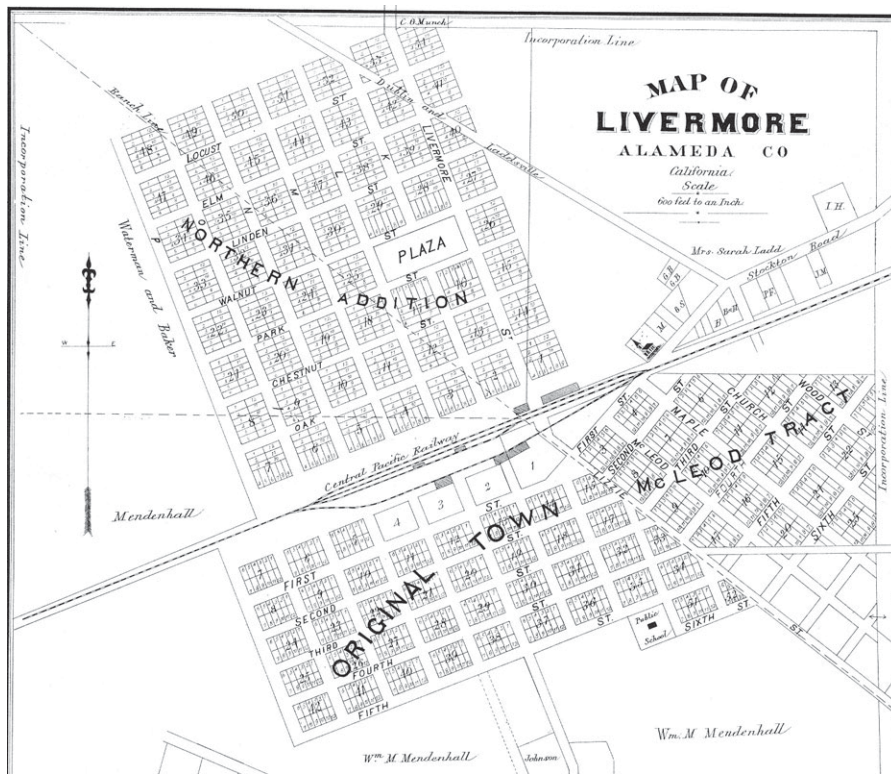
In 1895 the Bank Of Livermore would move into the ground floor of the McLeod Building. The front

of the building was repainted to look like granite. Dr. Savage would open his dental offices upstairs. In 1916 the Bank Of Italy purchased the Bank Of Livermore. The McLeod building was torn down in 1922 to make way for the new Bank Of Italy Building which still stands on the site, the corner of N. Livermore Avenue and First Street.

In 1905 A.J. McLeod passed away from kidney disease. His wife Delia passed away the following year. Norman McLeod, A. J. McLeod's son and

founder of the Hub Saloon passed away in 1935. (Note: the Hub Saloon was torn down in the 1970's. Lizzie Fountain occupies the site today.)

Editors Note: Andrew F. Silva, the nephew of A.J. McLeod, has presented to the Livermore Heritage Guild two beautiful oil paintings, painted in the 1870's, of A. J. McLeod and his wife Delia. Stop by the Carnegie Library to see the paintings in our reference room.



Map of Livermore circa 1878 showing McLeod tract on the right

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