



## In Memoriam: Don Smith

by Jeff Kaskey



HistoryMobile. It is a rare feature we have in our schools - a system-wide researched and curated history of our local community, designed specifically for our kids.

It only took a few minutes after introductions to know that Don liked to emphasize or teach a point with a story, and he had a reservoir. With source material from his years as a corporate lawyer and his knowledge of both local and global history, Don could create a story arc that led the listener to new knowledge and insight.

In my first meeting with Don, he was new to local Livermore history and I felt fairly secure in the foundations of my stories. It didn't take long before I knew I had to dig deeper, confirm my guesses and talk about sources. In particular, as a lawyer, he was very interested in the details of property ownership and transfers among our early pioneers. He delighted in looking through those indecipherable (to me) property documents.

(Don Smith, continued on page 8)

**Left:** No LHG event involving barbecue was a "real" event unless Don was manning the Hagemann Ranch barbecue, as he was in the photo to the left. Don was a full-service barbecue specialist — from procuring the food, usually at a greatly reduced price, to making sure that it was cooked properly, Don made certain that the Guild always had a first class barbecue experience; Photo by Loretta Kaskey.

We are saddened by the passing of Don Smith who was a longtime champion of the LHG. History is about, and requires, passing the baton. Giving the next generation the knowledge and tools developed in previous generations on which to build is the ability and value that makes us human. Pyramids to skyscrapers and abacus to calculus. My friend and dedicated Heritage Guild member Donald Smith was one of those people deeply aware of that relay's importance and his role in it. Don's enthusiasm for passing along our collected knowledge was a core piece of his interest in history and scholarship. Don was constantly both teaching and learning.

As one of the Guild's curators, Don worked with teachers from the Livermore school system to create the curriculum on local history now used in Livermore's 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. Local history is part of the State core curriculum. Don was dedicated to telling our history as an authentic story, yet still in a way that was accessible for third graders. Supporting Anne Anaya and Bonnie Pastrnak from the school system and building on existing material, in particular a book on Livermore from teacher, artist, and historian Tilli Holm Calhoun, a curriculum was developed that is used not only in Livermore school classrooms, but also as the main narrative for our traveling

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# Heritage Garden

by Loretta Kaskey

The beginnings of the Summer 2025 garden are rooted in the harvest of the winter 2024/2025 garden. This winter we did not plant any of the grain crops (barley, wheat, or red oats) that we have in the past. We tried something different in the Heritage Garden; we planted seedlings of onions and potatoes, and sowed mustard seeds. We hope you like these images of fellow gardeners Lauren Robbers and Soraya Rawlings harvesting onions, boxing the potatoes, and tying up mustard to dry.

In the past we would cultivate beds of one type of vegetable; this year we are trying a more integrated approach as seen at the bottom right. So far, all is working well and we have started the harvest for the 2025 Summer Season.

In the photo to the right see our first tomatoes and squashes (yellow patty pans, white “mash potato”, dark green and striped zucchini). We are starting to get peppers too. In the basket to the right of the squashes are Spanish heirloom Padrón peppers (cousins to the shishito pepper) and pale yellow green Hungarian Sweets.

Also new for us this year, we planted artichokes and to our amazement, actually harvested a few. They displayed nicely with more patty pans and those striped zucchini in the photo below. You can also see in the same photo that we



are trussing up the tomatoes this year using string cages formed by wrapping the string between two stakes to the sides of the tomato plant.

We have placed stakes in a teepee for the string beans this year to form a lovely support for them.

We hope you will come to some of the summer and fall Hagemann Ranch open houses and visit the Heritage Garden. If

you'd like to help us garden, we are usually at the Ranch Saturday mornings by 10 AM (contact Loretta Kaskey: [lorkaskey@yahoo.com](mailto:lorkaskey@yahoo.com)).



# Duarte Garage: Burma-Shave Signs Come Home

by Will Bolton



For several years, from my mid-grade school through junior high school years, our family made frequent trips from our home in Kansas City to my grandparents' farm in the Ozarks. There were only two practical routes, both two-lane blacktop surrounded by endless field crops, cattle operations, a few farm houses and outbuildings, and occasional small towns. The only entertainment of interest to ten-year old me in the car was the AM radio. For much of the trip, there were very few – if any – radio stations we could get. At night, we could sometimes tune in 50,000 watt WLS from Chicago. However, since WLS played that new-fangled rock and roll music, I didn't win that radio tuning argument very often. Sometimes I would lie across the back seat and just stare up through the rear passenger window at the sky - which occasionally would be interesting (what with thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, and such) or at the power lines rhythmically rising and falling in their catenary arcs between power poles. The point is: it was boring. One thing that would instantly get me sitting upright and staring intently down the road was the call, "Burma-Shave signs!!!"

Burma-Shave grew out of the Burma-Vita Company, which was started in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the early 1900s by Robert Odell, an attorney seeking a second source of income. Their initial product was a liniment with ingredients from Burma, including camphor. However, by 1925, the company was in financial difficulty. Robert's son, Clinton, suggested developing a brushless shaving product based on the liniment. After some experimentation, Burma-Shave was

introduced. The concept was to reduce the time and expense of shaving by eliminating the shaving mug and brush. However, sales were disappointing until Clinton's son, Allan, suggested placing advertising signs with short commercial messages along local roads. The signs were soon standardized to five signs with a humorous rhyming jingle and a sixth sign simply stating "Burma-Shave." Initially, Clinton and Allan wrote most of the jingles but later they ran a nationwide contest for new jingle ideas. The impact on sales was immediate. At its peak, Burma-Shave was the second leading brushless shaving cream in the US. Over 6,000 signs were installed in 45 states over 33 years. Gas rationing during WWII followed by the development of the interstate highway system reduced the effectiveness of the signs. Sales began to diminish. In 1963, Burma-Shave was sold to Philip Morris, which started removing the signs.

I was unaware that there had been Burma-Shave signs in or near Livermore until April of this year, when I got a call from Richard Green. Richard grew up in Livermore and attended Granada High School, but now lives in the Los Angeles area. He has had a successful career composing, arranging, and playing music – working on over 300 movies and TV shows. He contacted me to ask if we would be interested in having the loan of some Burma-Shave signs to display at the Duarte Garage. Memories of my eager anticipation of Burma-Shave signs on those long drives came flooding back and I immediately said "Yes." He explained that the set of signs was installed on what is now Portola Avenue near where it used to join Highway 50 just north of Livermore. In the early

1960s, the young Richard saw that the Burma-Shave signs had been chopped down and were lying on the ground next to the road. He collected the signs and put them in his parents' garage - where they remained until his mother, LHG member, Joan Green, passed away recently. He wanted to have them displayed in Livermore at the Duarte Garage on the same road near where they had been installed many years ago.

Unfortunately, after approximately 60 years and a major move, Richard has only been able to find the second and third of the six signs. However, we know that the jingle was: "WE MADE GRANDPA / LOOK SO YOUTHFUL / HIS PENSION BOARD / THINKS / HE'S UNTRUTHFUL / BURMA-SHAVE." Don Keech has told us that he remembers driving by those Burma-Shave signs on his way to and from Livermore High School in the 1950s. If you would like to see two of the Burma-Shave signs original to Livermore, they are on display at the Duarte Garage along with a small collection of Burma-Shave jingles.



**Top:** Two of the set of six Burma-Shave signs originally installed on (now) Portola Ave. (then Junction Ave.) until 1963; Photo by Will Bolton; **Above:** a circa 1940s Burma-Shave box and tube. The brushless cream was available in a tube or a jar. Photo from Wikipedia.

# Where Was Robert Livermore's Adobe?

by Will Bolton



I don't think I was even aware that Robert Livermore had an adobe house in the Livermore area until about 15 years ago, when Bill Junk was showing me some artifacts in the Duarte Garage. He pointed to a small pile of larger-than-usual, irregular bricks in a corner and said, "Those are from Robert Livermore's adobe house." I asked where the house was located. He pointed in a northerly direction and said that it had been south of 580, near the arroyo. Since then, whenever a visitor to the Garage asked where the Livermore adobe had been, I would point in a northerly direction and say, "South of 580 near the arroyo."

The matter of a more precise location of Robert Livermore's dwelling didn't come up until about a year ago, when the City Planning Division asked if the Guild had documentation for the location of adobe. Realizing that such questions are best answered when more than one mind is at work on the issue, I requested help from the most likely people to have necessary knowledge. Richard Finn was the first to respond. Among other inputs, he suggested getting in touch with a former Livermore City Historian, Don Meeker, now a resident of Tacoma, Washington. Coincidentally, when I contacted Don I

had recently read a fascinating book by a member of Don's family tree: "Ox-Team Days on the Oregon Trail" by Ezra Meeker. Don provided a map of the location of the Livermore dwelling with red marks showing access points and a copy of the report of a 1981 survey of the adobe site by William C. O'Neal ("The Robert Livermore Adobe Site," November 29, 1981, LHG). Don Smith provided some information and historical background, and Jeff Kaskey provided maps dating from the 1850s that provided confirmation of subsequent findings based on topographical features in the immediate area.

As described in the O'Neal report, Robert Livermore entered California in 1820, obtained an 1837 Mexican Land Grant of 9,000 acres in the eastern part of the Livermore Valley, and settled in an adobe house in the late 1830s. The quick O'Neal survey was undertaken because of the eminent "Anderson Project" housing development in the immediate area. This survey was a project of the Livermore Heritage Guild, with assistance from California State University, Hayward, and Native American observers. It was intended to identify the location of the adobe so the development wouldn't overlay the site.

The effort consisted of a surface survey, which found a number of artifacts of various ages, and a series of bore holes, which retrieved a number of artifacts indicating pioneer housing and earlier Native American use of the site. The O'Neal 1981 survey provides details of the work done and the artifacts found. The conclusion of the report was that the survey site was likely the location of the Livermore adobe house.

There is an interesting anomaly in the Archaeological Site Survey Record in the 1981 report. The latitude and longitude in the report describes a point about as far north of I-580 as the 1981 survey site is south of I-580. This discrepancy may explain some reports of the Livermore adobe site being north of I-580. However, the maps, topological features, and descriptions in the 1981 report all support the site south of Arroyo Las Positas.

If you would like to learn more about Robert Livermore's adobe and subsequent house, the Guild's History Center at the Carnegie Library has books, maps, and photographs. If you would like to see Livermore adobe house bricks, there are a couple in the Livermore Brick Works display (constructed by Fred Deadrick and Jay Morris) at the Duarte Garage. If you would like to visit the site of the adobe, it is located on a hard surface walking and bike trail on the south side of Arroyo Las Positas. The trail is accessible from the stub street (evidently with no name) between the UNCLE Credit Union and the USPS Distribution Center at 2090 Las Positas Court. The adobe site is between the trail and the arroyo about 340 yards from the entrance from the stub street. The site is to the west of a dirt track that crosses the arroyo on a concrete low-water culvert and a large oak tree, seen in old sketches of the adobe. Just beyond the site, the arroyo makes a prominent turn to the north. As far as I could see, there is no marker or sign at the site, although there is a sign asking people to stay on the hard surface path.

**Above:** This recent photograph, looking east, shows Arroyo Las Positas on the left and the probable adobe site to the right; Photo by Will Bolton.

## At Least Get the Name Right...

By Jeff Kaskey

Romance in the early 20th Century was certainly conducted differently than today, but even then a suitor should have had the correct name for the object of his affection. We are cataloging 50 letters received by a young woman that were saved some years ago from the dumpster. In them, it took our boy about two years in the letters' five year span before correcting the woman's name from Amelia to Emilie.

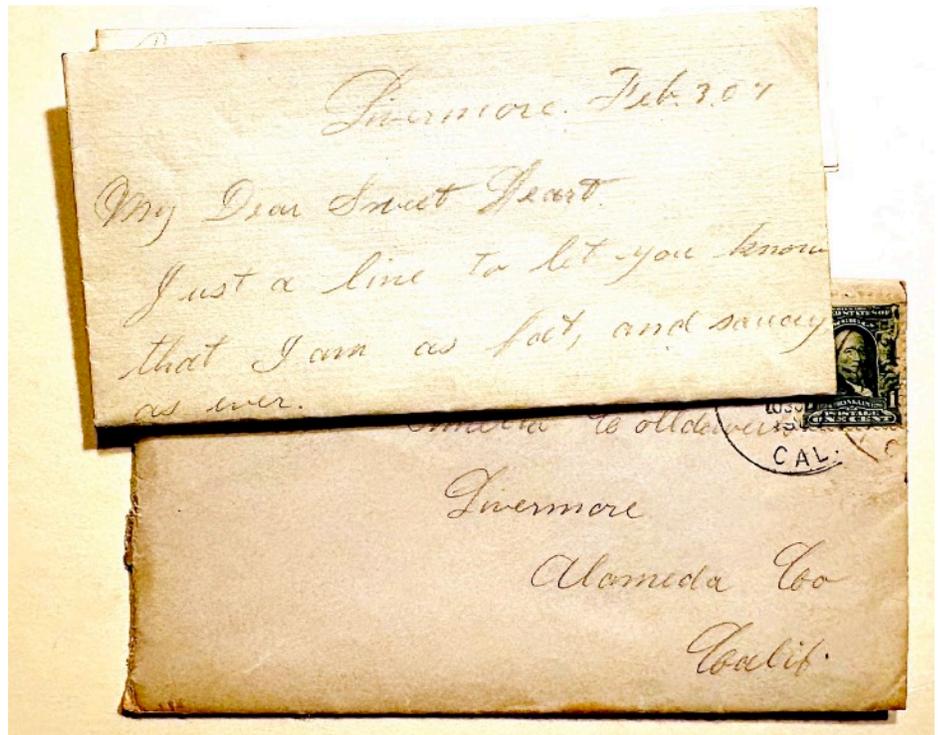
Christian Albertson Smith, the son of Danes Christian A. and Sophie Smith, was born in 1879 in California. He worked from farm labor to construction, and this sometimes took him around Northern California and far from his Livermore home and his paramour. However, even while in town he was writing letters to Emilie (or Amelia).

The apple of our gentleman's eye is Emilie Louise F. Colldeweih, born 1887 in Livermore of German stock, one of eleven born to Fredrick and Catharine Colldeweih.

Readers of history are often stymied by the generational repetition and alliteration of family names and this group is no different. Emilie had a sister Emma, local cousins Emily and Emil, and an Aunt Amelia. Maybe we owe Christian a bit of grace for his misappellation.

The two were well interwoven in Livermore, tied through marriage and descendants to families including Stanley, Langdon, Hanson, Manning and Groth.

I have yet to read through all the letters (a good moment to beg for volunteers...) but it has been a pleasure to grab snippets. In October 1906, Christian writes to his "Dear sweet sugar plum" Amelia that he has arrived by train in Salinas, to report for work in nearby Spreckels. He complains "it seemed to me that the stations were so close together that when we stopped at one station, we had to back up in order to whistle before we got to the next." He seeks to reassure her of his safety: "I have not seen anyone killed or hung to the bridge yet so you see that everything is very quiet."



Sometimes letters of this era are more like sending a casual email. When visiting a friend might mean hitching up the sulky for a drive across town in the dark after a day of work, a simple visit could be an ordeal. Christian's letters often sound like daily conversation. In September of 1906, he writes "I was going to take a drive over your way yesterday, but the rain bluffed me out. ... Well Amelia, what do you think of next Saturday night. Don't you think it would be fine to go and take part in this dance. I believe I could play the part of a Hay seed all night. Amelia first drop me a line before next Saturday, please"

Other times, dear Christian's prose is a bit out of my reach. In February of 1907, he writes "My dear sweetheart, just a line to let you know that I am as fat and saucy as ever. And hope that you are the same. Oh no, I did not mean for you to be saucy. I know that would break your dear little heart. And then I would have to Jump into the bay and the water is too cold for that now."

There is a twist that allows some conspiratorial thinking. In February of 1908, having finally gotten her name correct, he writes "so I hope that when

these few lines reach my pet that she will hear them in the best of spirit and also that she will be enjoying her 16 birthday. Sweet 16 and never been kissed. Think of it, nice isn't it? So you see darling here is where I want you to promise me that you will save that kiss for me." It is a sweet note, except that from public information, Emilie was born in 1887, making this her 21st birthday. Perhaps relevant, the last letter we have to Miss Emilie is August of 1908, and after a long gap, the next is a letter to Mrs. C. A. Smith in December of 1909. By the recent October they had welcomed their first child, so we can charitably imagine that they were married somewhere between August '08 and January '09. Is it possible that in order to minimize the apparent age difference between the two (he would turn 30 in 1909) that her birthdate was later adjusted? Perhaps a stretch, and yet would a gentleman less than a year from marriage be that far off regarding his betrothed's age? Now maybe someone wants to read the rest of those other letters...

**Above:** One of many letters, together with its envelope, written by Christian Albertson Smith to his beloved. Photo by Jeff Kaskey.

# Midway School and Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

## The urgency is real!

Midway School must be moved from the Mulqueeny Ranch by December 2025!!

For the past 20 years the Heritage Guild has been thinking carefully about how to relocate and preserve the school which now sits on the Mulqueeny Ranch in the Altamont Hills. Since 1990 the Mulqueeny family has leased their ranch to stockmen and windmill companies. Now they are expanding and upgrading the windmill farm, and the school building is in the way of construction. We have a deadline of December to move it.

## A bit of background.

The public school system in Livermore in the late 1800s consisted of ten one-room schools scattered across Murray Township and the Livermore Grammar School for grades first through eighth on Fifth Street downtown (now Del Valle Continuation High School). Most of the original school buildings have been converted into homes or destroyed. The Heritage Guild's interest in preserving one room schools goes back to the 1970s when they purchased and began restoring May School north of Springtown. Sadly, it burned in December 1979. The only remaining school of that era is Midway, protected for the past 70 years on the Mulqueeny Ranch.

Midway, the town, grew because all three railroad lines had to cross the Altamont and Midway was the first station east of the pass. The name is

derived from the fact that it is halfway between Tracy and the Altamont summit. This railroad town began with a hotel in 1868 and by 1870 a post office was established. The school was organized in 1873, and the building was built around 1883. In its heyday, Midway had about a dozen homes, a saloon which served as the venue for dances and roller skating because it had a polished wooden floor, plus the hotel and small businesses. As train traffic diminished, the town all but disappeared. In 1946 the school closed because there were so few students. Midway School District was divided between Mountain House for elementary and Livermore High for high school.. Today, the only remnants of the town are the Brockman home and an overgrown cemetery. And what about the school?

Sometime in the 1960s, Mul Mulqueeny, who had himself graduated from Midway, thankfully decided to move the school building onto his property to use as a tack shed. Today, except for several interior walls being moved and many deteriorated and sun-bleached exterior wallboards, the school is intact as it has been for 150 years. In the past two years, it has escaped two major fires. It is time to bring it into town to preserve it for the next 100 years.

The Guild has an interested house mover who will transport the building intact with the roof removed so it will fit under the underpass. Then it will be restored in town. The architectural plans were submitted to the City of Livermore and are being reviewed at this time.

## Hagemann Ranch

Showing what Midway will be like in the near future, the May Open House featured a one-room school experience with children attending a model school, complete with antique desks, slates, and McGuffey Readers. The students had to do ranch chores before going to "school". The HistoryMobile was on-site and the highlight of the day was an ice cream social which was enjoyed by everyone.

The July and August open houses are Walking Tours. Guests may wander the ranch at their leisure. Docents are always available to answer questions and lead tours. There are so many interesting things to be discovered at Hagemann and the animals love attention.



**Right:** Summer blooms at Hagemann Ranch; Photo by Barbara Soules. **Below:** Vintage cars at the Hagemann Ranch Open House on June 29th. Photo by Dottie Eberly.



# Midway School Project

Our fundraising efforts to get the Midway School moved are fully underway! As stated in this edition of Hagemann Happenings, the timeline for the Project has accelerated significantly. The schoolhouse needs to be removed from its current location by December. This page features two different ways to support the Midway School Project. We hope that you'll consider one!

## BUY A BRICK!

The Buy a Brick Campaign is underway! You can now buy a specially engraved brick which will join those of other supporters to form a patio area near the ADA ramp of Midway School in its new location. It speaks of your commitment to preserving Livermore's learning legacy by helping to relocate and restore a significant historical property. The personal legacy you create at Livermore's newest historic building will last several lifetimes. Use the QR code or find more information at [thatsmybrick.com/LHGCA](http://thatsmybrick.com/LHGCA) to learn all the details.



## THANK YOU FOR BUYING A BRICK!

DON MILANESE • JEAN KING • SHARON GACH • KRISTEN KEECH • QUESTERS •  
RICHARD AND WANDA FINN • ALAN BURHAM • JENNIFER DAYRELL • ANN SCULLION



## Help support our Yum-Raiser for the LHG Midway School Project!

Midway School needs to be moved from the Altamont Hills to its new location in Livermore *before the end of 2025!* There is much to do before it can be moved and none of it is inexpensive. Why not help with this great project in a sweet way? LHG receives the profits from every purchase of See's boxed chocolates, candy bars and more when you purchase from the QR code below, or by going to our website, [lhg.org](http://lhg.org) and clicking the link under the Midway School heading. There is no minimum order required and all purchases are shipped directly to the address(es) you provide.



*It promises to be a sweet experience  
Make Your Day Delicious!*



## Don Smith

(continued from page 1)

While many of us participate with the Guild because of our interest in history, Don carried it a step farther, attending history classes at Cal State Hayward towards a Masters in history. It was at Cal State that Don, a 60 year-old student, met and mentored some of the more traditional students, two of whom he then enticed to volunteer for the Livermore Heritage Guild. Bria Reiniger talked about the part Don played in changing her life's trajectory. Don welcomed Bria into his home and into his history projects. They talked about history and the impact they were hoping to have by studying and teaching it. Bria said she realized not just that she could really enjoy the study of history, but she learned the sort of community she wanted to surround herself with as she moved through life.

The other student Don brought to the Guild was John Christian. John came to the History Center for a 30 minute internship meeting with Don which ended some hours later with John learning about Livermore history, discussing the function of the Supreme Court, and hooked on the Guild. John became the primary author of one of the Guild's Arcadia books. John later noted that Don ran sort of an orphanage/support group for history nerd students. There are not a lot of supportive social engagements for geeking out on history, and Don provided that for these kids.

John also remembers being recruited by Don to work on various Guild events such as auctions and AGMs (Annual General Meetings). We joked that it was useful sending Don to get donations for these events because he would simply keep talking until they sent him away with something. Don was proud of this work "shaking down" local businesses and in particular managed a wine donation from a local winery of such scale that even today, years later, I am not sure I should put it in print. Don drove to the winery, started a chatty conversation extolling our virtues, and

**Above:** Don Smith and Jeff Kaskey in Sacramento witnessing the City receive an award from the State Historic Preservation Office for the depot reconstruction; Photo by Loretta Kaskey.



probably discussing many other topics of the day. Eventually the proprietor sent a note to the loading dock that Don should get 12 of their bottles. Don drove over, lifted his tailgate, and watched as they loaded 12 CASES into his trunk. Smart enough not to say anything, Don thanked the helpful employee and started to drive off. But as he did so, with a pang of unfamiliar guilt he quickly called your author to explain the situation and asked for guidance. "Keep driving." We raised auction money for at least five years from that haul.

Don wanted to make sure that the Guild was not only relevant, but supportive in the community. He pushed the Guild to support a high school scholarship program where students could submit a paper on a topic in Livermore history and the Guild selected one submission from each Livermore High School for a \$1000 scholarship check. We feature it as a project for exploring local history, but I am confident that in Don's mind, the biggest priority was simply lowering the threshold to education for a few more kids.

For technical completeness, it is worth noting that Don was responsible for negotiating our insurance across a range of items, from the fire trucks to the

ranch to volunteer operations. He was our liaison to many of the companies providing services to the Guild, worked on copyright issues, and he was our connection to the various historic architects and contractors who consulted with us. If it was annoying and technical, there was a good chance Don was involved.

Beyond the Guild, Don served on Livermore's Historic Preservation Commission where City liaison Turhan Somnez noted that Don was "very dedicated to preserving and honoring Livermore's history." Turhan said Don helped revitalize the City's historic plaque program and contributed to plaque content on honored properties.

Our newsletter editor noted that Don was our crusty curmudgeon with a marshmallow heart, and as a friend and foil of Don's for the last 15 years or so, I completely agree. There were days I wanted him on a stick, roasting over a campfire as we tangled over some historical interpretation, and I also knew that Don was our most ardent supporter and defender. I personally miss his knowledge, involvement, and friendship, and while his absence leaves a void, his presence made us a better organization.

# New Exhibit for Company I

by Harry Briley

Did you know that tiny Livermore boasted its own pre-WWI Company of the California National Guard (CNG)? Livermore was the smallest community in 1900 to obtain such a Company.<sup>1</sup>

Our new exhibit about Company I started on Independence Day. It honors the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Army, WWI Armistice (November 11, 1918), and explores the short history of Company I. A flagpole plaque<sup>2</sup> honors them in Carnegie Park at 2155 Third Street.

Six large CNG Regiments hosted their own Company I. Our Company I (1900-1917) belonged to the Fifth Infantry Regiment of San Francisco (1885-1917). The CNG established our local Company on April 20, 1900. Its three officers turned over annually, but local family names among the officers included Beck, Young, Waggoner, Nissen, and Concannon.<sup>3</sup>

Such military units came from the same town and families. This practice had existed since the Revolutionary War. After WWII, the United States began to prevent losses devastating a specific family. Wikipedia (edited): “The U.S. did not officially stop assigning family members to the same unit. That policy evolved since 1948. It addresses families with multiple children who died in the line of duty. The policy exempts the sole surviving son from the draft, helping families maintain some level of unity.”<sup>4</sup>

During the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, Company I policed

the ravaged city from April 17 to May 19.<sup>5</sup> Later, they helped with the 1911 Mt. Tamalpais Fire.<sup>6</sup>

On April 9, 1914, Mexicans attacked American workers at the Mexican oil port Tampico. Eleven days later, diplomatic relations were severed and war seemed imminent. In California, Governor Johnson received telegrams requesting the CNG be sent to the border to stop raids from Mexico.<sup>7</sup>

However by June 15, 1916, Company I fell below standards and the CNG forced it out of service. One week later, a reorganized Company mustered right back into service under new Captain Joseph Concannon. The Army then activated that revived unit from June 28 through October 7<sup>8</sup> for the 1916 reprisal on Francisco “Pancho” Villa’s troops in Mexico for raids across the border.<sup>9</sup>

The US Army secretly activated CNG units at a “concentration” camp within only two weeks.<sup>10</sup> The 1916 muster site was at the California State Fairgrounds in Sacramento (called Camp Hiram Johnson after the Governor). It served as a temporary training spot for deployment to the border.<sup>11</sup>

Company I arrived at Nogales, Arizona on the border for patrol duty to deter further raiding. President Wilson had no intention to use CNG troops in any other way (which demoralized those seeking lively action).<sup>12</sup> This 1916 crew included three officers (Concannon as Captain) and 83 men.<sup>13</sup>

Two-foot panoramic Cirkut camera photos<sup>14</sup> photos show Company I standing for a portrait or relaxing in their encampment. One photo from Maitland Henry shows 67 people (of the 83) with their three officers. Another photo referenced the Fifth California Machine Gun Company. This was a separate sister Company out of San Francisco in the same Fifth Infantry Regiment.<sup>15</sup>

Six months after Nogales on March 26, 1917, the Army again reactivated Company I.<sup>16</sup> This time for WWI and on September 24, 1917, put them into the 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.<sup>17</sup> This ended it as a Livermore unit.

Since 1928, the men have met for reunions. Maitland Henry served as “Old Guard” secretary until his death in 1976.<sup>18</sup> He compiled a history and roster<sup>19</sup> for their 1967 reunion at the flagpole in Carnegie Park.<sup>20</sup> Robert Livermore (a descendent) took over as President and Secretary in 1977. The last “Old Guard” reunion occurred in 1981.<sup>21</sup>

Over its 17 years, 414 men served. At least six men served ten years. Some gained prominence, such as Carl Wente (Bank of America, President), William Brown (San Jose Chief of Police), John Miller (Contra Costa Sheriff), and R. Lefever (Santa Barbara County Supervisor). Members included two Mayors of Livermore, four City Clerks, one City Treasurer, one postmaster, and one high school principal.<sup>22</sup>



**Above:** WWI helmet on display at the History Center. The dark spot at the front top of the helmet is purported to be where a bullet struck the helmet; Photo by Dottie Eberly.

1 Company ‘I’, Barbara Bunshah, [lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/](http://lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/)

2 Livermore Plaques, Richard Finn and Peter Kitchingham, page 56 (in full color or plain versions at LHG bookstore)

3 History of the Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment, ... 1900-1917, WPA, 1940, hand-typed, digitized 2015, [militarymuseum.org/HistoryCalNG2.html](http://militarymuseum.org/HistoryCalNG2.html)

4 Sole Survivor Policy, Wikipedia, Public Law 80-759, 6/24/1948

5 Company ‘I’, Barbara Bunshah, [lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/](http://lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/)

6 Livermore Plaques, Richard Finn and Peter Kitchingham, page 56 (in full color or plain versions at LHG bookstore)

7 On the Mexican Border, 1914 and 1916, Brett Landis, undated, [militarymuseum.org/MexBdr1916.html](http://militarymuseum.org/MexBdr1916.html)

8 History of the Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment, ... 1900-1917, WPA, 1940, hand-typed, digitized 2015, [militarymuseum.org/HistoryCalNG2.html](http://militarymuseum.org/HistoryCalNG2.html)

9 Battle of Columbus, Niheer Dasandi, [britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Columbus-1916](http://britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Columbus-1916)

10 On the Mexican Border, 1914 and 1916, Brett Landis, undated, [militarymuseum.org/MexBdr1916.html](http://militarymuseum.org/MexBdr1916.html)

11 Hiram Johnson and Adjutant General Charles W. Thomas (Photo), [sacroom.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/](http://sacroom.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/)

12 On the Mexican Border, 1914 and 1916, Brett Landis, undated, [militarymuseum.org/MexBdr1916.html](http://militarymuseum.org/MexBdr1916.html)

13 Livermore A-Z, Anne Homan, page 358 (at LHG bookstore)

14 LHG Newsletter, May 2025, Jeff Kaskey, page 4, [lhg.org/Documents/](http://lhg.org/Documents/)

15 History of the Company I, Fifth Infantry Regiment, ... 1900-1917, WPA, 1940, hand-typed, digitized 2015, [militarymuseum.org/HistoryCalNG2.html](http://militarymuseum.org/HistoryCalNG2.html)

16 Ibid: Adjutant General, Report 1914-1920, page 81

17 Ibid: Histories Military ... etc., Adjutant General, File #314.7

18 Company ‘I’, Barbara Bunshah, [lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/](http://lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/)

19 LHG Archive 1991.04.47

20 LHG Photo 1991.04.863

21 Company ‘I’, Barbara Bunshah, [lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/](http://lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/)

22 Company ‘I’, Barbara Bunshah, [lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/](http://lhg.org/Documents/Chapters/)

# LHG Annual Officer Elections

by Dottie Eberly



September 30 Membership paid through September 30

September 3 Last day for USPS postmark of nominations

September 6 Nominations by Email due

October 1 Ballot postmark deadline

The Livermore Heritage Guild conducts annual officer elections by mail. Conducting this type of election gives all members in good standing the opportunity to participate in the nomination procedure as well as the ability to vote. This year's election process will look much the same as it has in the previous five years. Any member whose membership is paid through September 30, 2025 (check your newsletter address label for your membership expiration date) is invited to submit candidate nominations now, including oneself, for the offices of First Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The job descriptions for these offices are listed in the far column. Nominees must be members of the Livermore Heritage Guild and consent to the nomination. To make a nomination please send a short statement of nomination along with a candidate's statement written by the nominee to one of the following:

USPS:  
LHG Nominations  
P. O. Box 961, Livermore CA 94551 - must be postmarked by September 3rd

OR

Email:  
nominations@livermorehistory.com - must be received by September 6th

On September 10th, the Board will consider all nominations and select a slate of candidates. Stamped, pre-addressed postcard ballots, along with the candidates' statements will be mailed to all members in good standing on or about September 17th. Members will have the opportunity to elect three officers to the LHG Executive Board. Returned ballots must be postmarked by October 1st. Election results will be announced to the Board and on www.lhg.org on or about October 8th. New and returning officers will be introduced at the Annual General Meeting on November 8th.

## Job Descriptions

The **Secretary** shall keep the minutes and records of the Guild's Executive Board meetings, general membership meetings and any special meetings. The Secretary will maintain and have available for reference at all meetings copies of the Guild's Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Rules of Order.

The **First Vice-President** shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President, or at the request of the President. The First Vice-President may become a nominee successor to the office of President when the President resigns or has served three (3) two-year terms. The First Vice-President shall coordinate history talks and shall serve as Chairperson of the Publicity and Program Committees.

The **Treasurer** shall keep the fiscal records and make at least quarterly financial reports to the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall administer and maintain the Guild's financial accounts. The Executive Board shall establish, and the Treasurer shall monitor, a budget for expenditures of the Guild's funds. The treasurer shall prepare a summary financial report to be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting all required Federal and State forms.



**Join Us!** *Ice Cream Social* **Sunday, August 10th**  
at *Historic Ravenswood*  
2647 Arroyo Road

Ravenswood, was established as a summer home in 1885 by Christopher Buckley, a political boss from San Francisco. Now, docents dressed in period costume give FREE tours at Ravenswood on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> they will host their annual Ice Cream Social. Docent-led tours, vintage Model "A" cars, a ranger booth, music, magic, and the LHG HistoryMobile will all be there to entertain you. Ice cream, cookies, hot dogs, and lunch plates will be available for purchase. See you there!



## Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

SEE LIVERMORE'S HISTORIC HAGEMANN RANCH AT YOUR OWN PACE!  
 SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS WILL BE OFFERED JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> AND AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>  
 COME ON OUT ANYTIME BETWEEN 1 - 5 PM  
 VISIT WITH THE CHICKENS, HORSES, AND GOATS  
 ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS  
 GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE ONSITE DOCENTS



HAGEMANN RANCH  
 455 OLIVINA AVENUE  
 LIVERMORE

### CHECK THIS OUT! WEBSITE NEWS

By Harry Briley



Visit Website  
[www.lhg.com](http://www.lhg.com)

Some new, old historical documents about Livermore have been posted to our website! Two of these century-old books have been scanned and reformatted from their hand-typed originals but otherwise untouched. The original grammar (excessively passive), some misspelt words, and the social/ethnic understandings of that era have been retained. The authors interviewed early pioneers of Livermore in person, writing history closer to the sources than we could possibly do today. These documents act as valuable time capsules of our valley history from 100 years ago.

To read these documents go to [LHG.org](http://LHG.org), click on DOCUMENTS, and then GEOGRAPHY. The newest additions to this group are Livermore Valley to 1860, written by Flora DeNier, 1927; History of Livermore Valley, written by the Livermore Union High School U.S. History Class, 1931; Highlights in Livermore History, compiled by Elmer G. Still, 1936-1937; and Town of Altamont, by Barry Schrader, 2005.

## LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Sunday, August 10	12pm-4pm	LARPD Ice Cream Social at Ravenswood	Ravenswood
Wednesday, August 13	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, August 17	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Saturday, August 23	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, August 31	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Self-Guided Tours	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, September 3	All Day	Postmark for LHG officer nominations due	—
Saturday, September 6	All Day	Email for LHG officer nominations due	—
Wednesday, September 10	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, September 20	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, September 21	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, September 28	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: 1900s Innovation Expo	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, October 1	All Day	Postmark for returning election ballots	—
Wednesday, October 8	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, October 18	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, October 19	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, October 26	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Halloween!	Hagemann Ranch
Saturday, November 8	10:30-11:30am	Annual General Meeting	Duarte Garage
Wednesday, November 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting

# Welcome New and Renewing Members!

## April - June 2025

### Patron

Phil Bardsley  
Muriel Dean  
Charles Sweet

### Sponsor

Sandy Clark  
Alicia Eltgroth  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gardner  
Jeff Kaskey  
Carol Silva

### Individual

Sheila Akins – NEW  
Molly Alexander  
Sue Dyer  
Alison Eberly  
Kelly Franco – NEW  
Joshua Gonzales - NEW  
Robert Hall  
Sioban O'Malley - NEW  
Susan Rambo - NEW

### Senior

Bill Cervenka  
Sylvia Chatagnier  
Lynn Cooper – NEW  
Patrick Duffy  
Phyllis Minoggio Frasier  
Wendy Howe  
Arthur Kobayashi  
Steve Leeds  
Andrea Loyd  
Sheridan Loyd - NEW  
Lorraine Magee  
Dennis Uhlich

### Household

Judy Bearrows  
David and Deanna Bing – NEW  
William & Helena Bireley  
Donna Buchheit – NEW  
Chris and Lyndsey Guenther - NEW  
Valeria Jamison – NEW  
Jon Hart and Carol Wahrer

## Contact Us

### President

Will Bolton  
will.bolton1@aol.com

### 1st Vice Pres. Program Chair

Harry Briley  
brileyh@comcast.net

### 2nd Vice Pres. Membership Chair

Donna Stevens  
dilmstevens@comcast.net

### Secretary

Sylvia Chatagnier  
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### Treasurer

Madelynn Farber  
treasurer@livermorehistory.com

### Directors at Large

Barbara Soules  
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Susan Junk

### Duarte Garage Curator

Will Bolton  
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### Volunteer Coordinator

volunteer@livermorehistory.com

### Newsletter Editor

Dottie Eberly  
newsletter@livermorehistory.com

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

The Livermore Heritage Guild History Center is located in the historic 1911 Carnegie Library building at 2155 Third Street. 925-449-9927

Hours for the History Center are varied at this time. Please call ahead or check the website for updated information as it becomes available. www.lhg.org

Annual membership dues are: Individual \$25.00, Household \$35.00, Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student \$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron \$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00 memberships are also available. Please make checks payable to "LHG."

Livermore Heritage Guild  
P.O. Box 961  
Livermore, CA 94551

Platinum  
Transparency  
2024

Candid.

Charity Navigator



FOUR-STAR

**SAVE THE DATE**

**November 8, 2025**  
**Livermore Heritage Guild**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**at Duarte Garage**

Will it be a coffee and donuts meeting?  
Will it be a dinner and an entertaining speaker afterwards?  
Will it be an auction?  
We don't know!!!!  
We need volunteers to help put the event together.  
Will you help?  
volunteer@livermorehistory.com

## In Appreciation

### Donations

Bill Cervenka  
Alicia Eltgroth  
Jean King  
Marcus Libkind  
Barbara Reynolds  
Patricia Smylie

### Donations for Midway School Project

Gail Bryan  
Carol Silva  
Jean King in memory of Don Smith

If you have not heard about our various events, then maybe we don't have your email. Please update us at [lhg@lhg.org](mailto:lhg@lhg.org) and we'll let you know about all the heritage happenings!



# LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



*Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow*

P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA 94551

www.lhg.org

Phone 925-449-9927

August 2025

Expanded Newsletter Content

Vol. LII No. 4

Page 1 In Memoriam: Don Smith

Page 2 Heritage Garden



Don chatting with a customer while serving as cashier during one of the LHG auctions at the Duarte Garage. Photo by Loretta Kaskey



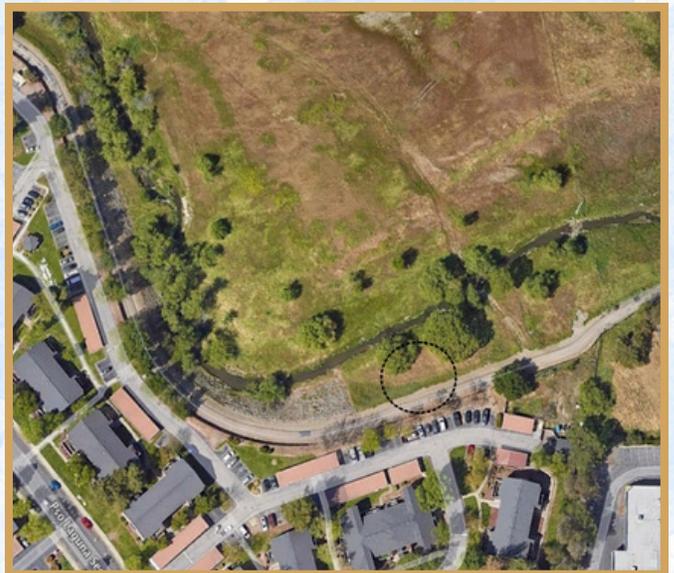
Stakes form a teepee to support the string beans. Photo by Loretta Kaskey

Page 3 Duarte Garage:  
Burma-Shave Signs Come Home

Page 4 Where was Robert Livermore's Adobe?



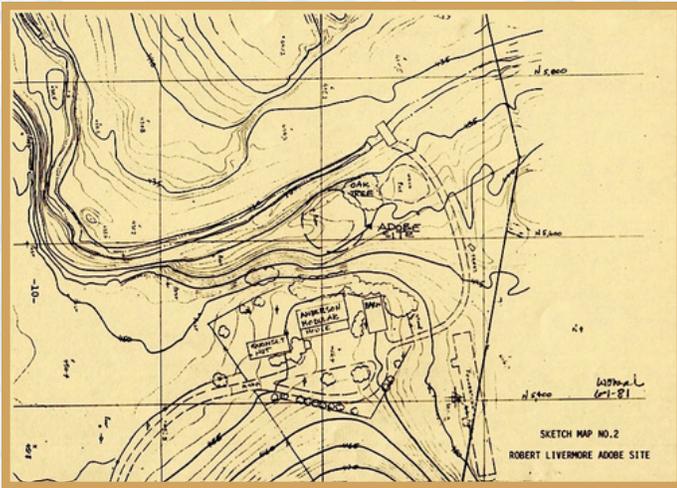
Burma-Shave Jar: A half-pound jar of Burma-Shave cream originally cost 50¢. Photo from worthpoint.com Courtesy of Will Bolton



Google Earth overhead view of the area of the Livermore adobe with the dashed circle indicating the probable location of the house. Photo by Will Bolton

Livermore's Adobe, continues on page 2

Page 4 Where was Robert Livermore's Adobe? (continued)



The hand drawn sketch map from Bill O'Neal's 1981 archeological survey of the Livermore adobe site, with the probable location of the adobe circled. Photo of sketch by Will Bolton



This recent photograph, looking east, shows Arroyo Las Positas on the left, the large Oak tree shown on the 1981 O'Neal Map, and the probable adobe site to the right. Photo by Will Bolton

Page 5 At Least Get the Name Right ...



Envelope from one of many letters written by Christian Albertson Smith to his beloved. Photo of artifact from LHG archives by Jeff Kaskey.



Emilie's sister, Emma Coldweih, and her new husband, George Johnson. Photo of artifact from LHG archives by Jeff Kaskey.

Page 6 Hagemann Happenings...



Vintage cars at the Hagemann Ranch open house June 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Photo by Barbara Soules

**WANTED**  
 Antique School Desks  
 FOR ONE-ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE



**CAN PICK UP  
 LOCALLY**

**GOOD  
 CONDITION,  
 PLEASE**

**HELP FURNISH MIDWAY SCHOOL  
 IN LIVERMORE**

THE LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD IS GOING TO MOVE THE LAST REMAINING LIVERMORE VALLEY ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE, MIDWAY SCHOOL, FROM THE ALTAMONT HILLS TO HAGEMANN PARK IN LIVERMORE. IT WILL BE PLACED NEXT TO THE 150 YEAR-OLD HISTORIC HAGEMANN RANCH, CREATING A DESTINATION FOR IMMERSIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS AND A PUBLIC MUSEUM.

**PLEASE CALL  
 LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD  
 925-449-9927**

