

Editors' Note

The following 163 Adobe Acrobat pages are verbatim copies of the printed pages published by the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society as the book:

History of Rural Alameda County, California; Excerpts concerning Washington Township; Murray and Pleasanton Townships; and Eden Township, photocopied from the 1937 WPA book by William E. McCann and Edgar J. Hinkel. Reprinted and indexed 2008.

Contrary to the statements made in the last paragraph of the Introduction to this book, L-AGS determined that it was, after all, feasible to post the full text of the book on the Internet. We are happy with this decision, because it now becomes much easier for genealogists and local historians to have free access to the information.

George Anderson
Rose Marie Phipps
May 9, 2008

History of Rural Alameda County, California

Excerpts concerning

**Washington Township
Murray and Pleasanton Townships
Eden Township**

Photocopied from the 1937 WPA book by

**William E. McCann
Edgar J. Hinkel**

Published by

**Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society
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April 5, 2008

Introduction

During the depression years of the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated dozens of programs to employ the unemployed workers of America. Among the programs was the Works Progress Administration, and within that was a sub-program for out-of-work librarians and historians. The result was a large number of documents of value to genealogists. The problem is, many of the documents never made it past the manuscript stage. They exist in only a few copies in local archives, hard to access by researchers. The McCann and Hinkel book is one of these.

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society (L-AGS) has had a policy for many years of publishing the contents of local archives in a form accessible to genealogists. Results of that policy can be seen on the Web pages

<http://www.l-ags.org/pubs.html>
<http://www.l-ags.org/databases.html>.

Our reproduction of parts of the McCann and Hinkel book is the latest addition to this collection.

History of Rural Alameda County was originally created in two large volumes of 807 pages in all. The physical size is deceptive: each page is a double-spaced, typewritten carbon copy, on one side of the paper, with wide margins. We found only four copies of the book in existence, although there may be others. One is in the National Archives, two are in a locked room at the Alameda County Main Library in Fremont, and the other is at the Sutro Library in San Francisco. We borrowed the The Sutro Library copy for two weeks on interlibrary loan to carry out this photocopying project.

We scanned 148 pages out of the 807 in the books. These include the chapters devoted to Washington Township, Livermore and Pleasanton Townships, and Eden Township, as well as introductory pages and the bibliography. Only Murray and Pleasanton Townships, the home region of L-AGS, are still partly rural; the rest of the county is primarily urban. Aside from these 148 pages, most of the book is devoted to subjects without much genealogical interest.

Unfortunately, the Sutro Library volumes are poorly legible, probably because the pages were low in the stack of carbon copies. We used digital processing to enhance the readability of the images. Even then, the type is not clear enough to allow optical character recognition. If that had been possible, the digital files would have become small enough to post on the L-AGS Web site; as it is, only publication on paper is feasible.

George Anderson
Rose Marie Phipps
April 5, 2008

HISTORY OF RURAL ALAMEDA COUNTY

In two volumes

VOLUME ONE

Produced on a Works Progress Administration Project

Official Project - 165-03-6504

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Sponsored by

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

for the

Alameda County Library

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Prepared under the direction of

William E. McCann, M.A.

Edgar J. Hinkel, M.A.

Oakland, California
1937

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FOREWORD

For many years there has been definite need for a history of the rural, as distinguished from the urban, development of Alameda County. The extensive work of the County Library in rural districts made this need very apparent, but the great expense of research, writing and publishing forbade any attempt to produce a rural history of the type desired.

The advent of the Works Progress Administration finally made the undertaking possible and I welcomed the opportunity of representing the County Board of Supervisors as sponsor of a project for writing the History of Rural Alameda County. The work was brought to a successful conclusion under the able direction of project supervisors in whom the sponsors had great confidence and I feel sure that this confidence will be vindicated by readers of the history.

The sponsors wish to express to the Federal Government their deep appreciation of its assistance in making this history possible, and their cordial thanks to the local Works Progress Administration for its helpfulness throughout the course of the project.

Mary Barnby, Librarian,
Alameda County Library,
Oakland, California.
August 15, 1937.

PREFACE

Among the project specifications for the History of Rural Alameda County it was set forth that in the history,

"...every possible type of data will be considered, the measure of value being whether any given event was an instrument in shaping the destinies of the county and the people thereof."

At the very inception of this history therefore, the logical necessity of discriminating in the selection of historical data was enforced by a positive direction.

The history of a county is quite obviously different from the history of some great state or nation. The history of a nation is the narrative and analysis of great events and distinguished characters moving across the stage of the entire world, while the story of the county is a chronicle or enumeration of lesser events and generally of less dominant personalities observed in a local setting. Hence, in the annals of the county the subject matter will be, for the most part, a mass of minor details related only remotely to the vast movements of national life, but nevertheless important in their bearing on local history.

In accordance with the terms of the project quoted above, it was therefore necessary, in writing the History of Rural Alameda County, to select from an enormous quantity of data only such types as might seem to be "instruments in shaping the destinies of the County". The history was produced in a period of six months through the efforts of a research, writing and editorial staff of twenty members. It will be obvious that on the basis of time alone, great care had to be exercised if the narrative were to include essential data pertaining to the origin and development of the county without becoming overloaded with

a mass of merely factual details. Previous histories embraced a vast amount of detail with a minimum of order and subordination, and it is sincerely believed that this History of Rural Alameda County is the first logical and orderly presentation of essential trends in the origin and development of the county in its rural aspects.

No attempt has been made to enumerate all of these minutiae which, while they are of undoubted interest to old families in the county, nevertheless retard the forward movement of county history as a whole. While not adhering slavishly to a chronological order, the present history seeks to offer an adequate survey of what rural Alameda County was in the beginning, how it developed and what it is to-day. The definitive history of the entire county should manifestly include a substantial if not a preponderant amount of data entirely urban in character, but it must be emphasized that such data have no proper place in the rural picture. Finance, for example, has a profound, far-reaching effect on the rural development of any county, but financial organization and enterprise have been so largely urban that, however important their effects may have been in rural districts, they cannot be included in the account of rural activities. Therefore finance as a special topic has been omitted. Again, the part played by rural Alameda County in the World War was distinctive and worthy of permanent record; but rural participation in the war was unified with the participation of the whole county, both urban and rural, that it belongs in the more extensive annals of the urban achievement.

While the history of the Spanish and Mexican periods, of Alameda County history are excluded by the specifications of the project, it has been necessary frequently to glance back at those periods to establish the continuity of later events.

Oakland, California.
August 13, 1937.

C O N T E N T S.

* * *

VOLUME ONE

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Washington Township

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Within the boundaries of Washington Township lie some of the most fertile acres of Alameda County. The Coast Range mountains which rise along the eastern side of the township, present on their western slopes soil and climatic conditions peculiarly adapted to the culture of vineyards and orchards. Here there is a belt about two miles wide and twelve miles long where damaging frosts are all but unknown. The soil in the neighborhood of Mission San Jose is adobe about four feet thick resting on a gravelly subsoil which provides perfect drainage.

West of this belt, which begins at an elevation of about four hundred feet, a rich plain gently slopes into the salt marshes bordering the bay and through these swamps turbid creeks meander sluggishly, affording convenient landing places for boats. But the township has a larger stream as well. After draining the Sunol and Livermore Valley, Alameda Creek debouches from a canyon above Niles and through this region follows a westward course to the bay.

Northeast of Mission San Jose, Mission Pass - through which countless miners trekked to Stockton and the mines in gold-rush days - cleaves the mountains

and emerges near Sunol in Pleasanton Township. Like a sentinel guarding the pass and many fertile acres to the east and west, Mission Peak rises nearly three thousand feet above the bay. Towards the west along the bay shore, lies a peculiar range of low hills called by the Spaniards Los Cerritos but known in later days as Coyote Hills.

Such is a hasty and very general description of this favored country-side. North of it lies Eden Township and west of it the waters of San Francisco Bay; on the east is Murray Township and on the south Santa Clara County. The average width of the main valley is six miles and the total area of the township is 186.7 square miles or nearly 120,000 acres.

A complete history of Washington Township would include an account of the Indians and of the Spaniards who left there such interesting monuments and relics. But their story has often been told and need not be repeated here. At Mission San Jose the two races met on common ground. The patient endeavors of the Franciscan Fathers built a civilization out of the toil of Indians whom they induced to accept a life of discipline and labor. For the loss of their freedom however, the Indians received from the padres a greater measure of security and a higher standard of living.

There are differences of opinion concerning the work

of the Mission fathers, but one thing all must acknowledge - they were a courageous, determined, and creative little band of men. Nothing short of their heroic self-sacrifice could have conquered the wilderness that Washington Township was before their coming.

Mission San Jose was founded by Father Lasuen on Trinity Sunday, June 11, 1797, in a pleasant spot where gardens, vineyards, and orchards might flourish. It soon grew into one of the most prosperous of the mission establishments, because around it was a vast area capable of yielding good crops of grain and of supporting herds of cattle, sheep, and horses. Within a year thirty-three neophytes were toiling at various projects laid out for them by the padres and were learning a new social and spiritual way of life. After thirty-four years that little group had grown to a mission flock of nearly five thousand Indians and in the intervening years 6,737 had been baptized and (since the Indians, as Father Duran reported, "are as fragile as glass") 5,109 had died.

The activities of the Franciscans reached far beyond the confines of the mission proper. William Heath Davis illustrates this in his account of dealings with the fathers at San Jose and Santa Clara. "In the year 1844," he writes, "I received from the father in charge of the Mission San Jose several thousand dollars worth of beaver and land-otter skins which had been collected by his

Indians on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers."

More interesting perhaps is his report of a conversation at the mission in 1843 or 44, during which the superior "mentioned to me his knowledge of the existence of gold in the Sacramento Valley as a great secret, requiring me to promise not to divulge it." Father Mercado of Mission Santa Clara told Davis the same story, and added that this information about gold came from the Indians. With prophetic insight, Father Mercado foresaw the doom that overshadowed the mission regime, if the secret of gold were ever divulged. He felt certain that, once it was known that gold was hidden in the California hills, American immigrants would overrun and dominate the country, and Protestantism would retard the spread of the Catholic faith. He said all this would one day come to pass but if no inducements were offered "the change might not take place in his time."

Before the American invasion, the secularization of the missions began to destroy rapidly what the padres had built up through so many laborious years. James A. Forbes, testifying before the United States District Court in Case No. 110 involving the lands of ex-mission San Jose said, "I do not know of any cultivation of the land of that mission between the periods (1843-1846) stated." He declared that the needs of the priests were very scantily supplied from the movable property

of the missions and from gifts of private individuals. Describing conditions prior to 1843, Forbes further testified: "I do know that the agricultural lands of that mission were extensively cultivated by the Indians under the charge of their respective priests prior to the transfer of the missions to the administrators. I have seen over two hundred plows plowing at one time in those fields subsequent to the time when said mission was placed under the charge of the administration. There was some cultivation carried on by the Indians under the first administration, and for some time before the restoration of it to the charge of the priests there was no cultivation and the Indians dispersed themselves over the adjoining ranches to cultivate land for their own maintenance. I know that the priest had to depend on the charity of his friends for his support, even to his food."

When the first American settlers arrived, ruin and decay had already set in, although the dilapidated mission building still served as a shelter for many of the immigrants who crossed the plain to California years later.

The ruins and the names are still there. The beautiful countryside that the padres knew and the shimmering bay around which has grown up a great civilization are still part of the scene, but the padres and

the Indians have long since vanished. Gone too, are the gallant dons of the ranchos. Some of the Old Spanish names - Rancho del Agua Caliente, Rancho Potrero de los Cerritos, Vallejo's Mill and others - still evoke memories of a romantic past. The Higuerras, the Alvisos, the Alvarados, the Pachecos, the Picos, and their friends are all but forgotten and the story we have to tell begins with such Anglo-Saxon names as Beard, and Horner, and Smith.

The first American to come to the region of Mission San Jose was Jedediah S. Smith, who arrived in May, 1827. The letter which Smith wrote to Father Duren of the mission is an example of fine diplomacy and straightforward dealing. Smith was captain of a group of trappers employed by the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. The little band had worked its way across the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the upper end of the San Joaquin Valley, then proceeded down the valley and camped near Mission San Jose. The presence of such a disreputable looking company of foreigners alarmed the padre in charge. Explanations were in order and Smith wrote a letter recounting how he had come into the country and why he had not departed, closing with this model of good form: "I am, Reverend Father, your strange but real friend and Christian brother, J. S. Smith."

Who could foresee that only twenty-two years later

the last of the American military governors, General Riley, would place another Smith in authority as alcalde over that same Mission.

This was Henry Clay Smith who, with eleven other horsemen, arrived at Sutter's Fort on Christmas Day, 1845. There he remained in the employ of Captain Sutter until March 1, 1846, but in the fall of that year he marched south with Fremont in the ranks of the California Battalion. In 1847 after his marriage to Mary Harlan he journeyed with his bride to the redwoods of Rancho San Antonio where he remained until the spring of 1848 whipsawing posts for fencing property in San Francisco. Then, when the news came flying that gold had been discovered at Coloma, Smith left San Antonio for the diggings but did not stay long in the Mother Lode country; in 1849 we find him conducting a store at Mission San Jose with his brother, Napoleon Bonaparte Smith.

It should be noted that this account of Smith's activities prior to locating at Mission San Jose does not agree with some of the current histories. Bancroft states that Smith came with the Hastings party, and Bowman alleges that he accompanied Fremont. The details given above are based upon an interview with Miss Emma Smith, daughter of the pioneer.

There is no question about Smith's later career. His merchandising operations at Mission San Jose were phenomenally successful. All travellers to and from the

southern mines had to take the Mission Pass road and Mission San Jose stood on this highway. From Argonauts going east to the Sierras, Smith received coin for his wares, and from successful miners going back to civilization he collected the "dust" in such quantities that tradition says his hoard of gold required a wagon to transport it.

Smith has been called the "Father of Alameda County" since it was largely through his efforts that the Legislature was induced to create the County early in 1853. Horace Carpentier of Oakland worked with him for the establishment of the new County, although the two men afterwards became opponents on the question of the county-seat. Carpentier naturally wished to place the county offices within his sphere of influence around Oakland, while Smith quite as naturally fought for their location at Alvarado, the new town he was backing near the southern end of the County. The vote in the Legislature was close, but Smith won and the distinction of being the first center of county government went to Alvarado. It was a logical victory; Washington Township was the oldest and best developed part of the County at that time. But on the other hand, Alvarado was hard to reach, especially in winter when the roads were sometimes impassable, and it was inevitable that the growing metropolitan area near Oakland should eventually become the center of government.

Another early arrival in Washington Township who settled at Mission San Jose was Elias L. Beard. From all that has been recorded about him it appears that Beard was the ideal entrepreneur and home builder. He came from a race of pioneers. His father emigrated from New York to Michigan in 1830 when Elias was fourteen years old but the boy did not stay there for long; the following year he was in Peru, Indiana, and in 1836 settled in Lafayette, Indiana, where he remained until the westward movement of goldseekers began. Arriving at Mission San Jose in 1849 Beard was soon taking an active interest in the improvement of pears growing in the mission orchard and it was he who introduced the Bartlett, Seckel and other varieties by grafting on the trees of the old orchard. Many later orchards of the township were supplied from this stock. His wife and two sons, Henry G. Ellsworth and John L. Beard, arrived in 1850 with rose cuttings and other plants, and with these Mrs. Beard began that garden with the creek running through it which was the envy of so many visitors and which came nearer to tropical beauty than any other place in the County.

In 1859 the California Farmer commented as follows upon the fire which destroyed Beard's residence at Mission San Jose: "Mr. Beard, like the great majority of our early pioneers, has become inured to the usual reverses of a California life, and bears his cross

with the spirit of a martyr. A large circle of friends will deeply regret this misfortune at this time, and the loss to him and his family of their much loved home, endeared to them by many kindly associations. Hundreds of our citizens will recall that pleasant and beautiful spot, truly a mansion of refined hospitality and generous friendship."

While carrying on his agricultural activities, Beard also engaged in business. He opened a store at Mission San Jose in 1849 with H. C. Smith, Jeremiah Fallon, Michael Murray, and William Norris as customers and neighbors.

But the outstanding American pioneer in Washington Township was John M. Horner. Horner wrote a book, published by the Hawaiian Gazette in 1898, in which he gives an autobiographical sketch rich in historical material. In this story, Horner typifies the many thousands of immigrants who poured into California through the passes of the Sierras or through the Golden Gate. He was born on a farm in Monmouth County, New Jersey, on June 15, 1821, and on coming of age was forced to begin shifting for himself with no money and with a minimum of business experience. "Industry, honesty and good judgment," he writes, "were to be my guiding star for success."

Working through the summer for a farmer at nine

dollars a month and teaching school during the winter, Horner launched himself on a notable career. In January, 1846, he married and the very morning after the wedding set out with his bride for New York, there to embark on the emigrant ship Brooklyn, chartered by Sam Brannan to transport a colony of Mormons to San Francisco Bay. The 16,000 mile voyage by way of Cape Horn, Juan Fernandez Island and the Sandwich Islands, consumed about six months, so that Horner is justified in saying that this was "both in time and distance a rather uncommon wedding tour." The young couple must have been full of courage and fired with determination to make a home for themselves in the far-away West. One must share Horner's pride in his wife, to whom he paid the following tribute in 1898: "She is yet with me, hale and hearty, daily superintending her household, her flowers, shrubs and lawn, and has proved a worthy helpmeet for a pioneer; and now, being surrounded by husband, children and grandchildren she seems to enjoy life."

Gold, the lure that brought a host of adventurers to California, was not the urge that drove the Horners to set sail with a company of Mormon pilgrims across six times as many miles of ocean as the Mayflower pilgrims braced. Whether or not Sam Brannan had dreams of an isolated Mormon colony on San Francisco Bay, it

is certain that the passengers on the Brooklyn were profoundly disappointed when they saw the U.S. Frigate Portsmouth lying in the bay. Horner writes: "War was raging in California when we arrived there, between Mexico and the United States. The upper part of the territory was already in possession of the United States forces, which we were pleased to hear." Some of the company volunteered with Fremont and the others took turns standing guard in what is now the city of San Francisco.

When the excitement of war had passed, Horner set out to find some place where an ambitious farmer might use his brawn and his wits to build a fortune. An opportunity soon offered itself. Dr. John Marsh owned undeveloped land on the lower San Joaquin River and as Horner had brought new farming tools with him on the Brooklyn, the doctor offered to give the young man a share of any crop he would put in for him and the bargain was closed. With one span of oxen at a time to plow the land, Horner and a man named Light worked hard sowing forty acres of wheat. Rains were early that year and the soil fertile, and an abundant crop was harvested. But Horner was looking for still bigger results. In March 1847, he moved over to Mission San Jose where he found land more to his liking and again began plowing and planting wheat, barley, peas, potatoes

and garden truck. This time, however, his crop was destroyed by grasshoppers. It must have been disheartening, but later in the same season the indomitable young farmer planted more potatoes, only to have them ruined by cattle.

Hoping to realize something from his work for Dr. Marsh, Horner called for his share of the grain which had been harvested and stored in a granary, but the doctor gravely informed him he had no wheat there. "Your share," he said, "was destroyed by elk, antelope and other wild animals; my share alone was harvested."

Out of the first year of his farming venture in California Horner reaped nothing but bitter experience. He supported himself partly on the proceeds of a small dairy which he worked on shares and partly by hiring out as a laborer. But this hardy pioneer was nothing daunted. In the spring of 1848, determined to make another farming venture that year he rented a piece of ground from an Indian and built a small house on it, and afterwards wrote of this enterprise as follows: "There being no fences or fence material for miles, I went to the redwoods twenty-five miles distant, for fence material. I made a pen to hold animals, fenced a small garden plot and sowed it with various kinds of garden seed, intending to transplant them into the open

ground later on. But human plans not being infallible, the plants were never transplanted, for the reason that gold was discovered about this time and the gold fever, which broke out with epidemic violence, took nearly all the people (including ourselves) off to the mines.

"We did not get much gold, but we got the agave without much exertion and did considerable shaking. The gold fever having left us entirely, we returned home in the fall and in the healthy coast climate the agave soon left us. We were a happy couple when we got back to the farm, although our garden was destroyed, our hogs had gone wild, our house was only walls, roof and outer and inner doors of rough slabs, hung with rawhide hinges, our windows were mudlin and we had ground for the floor. But it was our mansion, we enjoyed and improved it as time rolled on."

The brave young couple had made little progress in accumulating worldly goods during their first two years in California. Their first-born was now a year old; their experience in the mines had cured them of the gold fever and they were fully determined that, as Horner himself quaintly puts it, "if we could not die without going to the mines to do it, we would not die at all."

So once more Horner turned his attention to farming, with a feeling that destiny had thrust that occupation upon him. Bitter experience had taught him that fences were essential and although he had to travel a

weary distance to the San Antonio redwoods for materials, he set out on March 10, 1849, with three Indians, four yoke of oxen, one wagon and the necessary tools to obtain fence lumber. By dint of hard work he took away enough wood to fence sixteen acres and on these he planted potatoes, onions, turnips, cabbages, watermelons and muskmelons - the greater part of the field being given to potatoes.

The crop grew nicely, but in the fall when it was maturing and was the only green spot in the neighborhood, it became forage so tempting to the herds of hungry cattle wandering in the hills that the hastily constructed fence was wholly insufficient to keep out the marauders. To protect his crop Horner often had to spend the whole night in the open, armed with a shot-gun; and he found it necessary to keep up this hard sentry duty until late in the fall if he hoped to save the fruit of his labor. When the rains came however, and green feed sprang up across the whole country-side, the cattle no longer annoyed him.

In the fall of 1849 the sale of some watermelons for two dollars brought Horner his first income in three years of farming. But during October and November gold hunters began to arrive in hordes. Threatened, or already down with scurvy through lack of fresh vegetables on the long journey, they found Horner's raw onions and potatoes sweeter to their palate than the finest fruit.

Little wonder then, that the demand for produce from his sixteen acres was phenomenal. Two wagons made several trips to his farm from the mines, two hundred miles away, for loads of vegetables at what Horner called "fair prices." The crop brought in about \$8,000., even though half of the potatoes were ruined through the overflow of a small creek swelled by early rains.

Horner was virtually the only farmer in the area and he was not slow to make the most of his monopoly. Aided by his brother William who joined him early in 1850, he tilled five hundred acres of soil that year and let out a portion of this land to tenants. With herculean labors they fenced and plowed and sowed; their reward is best expressed in the words of Horner himself: "Our crop this year was comparatively large, and the soil being virgin, the product was of good quality. We bought out our two tenants at harvest time, paying them nearly twenty thousand dollars each for their share of the crops they had raised. Our gross sales this year approximated \$150,000. Our onions sold for forty dollars per cental, tomatoes three hundred dollars per ton, potatoes one hundred and fifty dollars per ton, and other things in proportion"---nature's reward for the patience and persistence of a man who refused to be discouraged.

1850 was an important year in the history of Washington Township, and the toil of the Horner brothers

had much to do with the course of events. To the modern reader it might seem commonplace for a man to believe in the agricultural wealth of the fertile California valleys, but when Horner pledged his time and energies the outcome was uncertain; he had to build a tradition.

Rumor had spread abroad that California was a barren country whose only resources were mineral deposits; consequently, most of the emigrants caught in the gold rush came with the hope of a quick fortune in the mines and an early return home. Easterners pictured the desert character of California so vividly that a company was formed in New York to run steamships between San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands for the express purpose of supplying California with vegetables. A certain Captain Brown was sent out in 1851 to make the preliminary surveys for landings and depots, and on his trips about the bay happened to stop at Horner's farm and saw the crops just ready for harvesting. He also visited the agriculture fair held in San Francisco. The farm and the fair stopped the whole enterprise. The crop of 1853 glutted the California market and the days of big fortunes for little men in the California valleys were over.

In 1850 Horner bought land on Alameda Creek and laid out the town of Union City. His own account says that he bought 100 acres. This hardly seems likely, since the deed describing his purchase from Augustin Alviso includes only a parcel of land about fifty yards wide lying

along "the river upon which the present embarcadero of San Jose Mission is situated." The length of this strip of land is not stated but it is hard to imagine that it was long enough to include one hundred acres. The price paid was \$2,000. and the date of the deed is July 15, 1850.

That Union City was laid out as early as 1850, is proved by a document dated December 10, of that year, in which Horner is given power of attorney to sell lots in Union City for P. H. Messmore. The same document also establishes the fact that the name Union City was adopted before Horner purchased the steamer Union -- assuming of course, that his memory had not played him false.

Speaking of his crops in 1851, Horner says, "This year our crops were large and a ready market was found for all that we raised, though at reduced prices from former years as other farmers had got to work in different parts of the State.....We bought a steam boat (The Union) to carry our produce to market. This year our gross sales approximated two hundred and seventy thousand dollars. During the fall of this year, Professor Shelton, botanist, held in San Francisco the first agricultural fair ever held in California, to which I was the largest contributor."

The steamboat was not purchased therefore until some time during 1851. However, the really important point in the matter is the founding of Union City. Whether or not Horner's first purchase was 100 acres, it is certain

that before the close of 1850 he owned land around the old embarcadero of Mission San Jose sufficient for the site of a town. His own account states that he made at least two purchases: The deed of one of these had already been referred to; the other is not recorded in the archives of Alameda County but is probably to be found in San Jose. From the language of Horner's account it is reasonable to suppose that the year 1851 saw the founding of Union City, the plan of which was made by Horner in 1850.

In an article published in the quarterly of the California Historical Society, Vol. 12, 1933, Bowman says that on December 27, 1850, Henry C. Smith purchased 465 acres of land from Alviso and Pacheco. On these acres another town was surveyed and the first lots were sold March 18, 1851. Bowman is also authority for the statement that this town was at the upper embarcadero just across the boundary line from Horner's Union City.

These two towns were originally founded as shipping points for produce from the rich farms of Washington Township. In the beginning warehouses and steamboat landings were therefore the chief centers of activity; but soon business houses also began to appear. The first grocery store in Union City was opened by Capt. Bulmer in a building made from packing cases - a building with an interest-

local history. After doing service as a store it was used as a home by Mr. Joseph Ralph; then it served as a store and saloon; then as a gambling house and a home; then as a boarding-house and a men's furnishing store; and in 1904 it was still standing.

In New Haven, Henry Smith was not only the first to open a store, but he also built warehouses and sold produce. Although his town began its career as New Haven, after a new survey was made in 1852 the place was called Alvarado. This has caused a certain confusion over the three embryonic towns. In the bill creating Alameda County it was provided that New Haven should be the county-seat and Alvarado the seat of justice. The new county officials met in Smith's store located on block 81 in New Haven, but the minutes of the meeting are dated Alvarado, April 11, 1853, and this seems to indicate that New Haven had taken the name Alvarado without including the town itself, leaving that town nameless. Whereupon the owner of Alvarado sold the fifty acres of the town, and by popular consent its site became a part of Union City. There were then two towns involved in this confusion of names: New Haven, just rechristened Alvarado, and Union City, which included what had actually been Alvarado. But the line between the new Alvarado and Union City continued to be the eastern line of Horner's property and both towns clustered around the upper and lower embarcaderos dating

back to Spanish times. These two places soon began to be called by the same name; the Santa Clara Register of May 20, 1853, speaks of Alvarado as the new name for Union City.

The operations of Horner, Smith, Beard and others were so successful that newcomers kept pouring into the new township and the fertile plain became the site of a number of towns. These towns lie within a radius of four or five miles--Alvarado, Decoto, Niles, Irvington, Mission San Jose, Warm Springs, Newark, Centerville--and Horner had a part in founding several of them. He was the first resident at Washington Corners (Irvington) long before it had a name or even resembled a town. Then it was known as Nigger Corners, from the two negroes who kept a saloon at this junction of the roads from Centerville and Warm Springs to Mission San Jose.

An interesting reference to Nigger Corners is made in the California Farmer of October 5, 1860. It cites from the Alameda gazette an item about a thirty-six mile horse race promoted by Higuerra and Salio, (or according to other authorities by Augustin Alviso and Guadalupe Selays). "The amount bet is \$2000 a side." "The Spaniards from the vicinity crowded the roadside upon their mules and horses. Men, women, and children, an excited and noisy throng, chattering and betting, awaited the passing of the heroes. Women even tore the jewelry

from their persons to wager upon their favorites. It began to rain, but no one thought of turning homeward till the race had passed. At last the horses came into view, laboring and straining, with the mud flying from their hoofs. The men stationed at the roadside to whip them on, prepared to do their best, while the crowd waited in anxious expectation. As they drew near, Salio's horse was seen to be badly blown and just opposite Capt. Valpey's place he fell, a victim to the Spanish love of sport."

Slavery was still a legal institution when this famous contest was planned, and the name Nigger Corners was already current. Apparently the slavery question and racial antagonism were not agitating Washington Township during the early days of the present town of Irvington.

As the town grew it had to get rid of its early sobriquet. The name was changed to Washington Corners, but when this occurred is not clear; it was still known as Nigger Corners at the close of 1860. By 1862 a public school was opened in a building moved over from Centerville; the first teacher was Harvey Green, an elder in the Mormon church, and the first trustees were Wm. G. Horner, G. M. Walters, and Wm. Hopkins. Before this date however, a private school with eight pupils had been conducted by M. M. Spencer. These educational

activities alone would indicate that the village deserved a better name than Nigger Corners, and after considerable local discussion the name was changed - first to Washington Corners (which appears as late as 1865), and then to Irvington, the railroad designation after 1884.

Progress in the little community was steady. In 1871 the people built Washington College, and in July, 1872, the school opened with Rev. and Mrs. S. S. Harmon in charge. "The college is open to pupils of both sexes, and is not a merely local institution, as it has, like Mills Seminary, pupils from all parts." This school, and a weekly newspaper established in May, 1875, (praised as one of the best in the state) made Washington Corners the center of cultural development in the township. The college also aided the growth of population in the neighborhood by inducing a number of families to settle near Irvington. Church life, on the other hand, was slow in developing; for many years, a small Mormon chapel was the only place of worship. But commercial enterprises and professions began to thrive from the very beginning; there was a grain warehouse, a grain buyer's agency, a hotel, two manufacturing establishments, two or three merchandise stores, a post office, an express office, an attorney's and a physician's office, a drug store and stationery store, a butcher shop, a boot and shoemaker's shop and a saloon or two.

In the beginnings of Centerville the Horners again play a part. In 1850 John M. Horner built a schoolhouse on the lot where the United States Hotel now stands. In his own account of this period he says, "After planting was over, I sent my brother back to New Jersey on business and he brought out with him my father and mother and all their children and children's children, two of my sisters, and a brother and some other people, some twenty-two souls," and in 1852 the little group formed a nucleus for Centerville.

The farming operations of the Horners were growing by leaps and bounds about this time. "We continued our prosperous career," writes Horner, "buying more lands and farming them ourselves or letting them out to tenants until our potato crop reached the enormous quantity of twenty-two million pounds in 1853. We also had this year fifteen hundred acres of wheat and barley, besides cabbages, tomatoes and onions in quantities."

In the same year E. L. Beard raised a crop of eleven million pounds of potatoes but could find no market for them, according to a statement in the California Farmer (Feb. 11, 1859) which agrees with Horner's account. In spite of such reverses, however, wealth continued to increase. The San Francisco Herald for May 20 of that year ran the following item: "The Santa Clara Register says the fields of wheat and barley in this County look ex-

ceedingly fine. The best cultivated portion of the state and that which denotes the highest and most refined agricultural condition of the people, lies between the Mission San Jose and Union City, or as we should call it (by its new name), Alvarado. E. L. Beard, Esq. has here a beautiful residence, grounds, yards, orchards, flowers, and fruits, cultivated with the purest taste, and in the highest finish."

In 1854, J. M. Horner submitted the following description of his farm to the California Farmer:

"Mr. Editor: Permit me to submit for a premium the Rancho de los Papas. It is my homestead establishment, containing one thousand acres. It is fenced on the outside entire, and has several cross fences, dividing it into 50, 100, 200 acre fields. We have 400 acres of wheat, 100 acres of which has been sown this season - the balance is volunteer; 100 acres of volunteer oats yielding double last year's crop, on the same land; 50 acres of barley; 100 acres of potatoes; 50 acres of orchard, including about 4 acres of garden; 3000 fruit trees, embracing more varieties than I am willing to name, principally apples and peaches; some of the latter will yield the present season nearly one bushel of good matured fruit. The trees are the most thrifty I ever saw. There is also a nursery of various kinds and qualities of fruit. My grapevines, numbering 250, are very full of fruit this year. There

is 1/4 of an acre of strawberries, besides gooseberries, currants, and other shrubs and flowers innumerable; 300 acres of pasture lands in which are pastured from 20 to 80 head of horses, mules, oxen, cows, etc., nearly all of choice breed, and about the same amount of chickens.

"I built the house on the premises in 1847. The above named farm is in Alameda County, and took its name from this fact: In 1848-9 I raised more potatoes on it than were raised in the balance of the state, and I presume it has been the most effectual argument used to convince the people of California and the world that vegetables could be raised abundantly in this state. Besides the above particular farm we have some ten outside farms, and from their thorough cultivation, they would undoubtedly come in for their share of merit. We have 3000 acres cultivated on the latter farms, which are all situated in Alameda County."

It would be difficult to draw a clearer picture of the early development of the County.

Under the aggressive and successful leadership of John Horner, the Horner family was undeniably a potent factor in the building up of Washington Township. With unusual qualities as an agricultural and business leader, Horner combined a strong religious and social sense, manifested when he performed the duties of pastor for the local Mormon congregation.

In the establishment of Centerville, the Horners again played a leading part, and yet they were not the first people to settle there. That distinction goes to an Englishman, George A. Lloyd, and an Italian, Francesco Cataldo Pope or Frank Pepper. These men were the first to make their homes within the present confines of Centerville, early in 1850. Mr. Lloyd brought his family here and set up housekeeping in a blue tent which, for a time, served not only as a home but also as a store where the Lloyds sold refreshments to weary travelers. A story has been told that he even built a fence across the road, barring the way in the hope that wayfarers thus delayed might partake of his hospitality - at a fair price. Later the blue tent was replaced by a frame house. At first Frank Pope was the hired man on Lloyd's place but later he bought a ranch near Jarvis' Landing down by the bay shore.

The first public building - perhaps the first building of any kind to be erected at Centerville - seems to have been the schoolhouse mentioned above. It was built in 1850, apparently by Horner, and the first teacher was Harvey Green, a Mormon elder. Green was followed by a certain Mr. Kempster of whose school we have a quaint reminiscence from one of the early settlers: "We, my sister, two cousins, and I, - started early in the morning, and cheerfully walked the three long miles of lonely

road, with the tall mustard growing high above our heads on either side. The schoolhouse was a small, plain unpainted building, with homemade desks and benches for the older pupils. Not yet arrived at the dignity of a desk, I sat on one of the benches ranged around the sides of the room and with others of like size and age dangled my feet from nine to four o'clock."

Early education and religion went hand in hand, and religious services were held regularly in the Horner schoolhouse. Afternoon meetings were led by Horner and on Sunday mornings he generously permitted the Methodists and Presbyterians to use the building alternately. In 1853 Rev. W. W. Brier had organized the first Presbyterian congregation in the County, and on January 1, 1856, their first building was dedicated - a brick structure destroyed in the earthquake of 1868. In Alvarado and Union City, on the other hand, religious development was very slow. Both Horner and Brier occasionally preached there in the Brooklyn house (which by way of amusing contrast, served also as county jail), but no regular religious services were organized until 1860. In that year a Sabbath school was begun by two zealous women, Mrs. Charlotte Cornel, a Presbyterian, and Mrs. Julia Thompson, a Methodist, and this school gave a forward impetus towards the erection of churches for both denominations. There followed a church-building contest which was not always marked by

feelings of perfect charity, but the cause was godly and the two congregations spared no effort to push ahead their building program. Both churches were finished in 1860, but the Methodists won the contest by a few months. For a long time after, the two places of worship bore the expressive names of Charlotte's Temple and Julia's Chapel - a public acknowledgement of the two ladies so active in their establishment.

Not only in religion but in education as well, Centerville took the lead over Alvarado. It was not until 1853 that a private school was opened at Alvarado with a tuition rate of five dollars per month. For men and women with some education, private schools in those days were a refined and attractive enterprise. Usually they antedated the opening of public schools in a community and this was true in Alvarado, where a Mrs. Warren was the first schoolmistress.

Industrial activity in Centerville began early. In 1855, Wm. Barry established a textile factory to turn out grain bags for the use of farmers and also built a store. The developments recorded for that year alone clearly indicate that Centerville was rapidly growing into a thriving commercial town. The year before, Mr. Clemens had built a two-story frame structure, the ground floor occupied by his store (the same business started by Captain Bond in 1852), and the upper floor furnished as

a home. An apricot tree, trained like a vine against the building, alone gave some slight distinction to this box-like emporium so characteristic of the architecture of the time. In the same year, 1854, Captain Bond and Captain Valpey built another store. This served its commercial purpose for a while, was then turned into a school and finally became a part of the Episcopal Rectory.

Warm Springs already had a history before the period of this narrative opened. Our interest in the town begins when Clement Columbet purchased the site from Higuera in 1850 and established a resort there. The California Farmer of July 8, 1859, carried the following advertisement:

"The undersigned, having leased for a term of years the hotel and premises known as the Warm Springs, situated in Alameda County, near the Mission of San Jose, respectfully informs the public that he has refurnished the house throughout, in the best style, and it is now open for the public."

"No pains nor expense will be spared to provide most amply for all the wants of the guests of the house. The table will be abundantly supplied with every delicacy in its season - fruits, berries, game, etc., and every effort will be made to render this house the most pleasant and agreeable place of resort in the State."

In 1861 the hotel changed hands again, the following notice appearing in the California Farmer, February 15, 1861:

"We had occasion to call at this quite noted place a few days since and were much surprised at the new and valuable improvements made and making. A fine large house for sleeping apartments has been erected on one side of the square. Another is soon to be made ready on the opposite side. These with the large hotel are being finely painted and put in the best of order, and will offer splendid suites of rooms for families or single persons."

Later in the year the proprietor, Lewis Brady, inserted an ad in the Alta California which carried these items:

"The Warm Springs are so widely and generally celebrated throughout California, that it is unnecessary here to recapitulate their various qualities. To invalids, they offer the greatest advantages; their medicinal virtues being unsurpassed even by those of the Rhine so extensively patronized from all parts of Europe, and America.....

"There are hunting grounds and trout fishing within a short distance of the Springs."

Such encomiums indicate that Warm Springs had an established reputation very early in the history of the

state; it was to northern Californians what Del Monte is to-day. Mail-stages stopped at the hotel twice daily, and the "telegraph-wires" had one of their offices there. However, in the great earthquake of 1868, the buildings were damaged beyond repair; patronage was interrupted, the springs lost their popularity, and they have never regained it.

But resort life was not the only attraction Warm Springs had ever offered. Before American ways took hold it was the scene of great rodeos attended with all the gay color and romance of Spanish fiestas. But the scene changed rapidly when the gringo came and decay began to set in. And yet it was not until 1863 that the last of the cattle were driven away and the Spanish rodeo became a thing of the past at Warm Springs. As late as 1904 there still remained the crumbling ruins of the old adobes where dons and ladies in the gala attire of Spanish days once dined and danced and loved.

Warm Springs cannot be dismissed without some reference to its economic history. American farming in the neighborhood began with the arrival of Scott, Scribner and Hathaway who bought 3000 acres of land from Fulgencio Higuera in 1852 for three dollars an acre. A portion of this tract was later purchased in 1858 by Abram Harris, a lawyer who had been living in Newark, and the new settlement took the name of Harrisburg.

Then the Southern Pacific railroad came, the name of the station was changed to Warm Springs and the latter designation was adopted by the post-office and the town. In 1868 M. W. Dixon built a wharf, known as Dixon's Landing, and thus gave Warm Springs its own embarcadero. It was here that a warehouse collapsed during the earthquake of 1868, causing the loss of 5000 sacks of grain in the mud of the slough.

Near the mouth of the canyon out of which Alameda Creek flows in a southwesterly direction, the abundance of water power suggested to the rancheros an excellent site for a mill, at a spot accessible to all parts of the rich lowlands of Washington Township. Here, in 1841, Jesus Vallojo built a small adobe flour mill which became a nucleus for the town of Hiles.

In September 1850, Wm. Tyson and his young wife, settled nearby, after crossing the plains by wagon. From Fallon, an earlier emigrant, purchased 200 acres of land, and Mrs. Tyson's brother, Peter Morrison, bought a similar tract. Two months later a son, William Henry Tyson, was born.

In 1852 there were signs that the little colony was becoming a community; a grand ball was given and the first wedding was celebrated. Edna Stuart and Roy Stanley were married by J. M. Horner who seems omnipresent in these beginnings of the township.

The energy of these settlers was sometimes astonishing. They had come to a wilderness, but they had come to make homes and build their fortune; their objective was very definite and their aim very precise. In 1852, the second season after their arrival, Tyson and Morrison introduced the first reaper. Needless to say, fine crops of grain made it imperative that mills be built to grind flour. Vallejo's mill was already operating, although it could not do the entire work alone, and there was Beard's mill at the mission, both driven by water power. Nevertheless, facilities for making flour were so limited that Horner wrote in his reminiscences:

"There being no mill in the State to convert wheat into flour, we built one at Union City with eight run of burrs, at a cost of \$85,000, and ground ours and others' grain." This was in 1853 and Horner's flour won the premium at the first fair at which California flour was exhibited. To meet the competition of the new steam-power mill, the Vallejo water-power mill was rebuilt. A good description of Vallejo's old mill is given in a letter quoted in the short biography of the Scott family:

"Across the road from us was the Vallejo Flour Mill. This was housed in a four-story structure of wood. On the west end turned the large water wheel,

about thirty feet in its diameter, that furnished the power for the machinery. The lower portion of this great revolving wheel was incased in a structure of rock and cement, that caught the water as it poured over the wheel, and then conveyed it by an underground flume that emptied lower down in the Alameda Creek. Around the old mill wheel was known by the small boys of that period to be the best point for sucker fishing in the Valley."

The mill worked steadily away until December 1884, when the last run of flour finally passed through it. Grain fields had yielded place to orchards and the old miller, William Gorges, broken hearted at the loss of his job, died by his own hand when the hum of the mill was at last silenced forever.

Up to 1869 the town growing up around the flour mills had been known simply as Vallejo's Mills, but when the Central Pacific railroad built a line through the valley, this stopping place was designated Hiles, in honor of Judge Hiles, an official of the company, and the town readily adopted the new name. In addition to the flour mills, other industries were located at Hiles - a stone quarry and a gravel pit, both of which furnished construction materials for important buildings in Oakland and San Francisco. The quarry was opened in 1879 by Farwell and furnished

stone for the Unitarian church in Oakland. From the gravel pit seventy-five carloads of gravel went to the building of the amphitheater on the campus of the University of California.

The beginning of education in Niles may be dated from 1852 when Harvey Green taught for a few months in the Overacker adobe - the third time this Mormon elder had pioneered in teaching the children their three R's. During this same year, Miss Sarah Scott also conducted a private school for a short time at her father's house. After these first efforts however, Niles could not boast a school until October 1875 when the first public school was opened under the direction of Miss Watkins. Then money for a school-house was raised by popular subscription, and a great ball, held in the warehouse of the mill, netted \$320. for the building fund. The school was built and after serving its purpose for a time was sold to the Congregational Society and converted into a church.

Near Niles is a famous landmark built by Don Jose de Jesus Vallejo in 1836 - the old Adobe. To-day it stands in the grounds of the California Nursery and is visited by as many as 5000 guests in a day during the bulb and rose shows held by the nursery. The adobe is a whitewashed building with thick walls and deep-embossed windows; its floor is of tile and heavy beams

support its sloping roof and a wide fireplace is built into one corner. To-day it is used as a tearoom for visitors at the nursery. Mrs. May Pimentel of Decoto was born in the old Adobe in 1862 and lived there until 1886. Her father, Antonio Joseph Garcia, remembered when this building was used as a storehouse. It seems certain however, that Don Jose Vallejo never lived in the adobe; he owned an eighteen room villa at Mission San Jose, and it is unlikely that he should have brought a large family to such a house as the adobe at Niles. There is some evidence however, that his grandson, Enrique Vallejo lived here.

Newark was one of the later towns; the coming of the railroad in 1878 gave the impetus towards its founding. A round-house and the repair shops of the first road from Alameda to Los Gatos were located here and Carter Brothers car shops also gave employment to a number of people. The company built homes for its employees, and these beginnings of Newark indicated its future trend; to-day, it is an industrial community with a substantial pay roll from the Graham Manufacturing Company, the Leslie Salt Works and the Morton Salt Works.

Salt was the earliest product of the locality. Isaac Long, who came here from Philadelphia in 1852, was the first to develop the salt works. He did not make a

success of the business and sold his plant to J. A. Plummer in 1863. Under new management a more modern process was introduced and the industry began to prosper.

Portuguese, mostly sailors from the Azores, began coming to this locality at an early date. They settled in 1851 or 1852, sent for their families and through their thrift and energy became decided assets to the growing community.

In early days, a British ship, loaded with the kind of fencing used to enclose English parks, arrived in San Francisco leaking badly, and her master had to sell his cargo at auction. There was no possible demand for park fencing in rural Alameda County, but J. M. Horner, that man "of many devices," saw in this English ship the answer to his troublesome fencing problems. He bought the whole cargo for a song. During the Civil War iron was so scarce that most of this valuable metal went to the foundries and was turned into munitions. But as late as 1904 odds and ends of the fence might be seen here and there about the township, causing much speculation about where it could have come from.

Another town that owed its origin and growth to the railroad was Decoto.

The earlier history of this section is not without interest. One James Hawley received a land grant from

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forced. Oakland was the market for the full output of the dairy.

Another important product of the Decoto district was moulders' sand, many carloads being shipped annually to the Union Iron Works of San Francisco.

Near Decoto is the Masonic Home. The cornerstone was laid on October 14, 1896, and on March 1, 1899 the imposing buildings and extensive grounds were thrown open for the charitable service they have served ever since.

This, in brief, is the story of the growth of urban communities in Washington Township. Their development marked an ever-increasing prosperity. Economic well-being fostered social happiness and contentment, but the year 1853 ushered in a dark period of stress and misery. The panic which in that year began a transition from sunshine to shadow, can be understood best from the experience of John M. Horner:

"The position that I held in the community at this time made me much sought after as an endorser of notes, a signer of bonds and a loaner of money to the impecunious.....I loaned and endorsed freely, hoping to do good thereby. I have no recollection of refusing anyone who asked for an accommodation or requested to have their note endorsed up to and including 1853.

"Our prospects at this time were bright and our

property ample to gratify every wish, and yearly increasing, and as neither I nor my brother ever drank, smoked, gambled or dissipated in any way, no cloud of doubt ever crossed our mental visions that our property should not always continue to increase, as we attended strictly to business. Our crops were large this year, we viewed them ample to pay every endorsement and every obligation we had out, as well as to pay the expense of harvesting and marketing them. Our property was unincumbered, our business large and in full operation.

"Such were our possessions, prospects and position when the first wave of money panic struck California and swept over America with such disastrous results from 1853 to 1859."

In these words Horner merely expresses the feelings of many during these trying years. His further description is too graphic to be omitted:

"Upon the first appearance of the panic on the Pacific Coast, business began to shrink, property decreased rapidly in value, money gradually withdrew from circulation, business failures were frequent, larger interest was exacted for the use of money, more property was demanded as security for a given sum, laborers were turned adrift by thousands (some becoming tramps), families of the less fortunate doubled up, that is, two

or more were compelled to occupy one house in the towns, which before was hardly thought ample for one, and squeezed along with scant clothing and still scantier food. At the same time thousands of tons of farm products were never sent to market - no sale; good potatoes ten cents per bushel, but there was no ten cents, and all this happened in the Golden State where millions of gold and silver were dug from the mines every month, and tons of it were hoarded in banks and treasury vaults. A man with a few hundred dollars in gold coin was independent, while the owner of property that cost thousands of gold dollars, was hard up and in many cases sold it for taxes and never redeemed it..... I am writing from memory but these things are indelibly engraved upon my mind. I was an active participant - I may say an acute sufferer in these scenes."

Horner's numerous endorsements of negotiable paper spelled ruin. His own words best describe what happened:

"Thus slipped from us \$250,000. Our \$18,000 steamer went for \$7,000 to pay an endorsement creditor. In parting with our \$35,000. flouring mill we did a little better but the panic continued so long and was so heavy upon property that the purchaser sold it for \$5,000; this property had been depreciated \$30,000. by the panic. The San Jose Mission lands that had cost us \$70,000., includ-

ing improvements, went from us for an endorsement debt of \$10,000. However, the squatters had done as much to render this property of little value as the panic. Our home farm of 1000 acres, which we had purchased four times, went off for an endorsement of \$7,000.

"Although my endorsements did not exceed \$40,000. the high rate of interest, compounded monthly, and other expenses forced from us over \$70,000. before they were fully satisfied, and that was paid by the sacrifice of property sold at one-sixth of what it had been worth the previous four years. Property costing us \$280,000. in gold coin was swept away to pay a forty thousand dollar endorsement. . . . Our comparatively large property was swept from us so quickly as to be bewildering."

Besides these tremendous losses other afflictions began to press heavily upon the once prosperous and happy Horner. His only daughter sickened and died. He himself was afflicted with tetanus; for a time his life was despaired of, and recovery was slow and painful. But he writes:

"I finally regained my strength after months of mental and physical suffering and with it came slowly back my ambition. . . .

"The loss of my property placed me financially where I had commenced seven years before, as nothing of much value was saved from the wreck, except my experience. My prospects even were dark, cloudy and dis-

couraging. I gave up my carriage team and my watch from my pocket, and commenced physical labor again to support my family. I did the best I could, the panic ceased, and its evil effects wore gradually away from the country. I rented my old homestead and after a time bought it again, this making the fifth time I had purchased it; paying for it was slow work."

This moving story of the Horner family under the leadership of John M. Horner, deserves to be remembered. It is a dramatic and noble example of the obstacles overcome and the anguish bravely endured by emigrants toiling to establish homes on a sound economic basis. In the epic narrative of those days we meet hard and unscrupulous men, but Horner stands out in bold relief as the exemplar of the pioneer ideal. And his career throws no little glory on the history of Washington Township.

Murray and Pleasanton Townships

MURRAY AND PLEASANTON TOWNSHIPS

Between two chains of mountains some twelve miles apart, lies a sunny, fertile valley stretching from the foothills, a few miles south of what is now Livermore, toward Carquinez Straits in the north, with tributary valleys on either side formed by spurs of the mountain chains. This is the great Livermore Valley and together with lesser valleys, the Amador, Sunol, Alamo, Tassajara and Vallecitos, it forms the heart of Murray and Pleasanton Townships.

For twenty miles, north, south, east and west, the township extends across a great variety of terrain - rugged mountains in the southwest, hills, canyons, woods and streams everywhere in an endless variation of scene, from rugged grandeur in the mountains to rural peace and quiet in the valleys. There is no forest to tempt the lumberman, but it is a country abundantly wooded with white and live oaks, sycamores, laurels and other species indigenous to the region. Much of the scenery is exquisite. Natural spots often have the appearance of cultivated parks and groves, and the long slopes of the western range wear an embroidery of evergreens very beautiful in the soft

morning and evening light of the mountains - a vivid contrast to the eastern chain through which Livermore Pass winds, with mountains rising in great bald domes, arid even in early summer, but with a wind-swept beauty of their own.

The water-courses of Murray and Pleasanton Townships are numerous; among them are the Arroyo Vallo, Arroyo Mocho, Laguna, Las Positas, Calaveras Creek, Tassajara Creek and Corral Hollow Creek. Excepting the last two, all are tributary to Alameda Creek which flows into the Bay of San Francisco. The largest of the streams are the Arroyo Valle and Arroyo Mocho which, from their source in the mountains of Santa Clara County, flow in a northwesterly course through the two townships. After flowing a distance of about thirty miles the Arroyo Valle empties into the Laguna near Pleasanton, while the Arroyo Mocho, having pursued a course of some fifty miles, mostly through deep ravines buttressed by overhanging crags, disappears into the earth a few miles northeast of the same town. The Positas Creek takes a westerly course, drains the eastern end of Livermore Valley, and flows into the Tassajara between the towns of Livermore and Dublin. The Tassajara itself, after watering the val-

ley from which it takes its name, empties into the Laguna near Pleasanton. Calaveras Creek has its source in Santa Clara County and finds its way through deep canyons into Alameda County. The chief watercourses are fed principally by innumerable mountain streams - swirling, angry, treacherous torrents in the winter time, but in summer nothing but dry rugged gullies.

The geological foundation of the township is largely of sedimentary and metamorphic rock. The hills eroded by Corral Hollow Creek are metamorphic, ribbed with quartz and veined with twisted and vari-colored jasper bands, of red, rose, green, gray and white. Serpentine commonly occurs in the region, and near the Livermore Pass soft sandstone is found in large quantities. The coal vein which runs through the Mount Diablo group crops out in several places in the township and north of the abandoned coal mines in Corral Hollow are a few fossilized impressions of leaves, oyster beds and petrified wood.

Murray and Pleasanton Townships, although comparatively close to the ocean, have a climate peculiar rather to mountainous regions than to the coast - largely because the mountains which vary its terrain form a barrier to the coastal fogs. The clear, dry air is

especially beneficial in the treatment of pulmonary complaints and both the county and the federal governments have established sanitariums here. In the summer season the days are often hot, but nights are invariably cool and refreshing. The dry season lasts from June to December although a moderately rainy period often begins in October, and while snow rarely falls in the valleys, it sometimes beautifies the mountain tops for a short period during the winter season.

A country so attractive was bound to invite settlers, and it was over a hundred years ago that the first white man came to this region. In 1826 Don Jose Maria Amador, former sergeant at the presidio of San Francisco, was granted a rancho of four square leagues and eighteen hundred varas, and after a few short years had passed thousands of his horses and cattle were roaming over the surrounding hills.

Amador might almost be called the father of manufacturing in Alameda County. Far removed from the coastal settlements, he had to find means of making in his own adobe workshops everything needed on the wide rancho. Visitors at the Amador hacienda were welcomed with true Spanish hospitality, and sometimes they were celebrities. Lieutenant John C. Fremont was graciously

received there and a story is told, how he repaid the courtesy of his host by making off with Don Jose's saddle horses; an act (expedient though it might have been to the soldier of fortune) that rankled in Don Jose's heart until the day of his death.

When the gold rush came, Amador was caught by the prevailing fever of excitement and went off to the mines, taking with him a force recruited among the Indian laborers on his rancho. He mined for a time between the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers within the confines of the county that now bears his name, but it is not recorded that his venture was crowned with success. The extent and the fate of Amador's fortune are typical of most of his race in California. The master of four square leagues and one time Administrator of Mission San Jose, he once owned 400 horses, 14,000 head of cattle and 4,000 head of sheep. But reverses came and in 1852 he was forced to sell his vast estate to J. W. Dougherty for \$22,000.00. Don Jose died at the age of one hundred six, one of California's first-born sons and a broken survivor of the preceding century.

Amador's first neighbor, Antonio Maria Sunol, was a man of adventure. Born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1797, Sunol enlisted in the French navy at an early age and

in the year 1818, his vessel touched at Monterey. Allured by the easy life of the Californians, Antonio promptly deserted. He established himself in San Jose in 1823, in a shop with every earmark of the cantina or saloon, and the enterprise must have prospered because shortly after opening the business Sunol married Senora Dolores Bernal.

From 1826 to 1829 Sunol served as Mexican postmaster; but between 1828 and 1830 he was under suspicion and investigation by the Mexican government on account of his Spanish birth. Mexican authorities had issued a series of long, involved rulings providing for the restriction of Spaniards in California or even for their expulsion from the territory. Under these laws numerous classes were exempt from eviction, including the physically disabled, those over sixty years of age, those having non-Spanish children, professors of useful arts and sciences as well as those who had rendered special service to the cause of Mexican independence or who had manifested fervid devotion to the cause. Sunol was exempt on several scores, being married to a Californian lady and being the father of five children born here.

Like Amador, Sunol went to the mines in 1848, in a "melee of horns and hoofs and heads". The broad road

between Sunol Valley and the Mother Lode country was well trampled by the vast herds of cattle which Sunol drove to Captain Sutter at New Helvetia.

After his death at San Jose in 1865, Don Antonio was remembered as an eminently respected citizen and a worthy public servant - a man incapable of baseness. His only strong box was a large redwood case in which he sometimes kept thousands of dollars in gold dust and coin; and he was never robbed.

In 1834 these pioneers of Spanish blood were joined by a British subject, a man destined to give his name to the great valley of Murray Township and to a thriving town in the center of it.

Robert Livermore was thirty-five years old when his world-wandering ended and he came to live in the Contra Costa hills. From his birthplace, London, he had sailed as a British man-o'-war's man across the Seven Seas; in South America he had enlisted in the United States navy and was stationed with the Sloop-of-War Cayenne on the Peruvian coast; and when his term of service expired at Monterey in 1822, he decided to remain in the west because he regarded California as a land of promise. After a brief visit at San Juan Bautista, he went to Gilroy and from there to San Jose

where he became the intimate friend of Don Jose Noriega; there he studied Spanish and established those contacts which were to prove so valuable in the future. Meanwhile Livermore married the daughter of Don Francisco Higuera and came with his wife to the Sunol Valley, there to establish a permanent home. In this beautiful region Livermore and Noriega had obtained title to a grant of 43,000 acres called the Rancho Las Positas. Livermore afterwards bought the interest of his partner and here he dwelt and prospered until 1858, the year of his death.

On the banks of Las Positas Creek, just west of the present Masonic Cemetery, Livermore had built his home - the beginning of the famous Hacienda Livermore. It was a two-story adobe building sixty feet long by thirty feet wide, with a patio on the south side extending the length of the building. The house had two arched entrances from the patio and one of these arches led into a living room and banquet hall which was used for dancing when the wants of the inner man had been satisfied and the tables were removed. It was no unusual thing for fifty or a hundred guests to be seated in the dining room and on many occasions Livermore imported an orchestra or a brass band from San Francisco

to furnish music for his fiestas.

At the western end of the building was located an assembly room, and in this room, in the days of the California gold rush, many a group of miners on their way to or from the gold-fields were entertained by the generous host of the Hacienda de Livermore.

Six of the eight children of Livermore were born in this adobe mansion and two were married beneath its roof. A description of one of the weddings makes a rather vivid picture of social life before the gold rush:

"The parlor was decorated with wild flowers and roses; an altar was erected and covered with flowers and precious lace; the band played in the patio, and the padre from Mission San Jose had arrived. There was an arch with colored coverlets, silk hangings and branches of flowers, under which the bridal party marched, and when the wedding was over the men carried the bridegroom and the ladies carried the bride into the dining room where the wedding feast was all prepared, and dancing continued far into the night."

An embryonic community began to take form in the valley as soon as Antonio Maria Pico, Antonio Sunol, Augustine Bernal and Juan Pablo Bernal took up a grant of 48,435 acres of land in the township. Juan Pablo Bernal bought Pico's fourth and thus began a series of sub-divisions of the property. This princely domain extended from Sunol to the Livermore Valley, nine and

a half miles east and west, and twelve and a half miles north and south, with the heart of the grant just eighteen miles south of the center of Mount Diablo.

The Bernals were entitled to a grant on account of their long and creditable service as soldiers at the presidio in San Francisco. Application had been submitted in 1832, but the grant was not made until 1839, and it was April, 1850 before Augustine Bernal brought his family up from San Jose and settled in the neighborhood of Pleasanton.

About the year 1845 or 1846 the Fallon family and Michael Murray crossed the plains from St. Joseph, Missouri, and located at Mission San Jose, where they lived for a time in the mission buildings. Katherine Murray was born there on May 17, 1847. Two years later Murray and Jeremiah Fallon purchased a parcel of Amador's rancho and by 1851 had completed the construction of a house and the planting of an orchard. Leo Norris and Joel Harlan are also mentioned among the pioneers of 1846 who came to the township about this time. John W. Kottinger, an Austrian, emigrated to California in September, 1849, married one of Augustin Bernal's nieces the following year, and came from Santa Clara to the Alisal region with the intention of raising cat-

tle. In 1855 he moved from his ranch to the village of Alisal and opened a store - evidence that the community was growing. It was he moreover, who built the first house in Alisal. But in 1857 Kottinger rented his house and sold his goods to two partners named Duerr and Hussbaumer and they opened Alisal's first public house in conjunction with the store. This was not the first inn to appear in Murray Township, however. Where Mountain House now stands on the highway to Stockton, some miles beyond Altamont, one Thomas Goodall or Goodale, in 1849 raised a canvas pavilion which for years was known as the Blue Tent, and until the late 50's ranchers, cattle-men, immigrants and travellers foregathered there. It was a worthwhile spectacle when one of McLeod's stages came dashing up and changed horses at the Blue Tent before thundering away across the San Joaquin Valley flats toward Stockton. The site must have been a good one for business because goodale later built an adobe on the spot and a character famous in the region once lived there for over a quarter of a century.

In March, 1850, Nathaniel Green Patterson who hailed from Tennessee, rented Livermore's original adobe and opened a tavern on the route from the mission

to Stockton. Prices at these early hostelrys were on a scale not strikingly different from prices charged in our own day. Lodging accommodations, whether bed or board, cost a dollar a night; meals were a dollar each and drinks twenty-five cents - very reasonable prices for gold-rush days.

Alphonso Ladd and his wife came to California in 1850 from New Orleans and settled in Sunol. From San Francisco the Ladds sailed to the opposite side of the bay and traveled by ox team through a sparsely settled countryside, first to the mission and then across the mountains to Sunol. The only person they met en route was Timothy Rix who lived between Centerville and Washington Corners and raised great flocks of chickens and pigeons. Ladd built a six-room frame house on the property of Augustin Bernal, resided there for six years and then sold out to Jose Higuera.

In June, 1864 Ladd took up 160 acres of government land east of Livermore's rancho, built a hotel on the property the following year and in that same year suffered a severe loss through the death of 1500 of his sheep during a drought. Other home seekers took up locations near Ladd in quick succession: Adam Fath, Alexandro Mesa, Oliveria Higuera and several others established residences near the hotel; a man from Hayward opened a blacksmith shop and one Goetjen built a

small house which was later moved down the hill and used as a store for a few years until fire destroyed it.

Settlers continued to arrive. Their names make a catalogue of early families in the township and it is regrettable that space permits hardly more than a mere mention of some very interesting characters. A man named Bertrand erected a house in Sunol Valley in 1852; George Bidner took up his abode nearby and Samuel Mossman came here to live at about the same time. In 1852, Juan Bernal also became a resident of the district, bringing with him an extensive family, and Frank Hearne built the Zinc House near Midway about 1855.

In 1854 Samuel and J. West Martin bought the Alviso or Santa Rita Rancho east of and adjacent to the San Jose Rancho. Out of a total offering of 8,858 acres they purchased 5,000 acres at an administrator's sale at the bargain price of \$10,000.00 - two dollars an acre! And it was said that the purchase price of the estate could have been paid from a sale of the cattle on it. The numerous crops grown on this land never seemed to decrease its productivity; the owners at one time harvested as many as seventy or eighty bushels of wheat to an acre.

It was also in 1854 that Tom Hart bought a hotel which R. W. Defrees had built the year before. For eight years, before he finally made his home in Livermore, Hart conducted this roadside inn under the descriptive title The Half-Way House, so called because it was thought to be equidistant from Oakland, San Jose, and Stockton.

Hart, if early accounts of him may be credited, was at first contact anything but the ideal host.

Guest: "You proprietor here?"
 Hart: "What if I am?"
 Guest: "I want my horse put up."
 Hart: "Well, put him up."

Gruff, blunt and laconic, he might have driven customers away from his inn, except that he was fundamentally kind-hearted and hospitable and most of his patrons knew it. Fortunately Hart was blessed with a helpmate whose cheerfulness tended somewhat to soften his rudeness.

The population of the township increased slowly but steadily. In 1855 Hiram Bailey settled below the Hart resort and went into farming; in 1858, over on the eastern side of the township near Midway, Robert Graham opened the first general store in the valley and another store was conducted for four years by Charles Garthwait opposite Augustin Bernal's place near the county road.

Pleasanton was in the first stages of its growth during the following decade; J. A. Neal settled near the present town in 1861 and is remembered as one of its founders. After his arrival from the East, Neal had worked his own ranch, but later abandoned farming to act as overseer on Robert Livermore's estates. In this capacity he acquired a knowledge of Spanish, and better still, married a daughter of Augustin Bernal, the young lady bringing him dower of 530 acres of land near what is now the town of Pleasanton.

In the fall of 1862 a prominent pioneer, Charles Hadsell, began to acquire the Sunol estate, renting 1500 acres as a beginning. The following year Hadsell went to Washoe, Nevada, in the hope of making a fortune at mining, but only to lose \$10,000.00 in an adventure which netted him nothing but bitter experience. Thereupon he resumed his land-buying program until, in 1874, he held title to 4500 acres of the original Sunol grant. During the year 1873 he formed a water company which was later absorbed by the Spring Valley Water Co. Chas. Garthwait located in this vicinity in 1859, conducting a general-merchandise store on the county road opposite the Bernal home, and one of the leading farmers of the township, Joseph Black, settled near Pleasanton on land rented from Augustin Bernal.

Remaining pioneers of this region who contributed to the development of the community are mentioned briefly. Mrs. Samuel Brown taught school in Sunol in 1865. J. A. Bilz, born in Baden, Germany, in 1837, emigrated to Pleasanton in 1865 and is remembered as the builder of the first wagon in the district. When he arrived there were only five houses in the place. Dr. I. N. Mark arrived in California in 1861, came to Pleasanton in 1865 and established medical practice there. The Doctor took sufficient time from his professional duties to serve as Justice of the Peace for thirteen years.

It should also be remarked that Dr. Mark had served as Methodist preacher at Camp Seco, Columbia and Centerville before coming to Pleasanton, but after settling there he took up the practice of medicine once more and became notable for his charity and admirable civic spirit.

Murray Township, as it was originally created, included all the territory now known as Pleasanton Township, and the reader must bear in mind that it was only in 1902 that Pleasanton Township came into being. The area of the original, undivided Murray Township was 387.4 square miles or 247,936 acres. After the

division, Murray Township had an area of 261.8 square miles or 167,552 acres, and Pleasanton Township embraced 125.6 square miles or 80,384 acres. (County Engineer, 1934)

The first arrivals in what is now Murray Township found a highly diversified terrain, on which might be grown almost any type of crop. The southwestern section, adjacent to Santa Clara Valley, is a mass of mountain ridges, hardly fit for cultivation but excellent as sheep ranges.

The richest land lies between what are now Pleasanton and Dublin, where in the earliest Spanish days the mission fathers pastured their herds and where the Ranchos San Jose and Santa Rita were later situated. Very large crops are produced in this section, as many as seventy-five bushels of grain having been reaped from a single acre. Almost any form of plant life will thrive in this area, which includes the only naturally watered land in the Township. Almonds, apricots, olives, peaches, plums, wheat, barley, oats, hay, and vegetables are grown in large quantities, and the vineyards in the locality are extensive.

The soil in each of the two main valleys is entirely different. The Livermore soil is adobe and gravel; that of the Amador Valleys is a moist, sandy loam.

Marine fossils and the remains of giant mammals found in the Livermore area, together with the character of the Livermore soil, indicate a comparatively recent inundation of the valley. In addition to gravel, adobe, and loam, a black mould must also be included among the types of soils found in different parts of the township.

There were white and also live oaks, sycamores, laurels, willows and other native trees in the township in early days, but there was nowhere a stand of timber suitable for exploitation.

In Murray and Pleasanton Township the transfer of land from Spanish to American ownership generally took place through peaceful and orderly legal process. In contrast with squatterism in Brooklyn Township, for example, it is notable that pioneers in Murray and Pleasanton Township bought or rented their acres from the California land holders already in possession. Here there was little of the violence and injustice which disfigure the history of the American occupation in other parts of the state.

Mexican grants, wholly or partly lying in the two townships, are worthy of notice. They were: The Rancho San Ramon - four square leagues and 1800 varas, or 16,516.96 acres, granted to J. M. Amador in 1835, confirmed by the Land Commission on August 1, 1854, and by

the District Court on January 14, 1857; the Rancho Santa Rita - 8,895.67 acres, granted April 10, 1839 to J. D. Pacheco, rejected by the Commission, confirmed by the District Court August 13, 1856, decree affirmed by the United States Supreme Court; El Valle de San Jose - 51,572.26 acres, granted to Antonio Maria Pico on April 10, 1839, confirmed to Antonio Sunol et al. by the Commission on January 31, 1854, and by the District Court on January 14, 1856; Las Positas - two square leagues, granted on April 10, 1839 to Salvio Pacheco, confirmed by the Commission to Jose Noriega and Robert Livermore on February 14, 1854, and by the District Court on February 18, 1859; the Canada de los Vaqueros (mostly in Contra Costa County) - granted on February 29, 1842 to Francisco Alviso et al., confirmed to Robert Livermore by the Commission on September 4, 1855, and by the District Court on December 28, 1857.

In spite of the approval by American tribunals of these grants, many titles remained clouded until 1871. The complexity of the legal entanglements in which the ranchos became involved may be judged from one of the simpler cases, the Livermore estate. When the heirs began to push their claim, it was found that the original grant allowed only two square leagues, while the specified boundaries included eleven. In 1871

the Dyer Survey adjudicated the matter and decided that the intention of those making the grant had been to allow two leagues. The effect on the township was immediate. The decision opened 245 square miles for preemption and settlement and a vast influx of immigrants and an accelerated development of the township began at once.

But before this decision of 1871, the squatter problem while not acute, had given rise to some trouble on the Bernal and Alviso ranches in 1859. Many of the squatters settling on the property in the sincere belief that it was open to preemption, quietly moved away or bought farms when they were convinced of their error.

Later disturbances over land took place in 1875 and 1889. On July 26, 1875, the Oakland News quoted the Livermore Independent in the following vein:

"The Independent says: 'The land titles about Livermore are unsettled and the people are trying to avoid being eaten up by the Central Pacific Railroad Company.' As it is they can't be sure of even a burial place of their own."

Spanish and Mexican agricultural methods must have appeared exceedingly primitive to incoming American farmers. Grain was threshed under the feet of horses; plows were made of crotched logs, and the

wheels of carts were sections of trees. The major products of the ranches were hides and tallow, which were hauled to Alviso for barter with Yankee skippers.

Wine was an important product however, the best varieties being manufactured at the mission. Amador, while major-domo at Mission San Jose, had fifty barrels of wine made every year as it was an essential on Spanish tables along with cheese, pinole and wild honey. Potatoes were at that time unknown.

Land in the township was worth \$2.50 an acre in 1860. While it might be interesting to speculate on the cost in 1853 when the County was formed, it is safe to say that the price was extremely low in comparison with later figures. Land in the Livermore Valley was at first considered worthless! An early resident once solemnly asserted that he "had seen squirrels sitting up in their holes in the Livermore Valley with tears in their eyes, longing for something to eat".

In the Alisal region in 1864, land sold at four dollars an acre; but when people later came to realize its true value, the price rose to seven and eight dollars and later to one hundred dollars an acre.

Another difficulty with which settlers had to contend was wild mustard. In later times as crops extended,

the growth of this pest was limited, but in early days it would turn almost an entire valley into an undulating sea of gorgeous yellow blossoms. Some of this mustard was harvested for market and some was cut for table use in early springtime. But it was an unmitigated nuisance to farmers; to protect growing crops they had to go over entire fields and pull out mustard stalks by hand. This was an important factor in the cost of farm production.

From 1853 to 1863 the crops in Murray Township seem to have been fair. The first dry year occurred in 1864, when hay crops dropped and caused a severe setback; but it had been demonstrated that it was feasible to raise grain in the Livermore Valley, which prior to this time had been considered barren.

At first it was not believed that the gravelly soil of the valley would grow grain, but in that year Richard Threlfall of Centerville planted 4000 acres on Francisco Aurocochea's farm and reaped twenty-four bushels to the acre. After that the valley was regarded as the granary of the county. About 1890, however, the culture of grapes became highly profitable and vineyards began to replace fields of wheat and barley. After 1887 the hay that was still harvested was highly valued as feed for track horses and other superior.

stock and Livermore hay grown on the Altamont hills has been ranked with the best and has been exported in large quantities to England.

Although the soil of the Sunol Valley produces chiefly horticultural crops, it is also excellent for hay and grain. From Pleasanton 4,000 tons of hay and 2,500 tons of grain were shipped during the month of December, 1888, showing the early preeminence of this section in that type of produce. The main crops of the valley are apricots, tomatoes and walnuts, although olive orchards thrive, owing to the absence of frost. On the rich soil between Pleasanton and Dublin, almonds, apricots, olives, peaches and plums are grown in abundance. The bolsa, or bottom land, around Pleasanton was admirably suited to the cultivation of berries and bumper crops were gathered in the eighties. On one occasion at least, the Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo Valle overflowed this land and did immense damage. Phenomenal crops grew around Pleasanton. "On one occasion 14,375 pounds of wheat came into Pleasanton drawn by seven horses", and other products grew with equal exuberance; "Indians on the Crow ranch raised seventy bushels of corn to the acre". In the 90's the average annual crop of beets sent to the sugar mill at Alvarado was 9000 tons. Pomegranates, apricots, cherries, prunes, apples and similar fruits

were cultivated. The Ruby Hill Vineyard in 1894 embraced two hundred and fifty acres of wine grapes, and approximately 1000 olive trees were planted among the vines. A distillery was constructed in 1894, and in 1897 a wine cellar was built to hold 300,000 gallons and was later enlarged. By 1898 the Ruby Hill Vineyard was able to put on the market four carloads of sauterne and claret.

In 1897 the peak harvest of hops was grown in the neighborhood of Pleasanton. Nearly two million pounds were picked, the cost of labor alone amounting to \$20,000.00. The Lilienthals of San Francisco in 1908 owned most of the hop fields around Pleasanton under the name Pleasanton Hop Yards Company, and one field alone is said to have been as large as five hundred acres in extent.

To-day the chief products of the Pleasanton district are wines, tomatoes, sugar beets, hay and grain, although the dairies are excellent and the area has valuable gravel pits and good clay.

At an early date it was discovered that the region about Livermore is adapted to the growth of almonds, and in 1895 it was estimated that fifty thousand pounds of the nuts were picked - in addition of course, to apri-

cots, figs, olives, peaches, plums and other stone fruits.

The development of agriculture in Murray Township created commerce and it was commerce that led to the founding of towns. The first of these was Dublin, which grew up around a Catholic Church erected near John Green's Hotel in 1859, about nine miles west of Livermore on the road between Oakland and Stockton. The first name of the hamlet was Amador; then it was changed to Dougherty's Station - the Doughertys being large landholders in the vicinity - and later it became Dublin. Although most of the residents of the region were Irish, Mrs. Kate Tehan, an early settler, maintained that the town was not named after the Irish capital, but received its title from two inns, one on each side of the road, so that the place was originally known simply as Double Inn. This was later contracted to Dublin.

Jeremiah Fallon and Michael Murray, (Mrs. Tehan's uncle) were the first English-speaking settlers in the locality. They crossed the plains from St. Joseph, Missouri and dwelt temporarily in the Mission San Jose buildings before coming to the Dublin region in 1849. Mrs. Tehan's aunt, Katherine Murray, was born at the Mission on May 17, 1847.

The Fallons purchased some of Amador's property

in 1849 and completed a house in 1851 - the simplest kind of dwelling, with a shed kitchen and a dirt floor.

John Green, another early settler, was a man of varied accomplishments. Emigrating from Ireland at the age of thirteen, he became apprenticed to a wholesale drug concern in New York. Green remembered many formulas of compounds dispensed by this firm, although he never revealed them. Not greatly interested in the drug business, he welcomed the proposal of a brother living in San Antonio (East Oakland), to join him in California.

On taking leave of his employers in New York; he promised never to reveal the secret of one of their leading products, a compound called "Florida Water." When he arrived in California, his brother persuaded him to set up a drug store at San Antonio, which he did. When a traveling salesman once tried to sell him some "Florida Water" however, Green was able to detect from the taste that it was a fraudulent imitation, but he would never reveal the ingredients of the real preparation. Sometimes he used his talent as an apothecary rather recklessly, on one occasion tasting strychnine to satisfy himself that it was adulterated.

About 1857 Green wearied of keeping a drug store at San Antonio. He packed up his chattels in an ox-cart

and moved across the Hayward hills to the spot on which the present school house stands. Here he settled on well-watered, wooded land which he judged to be extremely rich. But no sooner had he pitched his tent and turned to unload his wagon than Michael Murray came over from his homestead on the Stockton Road and informed Green that he was "squatting" on land which was in dispute between Murray and James Witt Dougherty, each of the claimants asserting that he had purchased the land from Amador. Nevertheless, Murray invited the newcomer to take up his residence on the Murray farm. Green did so and five years later, in 1862, bought out his benefactor for \$6,000.00. He acquired the Murray lawsuit as well as his land however, but later settled the difficulty with Dougherty out of court for \$900.00.

In 1864 Green built a store, which still stands at the intersection of the Stockton and Sunol roads. He kept the store at this location and later at Greenville, four miles east of Livermore. In addition to conducting his business at the store, Green also worked a large ranch and studied law in the meager spare time that these duties allowed him. He was particularly interested in the land laws pertaining to Mexican grants. The heads of Spanish and Mexican families, who regarded him

as a true friend, often visited him in the evening to obtain advice on their legal problems. He was well suited to this role of adviser, for with customary diligence he had learned Spanish while apprenticed to the New York drug firm, which had trade relations with South American countries.

Michael Murray, who gave his name to the township, was a prosperous sheep raiser for many years and a prominent local politician. In 1876 he had retired from farming and was living in San Francisco.

In 1869 the first schoolhouse was completed at Dublin and for the first time the American flag was formally raised above a school in the township. Around a little nucleus consisting of the home of Green, the church, the school and a hotel built by John Scarlett and his partner named Grandees, the settlement of Dublin slowly grew.

The second village in the township was Scott's Corners. The germ of the settlement was the store erected in 1860 by George Foscolini at the junction of the Alisal and Laddsville (Pleasanton and Livermore) roads. This store later came into the hands of Thomas Scott, who built a two-story structure across the road from the old one-story building, and from that time on

the locality was known as Scott's Corners. The original store still stands, though it is not in use.

One of the descendants of the Scott family tells how the earthquake of 1868 terrified the little town:

"In 1865, my father moved to Scott's Corners. His business at Hiles was later sold to William Snyder, who married my sister Clara. Mr. Snyder remained in the general merchandise line for many years, as well as serving many terms as postmaster. None knew Hiles who didn't know Mr. Snyder.

There was a large corral at Scott's Corners, built of split oak poles and about seven feet in height, with a snubbing pole in its center. It was in the fall months of 1868 - there was probably fifteen head of horses in the corral at the time. About eight o'clock in the morning of this fateful day, we noticed these horses, heads and tails up, running about as if in a stampede; then we heard a low, rumbling roar - the earth at first seemed to tremble, then it began a violent shake, probably lasting for a minute, more or less. We were in our first shock of the big earthquake of 1868. These tremors continued intermittently up to about four o'clock in the afternoon. The first shock being the most severe, I, then a small boy, hung on to my mother's dress, following her wherever she went. She seemed to be as much scared as I was. It appeared to be in the mouths of everyone that the earth was near its end. Mother opened the door of the milk room. All the contents of the many pans of milk were on the floor. Across the road in my father's store, crockery, patent medicines in their bottles, as well as other shelf goods, filled the aisles; most all was a total loss. I doubt if there was a brick chimney in Murray or Washington Township that had not fallen or needed repairs. It was reported that a fissure was opened between Milpitas and San Jose that extended for many miles."

Laddeville was the first name of the settlement afterwards called Livermore. It came into being about

1864. A store was begun at the site of the town by Robert Graham in the spring of 1858. Then, in 1864, Alfonso Ladd, who had arrived in the region in 1850, took up one hundred sixty acres of land near the old Livermore residence and built a house on the property - the first building in what he called Laddsville. Soon after, he also erected a hotel, near which Henry Goethen opened a store in 1865, and shortly after a smithy was added to the three other buildings. Alexander Mesa then opened a saloon and in 1868, R. W. Graham established a larger store. Finally an Italian restaurant, a third merchandise store, a drug store, another saloon and a few residences began to give the place a distinctly urban aspect.

Keeping a hotel in those early days of the township often exposed the host to grave danger. There were some thoroughly bad characters in the County and pioneer hotels and saloons were almost sure to receive their unwelcome patronage. Ladd once nearly lost his life in a wild battle with one of these ruffians named Hyde.

On the morning of August 9, 1868, before going to the barroom of Ladd's hotel, Hyde was overheard saying that he had decided to "have a man for supper" - whether through drink or braggadocio or a murderous intention,

no one could say. Some time later in the day Hyde, intoxicated, went up to Ladd's bar and ordered another drink. Seeing the condition of the man and fearing trouble, Ladd refused to serve him. Hyde flew into a rage seized a pitcher and a heavy beer mug and attacked Ladd so furiously that he was injured and had some difficulty grappling with his assailant. Three men, hearing the fracas, ran into the barroom. At the moment they entered two fatal pistol shots rang out. Hyde's finger had pulled the trigger; but Ladd, with a last frantic effort had turned the muzzle away from his own heart towards Hyde and the latter was mortally wounded. Ladd was exonerated.

In 1869 the name Laddsville was changed to Livermore by William Mendenhall. The railroads were pushing development in California and Mendenhall, who owned a large farm near Laddsville, gave twenty acres of land to the Central Pacific Railroad, about a half mile west of Laddsville. The railroad built a depot and Mendenhall surveyed a townsite and named the new place after Robert Livermore. C. J. Stevens built a grist-mill, and in a short time Livermore had all the appearance of a thriving young city, with its own hotel, warehouse, stores and residences. On account of the railroad, the town flourished and after overshadowing Laddsville,

finally absorbed it.

Like the famous Topay, the town of Sunol apparently "just grewed"; there is no specific time or event from which to date its origin. The first references to a definite settlement here were made when a Frenchman named Bertrand opened the Argenti Hotel "in Sunol," in 1862, and when Mrs. Samuel Brown is referred to as teaching school "at Sunol" in 1865. Other developments soon followed; Michael Regan purchased a farm; R. I. Graham was conducting a general merchandise store in 1868; Anton Bardellini opened a restaurant and a Mr. Elliot operated a livery stable.

Some details have already been given concerning the first water company in Murray Township, originated by Charles Hadsell. The company was later merged with the Calaveras Water Company before the entire organization was purchased by the Spring Valley Water Company of San Francisco.

Sunol possesses the only water temple in the United States - a dome supported by lofty columns. Inside the columns there is a gallery from which the visitor may look deep down into a tiled basin, and into this basin a noisy cascade comes leaping from the Spring Valley pipelines - a play of pure and sparkling water that holds the observer fascinated.

In the heart of the hills near the northeastern extremity of Murray Township, and about eight miles from Livermore, Edward Hobler founded the town of Altamont in 1869. On account of its location the place has not grown in commercial importance, although it lies in the Altamont or Livermore Pass on the great highway that connects Alameda County with the San Joaquin Valley.

The date of the founding of Pleasanton is difficult to fix. Although the elements of a community were to be seen there as early as 1855, they were given a definite town formation only after the completion of the railroad in 1869. One of the leading pioneers, John W. Kottinger, came into the township in 1850 and acquired a ranch from which he moved in 1851 to a site known as Alisal, which at that time had no population. The nearest house was Augustin Bernal's, built the year before about a mile to the west. Kottinger put up a house and was joined the following year, 1852, by Juan Bernal, who erected an adobe home near Kottinger's but on the opposited bank of Arroyo Valle Creek. Kottinger not long after married one of Bernal's daughters and received some of his father-in-law's acres as his bride's dower. In 1857 he rented his house to two partners, Duerr and Nusbaumer,

who converted it into a general store.

At length, about 1863, Kottinger began to think of starting a town on the site of his ranch at Alisal and was seconded in this design by Joshua A. Neal who had been an overseer on Livermore's rancho before coming to the Alisal neighborhood. Neal also married one of Augustine Bernal's daughters, her dower amounting to five hundred acres of land. Neal and Kottinger finally combined forces in the project of founding and developing a town. A public school, taught by a man named Powell, was established in 1864 and Kottinger erected a hotel in 1865 which was leased two years later by Bardellini - who seems to have been ubiquitous in the early history of the township. Other settlers came to the place, industry began and little by little Alisal (Pleasanton) grew until it was a flourishing town.

Through a quiet, peaceful country-side, the Alisal region was somehow popular with outlaws whose exploits there add color and action to the history of the locality. One dramatic encounter will always be remembered, the shooting of a famous bandit by an even more famous peace officer.

On September 19, 1866, Pleasanton, or Alisal, was the scene of an exciting gun battle between the intrepid

Alameda County Sheriff, Harry Morse, and the noted outlaw, Narcisco Borjorques. Borjorques was a desperado of the first rank; he stopped at no deviltry. There was a strong presumption that he had murdered the Golding family in the Sunol Valley in 1859, and that he had burned their bodies in the house and had hanged a vaquero to a nearby tree. He had slain one of his own gang, Quarto, in a dispute over the division of booty and had otherwise added to his professional reputation with various major felonies, before he finally ran foul of Sheriff Morse. In this same year, 1866, before his encounter with Morse, Borjorques murdered a butcher near Pleasanton and stole \$120.00 from his victim, but there were no witnesses and Narcisco complacently went about his business among the quiet little villages of the township.

Sheriff Morse had received a letter from the authorities of Los Angeles County stating that this outlaw was wanted in the South on a criminal charge. Morse, never lax in the performance of his duty, at once made preparations to capture Borjorques. He traced the Mexican from Mission San Jose to Alisal and there learned that the bandit had ridden north not half an hour before, carrying an extra saddle. Morse felt sure he would return and hid in Foscolini's store to wait for him.

A short time later, Narcisco rode up to the store, whistling, and was casually invited to come in. He suspected an ambush however, and refused to dismount. Thereupon Morse came rushing out of his hiding place and made for the mounted man with all speed, at the same time reaching into his breast pocket for a pair of handcuffs. Narcisco whipped out a pistol and fired point-blank at the on-coming sheriff. The gun missed fire. Instantly Morse drew and fired, but his shot went wild. In a flash, Borjorques wheeled his horse and was away. Then a second shot from the sheriff's pistol struck the fleeing outlaw in the side; he threw up his arm, dropped his pistol and uttered a loud groan. But he was neither killed nor taken. A fence barred his way and Narcisco leaped off his horse and escaped in a ravine. Thorough search by a posse failed to discover him. Borjorques had had enough of Sheriff Morse and Murray Township however. He left this part of the state and was later killed in Southern California.

In 1867 Kottinger made a survey of Pleasanton, but as we have seen, it was not until 1869, when the railroad entered the township, that the village really began to grow. The railroad played a large part in the development of the county, as is shown in the following quaint extract from an account by one of the pioneers:

"In 1864 they started to build a railroad through the Niles Canyon. Cox and Arnold were given the contract. After the work was partly finished, McLaughlin, who was to finance the work, refused to furnish more money. The materials for the road were all attached and a keeper appointed. Finally the Central Pacific was given the right to finish the work. The depot located at its present site, was named Niles. Vallejo Mills, the name of the old landmark, became past history. There was another grist mill at Mission San Jose during this period owned by a Mr. Laumeister, located on Mill Creek. No doubt the creek derived its name from that fact. Cape Horn was the name given to that high mountain which gave the Central Pacific so much trouble, not alone in cost, but in delaying trains from Niles to Sunol. The base of this mountain was at the first turn in the track out of Niles, a short distance up-stream from the grist-mill, on the north bank of Alameda Creek. This mountain, bluff-like, dipped sharply to the creek, and was made up of many huge boulders and rocks which gave way in wintertime to slides covering the track. It was many years before the upper face was cut back far enough to prevent further trouble.

The completion of these bands of steel, beginning at the Oakland Mole and reaching out to the Atlantic side, was one of the most important events of the West. Before the completion of this trans-continental railroad, most all of our supplies came by sailing ships around Cape Horn, thus entailing months of time en route. The same conditions prevailed in passenger and mail service. I doubt if a holiday declared by proclamation would have seen more people along the right of way of this railroad than there were the day the first train came through with the western officials aboard its locomotive - with an eight foot boiler and a ten foot stack, puffing and smoking up the Niles Canyon through Sunol and Livermore Valleys, over the Altamont Pass across the great San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys on to Utah, where the last golden spike was driven on May 10, 1869, connecting the east with the west by rail - the dawning of a mightier West.

Niles became quite an important railroad point. The "pushers" (extra locomotives) were stationed here to help heavy trains up to the summit pass at Altamont. All crops raised in the Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol Valleys, prior to the completion of the railroad, were hauled by teams into Washington Township, to tide-water for shipment. The road through the Niles Canyon was but a trail at that time, hardly passable in summertime and impassable in winter months - hence all the teaming and hauling off of crops was via Scott's Corners and over the Mission hills, going westward."

It was in Murray Township, tradition says, that the inspiration for the founding of Stanford University came to Leland Stanford. Stanford and his wife, returning from a trip to Europe, had to pass through Livermore. When the train stopped at the station, he took the opportunity of greeting a crowd of well-wishers who had gathered there. Stanford had just begun to speak from the rear platform of his car when he was interrupted by the crying of a child in the crowd. Mrs. Stanford asked if she might take the infant, and in her arms it was soon pacified and stopped crying. During his address, the famous man looked at the child cradled in his wife's bosom and was so moved by the memory of their own lost son that he cut the thread of his remarks and announced that he had just then decided to found a university for poor students who could not otherwise finish their education. The editor of the Livermore Herald, W. P. Bartlett, broadcast this news to the San Francisco press and

it spread to all parts of the world.

It is significant to note in connection with the railroad, that the date of its completion, 1869, marks either the founding or the extension of most of the towns in the Murray area.

The beginning of Livermore was directly connected with the entry of the Central Pacific into the valley. Owing to Mendenhall's foresight in donating land to the railroad, the new town became the commercial center of the region and Laddsville went out of existence. The station became the center of a group of buildings: The Livermore Hotel, Catanicke's and the Golden Star Hotel, Bowle's Skating Rink and Mendenhall's warehouse, all built in 1869. The first brick building was put up in April 1870, the ground floor being occupied by shops and the second story by the Palace Hall, which was used as a social center. The first College in the region was made possible also by the benefaction of William Mendenhall, when he presented a strip of land to Dr. and Mrs. Kingsbury in 1870, as a site for Livermore College. Professor J. D. Smith, who during the early days of the County had been a member of the faculty of Washington College, later purchased the institution from the Kingsburys. Between 1870 and 1872 the popula-

tion of Livermore grew at a rate which must have been encouraging to the founders of the town. The extent and variety of business may be gathered from the founding of the Livermore Springs Water Company, Horton and Kennedy's Lumber Yard, Waterman Company's warehouse, John Sylward's carriage factory, the Livermore Brewery, and the Olivina vineyards. It was the Livermore Coal Company, organized in 1875, that opened shafts at various places in Corral Hollow.

Coal had been found in the Hollow in 1860 by Captain Jack O'Brien, who promoted a company to exploit his discovery. This vein, eight feet thick and composed of a light bituminous grade of coal, mingled with clay, slate, spar and sulphur, was sold to the William Coleman Company of San Francisco, but the purchasers never worked the claim. For two months the Central Pacific operated a coal mine belonging to a Stockton company but discontinued, apparently through dissatisfaction with the quality of coal produced. On March 4, 1874, Thomas Harris discovered a vein in the Arroyo Mocho and in the following year the Livermore Coal Company was formed to mine the deposit. Later another discovery was made and the Summit Company was organized. Until 1917 the old Corral Hollow mines were worked by the Tesla Company.

The Livermore Enterprise, which two years later changed its name to Herald, was established in 1874 with W. P. Bartlett as editor. A fire company was organized in the town about 1874; local farmers associated to form a grange in the same year and a bank and a library appeared in 1875. At length the rapidly growing town was incorporated on April 30, 1876, with a population of 830 persons, 254 buildings and town property with an estimated value of \$500,000.00.

Since the time of its incorporation Livermore has made steady and normal progress until it is now the largest and best-known city in Murray Township.

Many factors in the growth of the region around Livermore are of no great extrinsic importance but carry a certain interest to those concerned with the country-side and also illustrate the way in which a community develops. For example, about 1885 the Aquas de Villa Springs, situated on the property of W. M. Mendenhall about ten miles northeast of Livermore, were extensively patronized as a health resort. The water contained large percentages of sodium and magnesium salts. In the same year a high grade of chromite was found near the town. In 1886 a telephone system was established between Livermore and the Arroyo Valley

vineyards. Mendenhall discovered gold and silver ore on his health resort property in 1869. During the following winter, innumerable robins, forced by heavy snows in the hills to seek shelter in the valley, were slaughtered by market hunters. One hunter killed four thousand birds in four nights merely by firing at random in the trees in which they roosted, and received forty cents a dozen for them in San Francisco. In 1891 the Farmer's Warehouse Company was formed. By 1893 the use of Chinese labor in the vineyards had become a source of great irritation to local farmers and they began to express their anti-Oriental views; the residents of Livermore and its vicinity assembled and passed strong resolutions against the employment of coolies. In August, 1893, the Union High School, a new building consisting of four main class rooms and a large basement was formally opened by President Martin Kellogg of the University of California assisted by the County Superintendent of Schools and the high school principal. Presbyterian and Methodist churches were erected in 1871 and 1885 respectively and in 1891 Archbishop Riordan dedicated a Catholic Church.

Thus did the township grow; a mere catalogue of minor events it is true, but each of these events, and a thousand others, was a symbol of the honest endeavor

of peaceful, neighborly people to build a community they could be proud of.

Livermore cannot be dismissed without some reference to its most picturesque institution, the rodeo.

The rodeo is the parade and the sport of cattle country. It is a pageant compounded of the round-up and the Spanish fiesta, and it is at home in Livermore. The first modern rodeo was held in 1918 to raise funds for the Red Cross during the World War, and was an outstanding success. More than 8000 visitors were attracted to the town and almost \$5,000.00 were realized by the sponsors. This encouraged the promoters of the rodeo to stage another show in 1919, the receipts to go towards a veterans' memorial park in honor of 339 Livermore men who fought in the World War. For three days this rodeo entertained over 15,000 visitors. Horses and stocks were brought from near and far and gave an exhibition of riding and roping and dangerous cowboy sports unexcelled in the history of California. The Livermore Rodeo established a reputation for fair play and some of the best cowboy talent in the entire West entered the list (or should one say the corral) in the heart of Murray Township. Purses up to \$10,000.00 were awarded in 1919.

To-day the rodeo is managed by the Livermore Stockmen's Association and ranks with the classic spectacles at Pendleton and Cheyenne. It has become an institution and experts say that it merits the title of "The World's Fastest Rodeo."

Next to livestock raising, the most valuable industries of Livermore are viticulture and wine making. The valley to-day produces a grade of dry, white wine in demand all over the country. The Volstead Act threw wine producers into consternation, but with the repeal of Prohibition many hundreds of persons immediately went back to work in the vineyards and wineries. In 1934, 1,890,000 gallons were produced in the Livermore region and 500,000 gallons of aged wine were put on the market.

In 1869 the Central Pacific Railroad Company laid its tracks through the village of Alisal on a four hundred foot right of way granted by the national government. Although the settlement had always been known as Alisal, the railroad company changed the name in honor of General Pleasanton, supposedly the first man to come to the town by railway.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the agricultural importance of the Pleasanton region, but the chief

historical interest of the locality lies in its annals of horse-breeding and racing. In the early 70's Augustin Bernal laid out a one mile race track just outside the town and the stockmen of the vicinity formed the Jockey Club. Bernal's stable facilities must have been excellent (forecasting the preeminence of Pleasanton); in 1875 his bay horse took first place in a running race against Alviso's bay mare by five lengths and won a heavy purse for his backers. It is surprising how quickly the fame of Pleasanton's blooded horses and the excellence of the track won national renown. By the middle 80's sportsmen were beginning to gather here from far and wide and the season of November, 1885, was very successful. The best time made by the competing thorough-breds, however, was only three minutes.

The Pleasanton track, or rather tracks, (the outer being one mile and a half in length and the inner one mile) were built on the most favorable soil and under the best conditions possible. The land was formed in prehistoric times by the overflow from Arroyo Mocho Creek, with a depth of sixty-five feet of alternate strata of silt and sand. According to an early authority the track was by accident built almost ideally with

the center higher than the sides so that surface water drains off almost immediately and this natural drainage is accelerated by two culverts. Thirty-five minutes after rain ceases the track is suitable for working out a horse.

These track conditions, in conjunction with climatic advantages, caused early sports writers to refer to Pleasanton as "Horse Heaven." The water supply is unusually pure, filtering through six miles of gravel in the nearby mountains and green feed is available every month of the year - a great aid in the conditioning of horses. The crowning attraction of Pleasanton for trainers, however, is the ready supply of Pleasanton red oat hay. But not even a diet of red oat hay alone is considered fit for racing thoroughbreds; the hay grown in the bottom lands is deemed too coarse and fibrous and the most prized variety is that raised in the foothills where it does not grow too rankly and thus acquires a high sugar content. The climate must be warm and dry and the harvest crews must be well trained in the art of curing the crop properly. When all of these precautions are observed the hay will never be dry or musty or impair the wind of the valuable horses that eat it.

It is said that the wide recognition of Pleasanton as a racing town was largely due to Monroe Salisbury, who owned the track during the 80's. Salisbury acquired a three-year old black stallion, Director, for \$10,000.00. Trained at Pleasanton for harness racing, Director began setting a fast pace for his competitors by making a record of 2.23 during his tour of the state. On a tour of the eastern tracks, Director won further distinction by defeating the best horses in the country, returning with a record of 2.17. Eastern sports writers of the day lauded him as the greatest horse ever seen on any turf. Director was finally disabled by an accident and returned to the stud, producing six trotters, one of which, Direct, made a record of 2.06 for the mile.

In the opinion of a pioneer trainer and driver of harness horses, Fred Chadbourne of Pleasanton, the first two Pleasanton horses to add luster to the name of their home town were the stallion Direct (by Director) and the mare Gold Leaf (by Sidney). About the same time Salisbury had under lease the famous Cricket (by Steinway), holder of the World's High-Wheel pacing record. Other famous racers from the Salisbury stables were Directum, Azote, Alix and Directly. Directly held the world two-year-old record, and according to local

tradition, Directum's achievements later added great luster to the Pleasanton track and stables.

Salisbury at one time owned another outstanding horse, Sidney, which he sold to Count Giulio Valensin, who purchased 140 acres of the Rancho Santa Rita during the eighties and set up a stable there with a track and a breeding farm. He is best known for his ownership of Sidney, a great sire, who produced not only fast mature colts but colts which developed speed very young. One of Sidney's offspring, Frou Frou, won the yearling trotting record and another, Fausta, captured the world's pacing record for one-year olds.

One of the profitable sidelines of racing was the development of speedy colts for the May sale at Brainerd Park in Cleveland, Ohio. California horses always brought high prices because they had been trained during the temperate California winter and so were enabled to excel the eastern horses that had to be indoors during the winter months. For this reason many eastern stables began shipping their horses to Pleasanton for early spring training and racing on California tracks.

Studs were owned by Senator Hearst and Valensin, and in addition to these others were operated by H. Wilcock, Gilbert Thompkins and J. C. Simpson. In 1891

a stallion bred by Simpson was sold at Lexington, Kentucky for \$55,000.00.

The racing season of 1898 at Pleasanton was considered an outstanding sporting event and attracted large crowds. The principal events were pacing, trotting and running, though the harness road races also excited great interest. The chief stakes at this meeting were the Hop, Merrim and Mercantile.

At this time high grade driving horses were greatly in demand. The Pleasanton stables ranked high in breeding and their thoroughbred animals were famous almost everywhere; many of the speediest horses and most skillful drivers were trained here. Some of the faster horses in the mile race were Coney (2:01½), Anaconda (2:02½), Alix (2:03½), Klatsch (2:04 3/4), Directum (2:15½), Dally Dillon (2:07½), Diablo (2:09½), Jamie (2:09½) and others.

Not only the horses but drivers as well achieved fame at Pleasanton. Among famous drivers who acquired their skill on the Pleasanton course were Budd Doble, Andrew McDowell, Myron McHenry (who drove Dan Patch), Jack and Gil Curry, Charles Durfee and James Sutherland. Equally notable as trainers were Havis James, who managed Roger J. MacKenzie's stable; Tom Keating,

J. Kelley, the famous George Staar, Millard Sanders (remembered for his training of Lou Dillon), Murray, Fred Chadbourne, Charles de Ryder and William Geers.

The last name of this list is perhaps the most illustrious. William Geers was affectionately known to a whole generation of racing fans as "Old Pop Geers, the Grand Old Man of Harness Racing." His was the kind of personality around whom legends grow. Fred Chadbourne, who trained and drove at Pleasanton for thirty-two years, offered this testimonial to the character of the veteran Geers:

"Old Pop Geers was here about 1890 to '95. I was just a kid then. He was one of the most lovable characters that ever graced a race track. The crowds would cheer him more even when he lost than they would applaud any other driver when that driver won.

He was a very quiet, soft-spoken man who never said a bad word about any man or anybody's horse.

Old Pop Geers said one of the dangers to a new eastern trainer working his horses on the Pleasanton track was over-training. This was because the eastern trainer was not used to having good training days all the time."

The track passed from the hands of Monroe Salisbury into those of Tom Keating and Lew Grollin, the former an outsider and the latter a local Pleasanton man. These partners raced Searchlight, holder of the one, two and three-year-old pacing records. They also

handled Anaconda, the world title-holder in the gelding class. Keating and Grellin disposed of the track to Tom Ronan of Walla Walla, Washington, who shortly afterward turned it over to a man from Oregon named Armstrong. It was during Armstrong's two-year regime that the most famous horse of the day, Lou Dillon performed at the local track. She was the first harness horse to cover the mile in less than two minutes (1:58½) and her record of 25½ seconds for the quarter-mile, officially timed, is said by Fred Chadbourne of Pleasanton to be a record never equalled before or since by any trotter. Lou Dillon was sired by Sidney Dillon, and he by Sidney, which Monroe Salisbury had sold to Count Valensin. Sidney's much-toasted grand-daughter, Lou Dillon, was bred and owned by Henry and Ira Pierce of the Santa Rosa Stock Farm and was trained at Pleasanton by Millard Sanders, previously mentioned as one of the more noted trainers. When Henry Pierce died, the horse was put up at auction and was bought by the New York multimillionaire sportsman, C. K. G. Billings, who used her as a buggy mare.

Armstrong sold the Pleasanton track to Roger J. MacKenzie, son of Sir William MacKenzie, Canadian railroad tycoon. The younger MacKenzie brought with him a large string of horses to be trained at Pleasanton,

which he declared to be the best place on earth for such a purpose. He was so taken with the charms of the locality that he began buying up all the property he could, averring that he owned real estate in almost every state but his Pleasanton tract was the one piece that no one in the world could buy from him at any price. The two most noted horses owned by MacKenzie at Pleasanton were Bernon McKinney and Joe Patchen the Second.

After MacKenzie's death, Gad Byron and James F. O'Hara, joint owners of the Thorncliffe track at Toronto, Canada and the Bowie track near Baltimore, Maryland, came into control of the Pleasanton establishment. They became partners with the MacKenzie estate, each owning one third.

Byron and MacKenzie changed the Pleasanton race-course to a running, rather than a pacing or trotting track. Runners require softer going than pacers or trotters, therefore the two latter types of horses ceased coming to Pleasanton. After this change in the character of the track, A. B. Spreckels of San Francisco sent over a stable of colts for conditioning and training and out of this string came two horses of championship calibre, Runstar and Morvich. Runstar

won the Coffroth Handicap at Agua Caliente, \$50,000.00; Morvich, sold to Benjamin Block of New York, won the Kentucky Derby and other important contests.

The track began to decline after the introduction of the automobile. In the days of harness racing stable owners paid part of their expenses by selling to buggy drivers horses which did not quite measure up to racing requirements. The track was operated however, up to the time of the World War and both harness and running races was featured. But the glory of the old track was gone; even before the war the Alameda County Fair was held in two large buildings erected in the race-track grounds. Since war days it has been used only as a training ground for running horses. Among racing men it is axiomatic that horses who have wintered at Pleasanton must be watched in spring racing, no matter what their condition was before they were taken there. The modern wonder horse, Seabiscuit was worked out there for ten days during the winter of 1936 because of the muddy condition of tracks elsewhere.

In addition to horse racing, movie making was at one time what might be called an occasional industry of the region. Producers used the Pleasanton locale as a setting suitable for New England films, although

lighting and weather conditions as well as other advantages also prompted their selection of this region. Two of the more outstanding films made here were "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" and "Huckleberry Finn".

The old Rose Hotel was headquarters for racing and motion picture people, and sometimes as many as three hundred in a cast on location would foregather there. Among the famous names on the register are those of Mary Pickford, Blanche Sweet, Dorothy Phillips, House Peters, Tom Mix, Dustin Farnum, Charlie Chaplin, Jeanette MacDonald (long before stardom), Pola Negri, Viola Dana and Douglas MacLean.

In 1897 Dr. W. H. Cope discovered near the center of Pleasanton a large natural well which was the beginning of a water-works for the town. It was found that 42,000 gallons flowed from the well every twenty-four hours, and the town trustees acted quickly and purchased three acres surrounding the well. A 50,000 gallon reservoir was installed near at hand and a pumping plant raised the water 128 feet to the top of a hill, where a 200,000 gallon reservoir was built. Hydrant pressure in the town pipes was sixty pounds and could be raised at will to ninety pounds.

On June 30, 1902 the Board of Supervisors received

petitions from the residents of Eden and of Murray Townships requesting the division of Eden into two townships, to be known as Eden and Castro, and of Murray into two townships to be known as Murray and Pleasanton. The reason alleged for the division was facilitating the election of constables and justices of the peace. The petitions were received and on the motion of Supervisor Horner, seconded by Supervisor Church, were referred to the district attorney with instruction to divide the townships as requested.

On July 3, 1902, the day set for hearing and consideration of objections, no protest against the division of Murray Township was entered, and the measure was unanimously passed by the board. The Township of Pleasanton came into being on August 4, 1902. Petition for the division of Eden Township was rejected.

Outstanding among contemporary events in the township is the annual Fiesta del Vino, a vintage festival held in the town to celebrate the harvesting of the grape crop and its manufacture into wine. For two days of the year (about August 28 and 29) Pleasanton streets are gay with the costumes and music of the bygone Spanish era; once again caballeros and señoritas are seen in the streets and everyone rejoices that another year's

work has been well done.

Another great industry in this section is the development and working of gravel beds; one plant representing a value of one million dollars in improvements alone.

Several cheese factories and large dairies are also located in the vicinity. The only certified dairy in Alameda County, the Meadowlark Dairy, is also located at Pleasanton on the Castlewood Country Club road and is open to visitors at all times. It is inspected at bi-monthly intervals by the University of California veterinary division; the workmen are under constant medical supervision and the milk, bottled at the dairy, is protected by a double cap. This milk is distributed throughout the bay region.

Another Pleasanton institution is the Rose Avenue Cottage School devoted to child guidance and conducted by Dr. V. H. Podstata. In a happy, home environment, children receive instruction in reading and any other subjects in which they may need special attention. They are allowed to keep pets, and to enjoy camping, horseback riding, dancing, music and other social activities.

The former Hacienda del Pozo de Verona, transformed into the Castlewood Country Club, is still among

the show places of Alameda County. Situated on rolling wooded hills facing the picturesque Amador Valley, the club's 510 acres include a \$200,000.00 golf course, outdoor swimming pool, polo and picnic grounds and the imposing clubhouse. The landscaping of the estate was done by the late Luther Burbank. After acquiring the grounds and buildings, the present management spent more than \$500,000.00 in improvements consisting of furnishings, a heating plant, a golf course, a pool, tennis courts and a taproom decorated in modernistic style. A riding school and miles of scenic bridle trails among the hills are also available for guests. The club casino will accommodate 250 guests at banquets and the main dining room seats 150 and accommodations are provided for seventy-five overnight guests.

The story of the old hacienda is worth repeating. In 1890 Senator George Hearst had chosen Pleasanton as a desirable location for his home, Hacienda del Pozo de Verona (The House of the Well of Verona), as well as for his renowned stables. The name of the estate is derived from the Italian city of Romeo and Juliet, where Mrs. Hearst had bought a beautiful old well curb which she imported to Pleasanton.

The hacienda was designed in accordance with Spanish architectural tradition. Reminiscent of a mission,

the house was constructed with square towers, red tile roof, wrought iron balconies and cream-colored walls. Aside from its external beauty, it was evermore famed for its unfailing hospitality; in the course of a year many thousands of distinguished visitors to the state and many whom Mrs. Hearst had come in contact with during her philanthropic work at the University of California were entertained at the hacienda. She converted a large part of the grounds into a flower garden and shipped hundreds of boxes of the choicest blooms to San Francisco hospitals.

Her generosity extended also to the last of the Indians, a remnant of the original tribe which had once inhabited the region and in 1904 she allowed them to settle on her estate and form a small village.

Nowadays, swift motor cars pass to and fro along the splendid highways of Pleasanton Township, and prosperous farms and ranches give a smiling aspect to the scene. Changes have come with the years, but they have been kind to this lovely country-side.

It is now one hundred and eleven years since Don Jose Maria Amador came into this beautiful valley that still bears his name and it is a gracious thought that could he return, he would see no change to sadden his heart but only the manifold signs of happiness and prosperity.

Eden Township

EDEN TOWNSHIP

The territory embraced within the boundaries of Eden Township is an irregular tract of land containing 155.5 square miles and nearly 100,000 acres.

From a point just south of Redwood Peak the boundary runs southeast to Lake Chabot, then turns west, skirting the northern boundary of San Leandro and ending near the southern line of the Oakland Municipal Airport. The northern boundary (the Contra Costa County line) passes southeast from Redwood Peak to about three miles from the town of Dublin. The line then turns south for three or four miles and veers southwest to the bay, passing about a mile north of Alvarado. Citizens of Oakland who associate Eden Township with Hayward and San Lorenzo may find it difficult to visualize a part of the township lying just behind the Joaquin Miller property in the suburbs of their own city. Eden is bounded on the north by Contra Costa County, on the West and northwest by Brooklyn Township, on the east by Pleasanton Township, on the south by Washington Township and on the west by San Francisco Bay.

Several changes have been made in the original boundaries of the township fixed by the first Court of Sessions of Alameda County, at its initial meeting in Alvarado on June 6, 1853. A petition to divide the township

was submitted to the Board of Supervisors at the time Pleasanton Township was created in 1902. At the hearing, a protest was made against any division and three citizens were at hand to defend the protest. No one was present in behalf of the division, hence the Board of Supervisors unanimously denied the petition.

The terrain of Eden Township may be divided into three sections, from west to east: First, a narrow strip of tide lands and salt marshes along the bay shore; then a fertile plain admirably adapted to diversified agriculture, and finally the foothills of the Coast Range.

Among many streams which rise in these foothills, San Leandro Creek and San Lorenzo Creek are the most important, although numerous smaller streams flow through various canons and valleys in the Township. Each water course flows through its own valley and, except in the driest years, these streams furnish an ample supply of water for fields and orchards. Castro Valley is the largest of the valleys, but Cull, Crow, Eden and Palomares Valleys, though small and narrow, add both to the beauty and to the fertility of the Township.

Everywhere the landscape is varied and beautiful - mountains on the east, on the sunset side the everchanging bay, and smiling fields between.

San Leandro Creek, with its source far up in the Berkeley Hills behind the town of Piedmont, empties its

waters into Lake Chabot, an important reservoir of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The overflow from the lake continues as San Leandro Creek until it flows into San Leandro Bay, and in early Spanish days a busy embarcadero at this point served the padres of Mission San Jose. San Leandro Bay is well known to Oaklanders as the body of water north of the Municipal Airport. A few miles south of the airport, where San Lorenzo Creek empties directly into San Francisco Bay an embarcadero known as Robert's Landing was long ago the shipping point for produce from nearby farms.

The climate is very agreeable; there are fewer cold winds than in the northern townships and considerably less fog, and the high percentage of warm, sunny days is beneficial to crops and enhances the beauty of the country-side. It is not surprising that cherry orchards thrive and even crowd their way into the towns of San Leandro and Hayward, as if grudging any of this rich soil to streets and sidewalks. Other fruits and berries abound and the area is at the present time eminent for its horticultural development. Garden truck especially peas, tomatoes and rhubarb grow abundantly in the rich black soil.

The first pioneer to settle in the township was Don Jose Joaquin Estudillo. Don Jose, native Californian,

the son of Captain Maria Estudillo, alcalde of San Francisco in 1836, settled with his family near San Leandro Creek not far from the present site of the city of San Leandro. On January 8, 1837, he made his first petition to the Constitutional Governor of the Department of California for a tract of land, but documents conveying the grant were lost and he renewed his application on June 28, 1842. The grant finally authorized was described as "bounded on the north by the arroyo of San Lorenzo, without embracing the lands which the said Indians cultivate; and on the west by the bay." This land was later involved in a long process of litigation before the United States courts.

Two daughters of the Estudillos married Americans and it was probably on this account that the family weathered the stormy period of the American conquest more successfully than most of the other Spanish landowners in California.

The Castros and the Sotos were the next settlers. Castro built his home within the limits of the present town of Hayward; Soto occupied a tract of land that now includes the village of San Lorenzo. Two other Mexican grants were embraced within the boundaries of the present Township, the Sobrante grant in the northeast and the Vallejo grant in the south. The uncertainty of boundaries brought about disputes over property lines between these various ranches and emboldened American squatters to help themselves to many a broad acre.

The lives of these early California landowners suggests a feudal or manorial pattern. Numerous cattle roamed the valleys and hillsides; tracts of land were devoted to the raising of grain and other foodstuffs; wants were few, means for their gratification abundant; Indians were friendly and many of them were employed at various tasks on the ranches. Of the several Indian rancherias in the township, one was near the present site of the County Infirmary and another fronted San Leandro and San Lorenzo Creeks. The lives of the Spanish dons were passed in undisturbed tranquillity until land-hungry Americans arrived to destroy their happiness and security.

Strange to say, it was the sloughs and marshes of Eden Township that first attracted the Americans. Wild geese, ducks and curlews in abundance flocked on the bay shore and these game fowl brought a fancy price in San Francisco markets. But besides the inducement of profit, the sport of hunting naturally attracted many of the pioneers. There are several versions of the beginning of this hunting. One story has it that in the month of December 1849, Thomas W. Mulford, Moses Wicks, A. R. Biggs, E. Minor Smith, and W. C. Smith landed near the Estudillo mansion, pitched a tent and began shooting waterfowl with most gratifying success. The other account says that Captain Roberts and his partner Thompson

decided to try their luck in this hunter's paradise, and in the fall of 1850 made their way up a slough, passed the spot which later became Roberts' Landing, at the mouth of San Lorenzo Creek, tied up their boat, and enjoyed some rare sport.

At that time the only American living in the township was a man named Ward. According to some accounts, in 1851 Ward was already married to one of Estudillo's daughters; but in any case, he enjoyed cordial relations with the family. William Davis, who had married Senorita Maria Estudillo at a grand wedding at Mission Dolores, San Francisco, in November 1847, was also high in the confidence of the Estudillos. At a later period Davis made his home in San Leandro and both he and Ward took an active part in defending the rights of the Estudillo family in their conflict with squatters. With the exception of these two men however, it does not appear that Americans had made any significant stay in Eden Township up to the time that Roberts and Thompson started on their hunting expedition in 1850. No one seems to have occupied any land for agricultural purposes; certainly before 1852 there were fewer than a score of Americans in the township.

Chance sometimes played a part in the county's development. It was merely by chance that William Hayward came to Eden Township. Returning from an unsuccess-

ful venture in the mines, he entered the Livermore region quite by accident and was so impressed with the growth of wild oats in the San Ramon and Pacheco Valleys that he decided to take a contract to cut some hay in the vicinity of the present village of Dublin. He bought scythes in Martinez, continued the mowing for a time and then moved on toward San Francisco Bay. His route led around Dublin, through Palomares Canon, where he pitched his tent and began to shoot deer. The land he was hunting on happened to be a part of the Castro grant and Don Guillermo was not disposed to tolerate trespassers on any of his property. Nevertheless the matter ended amicably; Castro offered land further down the valley on terms acceptable to Hayward, the wanderer settled down and the final outcome was the town which now bears his name.

Castro and Hayward lived as neighbors on the friendly terms of California's "Golden Age", but that age was passing. The tide was turning in favor of the Americans. How the great Spanish families declined and how American occupancy was consolidated is well illustrated by the misfortunes of the Castro family. Guillermo Castro, at the time of his agreement with Hayward, was the owner of six leagues of land, and employed on his rancho about 100 persons, including Mexicans, Indians and South Americans. In 1852, when he

went south to purchase more cattle for his vast range, Castro made his first mistake. To increase his herds was logical enough; it seems to have been a period of expansion because Davis was buying in the same market for the Estudillo rancho. But Castro had the gambling habit. The \$35,000 he had taken to buy cattle was lost and he returned home with neither money nor cattle. Four years later he was compelled to mortgage his ranch. To liquidate this mortgage, portions of his land had to be sold to Hayward, Hughes, Maddox, Corey and others. The sales netted him between eight and ten thousand dollars which he spent without profit in San Francisco. Again he was compelled to mortgage his property - this time to Atherton, a resident of San Mateo County, who, in 1864, bought Castro's remaining interest outright for \$30,000. Castro and his family left for South America, and only his son Louis and a daughter who was married to one of the Peraltas, remained in California.

The American settlers considered Guillermo Castro one of the finest of the Spanish dons. His son later became county surveyor - one of the few native Californians able to adjust himself to the American regime. Davis comments on these Spanish Californians:

"I distinctly remember," he says, "how they impressed me when I first saw them, as a boy in 1831 and 1833 - a race of men of large stature and of fine, hand-

some appearance." Davis attributes their decline to "the unjust treatment they received from the American government, in the matter of their property". Davis also condemns the lawyers and squatters who by one means and another obtained possession of extensive Spanish lands. The Spaniards at first attempted to defend themselves but soon became disheartened. Sons of fine families grew up in want and poverty. There were some exceptions and Louis Castro was one of them.

According to Mr. Mulford, there were no permanent foreign settlers in Eden Township and no houses excepting the homes of the Spaniards, an Indian hut where the cemetery at San Lorenzo is located, and an Indian rancharia on the site later occupied by the County Hospital. Mulford built a "ten by twelve" cabin in the spring of 1850, which he used as a cook shack. Captain Roberts also came in 1850, as we have seen and built his wharf at that time. Hayward arrived in 1851.

After 1852 population and business increased rapidly. The landings on the various sloughs became shipping centers and maintained their importance despite railroad competition. As late as 1878 it could still be said that "three landings upon the bay do the greater part of the heavy freighting." The pioneers in this type of transportation were

Captain Roberts, Chisholm, Wicks, Barron and Mulford.

The first important crops raised by Americans were potatoes and grain; but as early as 1878 horticulture was listed as the leading industry of the Township with the most extensive orchards in the county. Horticulture was introduced by E. T. Crane and made this district nationally famous through the efforts of William Meek and E. Lowelling.

San Leandro is the oldest town in the entire Township. In 1850 the only sign of a settlement south of San Leandro Creek was the residence of the Estudillo family and a Mexican school house; and yet, within four years San Leandro became the county seat of Alameda County. One of the first men to recognize the importance of the site of San Leandro as a business center was E. D. Block, a native of Bavaria, who had come to the United States as a young man and had reached California in 1852. In looking about for a promising location for a store, he selected San Leandro and established his business there in 1853. Ten years later Block opened another store in Oakland. By 1857 the village had prospered to such a degree that it could advertise the place as a resort for "tired city business men", and the California Farmer refers to San Leandro as a "delightful village." The

town already had a hotel, the Estudillo House - its proprietor the same A. R. Biggs who came to Eden Township to shoot wild fowl in the fall of 1849. By 1876 it could truly be said: "The incorporated town of San Leandro is undoubtedly one of the prettiest, most desirable and best managed in the State. Its streets are kept in good order, its houses are of an excellent class, and its taxes light." Ward Avenue extended to the foothills and was lined on both sides with beautiful trees.

Portuguese came to the vicinity in considerable numbers, and received favorable notice in a contemporary newspaper: "There are many Portuguese in the Township who occupy small farms and thrive abundantly, and are found to be reliable farm hands." They built a hamlet known as Chicken Lane, and made a comfortable living by raising vegetables and poultry. In our own day the community still retains a numerous Portuguese population.

Holding the status of county seat from 1856 to 1873, undoubtedly accelerated a change in San Leandro from rural to urban character. From April to August 1855 the town was the de facto seat of government, but by order of the District Court the seat of justice was returned to Alvarado and remained there until an act

of the Legislature in 1856 declared San Leandro to be the legal County Seat of Alameda County.

There were only three buildings within the limits of San Leandro in 1855 - the Estudillo home, which burned that year, Estudillo Hotel, built in the spring of 1855, and a combined saloon and stage depot. A fourth building was erected in the fall of that year by Jim Taylor for a Mr. Hirschfelder, who opened a store which he sold after two years to E. D. Block. On the 10th of July, 1855, a temporary Court House was completed at a cost of \$1200. It was nothing more than a frame building 30 x 60 feet, and 12 feet high, located on a block of land donated by the Estudillo estate for County purposes. Prior to this date the County paid rent for offices. At the first meeting of a regularly elected Board of Supervisors, April 2, 1855, George W. Leland presented a bill of \$61.64 for the rental of court room space, and a bill for \$100 was presented at the same time "for rent of Court House at Alvarado". Later the Board of Supervisors rented temporary quarters in San Leandro for \$75 a month. It makes an interesting picture of humble beginnings, far removed from the present splendid and extensive housing of the County government.

Manufacturing began early in Eden Township. The Sweepstake Plow Factory was one of the first important industries, and since the time of San Leandro's incorporation in 1872 industrial development has been constant. At the present time San Leandro is a thriving city of more than 16,000 inhabitants, and is growing year by year; building permits quadrupled between 1921 and 1927. The churches, banks, theatres and hotels, three grammar schools and a junior school are modern in every respect. Industry, in the past few years has grown so rapidly that the slogan The Cherry City falls short of adequate description. Nevertheless the annual Cherry Festival attracts wide attention.

Hayward is closely linked in its origin with the fortunes of the man whose name it bears; its beginnings were very modest. William Hayward, like Jas. B. Larue at San Antonio, first established himself in a tent, but such primitive beginnings were never permitted to retard the California pioneer; they were rather an incentive to energetic action. William Hayward's first business venture included a dairy farm and a store, and he conducted these enterprises while still using his tent as a home and headquarters. Within a short time he built Hayward's Hotel. Through his ac-

quaintance with James B. Larue, who had employed him in a dairy in San Francisco, Hayward purchased cows and established his own dairy farm.

Hayward's hotel was for many years the town's chief attraction; it was the polling place of the first election precinct in Hayward after formation of the County in 1853 and there are frequent references to it in the press, where it is described as a fine hotel commanding an extensive view of the beautiful, fertile valley of San Lorenzo.

"Very few spots in the valley are more enchanting, and to the invalid, this is a most tempting home. Mr. Hayward, the owner of the Hotel, is a public spirited workingman. He has done much to improve the roads in the vicinity of the hotel, having built at his own expense, far beyond any claim of a pecuniary nature. He has also built a fine bridge across the creek for public use, at his own cost. At the present time he is improving his Hotel and grounds; he has erected a fine Hall for festive occasions, and made all the needed preparations to fit his house for the summer season as a pleasant place for the traveler, the invalid, or the seeker of pleasure." (California Farmer, May 9, 1856)

Hayward himself inserted a lengthy advertisement in the California Farmer of May 13, 1857, in which he graciously concurred with everything the editor had said about his hotel.

"A good stable is attached to the House. Horses in saddle or harness can be furnished for the pleasantest road scenes in the country - the Springs, the Mission Gardens, the Fishing Grounds, and other places furnishing abundant sources of

amusement for the benefit of invalids or persons desiring recreation and pleasure."

In 1864 a long forward step was taken when a rural school, first established in 1855, was moved into Hayward and marked the beginning of educational facilities that one day would rank among the best in the state.

In its issue of April 11, 1867, the same journal describes the development of the town in the next decade.

"In ten years time it has become more than a hotel resort. In our last we spoke of the improvements of Haywards and the rapid increase of that town within two years and since the cattle market had been established there."

Among the improvements noted is a large brick warehouse with a capacity of 10,000 tons, situated close to the railroad line; and when the reporter visited Hayward he was impressed by the 100,000 sacks of grain stored in one warehouse. The paper also noted that "Mr. Brown has built a large hall. In this a Lodge of Good Templars, numbering 125 members, ladies and gentlemen, hold their meeting. This lodge is prospering."

But there is a less attractive side to this picture of civic enterprise:

"We noted also, and with much regret the various saloons that open at little places at the corners. These we know are always apt to go to new places to grub as hens go to new earth to scratch and peck, but they always do more harm than good. Drinking and playing and gambling eats away the time and money of men that should find better

employment. In this new town there are some seven to ten of these places where idlers are found, which we very much regret to notice."

About 1865 new enterprises had begun to appear - a cattle market, the grain ware-house mentioned above, and a flour mill which was not completed however until 1867. This mill was driven by a thirty-five horse power engine and had a capacity of five barrels of flour per hour. Wheat was worth \$2.60 to \$2.75 per hundredweight at the mill, and flour brought from \$7.50 to \$8.00 per hundred pounds.

The earthquake of 1868 caused considerable damage but the energy of the inhabitants is well illustrated by the vigorous program of rebuilding they immediately put on foot. In the issue of the California Farmer, December 15, 1870, very interesting data are given concerning the progress of Hayward.

"Ten years ago (1860) the population of Hayward was about one hundred inhabitants. Hayward's Hotel, two stables, two or three stores, a Blacksmith and Ploughmakers shop, a few saloons, and a few houses constituted about all the place. Now (1870) Hayward claims about one thousand inhabitants. Hayward's Hotel, the principal one, is enlarged, its active proprietor still at work improving the surroundings, two smaller hotels, three stores, two stables, a number of saloons, (no benefit to any place) the large Plow and Wagon shop of J. L. Rivierre. Post Office and Express Office, and now the Railroad Depot of the Western Pacific R.R., and here the Extensive Grain Warehouse of P. Edmunson, Esq., and also the Hayward's Flouring Mills. At the center of the town are the Halls of the Rechabites, and of the Masons and I.O.O.F."

A straw-burning engine factory was operated by Mr. Rice here until he moved the plant to San Francisco some-

time before 1876. Rice's engines were famous throughout the state.

On March 11, 1876, Hayward was incorporated. Its annals after this date no longer belong to the history of rural Alameda County. It is still closely associated with the agricultural activities of the County; it is the center of the largest egg and chicken industry in the State; it is nationally famous for its squabs, and has large canning and preserving plants for fruits and vegetables. The population is about 6000.

San Lorenzo was the direct product of squatterism. When Harlan found that he could not make a satisfactory living on the farm he had been working in Washington Township he moved farther north.

"So here I was on bed rock again; or rather, I was down below it. I sold my place to Henry Smith and went to Guillermo Castro and to the widow Barbara Soto, and tried to lease some land from them. They owned all the land for miles around the town of Squatterville, or San Lorenzo, as it is now called. But they refused to lease any to me or to anyone. On the north side of San Lorenzo Creek there is a piece of excellent land, where formerly lived a number of Indians, and which was, at the time of which I write, claimed by Castro and by the Estudillos of San Leandro. There was much doubt among us Americans in that neighborhood of its belonging to either. So I determined to get together a number of farmers and take up claims on this disputed piece of land. I accordingly notified a number of friends; we met together and formed an association for the taking up of claims on this land. I had the first choice, and selected the place afterward sold by me to Mr. E. T. Crane, and now belonging to him. The

others took up their respective claims and we christened our place 'Squatterville', all agreeing to build houses at once."

According to Harlan's account this happened in the year 1851, a date confirmed by Warren Brown, County Surveyor of Contra Costa County in his report to the Surveyor-General in 1852: "Towns and villages: Martinez, Oakland and Squatterville." For some time it was puzzling to find the exact location of Squatterville, as nearly every new town was a "squatterville" by origin - even Oakland; but it may be taken for granted that Harlan referred to San Lorenzo.

With the growth of industry at San Lorenzo there was a demand for laborers which gave rise to an acute problem affecting the peace of the community. The Oakland Tribune of July 11, 1900, gave a terse account of the whole affair:

"San Lorenzo. There is much complaint among ranchers and fruit growers of this section against the action of Brooklyn Township constables in arresting men who leave Oakland in this direction to look for work. The fruit growers claim that these constables are on the lookout for anyone whom they can arrest with impunity in order to get the fees allowed for every arrest made. . . . Hundreds of honest men, driven by necessity to seek work in the Country have been unjustly arrested and imprisoned until now men are afraid to start out in this direction. . . . Now that the fruit is ripe and crops ready to be gathered, men are in demand, but none are to be had.

One of the fruit growers hired a man, paying him money in advance with which to pay his board bill. The man was arrested before he reached the ranch.

The Board of Supervisors moved today to end labor troubles in the pea fields of southern Alameda County by ordering all able-bodied workers in the area, some 4,000 in number, stricken from the county relief rolls.

The action was taken after Mayor Frank Cunha of Hayward and Justice of the Peace Allen G. Norris of Centerville had appeared before the board of representatives of the Pea Growers Association of southern Alameda County.

They told the board members that ranches of the district can provide work for 4,000 persons in the fields now until September and the workers can earn up to \$3 per day."

Industry began at San Lorenzo in 1853, when John Boyle opened a blacksmith's shop. After Boyle's death, the shop was taken over by Henry Smyth, under whose management business began to flourish and expand. The following year A. E. Crane built the San Lorenzo house and Daniel Olds opened a store. An attempt was made to establish a fruit drying plant using the Alden process but this proved a failure.

To-day, while San Lorenzo no longer uses the fleet of ships which once transported the products of that vicinity to San Francisco, her packing houses give employment to large numbers of people. The Southern Pacific Railroad which passes through the town carries away an abundance of produce. A great national powder company has a factory here, and currants, berries, vegetables and deciduous fruits add to the wealth of the town and its environs. Nor is the social side of

life neglected; there are Catholic and Protestant churches, three grammar schools, a county library and two hotels.

It is not certain just when the little town of Mt. Eden was founded, but several pioneers settled in the vicinity as early as 1852. The growing population was predominantly German.

The California Farmer, February 15, 1861, records the "discovery" of Mt. Eden:

"We found a new road, a new village, a new store, and quite a new prospect, on the route from Hayward's Hotel to Alvarado. This place is called 'Mount Eden' although it is on a plain. It is quite a fertile spot, and several farm-houses have been erected, where farms, orchards, and gardens will soon make the place a little 'Eden', indeed.

As an attraction to this place, Mr. Wm. Myers has located a store, which he intends to make a pleasant place of resort for the villagers. He has a fine stock of all kinds of goods, which he will sell at low prices. Besides this, he says that if the Farmers will only give him a share of their patronage, he will give them the best goods at the lowest rates, and he will make a Reading-room for their comfort and improvement, and will have all the best papers to interest them. Now farmers! you should patronize such a place. Mr. Myers is an old Pioneer, and it will be to your interest to do all you can to build up this Eden Village in your own vicinity, for it will create a demand for Farmers' Produce. Eden is on the route from Castro Valley to Alvarado - a great thoroughfare."

Notwithstanding that Mt. Eden is an unpretentious little country town, it has a certain importance of its own. Tens of thousands of carnations are shipped from this section to Los Angeles and San Diego. The flowers

are out in the late afternoon, travel south all night and are in the Southern California market the next morning. One of the largest nurseries on the coast is here and fruit and vegetables grow in abundance.

In Eden Township to-day much of the work of harvesting its rich crops is done by migratory labor or by workers from San Leandro, or Hayward, three miles to the east.

Castro Valley was at one time the grazing ground for the cattle of Mission San Jose, but when the missions were secularized Guillermo Castro applied for and received a land grant that included this valley. American settlers later turned large portions of the valley into fields of grain. Stock raising continued however; Manuel Munoz' horse breeding establishment developed not only draft horses but also thoroughbreds for the Pleasanton race track.

About 1900 Castro Valley underwent a third transformation when the raising of chickens on a large scale began. Among the more important poultry companies are the Hayward Rio Linda Hatchery, Perry Hatchery, Castro Valley Hatchery, California State Hatchery, Ganbert Brothers Hatchery, Walter Cook Hatchery, and Lorimer Breeding Farm.

A notable cattle ranch among those located in the Castro valley is the one owned by Mr. J. H. Rowell. Since 1929 Mr. Rowell has promoted an annual rodeo in the valley, the grandstand being located on his ranch facing

the main highway. In 1930 W. S. Freeman of the Leghorn Breeding Farm won first prize at the National White Leghorn Club Meet at St. Louis. Breeding of greyhounds for the race tracks is a profitable business for Mr. C. A. Rhodes.

Many new buildings are now under construction; the Castro Valley Realty Company has built a number of new residences, and civic improvements in the past few years have been numerous.

That the history of Eden Township is not in any large sense eventful, is strong evidence of that peace and prosperity which make the name of this township appropriate. The account of its rise to economic importance belongs to the story of cities long ago incorporated and that story is a part of the urban history of Alameda County.

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