

September 2009

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THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

Greetings from President Mark

Lots to catch up on after our summer break... The Grand Opening of the museum was a hard act to follow, but we thrilled to have 19 visitors on the first public day and we have seen steady visitation to the museum totaling over 600 people, many who specifically planned an outing to the museum. Our largest groups have been a class from Garden Village School and a tour by members of a social group from the Broadmoor Presbyterian Church. The Pacifica Historical Society has scheduled a visit by their Board and membership.

We are currently open every Tuesday and the first Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m. We will soon add the third Saturday, and then every Saturday. Eventually we will add Thursdays, a second week day. If you are available and willing to be a docent at the museum partnering with a Board member or experienced volunteer, please call or email Dana Smith at 650/755-3432, vikingsmith@earthlink.net. During the summer we are grateful to have added five regular volunteers.

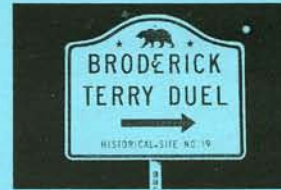
For the last three years the Guild has focused on negotiating for the use of the building, basic renovations, and opening the facility to the public. Longer term Phase 2 renovations that include access to and development of the outside yard areas, removal of the aging furnace and replacing it with a restored gas fireplace, completion of a kitchenette, and improving disabled access will become priorities at a future date. We will continue to make minor facility improvements in 2009-2010. Robert Brizuela and Al Hipona installed protective plastic over the granite signs donated by V. Fontana & Co. Board Member Michael Rocchetta will lead efforts to make repairs, paint and install flooring in the small room behind the reception desk which was formerly used by the library as a small storage room. We have already installed electrical outlets in this room which we are calling a "kitchenette" - initially it will be used for a small refrigerator and microwave and additional storage space. Volunteers Al Hipona and Robert Brizuela will be painting the exterior front of the building in late August and installing an additional wood sign to cover the original library sign molded in plaster

Cont'd



Our next member meeting...
special time, special place:

Sunday, September 13th 2:00 pm



**BRODERICK/TERRY
DUEL SITE
1100 Lake Merced
Blvd., Daly City**

The History Guild of Daly City/Colma will reenact the famous 1859 duel to mark the 150 year anniversary of the event. **Russ Brabec** will portray the mortally wounded David Broderick and **Tito Mota** will be our David Terry. A short Guild meeting and refreshments will follow. Live period music. Free - Everyone welcome.

You may want to carpool and bring a folding chair.

PARKING: We have permission for short-term parking in the adjoining parking lot (Lake Merced entrance) for the duration of the event. There is neighborhood street parking on the Westlake/El Portal Street entrance, but the nearby Doelger Senior Center parking will be occupied by the flea market.

Our thanks to **Theresa Saltzman** of Atria Senior Living who will provide refreshments.

VICTORIAN DAYS: Sept. 26, 12-4 p.m. County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City (650/299-0104) The Guild will participate in "History Lane," and the drama *Victorian Villains?* Will be performed in Courtroom A at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Come and listen as David Terry, William Sharon and Sarah Althea Hill are put on trial for their activities.

COLMA MUSEUM OPENHOUSE: Aug. 29th, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 1500 Hillside Blvd., Colma (ask about their new tour "Alive in Necropolis" based on artifacts mentioned in the novel by the same name.)

Our Thanks VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

VOLUNTEERS: Thanks go to **all our Board Members** for volunteering as docents in the museum. We are grateful for additional volunteers **Betty Schultz, Russ Brabec**, City Historian and our Board Emerita **Bunny Gillespie**, former Board Members **Vaughn and Gloriann Jones**, new volunteers **Carol Hutchins, Jean and John Gallagher, Robert Keil, and Alex Gallegos.**

Thanks, cont'd

Billy Wiggins, who lives around the corner on Wellington, is sweeping our sidewalks and tending our flowers. **Al Hipona** and **Robert Brizuela** installed protective Plexiglas over our front granite signs and will be painting the front of the building. Board President **Mark Weinberger** and new volunteer **Alex Gallegos** dismantled the store room and installed window hardware. Woodworker (and author) **Robert Keil** and **Dana Smith** are developing new custom-made exhibit display units.

DONATIONS: Now that we have our museum up and running, folks have been inspired to bring in donations of historic artifacts. Thanks to the **Rotary Club of Daly City/Colma** for their donation of historic scrapbooks and contribution of \$500*. **Gary Rudolph** of nearby Rudolph's Interiors is donating and installing curtains on the front glass doors. **Robert Keil** donated a scrapbook (passed on for the Guild by **Michael Doelger**) that **Henry Doelger** personally collected over the course of 20 years on his yachts. **Russ Brabec** researched old Daly City maps at the state archives in Sacramento and brought back copies on a DVD, contributed a copy of a 1886 newspaper article by Robert Thornton describing farmers and farming on Colma and made special notebooks on street names, early area marriage records, and local historic sites/markers and **Fred Stevens**, from the Original Daly City neighborhood west of John Daly Blvd., donated dahlia plants that are now blooming in the front landscaped area (which brings to mind the dahlia gardens John Daly tended in the area long ago.) **Theresa Saltzman** and **Annette Hipona** both donated books on the history of Native Americans, Flags from Barracks No. 1620 Veterans of World War I were donated by **Donald De Marco** and **John D. Owens**, a 1917 Daly City Volunteer Fire Dept. belt and buckle once used by **Guy Coon**, owner of a saw filing business and Volunteer Fire Chief, was donated by his son **Bill Coon**, the **Colma Historical Association** donated a large aerial view photograph from the PG&E facility on San Fernando Way looking north-east, **Police Chief Gary McLane** donated holsters and (disabled) firearms, a 1983 vintage radar gun, dress uniform, vintage badges, and other historical items, loaned his dress hat, and provided interpretive information on the history of the old jail (demolished in the '90s) and early department communications, **Chris Farron** donated a framed blueprint of the Cow Palace from the 1930's.

Call Dana Smith at 650/755-3432 if you would like to join this great group of volunteers.

**Donations of \$500 and over will be acknowledged in the Tattler.*



President's Message Cont'd

on the front of the building. This will help minimize the public confusion about the location of the John Daly Library - books continue to be left in our mail slot.

Now we have the challenging task of functioning as a community resource as we restructure our organization to take on a new expanded role and evolve from a small historic archive to a full-size museum. We are refocusing on public outreach and exhibit development as we look to the 100th Anniversary of Daly City (fast approaching in March of 2011). We are changing our bylaws (see proposed text in this edition of the *Tattler*) to reflect the need for a second Vice President who will serve as the Director of the Museum. (Our first Vice-President serves in the absence of the President and is Director of the Guild Lecture Series.) Board member Dana Smith, our former Secretary, has been nominated by the Board to be our second Vice-President, Museum Director. She has completed a year in the Masters Program in Museum Studies at San Francisco State University and will guide the professional development of the museum while working with other Guild volunteers who bring a wealth of experience. Donations of museum artifacts have been arriving at a steady rate much to the gratification of the board.

Our thanks go to retiring Board Members Gloriann Jones and Vaughn Jones who volunteered many hours to help repair our museum and proposed the idea of the duel reenactment. I want to welcome new Board Member and longtime active Guild member Judith Christensen as our new Treasurer. Judith will be overseeing a detailed budget process that will keep us apprised of expenditures. The Board recently passed a resolution to plan a "reserve fund" of two year's basic museum operating costs. We also welcome returning Board Member Marilyn Olcese who is responsible for our new front landscaping. Marie Brizuela has moved to the position of Secretary and as Chair of the Fundraising Committee is working with the committee to introduce the Chamber of Commerce to our museum at a mixer and planning a fundraising dinner in January (details to be announced in due time.)

And finally, we have incited a good deal of interest in the 150 year anniversary of the Broderick/Terry duel. Joseph Curran wrote an excellent article in the City's *Fogcutter* newsletter and notices will be published in various historical newsletters. Paul Fry, a member of the living history group Gunfighters of the Old West in Fremont, will provide our dueling pistols. Thanks to Richard Rocchetta, Director of our Guild programs, we are returning from our summer recess with a "bang."

A TATTLER SPECIAL – THE LAST DUEL



The last Broderick/Terry duel reenactments took place in 1990 and 2003, hosted by the Guild. At the 1990 reenactment, Richard Hill played Broderick and Geno Fambrini was Terry. In 2003, Russ Brabec played Broderick, and Fambrini again enacted Terry. This year, Brabec will be reprising his role as Broderick and Tito Mota will play the part of Terry.

David Colbreth Broderick (age 39) a US Senator and former New York fireman and Tammany Hall politician and **David Smith Terry** (age 36, 6'3" tall) a former Texas Ranger and Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court



fought the famous duel that ended dueling in California on September 13, 1859 in a ravine near the shore of Lake Merced. The site is marked with a monument and granite shafts where the two men stood. The dispute between the two former friends was complicated, based on political rivalries within the Democratic Party, competition over political patronage, and the role of California in the Civil War. At days end, one friend lay dying and the other's reputation was in ruins.

Many accounts have been written about the duel, often with conflicting information. *The California Historical Society Journal* in 1936 published an account of the duel written by San Francisco Municipal Court Judge Charles R. Boden. Boden commented: *Two men, both having suffered the disappointments and frustrations of political failure, were egged on by their friends into fighting a duel for which neither of them had much stomach. After the election of 1859, Terry insisted on making a speech accusing the faction which had defeated him [for chief justice of the state supreme court] of being "the personal chattels of a single individual," of belonging "heart and soul, body and breeches, to David C. Broderick." The next morning, Broderick was overheard by a friend of Terry's [Duncan W. Perley] saying: "I have said that I considered him the only honest man on the supreme bench, but I now take it all back."*

Woody LaBounty writes in the San Francisco Western Neighborhoods History Project: *...Nationwide, the Democratic Party was splintering over slavery, and Broderick, himself once the driver of a great political machine, was personally close to political ruin. Due to a long-standing rivalry with [U.S. Senator] William Gwin,*

Broderick found himself immediately at odds with the majority of his party in Washington. To make things worse, James Buchanan, the president he had faithfully campaigned for, counted himself a friend of Gwin's and made it clear he was not one of Broderick's. Among other slights, the President had cut Broderick out of the political cash of the time... Broderick's supporters had since been voted out of power within California and the senator, prone to depression, had started predicting his own death. Now, over breakfast, Broderick read excerpts from a speech Chief Justice David Terry had made at the state convention, a speech in which Terry portrayed the senator as an abolitionist and disloyal Democrat... In a temper, he tossed the newspaper towards a friend of Terry's, Duncan Perley, Broderick's comments reached Terry quickly. The two men exchanged a series of notes... Terry ultimately "demanded satisfaction". Broderick accepted.

Marc Christensen, editor of *The META News* (Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association) writes in the August 2009 issue: *There was a divide within the Democratic Party as to whether Kansas should be admitted to the Union as a free or slave state. Southern sympathizers such as State Supreme Court Justice David S. Terry and U.S. Senator William M. Gwin favored the pro-slavery stance taken by the Lecompton, Kansas wing of the Democratic Party... U.S. Senator David C. Broderick favored the Northern anti-slavery position...it was supposedly Perley who first challenged Broderick to a duel. In turn, Broderick looked to take on William Gwin, but it was David Terry who came forward to challenge Broderick... A large amount of attendant publicity followed this quarrel. When the parties came together on the morning of September 12, meeting on the farm lands adjoining the Lake House ranch beside Lake Merced, the well-notified sheriff arrested them. As both men knew, dueling was illegal per the state constitution. When the judge strangely released the men on their own recognizance, the combatants simply decided to meet the next day at the same place and time. Apparently the sheriff couldn't be bothered to get up early two days in a row... Terry and the Chivalry [faction of the Democrats] were demonized in the newspapers. The duel between the two men began to be called a "murder" and even an "assassination."*

Western Neighborhoods History Project notes: *In 1860, the Republican candidate for president, Abraham Lincoln, carried California by 614 votes. The discord between North and South that Terry and Broderick had come to symbolize soon erupted into the carnage of a civil war.*

A 2004 edition of PBS *History Detectives* observes: *Terry and Broderick had been friends, but by 1859 these political differences – pro slavery anti slavery – had*

driven a rift between the two of them... Some people believe what happened next changed the course of U.S. history. What became known as the Broderick–Terry duel was about more than insults and honor. It was about politics... the outcome of this duel influenced which side California would take in the Civil War and the course of the war itself... gold from California helped finance the union war effort. If California's gold had gone to the Confederacy, the outcome of the civil war would have been altogether different.

Historians Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett recount the details of the duel and political climate of the times. State Senator William I. Ferguson, a friend of Broderick's, died as a result of a duel a year earlier at Angel Island, thought by some to have been masterminded by Broderick rival Sen. Gwin of Tennessee. Henry Ferris Coon, a pioneer doctor/druggist and attorney, was the Sheriff who arrived in a hearse during the first attempt to stage the duel a day earlier. He was elected Mayor of San Francisco from 1863-1867, despite criticism that he had failed to prevent the duel. Broderick was considered "one of the best pistol shots in the state," while Terry was "a bad shot"...preferring to arm himself with a Bowie knife which "he handled expertly." There were hundreds of spectators and "betting men placed their money on Broderick."

Svanevik and Burgett recount that a toss of a coin gave Terry the choice of weapons, Belgian pistols owned by a friend which he had practiced using. On the command to fire, Broderick was raising his pistol as it unexpectedly discharged into the ground. Terry immediately fired the shot that hit Broderick in the chest. Broderick later claimed that he never touched the trigger and that it was set with a hair trigger. After a 10 mile bumpy ride, Senator Broderick died at a private home (still standing at Fort Mason) of a perforated left lung and massive internal bleeding. His funeral was a huge spectacle attended by the entire fire department, a large contingent of members of The Society of California Pioneers, and a long line of

San Franciscans in carriages and on foot. His remains were entombed in Lone Mountain Cemetery. Ten thousand mourners attended Broderick's funeral, his "tarnished image" forever changed by martyrdom. Terry fled the scene and resigned as



LONE MOUNTAIN CEMETERY.

Chief Justice the day after Broderick's death. [Accounts differ – some say he resigned on the day of the duel.] His trial opened in Marin County on July 6, 1860, Benjamin Fox presiding. (Fox later was elected the first San Mateo

County judge in 1862 when San Mateo split from San Francisco). When witnesses failed to arrive due to heavy fog on the bay, the judge directed an acquittal without a single word of testimony. So great was the outcry over Broderick's death, that the California electorate swung dramatically to support Republican Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election.

An article in the *Los Angeles Times* by Cecilia Rasmussen relates some additional information, including the stories of David Terry stabbing a number of people prior to the duel: a litigant in court, an abolitionist leader during a street confrontation over slavery, and the leader of the Vigilance Committee in a street brawl. She writes that a change in venue in Terry's murder trial to Marin County gave him a friendly judge [Benjamin Fox]. The duel had aroused such negative feelings that Terry could no longer reside in San Francisco. Terry moved to Stockton and left to fight for the Confederacy. On his return from the Civil War, he continued to practice law. In 1889 his temper finally got the best of him. Terry was shot to death by the bodyguard of State Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Field (Terry's successor on the bench) in a train depot near Stockton after Terry punched Field in the face. Field had ruled against Sarah Hill in an early day palimony suit against William Sharon, a millionaire and former senator from Nevada. Terry represented Sarah in court and later married her. After Terry's death, Sarah Hill lost in court, and spent the last 45 years of her life in the state hospital for the insane in Stockton.

Note: The Victorian Day drama relates the events surrounding Terry, Field, and Hill. In 1968, Elio Fontana of the Daly City Colma Chamber of Commerce led a committee to make the dueling site a state historical monument. Activist Josephine Paciocco lobbied the City of Daly City to turn the area into a park after she moved next door in 1970.

SALUTATIONS FROM BRUCE DAVID TERRY

Judge David Smith Terry is my great, great grand Uncle from Todd County in southwest Kentucky. ...Opinions of Terry and his motivations have been presumed since the events leading to the duel and the aftermath. I believe political alliances and the issues before the Civil War to be exaggerated. Terry was a very honorable man in character and profession. The duel should be seen in the morning light as an affair of honor, not the political assassination of yore.

Good fortune with the commemoration to you all.

With gratitude,

Bruce David Terry,

The Ancient & Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus

BECOME A MEMBER – TELL A FRIEND

(Individual and/or household)

History Buff \$25

Docents \$50

Historians \$100

Archivists \$500

I would like to volunteer:

Museum docent

Museum repairs

Hospitality

Fundraising

Other: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Address _____ zipcode _____

Make checks out to "History Guild of Daly City/Colma" and mail to 6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014. We are a non-profit organization.

The History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. We operate the Daly City History Museum and provide (5) public history lectures and (5) editions of our newsletter the *Tattler* every year. We are volunteer-run, and we depend on your support to preserve and display the history of Daly City, Broadmoor, and surrounding areas. Help us spread the word – tell a friend! Thank you!



THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA



New Exhibit Display Units

Sketch of display units being built by volunteer Robert Keil, designed to sit on top of our existing library tables. Three units will be built which can be arranged in different configurations to use the central room space in our museum for thematic, rotating exhibits.



Proposed Change in Bylaws

The proposed amendment(s) to the bylaws shown in *italic type* were submitted in writing at our previous regular meeting and are provided to the total membership below. These proposed changes will be voted on at a short meeting to be held at our general meeting, the duel reenactment on September 13th. Pending the outcome of the vote, nominations Chair Betty Schultz, is prepared to announce the Board's recommendation for the position of Vice-President, Museum Director and election for the position will follow.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 4.01 Titles of Officers

The officers of the History Guild shall be President, Vice-President/*Guild Program Director*, *Vice-President/Museum Director*, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 5.01 Duties of Officers

THE VICE-PRESIDENT, GUILD PROGRAM DIRECTOR shall perform the duties of the President when the President is absent or otherwise unable to act and, when directed by the President, shall act as Chairperson of the Board of The Directors. The Vice President, *Guild Program Director*, shall be *the Program Chair* and shall have other powers and duties as the Board or the By-Laws may prescribe.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT, MUSEUM DIRECTOR shall be the Director of the Guild's Daly City History Museum, working with the rest of the Board to develop procedures and policies. The Vice-President, Museum Director shall implement these procedures and policies to plan, organize, and staff the museum, develop programs and exhibits, maintain and catalog collections, provide a safe and welcoming visitor experience and a productive work environment for volunteer staff. The Vice-President, Museum Director shall have other powers and duties as the Board or the By-Laws may prescribe.

COLLECTIONS POLICY

The History Museum of Daly City collects historical source materials and artifacts on cultural, historical, and technological subjects that relate to Daly City and the historic Colma area from ancient times to the current day. Collections include manuscripts, news clippings, scrapbooks, photographic images, and audio/video materials that are suitable for our archives and a variety of artifacts for exhibition. Objects not on public display are generally available to scholars, researchers, and public historians for study (supervised by Guild representatives). Relevance to our local history is the main criteria for acceptance of appropriate donations. Information on the historical background of donated items is as important to us as the actual artifacts. Copies of our "Collection Policy" and "Deed of Gift" forms are available on request to any group or person(s) considering making a donation to our collection. For more information, contact Dana Smith at 650/755-3432.



DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City 650/757-7177

Current Hours: Open every Tuesday and the first Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

SPECIAL EDITION! – DUEL MANIA



Sen. David Broderick



HAIR TRIGGER OR FRAVED NERVES!



David Terry

CENTENNIAL MEMORIES.

By Ken & Bunny Gillespie, Daly City Historians

Although the unincorporated “Colma District” of north San Mateo County was attracting many “solid citizens” in the earliest part of the 20th century, the developing space was still considered basically “wild and woolly”. Gambling parlors, houses of ill repute, and saloons were easy to find, and very popular.

Tavern talk frequently focused on the recent defeat of a proposal for incorporation of the “City of Vista Grande”. Within the city under consideration a hundred years ago would have been the unincorporated lands of what would eventually become Colma, Daly City and Brisbane, all in the shadow of San Bruno Mountain. Such far-reaching territorial boundaries were discussed over ale, dining tables, and wherever. Owners of the Crocker Tract, cemeteries and Spring Valley Water Company voiced personal opposition to incorporation. The area’s first settler, Robert S. Thornton, was also among naysayers. J.L. Brown, editor of the Colma Record, urged incorporation though his newspaper. He argued that Colma District people needed to “get our rights”, assure self-protection from annexation by San Francisco, and be free from being at the “mercy of the southern portion of San Mateo County.”

When the vision of a single city was not accepted by the electorate, talks of incorporation continued. Mass meetings were held, each filled with spirited arguments.

Discussions eventually brought forth a petition with territorial boundaries reconfigured to exclude the southern area of what is now Colma and cemeteries.

Southern area residents were not in favor of being excluded. They wanted amenities that a city could offer. Others debated whether shortened boundaries would embrace enough residents to realize a city’s success. Meanwhile, Vista Grande Post Office, the Vista Grande Volunteer Fire Department, and the Vista Grande Improvement Club had been established. Vista Grande was the popular name for the area and it continued to be so designated until incorporation of Daly City was achieved by public election two years latter. K/BG

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