

THE TATTLER

JOURNAL OF DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

We had a wonderful January meeting with a screening of filmmaker Tom Wyrsh's documentary *Sutro's: the Palace at Lands End*. Our original topic was to be the formation and history of Crocker Masonic Lodge 212 at top of the hill, however, our 93 year old speaker took a bad fall and was not able to join us. It is our hope to reschedule him to May, health and mobility permitting. This was our second in a series of three films Wyrsh has produced on the various entertainment venues at Ocean Beach. Everyone seemed to enjoy the film, which brought back many memories for folks. We screened *Remembering Playland at the Beach* at our September meeting; the final film in the trilogy is *The Cliff House and Sutro Heights*.

For our March general membership meeting we will welcome Pacifica author and historian Anne Evers-Hitz, who has written a definitive history of the old Emporium department store that graced the San Francisco landscape for an entire century. Anne is a descendant of one of the Emporium's founders and has gathered together images from libraries and private collections to tell the Emporium story. To quote from the Arcadia web site:

"The Emporium—"California's Largest, America's Grandest Store"—was a major shopping destination on San Francisco's Market Street for a century, from 1896 to 1996. Shoppers flocked to the mid-price store with its beautiful dome and bandstand. Patrons could find anything at the Emporium, from jewelry to stoves, and it was a meeting place for friends to enjoy tea while listening to the Emporium Orchestra. Founded as the Emporium and Golden Rule Bazaar, the store flourished until the disastrous 1906 earthquake. Once it reopened in 1908, it dominated shopping downtown until mid-century. Many San Franciscans remember with great nostalgia the Christmas Carnival on the roof, complete with slides, a skating rink, and a train. Santa always arrived in grand style with a big parade down Market Street. After World War II, the Emporium, which had merged with H.C. Capwell & Co. in the late 1920s,

HISTORY EVENING

Wednesday, March 20th

At 7 pm

Historian and author

Anne Evers-Hitz

Presents a

**HISTORY OF THE OLD EMPORIUM
DEPARTMENT STORE**



101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City

Doelger Center Cafe

Free to the public – loads of free parking
light refreshments

Thank you to our refreshment donors:
**Maureen O'Connor, Celeste De Martini, and
Judy Hnilo** and our gracious Hospitality Crew,
Grace and Marcus Gonzalez.

began its push and opened branch stores throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. However, as competition increased, the company's financial situation worsened, and the Emporium name was no more in 1996."

Anne previously wrote for the Arcadia series on the San Francisco Ferry Building, and is currently at work on a comprehensive history of the many grand department stores that once flourished in downtown San Francisco. Anne expects to have the work published in 2020, and we hope to have her back to speak on it.



We were sad to learn that historic Estrada's Spanish Kitchen, operating since 1917 and definitely the oldest restaurant in Daly City, Colma, and perhaps San Mateo County, closed its doors for good in February. The current owners bought the landmark eatery in 2006 and maintained the signature recipes while adding a Caribbean flavor to the menu as well. The first Estrada's was begun by Louisa Estrada in 1914; the original restaurant was once part of a family-owned chain that was founded in Visalia [Tulare County], and the Daly City location was the final one to close. Here's to the many years of serving authentic cuisine with personable hospitality. Estrada's will be missed. An Indian cuisine restaurant and bar replete with belly dancing will be taking over the space.

The board will have its election of officers and directors in May. The term of office is for two years, and one of the requirements is that a board member must devote at least one Tuesday or Saturday each month to staff the museum between noon and 3 pm. If you are interested, please let me know. Inquiries may be sent to president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org or a phone message may be left at the museum, 650-757-7177. We will publish a slate in the May *Tattler* for the membership's consideration at the May general membership meeting.

HANNAH ELIZABETH PHILBROOK
Early Pioneer of California and Daly City
By Russ Brabec

(Footnotes have been eliminated. My research document is at 'smcgs.org' – Blog – Russell Brabec)

Hannah was born on 22 Oct 1825, in a primitive log cabin of some 200 acres of Tillable land adjoining East Newport, Maine. Her parents were Maria and Jepson [Joseph] Philbrook. They were English and Scotch. She married George Farrington who was born in England, the son of an old prominent family, a highly educated and cultured man, who came to America in the early '30s, located and became a prominent citizen and merchant in Bangor. They had two daughters, Aphelia Adams (1845) and Emma Elizabeth (1850).

According to daughter Aphelia her father departed first and then soon afterward her mother departed for California... The girls stayed at Maine. The California 1852 Census lists George a head of a household in San Francisco. Daughter Nettie's [Jeanette] was born at San Francisco in 1853.

Hannah received a certificate of Sole Trader in 01 March 1853, which authorizes married women to transact business in their own name as sole traders, Hannah declares that from and after the above date she will carry on in her own name and on her own account and responsibility the business of millinery and dress making in the City of San Francisco...

During 1854, news came to Maine that George Farrington had passed away (It appears that this was a discreet way to conceal that Hannah was in the process of divorcing her husband George. And, one-year old baby Janette was sent to Maine in custody of friends to live with her grandparents. A Divoree was granted to Hannah on 22 Dec 1855. The *San Francisco Chronicle* commented on the divorce that "the stolid people of the East, doubtless, suppose that a divorce is an easy thing in California; but such is not the case. One-half of the suits brought are denied...')

Hannah E. PHILBROOK and Abraham J. Van Winkle, of Ohio, were married at San Francisco, California on 18 Apr 1858. That same year A. J. Van Winkle and Francis Pierce purchased 250 acres for \$225 on the east side of the Thornton Ranch, and in 1859 three rented 320 acres (now located south of Pierce Street and straddling Junipero Serra Boulevard).

Hannah Van Winkle returned East in 1859, and brought her three girls, Aphelia, age 14, Emma, age 9, and Jeanette, age 6, to San Francisco arriving in the latter part of November.

A long multi-court battle, 1860-1866, between the settlers, led by Robert Thornton, against the Laguna de la Merced Rancho ended in the settler's favor, and Abraham J. Van Winkel received a U. S. Land Patent for 160 acres. This land was south of Eastmoor Avenue and extending to Southgate and St. Francis Boulevard.
Cont'd pg 3

Philbrook, cont'd.

Hannah's daughter Aphelia marries John Cochrane at San Francisco on May 1864. He was identified with many mining enterprises, became wealthy and owned large holdings in various parts of California.

A. J. Van Winkle and R. C. Brooks of San Francisco received a patent for "An improved process for the distillation of alcoholic spirits..." - December 1874 [Apparently the whiskey business did not thrive and Winkle soon lost his property for unpaid taxes.]

A. J. Van Winkle - property sold by San Mateo County sheriff January 17, 1876 for unpaid taxes for the fiscal year 1875-1876... The Van Winkles moved on to become dairy farmers at Bodega Bay and Ferndale before returning to San Francisco.



California Historical Society: Museum-quality prints of historic photographs from their archives are now available online. Take a look at "Reprint Mint" online gallery to find your piece of the past. info@callhist.org Prices begin at \$25.

SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY DAYS -
March 2 and 3, 2019
The Old U.S. Mint, 88 5th St, San Francisco

Visit the Old Mint on the first weekend in March and join dozens of organizations celebrating and telling the stories of the City's unique past. We invite you to meet community historians, archivists, genealogists, archaeologists, researchers, educators, re-enactors, and other history enthusiasts at this FREE, all-ages weekend event at the historic site. Dozens of organizations gather to celebrate San Francisco's unique history. The Old U.S. Mint will transform into a pop-up San Francisco history museum where visitors can experience the past alongside community historians, archivists, genealogists, archaeologists, researchers, educators, reenactors, and other history enthusiasts. Period costumes highly encouraged!

Saturday, March 2,

Free from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 3, Free from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Learn More: <http://sfhistorydays.org>



Tour the basement vaults of the Old Mint

**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION TO
PRESENT DALY CITY DOCUMENTARY FILM
AND DISPLAY OF PHOTO MURALS
DONATED BY THE HISTORY GUILD**

THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH, 6-8 PM

March 14th the city's Arts and Culture Commission will be having a free public opening of an exhibit on the 3rd floor of City Hall of numerous large photo murals donated to the Daly City libraries by the History Guild. The murals are duplicates of those produced for the large exhibit surrounding the upper walls of the front room of our Daly City Museum. The duplicate photos were donated to the History Guild by the graphic company that produced the murals and the Guild Board of Directors donated them to our city's libraries. Guild Vice-President Richard Rocchetta will be making brief comments and distributing our *Tattler* newsletter and membership materials.

The Commission will be providing food, music performances, and showing the centennial video in the Council Chamber from 7 to 8 PM.

Sampling of donated large photo murals 4'x8'



1898: Two Irish Families Provide Land for Chinese Cemeteries

Russell R. Brabec

Background

Everyone has heard of the multitude of cemeteries in Colma, but adjacent Daly City has four active cemeteries, one inactive cemetery, and one cemetery that was never developed. The lands for these properties were acquired from two Irish-American families: Owen and Elizabeth McMahon and their descendants, and Patrick Morgan and Bridget Brooks. These two pioneer families held land composing what today is parts of southern Colma, northern South San Francisco, and southern Daly City.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century, as development continued westward through the Western Addition and the new district known as the Richmond, the "City Cemetery" and others became targets for closure by residents and developers. Situated above Lands End, the former City Cemetery is now occupied by the Veterans Administration, the Palace of the Legion of Honor, and Lincoln Park and its golf course. The cemetery was home to a number of ethnic groups and organizations along with a section for paupers.

The Chinese Cemetery bounded by Arguello, California, Euclid, and Palm (or Jordan) Streets was also affected. The Ning Yung Company had on its books fully one half of all Chinese in the United States.

The closing date for burials of March 1, 1898, was extended to April 1, 1898, to provide time to locate property elsewhere for burials in San Mateo County. The undertakers feared a backlog of burials on the horizon and immense disposal problems. The Hagan brothers started acquiring lots in a block in the Abbey Homestead across from Cypress Lawn Cemetery (Sunset Cemetery) on the east side of Hillside Boulevard to be used for paupers. The Serbian, Jewish, and other cemeteries followed to Colma.

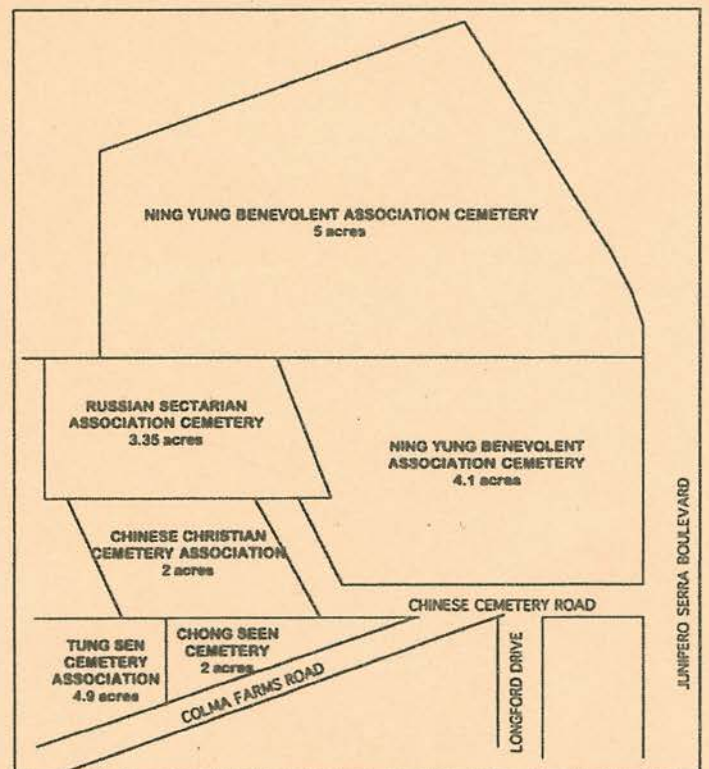
McMahon

Owen and Elizabeth McMahon died in 1890 and 1896, respectively. Their daughters Ellen McMahon

Barry and Elizabeth McMahon inherited 220 acres of farming property near southern Colma. The land was across the street from Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery and stretched into what is now the Serramonte area of Daly City. Ellen Barry sold 40.17 acres of her inheritance for \$1,898 on February 28, 1898, to the Chinese Cemetery. This cemetery, now slightly reshaped to 32.326 acres by the development of Serramonte in Daly City, lies at the intersection of Hickey Boulevard and Callan Boulevard.¹

Brooks

Former County Supervisor Patrick Morgan Brooks, a widower, on 25 March 1898 sold five acres of land for \$2,500 to the Ning Yung Benevolent Cemetery Association (lower section) as a result of the City of San Francisco closing its City Cemetery to all burials.²



Map of Chinese cemeteries

The California Nugget

Following this, on July 26, 1898, Patrick deeded two acres of land for \$1,000 to the Chinese Christian Cemetery Association for the same reason³, and on December 9, 1898, he deeded two acres of land for \$1,000 to Edward Kelley for an indigent and paupers cemetery ("Kelley Cemetery"), now (2011) the Chong Seen Cemetery.⁴

All these cemeteries are now located within the City of Daly City.

Epilogue

The *San Francisco Call* stated "none will be interred but those belonging to that [Ning Yung] society, while other cemetery members will find a temporary resting place until their bones are removed for transportation to the home of their forefathers.

"The Superintendent of the City Cemetery charged them [the Chinese] \$2.50 for the opening of every grave against \$1.00 to all others who had a grave opened within the enclosure. The distance of fifteen miles [to the new cemetery] however, is a matter that annoys them somewhat, as it will cost more to convey the bodies and the funeral eatables for the defunct on his long journey to the land of the rising sun.

"Each cemetery will have a white man for superintendent, as the Chinese do not favor grave digging."⁵

The rest of the article notes the prejudice against the Chinese, the two-tiered rate structure against the Chinese, and the grave contractors' financial and contractual responsibility to bury the dead even though the cemetery has closed.

Russell R. Brabec became interested in the people of northern San Mateo County who settled there after the Gold Rush and statehood. During his employment with the City of Daly City, he observed that most of the written history of this era was of those people who settled in the central and southern parts of the county, so he began researching many of the settlers of the northern part of the county. This is a small part of his research.

Endnotes

1. Deeds, Volume 77, page 206, San Mateo County Recorder.
2. Deeds, Volume 78, pages 174-177, San Mateo County Recorder.
3. Deeds, Volume 77, page 402, San Mateo County Recorder.
4. Deeds, Volume 81, page 46, San Mateo County Recorder.
5. San Francisco Call, 8 March 1898, page 5, column 5.



DALY CITY GARDEN CLUB By Dana Smith

The Daly City Garden Club was formed in 1949 and records in our Guild archive (donated by the son of Bill Braas, former President of the club) end in 1979. The club met at the old War Memorial Building where they also held flower shows. Flower shows were then moved the Westlake Mall and then Serramonte Shopping Center. The shows, which began in 1954, were quite elaborate affairs presenting coveted trophies and extensively covered by the local media. "Garden of the Month" was also publicized with winners having extensive backyard gardens or smaller front plantings of roses and other foliage that were hailed for their street beautification. In this age of diversity, it might seem unusual that meetings included recitation of a Christian prayer. The Garden Club flower was the fuchsia, not the dahlia which was a favorite at the Muessdorffer estate gardens in the Crocker neighborhood and at John Daly's personal garden at the Top-of-the-Hill.



1959 Spring Tea, the kickoff event for the Spring Flower Show

PREVIEW — Mrs. Ward McLeod (right), 201 Garden Lane, Colma, president of the Daly City Garden Club, pours tea at the Spring Flower Show, to be held April 21 to May 2, with Mrs. C. R. Mousman, Mrs. A. S. Dibbe and Mrs. Henry A. Dietsch, all of the Woodside Hills Center, Daly City, California. Mrs. Josephine Schulte of the Daly City Garden Club is general chairman of the flower show which will be a kick-off event for the Westlake Shopping Center. 4-29-1959



DALY CITY HISTORY GUILD MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

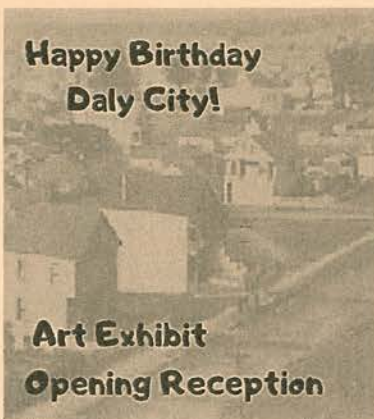
6351 Mission Street Daly City, CA 94014
650/757-7177
Open Tuesdays and Saturdays noon to 3 p.m.



Please visit us on Facebook at "Daly City History Museum"

www.dalycityhistorymuseum.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



**Happy Birthday
Daly City!**

**It's Time to Celebrate
Daly City's 108th Birthday!**

Join us on Thursday,
March 14, 2019, 6-8

in the Octagon Gallery,
Daly City City Hall

Refreshments will be served
Presented to you by: the Daly
City History Guild Museum &
Archive and the Arts & Culture
Commission

**Art Exhibit
Opening Reception**



The Motorville Motel in its heyday (circa 1930) – Thanks to Michael Rocchetta and the Colma Museum. The motel, 7500 Mission St., is closed and soon to be demolished.

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President 650/757-7177
 president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org
 Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President
 Dana Smith, 2nd Vice-President/Museum Director
 Judith Christensen, Treasurer
 Algis Ratnikas, Secretary
 Directors: Michael Rocchetta, Marcus Gonzalez

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus, Bunny Gillespie (1926-2017), Secretary-Emerita, Grace and Marcus Gonzales Hospitality Crew

Board meetings are held quarterly and are open to the membership. Please contact Mark for further information.

Daly City History Guild Museum & Archive is a
501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization
Memberships begin at \$25 per year.

Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith,
director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

A special thank you to Guilder Russ Brabec, historian and genealogist, for his contribution of two articles for this edition of the Tattler.