

THE TATTLER



JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY COLMA

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARK

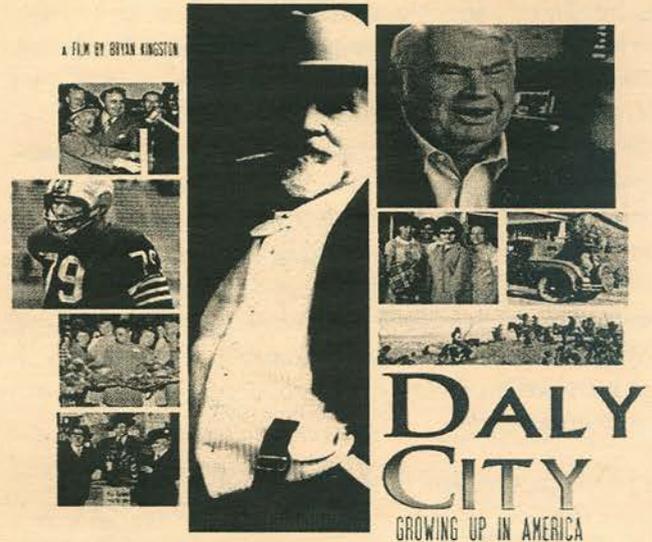
As the late, great Ed Sullivan used to say, "We have a reeeeeeally big show for you tonight!" More specifically, on Wednesday, November 14th at 7:00 PM. That is when we will premiere our 50 minute feature-length Daly City Centennial documentary--'Daly City: Growing Up In America,' a co-production of the History Guild of Daly City-Colma and KM2 Communications of South San Francisco. This will take the place of the Guild's regular November meeting, and we hope that one and all can join us on this momentous occasion, which has been in the works for a very long time.

While the film begins at 7:00 PM [please see your formal invitation enclosed, which provides all the details], there will be a separate, brief reception beginning at 5:30 PM at City Hall hosted by the City. The Guild is very appreciative of this and hopes that everyone can join us for light refreshments prior to seeing the film. **Please note that the reception will be held in the City Hall rotunda, 333 90th Street. The film will be shown at the Century 20 Daly City Theaters, 1901 Junipero Serra Boulevard.**

The theater is walking distance from Daly City BART and there are two adjacent parking structures which offer complimentary parking, though they do tend to fill up. If you plan to attend the reception ahead of the film, please plan for at least 20 minutes to drive to the theater and park. In addition, we will be selling the DVDs for \$20, tax included, at the reception.

As there is limited seating and the Guild wants to allow as many individuals as possible to see the film, you must **RSVP by October 23rd** in order to be guaranteed tickets for you and a guest. Only when we have heard from you will we be sure to reserve your seat(s). Once you've confirmed your attendance, you will be mailed a complimentary ticket(s) which are **REQUIRED** for admission to the film and further details about the city hall reception. **The invitation you have received is NOT the ticket, and may NOT be used as a substitute.** Due to the limited seating and logistical

(President's Message cont'd. pg. 2)



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
You are invited to two free events:

Reception at 5:30 PM, Daly City Hall
333 90th Street, Daly City
Hosted by Daly City - Light refreshments
Opportunity to purchase documentary film DVD

7:00 PM Film Premiere
Century 20 Daly City Theaters
1901 Junipero Serra Boulevard
(Free with reserved ticket)

Please see enclosed invitation for details on how to receive your free ticket(s) to attend the film premiere.
You must RSVP by October 23rd to be guaranteed seating!

The movie reception and premiere will be held in place of our regular November member meeting at the Doelger Senior Center.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

(President's Message cont'd.)

challenges, we regret that we will be unable to accommodate those who decide to show up the day of the event and haven't already reserved their seat(s). **Again, we can't stress this enough, please RSVP as soon as possible to guarantee your seat(s) and be mailed your ticket(s).**

I would like to call your attention to our end-of-year special. To celebrate the film and offer a special thank you to our membership, we will be offering a combined Guild 2013 individual/household membership [\$25] and DVD [\$20] for \$40 for a limited time. This is a five dollar savings and is available to all continuing and new members. If you are unable to attend but would like to receive the 2013 combo special, please return the membership/DVD form printed in this *Tattler* with a check for \$40 (tax and shipping incl). We're sure that you won't want to miss this opportunity to own your own copy of our local history and at the same time renew your membership in Daly City's official and definitive history organization.

All proceeds will benefit the Guild and museum. Of course, the DVD and memberships will be available at the museum during open hours following the film's premiere. We hope to see all of our good friends in November, first at city hall and then at the theater, just before the house lights are dimmed and the director says, "Roll it!"

OTHER HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Colma Historical Association

1500 Hillside Blvd., Colma, 650-757-1676.

Tuesday, October 30th Quarterly Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation

WALKING TOURS: Tours start at the Noble Chapel located in the East Gardens of Cypress Lawn left past Cypress Lawn's gate at 1:30 pm. Info.: 650-550-8810

Oct. 27 Only in October Tomb Walk (Svanevik)

LECTURES: Meet at Cypress Lawn's Reception Center, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma. 1:30 pm. Free, refreshments.

Lecture Information: 650.550-8811

Oct. 21 Douglas Keister *Stories in Stone: New York*

MUSEUM DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to: Bill Schumacher for a donation of a HUGE collection of both Daly City and San Mateo County campaign buttons; museum neighbor Billy Wiggins for ongoing gardening and street cleaning in front of the building; and Alan and Corinne Gerdali for article on WWII blimps and a '92 Olympics trading card.

GUILD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mark Weinberger, President	415/750-1939
president@dalycityhistorymuseum.org	
Richard Rocchetta, Vice-President	650/992-9144
Guild Program Director	
Dana Smith, Vice-President	650/892-2166
Museum Director	
Judith Christensen, Treasurer	650/756-3128
Marie Brizuela, Secretary	650/755-7188
Marian Mann, Director	650/991-9386
Michael Rocchetta, Director	650/756-3960
Marilyn Olcese, Director	650/755-5616
Dave Crimmen, Director	650/589-5852
Marcus Gonzalez, Director	650/757-9767

Board meetings are held as necessary and are open to the membership. Please call Mark for further information.

Ken Gillespie (1924-2011), President-Emeritus

Bunny Gillespie, Secretary-Emerita 650/755-5123

Elinor Charleston, Hospitality Chair 650/755-8267

Michael Rocchetta, Member Chair

Tattler Editor & production: Dana Smith

director@dalycityhistorymuseum.org

Contributors: Dana Smith, Mark Weinberger, Russ Brabec. Thanks to Michael Rocchetta, and Richard Rocchetta for mailing the previous *Tattler*.

The History Guild of Daly City/Colma is a
501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization

Memberships are \$25 per year.



A PIMGRIMAGE TO ROBERT THORTON GRAVE SITE

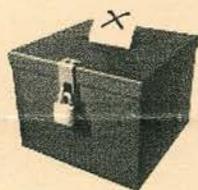
By Russel Brabec

My wife, Eunice, and I visited the cemetery containing the graves of Robert Sheldon Thornton and Sarah Ann Thornton at North Situate, Rhode Island, during late July 2012. North Situate is located

just west of the state capitol, Providence, on U.S. Route 6. The cemetery is identified as the Smithville Cemetery on the United States Geological Survey Maps, but is known as the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery No. 24 (misidentified as No. 23 on the Internet.) Mr. Henry Duquette of the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission met us there and led us to the graves. Robert homesteaded 160 acres in the Sand Hills area of Colma, California, during 1852 as of Daly City's early pioneers.

The Thornton graves are located near the southeast corner of the cemetery. Robert's gravestone faces north and Sarah's faces east. Just to the left of Sarah's is a small gravestone for the "Son of Robert S. & Patia Townsend, died May 1, 1847, aged 3 months, 2 days." Patia was Robert's first wife. Just to the right of Sarah's is a missing gravestone which was once reaffixed, but is now lost. This may have been the gravestone of Robert and Sarah's first born as mentioned on Sarah's gravestone: "laid to rest in her North Situate burial plot with her first born."

The Thornton section was covered with macadam instead of grass, which Henry and I have never seen elsewhere in all the cemeteries that we each have visited. The long inscription on Robert's gravestone and no death date inscribed led Henry to believe that it was a memorial only rather than a gravestone. I told him that the information that I have stated that he was buried there, and I would forward some of my data that I have collected during the last six years. Henry noted that Robert was notable in Rhode Island for being a Captain in 1842, for the nearby town of Gloucester [Glocester] by the Governor Samuel Ward King [1839-1843].



LOST BALLOTS? — 1911

Following our celebration of the Daly City Centennial, this fact is well known: On March 18th, 1911 a vote was held for the incorporation of Daly City. On March 22, Daly City was incorporated at the county offices with an official vote of 138-136.

Less well known is the controversy documented in our History Guild archives after the March 18th vote. An election protest was led by a local Socialist group (a number of early Daly City citizens and electeds were members of the Socialist party) and an official complaint against "Daly City, a pretended Municipal Corporation" was filed by J.F. Pankewicz who was a member of the 1911 Board of Elections. Mr. Pankewicz claimed he directly observed 46 ballots being set aside for various irregularities with the intent that they would be further examined and their legality determined. Pankewicz stated that there was a turmoil in the place where the canvass of votes was taking place and during the commotion J.L. Brown, one of the members of the Board of Elections, seized the ballots in question and would not allow examination by other members of the Board of Elections. On the advice of Justice of the Peace Ellis Johnson, the 46 ballots in question were sealed in an envelope and ordered delivered to the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County for an official determination.

Another first-hand witness to the vote count, J.J. Kenigan, filed a deposition with the Superior Court vouching for the truth of Pankewicz's complaint. Pankewicz claims three votes for incorporation were in error, two should have been counted against and one should not have been counted because of invalidating erasures. His complaint further stated that the County Board of Supervisors failed to legally canvass and evaluate the 46 contested ballots. (Original complaint and deposition filed in the Superior Court, San Mateo County, History Guild archives).

Can we believe the account of these two eye witnesses, one an election official? What happened to the 46 contested ballots after they left the Daly City polling place, the upstairs backroom of Jack Letlos' Restaurant on Mission Road? Would official evaluation of the contested ballot have changed the vote for incorporation? These questions may only be answered by further historical investigation.

A better known voting controversy occurred at the Abbey House, a sometimes notorious early day saloon located at the Top-of-the-Hill across Mission Road from where John Daly would later establish his dairy. In 1856 it was owned by Chris E. Lilly, a member of a San Francisco gang that included Billy Mulligan. The gang decided to move their illegal activities south to a new county and "fix" the election to determine the establishment of San Mateo County. They pushed for a speedy election with the polling place at their headquarters, the Abbey Saloon. Abbey House was the polling place for the Colma precinct, which included most of the north end of the county. There were about 50 eligible voters in this precinct and 500 ballots cast. Gang members took over the polling places and brought ballot boxes with false bottoms. The election was later ruled illegal because of a technicality, the election was held too early, and a new election was set for May 1857.

MEMORIES OF KNOWLES GULCH, HIKING ON SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

Attributed to Mrs. Altieri, daughter of Mansueto Belli, transcribed from interview by Samuel Chandler, 1972.

"Mr. Knowles settled in Knowles Gulch, where Marchbank Park is now. We used to pick flowers and wild quince and currents. They lived in a paradise.

We used to pick poppies and iris on the hills of San Bruno Mountain. We hiked over the mountain to South San Francisco. We would hike to a large boulder and Father gave us a white towel to wave so he would know we were safe. Coming back over the mountain we would have to do the same thing. Nine or ten of us children were on these hikes.



THE HISTORY GUILD OF DALY CITY/COLMA

DALY CITY HISTORY MUSEUM

6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014

650/757-7177

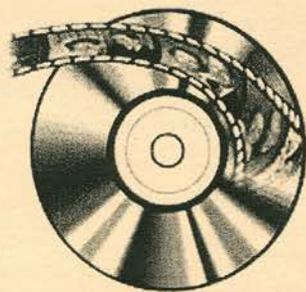
Current Hours: Every Tuesday, Thursday, and the first and third Saturdays of the month from noon to 3 p.m.



Please visit us on Facebook/
Daly City History Museum



FIRST CLASS MAIL



2013 GUILD MEMBERSHIP & DVD

SPECIAL OFFER!

Basic membership (individual/household) \$25

and one copy of DVD \$20 for only = \$40

That's a \$5 savings!

Please sign me up for a 2013 basic membership and send me one copy of the new documentary "Daly City – Growing Up In America" for \$40. Mail check to: History Guild of Daly City/Colma, 6351 Mission Street, Daly City, CA 94014 (Includes tax & shipping of DVD. DVD will be sent after the November 14th premiere.)

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip code _____