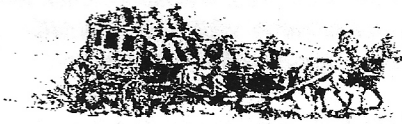


TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

January 2004 Vol 4 Issue 1

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AREA RICH IN HISTORY

Temecula Valley is rich in historical activity. As newcomers develop an awareness of their surroundings, they are amazed at the variety of places and events that shaped life in this area since Spaniards first explored in 1770.

Some sites exist in nearly untouched condition, while others have undergone preservation or partial restoration. The recent past is often the best known to us, but there are still obscure and often isolated islands of the human story to be inventoried. Uncovering these and documenting them is part of the work we are committed to undertake -- alone or jointly with other groups.

See inside for information about other local groups whose efforts help uncover the hidden and the forgotten.



JACOB BERGMAN, Family Man, Politician, and Pioneer

To this day, the lure of land, of independence, self-achievement, and the industry of one's soul continues to motivate individuals. For many Europeans, California was the destination of choice. Lured by its openness, hostile terrain was seldom a deterrent. And Jacob Bergman was an early immigrant who characterized this fierce mindset. His story continues inside.

President's Corner

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for a successful new year.

Because the Temecula Library will be closed on January 2, we will hold our January meeting at 12:00 noon on Friday, January 9th at our usual meeting place, the Conference Room of the Temecula Library. For the rest of the year, we will meet at noon on the first Friday of each month. I would like to publicly thank member Don Viestra for donating a public address system to use at our meetings.

With the new year our meeting format is changing. In the past we have held board meetings and member presentations concurrently, often taking several hours. In the future the monthly meetings will be restricted to business meetings for the Society and should last no more than one hour. Quarterly, we will schedule meetings, such as the annual Heritage Luncheon, where historical presentations of interest to the general public will be presented. An Event Committee, headed by Pam Grender, is working on a schedule that will be published soon. Of course, the public is always invited to our business meetings.

At the December board meeting we reviewed the progress we are making on our short and long term goals for the Society - and we seem to be moving along at a very nice pace. The restoration of the Wolf Tomb is progressing under the capable leadership of Eve Craig, our secretary. Many plaques have been installed on historical buildings in Old Town Temecula and more are planned.

I have asked Audrey Cilurzo to establish a speaker's bureau to provide programs to schools, civic groups and service clubs in our area. I am appointing each and every member of the Society to the membership committee. Word of mouth is our best advertisement. Tell your friends about the Society, let them read your copy of the Newsletter and encourage them to join.

Jimmy Moore

Jacob Bergman of Aguanga:

The Real Story

by Coral R. Bergman

This newsletter will print Interludes 1 and 2 based on writings from Jacob's great granddaughter, Esther. Chapter 5 will cover the later years of Jacob's life and other personal accounts by Esther. In these accounts by Esther, Phillipena is referred to by her nickname Bencha. A chronology and bibliography end this series.

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FIRST INTERLUDE

In 1946, Esther Bergman Trunnell, great granddaughter of Jacob Bergman, then a high school junior, wrote a term paper for her Junior English class entitled "Bergman Valley, A Novel". In this paper she writes a romanticized history of her family from Jacob's time to her own time. Much of the early material is based on the family stories which have been found to be inaccurate. The later material, however, given to her by her grandmother and her mother, who knew the people they were telling about, gives interesting vignettes and insights into the personalities of the other members of the family besides Jacob.

More interesting, the material gathered by Trunnell reflects the women's point of view of what was important. Her sources were Jacob's granddaughter, his daughter-in-law, and his granddaughter-in-law, all of whom had a different idea of what was important to pass on to next generations. In all of the reports of the Bergman Ranch by travelers, Phillipena is nonexistent or, at best, a shadowy figure. If meals were eaten, however, she prepared and served them. If lodging was given, she was responsible for the cleanliness of the accommodations. Meanwhile, she bore and raised eight children, who were around the ranch and visible all this time. She may have avoided the general conversation because she was uncomfortable with English, but Jacob's success as a host must give credit to her work behind the scenes. Trunnell admits to adding conversation and romanticizing a little, but her observations, as they reflect the input of her sources, are valid and important.

The following chapter from that paper repeats the story of Phillipena and the Indians, and the ages of the children put it right at the transition between 1879 and 1880.

"Bye, Ma, I'll see you Christmas," Henry called as he and his father left the yard. He was on his way to San Bernardino to stay with Aunt Buschon and work in a butcher shop. It didn't seem possible to Bencha, as Jacob had nicknamed his wife, that Henry was sixteen. She and Jacob had been living here at the ranch for fifteen years. She remembered parts of those fifteen years now. Jacob

had had a contract with the Overland Stage. They carried the mail and wool from Warner's Ranch to Colton. Henry drove for him for a while and then they hired Sharden Cart. Will Tripp now drove for him.

Then there had been the children to worry about and take care of. The three little girls were always a great pleasure to her. After they started to school she would dress them all in pretty pink dresses and pink hair ribbons and send them off spic and span. They were near enough the same age to play well together. Their favorite game was to play school. Blanch and Caroline always argued about which one was to be the teacher. Tilly was indifferent. She would rather play house. Henry and Jake were gone with their father as much as possible. Eli, just turning three, was jabbering to her while she washed the breakfast dishes.

It was Saturday and Jake was doing the chores so Henry and his father could get an early start. As Blanche looked out the window she saw the three girls running towards the house. By the look on their faces she knew something was wrong. They came running in the house pell-mell.

"Mama, Mama, the Indians are coming. The Indians are coming."

"Where are they?"

"They're at the old oak tree now and coming this way!"

"Carrie! Get Eli and take him up on the eaves. Blanche and Tilly, you go with her."

"What are you going to do now?"

"I'm going up the hill to call Jake." Jake came running up the hill at her frantic call. When she told him what the uproar was all about, he laughed and said, "Oh, Mother, you know they're just friendly Indians from the reservation at Warner's."

"I don't care. They terrify me. Now get the gun and come up with me upon the eaves."

The walls of the house were six feet thick and they could easily lay up there without being seen. The family lay motionless while the Indians passed. They were, as Jake said, just friendly Indians from their reservation who knew Jacob. But any kind of Indians frightened Bencha and when Jacob wasn't home she would make all the children lay upon the walls until they had gone out of hearing.

After they were well passed, she let the children climb down. Jake went back to his work, but she made the little girls play in the front yard near the house.

SECOND INTERLUDE

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, other events of a personal nature were taking place -- things which were not

mentioned the the San Diego Union but were reported in the paper by Esther Trunnell. Henry was married to Alice Godfrey in 1886. One of the major sources for Esther's paper was her grandmother, Alice Bergman herself. Here is the chapter in which this event is described.

"Gee it's grand to be going home again," Blanche said as they neared the house.

"I'll say, I can't wait to see Mother and all the family. I bet Tilly's grown like a weed. I thought final exams would never end," Carrie chattered.

"Yes," (says Jacob) "it's been a good long spell since you've been home. It's kind of lonesome around home now with the other children in school all day. Jake is talking of quitting and staying home to help with the ranch, but I've been running the ranch for twenty years by myself, and I guess I can do it for another twenty."

Blanche and Carrie had been home for summer vacations but they didn't have time during the winter. They were through school now and were just coming home for a visit and then they were going to find a job teaching.

There was also the beg event of Henry's bringing home his new bride.

Henry met Alice Godfrey one time when she was staying overnight with a girlfriend. He had seen her eht night before at a masquerade party at the rollerskating rink. Alice and Helen Davis were muns at the party and had won first prize. They were engaged three months later. Father Bergman went in and got them and brought them to the ranch for a week's visit after they had been engaged for about four months. Alice made a big his with the family and liked them very much. She was especially fond of Eli. They grew to be great friends in her short visit.

On Easter Sunday 1886 Alice and Henry were married in San Bernardino. Alice's mother and father and seven brothers and sisters were the only ones at the wedding.

Now they were coming to the ranch for about a week and then they were going to Julian to start up a butcher shop. Julian was a booming town then. It was about fifty miles from the ranch.

Carrie and Blanche and Jacob reached the ranch just a couple of hours before Henry and Alice. It was a happy reunion. The whole family had not been together at one time for four years. At supper that night they were talking of everyone's plans and Jacob said, "Alice, I'll give you forty acres of land if you will persuade Henry to settle down here in the valley and start ranching."

"Why, thank you, Father. We may take you up on that someday," Alice answered in a surprised voice. The subject was dropped for the time being.

The week passed quickly and Henry and Alice went to their new home and Carrie went to teach at Pala. Blanche went

to Santa Isabel and taught at the Indian school. She had always found Indians easy to understand and was glad to find congenial work teaching them.

CHAPTER 5: Citizen Bergman

During the late eighties, Jacob continued to suffer from back problems. He vigorously petitioned the Government for an increase in his pension. The following Affidavit, by S.V. Tripp, aged 58, and D.L. Davis, aged 39, both of Radec, appears in his pension file located in the National Archives:

We have been personally acquainted with said Jacob Bergman for 29 years and 3 years respectively, and we hereby certify respectively our knowledge of the disabilities of the applicant.

I, S.V. Tripp, do hereby certify that I have personally known Jacob Bergman first as a farrier for Co. B, 1st Dragoons, at Fort Tejon in the year 1859 and knew him then as a strong and able bodied man and since he returned from the army in the east in the year 1862 and since that time have been intimately acquainted as neighbor and have worked a great deal for him and know him during the time last mentioned to be at times disabled with lame back and spinal weakness caused by a kick by a mule in the service of U.S. He is yet scarcely at times able to walk and often bedfast. I live two miles from his home and see him on an average of three times per week. I have driven stage for him when he had mail contracts in 1880 to 1886. And can further say that for fifteen years or more Mr. Bergman has not been able to perform no work at the trade he followed while in the army and indeed he has not been able to perform any kind of work that is difficult owing to the weakness of back and arm and shoulder. Sometimes he is entirely disabled a week or more at a time and can say that said disabilities are equal to the loss of an arm."

The [San Diego] Union reports on July 21, 1887, that he was in town for a physical exam to supplement his application for a pension. Jacob's affidavit says that he was kicked by a mule twice in the army -- once at Fort Tejon and a second time while serving in Virginia.

Every family has tragedies that seem to remain in the collective consciousness. The following entry from the family Bible tells about it:

"Eli Curtis Bergman died March 3, 1888, between the hours of 7 and 8 A.M. Aged 12 years and 9 months, 20 days. His death was caused by a gun going off accidentally."

The San Diego Union reports the accident as follows on March 8:

"Eli-C. Bergman, 12 year old son of Jacob Bergman, Road Overseer at Radec, was killed by the accidental discharge

of a gun; the gun had been left in the stable and the boy was removing it from the cover when the hammer caught, causing the discharge. The ball entered the right breast and severed the spinal column. Death was almost instantaneous."

A more personal account is given in Esther Trunnell's paper.

It was a bright sunny morning for Monday Washday. Tilly was doing the housework while Bencha and Lillie did the wash before it got hot. Jim had spent the night with the Parks. He would be back this afternoon. Eli and Jake were playin somewhere. Bencha wasn't worried about them; they were old enough to take care of themselves. They were ten and twelve now. Jacob was in the upper end of the pasture fixing a place in the fence where a cow had gone through. Bencha heard a shot that seemed to come from the house. She dropped the shirt she was rubbing on the old washboard and ran to the house. She almost collided with Jake who came screaming and crying out the door. She couldn't make any sense out of what he said, so she ran to the bedroom where they kept the guns. There sprawled on the floor was Eli. Tilly came running from the kitchen and Bencha told her to call Father quickly. She felt his pulse, but there was none. Lillie had partially quieted Jake. They had been playing Indians and he didn't know the gun was loaded.

"But, Son, how many times have Daddy and I told you not to play with guns?"

"I know," he cried brokenly, "but I didn't think it was loaded."

The funeral was a small one. Only the family and a few neighbors. He was buried on the ranch about a quarter of a mile from the house.

Was it the barn or the house? Details are often forgotten or confused over time. The pain and the grief, however, are remembered.

Jacob, in addition to his other jobs, served as Trustee for the Cottonwood School. Among the archives in the San Diego Historical Society collection is the exchange of letters. First there is a letter, written in a very fine hand, to a Mr. Butler from Jacob, dated May 1, 1888:

Friend Butler,

Allow me to address a few lines to you in regard to the school at Cottonwood. The teacher we have employed here, in a letter to me, resigned her position and ordered me to employ another teacher on the 19th of March. As a Trustee I accepted her resignation but when it came to the point she kept on teaching in spite of me. None of my children attended school since that day. Now, I don't think I can be compelled to sign her warrants when she finishes teaching. I know Mr. Tripp is not a legal trustee. He was appointed by you but did not quality. So please look over the papers and see if I am correct. I will keep

her from receiving her pay for those two months of teaching if it is in my power. Any time you wish to see her insolent letter to me I'll forward it to you. So please answer as soon as possible so that I will do nothing to commit myself.

*Your true friend
Jacob Bergman*

Attached to this letter is a copy of the teacher's letter, written in a hand much more awkward than Jacob's:

*Radec, Cal.; March 19, 1888
Mr. Bergman.*

Dear Sir, -- Tillie just told me that you are going to take your children out of the school. If I have offended you it has been unintentional and I am very sorry. If you withdraw your children, I will give up the school after Friday, and you can employ someone else to teach the remaining two months. I expected your children this morning and if they are not here tomorrow I will close the school on Friday. It would injure my reputation as a teacher to have the school cut down so, and I will be obliged to give it up.

*Very Respectfully
Lou Metcalf*

There is no indication how this disagreement was resolved. Whatever the offense the teacher committed, its timing, so soon after Eli's death, suggests that it may have been related to that event. Did the teacher make some tactless remark which cut into the family's grief?

Henry and Alice moved back to the ranch in 1888 and built a house nearby. In addition to Jacob's youngest children, a school would soon be needed for Henry's growing family. Since Henry's house was about three miles from Jacob's and his children were very small, a new school district was formed in 1894 called the Senega School. The minutes of the district show that it was formed on March 29, 1894. Henry Bergman donated the land and "Jacob Bergman subscribed Twenty Five Dollars and use of six horse team to haul one load...Jacob Bergman subscribed wood for the school house for the first team." Other families involved were those of Jacob Ludy, Paul Phomsen, Joseph Parks, and William B. Cutler.

The minutes tell of the building of the schoolhouse. Jacob Bergman was elected to the board, as was Henry.

The entry just before the September meeting reads as follows:

Jacob Bergman, Trustee, died September 13th, 1894.

Jacob died at the age of 62 and was buried on the ranch he had loved so, in the small plot not far from the house, right next to Eli. Phillipena lived to be 99 years old and she was cared for first by her daughter Carrie, but she

lived longest with Blanche, who continued to battle with the United States government for Phillipena to continue receiving Jacob's Civil War Pension.

The Estate of the immigrant who had fled Germany after assaulting a superior officer was valued at #3945. The estate included 440 acres of land with improvements, one buggy and harness, one four horse wagon, one two horse wagon, one carriage, and one buckboard. There were blacksmith tools and various types of farm equipment. He had a honey tank and ten stands of bees. His livestock consisted of three horses, tt head of stock cattle, and 18 head of beef cattle.

Jacob Bergman had traveled across the United States several times, he had appeared as a witness before Congress, he had made friends with at least one of San Diego's most influential men. He was liked by his friends and was called "sturdy" and "honest". He was a congenial host. When he undertook to do a job, he did it well. He was a good father who saw to it that all of his children got an education and/or learned a trade -- girls, as well as boys. All indications are that he was a good and loving husband. He was a good businessman who kept careful accounts. He delivered as promised and expected others to do the same.

Though he didn't drive the first Butterfield Stage through Aguanga, the accomplishments of his lifetime are far more impressive: soldier, mail carrier, postmaster, Road Overseer, Justice of the Peace, farmer, County Supervisor, school Trustee, neighbor, friend, husband and father. The "real" Jacob Bergman has become much more interesting than Jacob Bergman, the legend.

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THE COTTONWOOD SCHOOL

from Report, a newsletter issued by the Hemet Unified School District and dated February 27, 2002

The Cottonwood School mentioned in this article still stands. It was built in 1897, and is in the National Register of Historic Places. The Hemet Unified School District and the Cottonwood Country Council have a long-standing joint use agreement. The Cottonwood Country Council was formed to provide an area-wide organization to help maintain the heritage of the "old" one-room school.

The Council performs fundraisers, which provide funds to maintain the "old" schoolhouse and funding for Cottonwood School. Since the schoolhouse cannot be utilized for schools, the Cottonwood Country Council provides the funding and resources to preserve the building as well as benefitting the educational programs of Cottonwood School. This agreement, which began in 1989, is and will continue to be a great example of the benefit of public school and community partnerships.

The school is located at 44260 Sage Road, Aguanga, CA. The school is not generally open. To arrange a visit, contact Phyllis Petrie, (909) 767-3870.

1915 RULES FOR WOMEN TEACHERS

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8pm and 6am, unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream parlors.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dress may not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once a day, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot soapy water, and start the fire at 7am, so the room will be warm by 8am.

JACOB BERGMAN - A CHRONOLOGY

1832	Dec. 24	Born in Darmstadt, Germany
1852	July 24	J. Bergman arrives in San Francisco on Steamship <i>Ohio</i>
1858	Aug 10	Enlists at Presidio in San Francisco in Company B of First Dragoons; serves as farrier at Ft. Tejon
1860	March 4	Marries Phillipena Scherer in Los Angeles, J. P. Homer Chase presiding
	Sept 19, 20	Sick in Post Hospital, Ft. Fitzgerald, Los Angeles
1861	June 30	On army muster rolls at Ft. Tejon. Goes to war.
1862	May 4	Wounded at Battle of Williamsburg, Williamsburg, VA.
	July 3	Honorable discharge from U.S. Army
1864	Sept 26	Buys half interest in Mountain Ranch for \$400
1865		Gifhtaylor buys land from Raines estate
1866		Gifhtaylor and Bergman sell land bought from Raines
1867	April 22	Mrs. Gifhtaylor informed that her husband has sold Mountain Ranch to Jacob Bergman
	April 24	Jacob Bergman pays final doctor bill for Gifhtaylor
	May 2	Pre-emption claim for Mountain Ranch recorded with San Diego County
	Oct 7	Becomes naturalized U.S. Citizen in San Diego
1869		San Diego Union reports Bergman paid Warrant #8 from Road Fund
1870		Appointed Justice of the Peace for Temecula Township
	July 27	Appointed Postmaster at Guahonga
	Sept 12	Guahonga Post Office discontinued
1871	July	Democratic Delegate to Joint Senatorial Convention
1873	Aug 17	Nominated for First Supervisorial District at Democratic Convention in Julian
	October	Elected Supervisor from First District
1875		Runs as Independent Candidate, loses
1876		Urged to run again for Supervisor
1877	February	Henry boarding in Temecula writes to his father
	June 19	Writes to San Diego Union about problems with sheep in the back country
1878	March 6	Writes to Royal court in Germany on behalf of Phillipena, whose father has died
	July 11	Files on Swamp Act land
	July 5	Appointed Postmaster at Oak Grove
	Nov 14	Receives mail contract
	Nov 19	Resigns as Postmaster, replaced by James Fain
1879	June 7	Injured after falling from horse while carrying mail
1883	May, Dec	In Washington D.C. as witness for Star Route Case
1884		Runs again for Supervisor, loses
	April 5	Commended for job done as Road Overseer James Fain murdered, Jacob named administrator of estate. New coach for Julian run
1885		Road District divided. Tripp appointed to Elsinore, Bergman to Temecula
	March	Article in San Diego Union describing Bergman's fine new house; urged again to run for Supervisor
1886	Easter	Henry Bergman marries Alice Godfrey in San Bernardino
	Dec 2	Jacob appointed Postmaster at Radec
1887		Suffers from back pain. Tries to get disability pension from government
1888	March 3	Eli killed by accidental gunshot
1894	March 29	Senaga School District started. Jacob instrumental in supplying materials and in the governance of the school
	Sept 13	Jacob Bergman dies at home of heart failure.

History of Three Post Offices

by Coral Bergman

In 1998, the Aguanga Post Office serves a large area in Riverside County, while addresses in San Diego County are served by the Warner Springs Post Office. In the late 1800s the whole area between Radece and Warner Springs was part of San Diego County, and the location of the post office varied somewhat. The first post office in the area was established on July 27, 1870, by Jacob Bergman at what he named "Guahonga". I assume that this was a variation of Aguanga, and was located somewhere on the old Bergman Ranch. This Post Office was discontinued September 12, 1870. After that, post offices were established at both Oak Grove and Radece.

OAK GROVE

The entries for Oak Grove begin on September 18, 1870 with Almy M. Kenniston as Postmaster. After that the entries are as follows:

Joseph Marks, November 29, 1875
Jacob Bergman, July 5, 1878
James C. Fain, November 19, 1878
Herman Marks, January 31, 1882
Joseph Marks, November 29, 1882
Adolph Levi, July 26, 1886

On March 16, 1887 the Post Office at Oak Grove was discontinued and the mail was sent to the Post Office at Radece. In October of 1887 the Oak Grove Post Office was reestablished.

Sara A. Studebaker, October, 1887
J. Hooper, December 7, 1889
Frederick K. Ingledew, January 9, 1890

The name of the Post Office was changed to Oakgrove on July 30, 1894.

Nellie Wentworth, July 30, 1894
Lucia D. Curtis, September 6, 1895



RADEC

The first entry for Radece was in 1883. Postmasters are listed as:

Caroline Tripp, December 14, 1883
Jacob Bergman, December 2, 1886
Samuel Tripp, June 6, 1888
Caroline Tripp, December 10, 1892

On May 8, 1893, Radece became part of the newly created Riverside County. The Radece Post Office was discontinued on June 27, 1895 and the mail was sent to Bergman.

There was a brief reopening of the Radece Post Office in 1900 with Laura Long as Postmaster. This was discontinued finally and the mail sent to Aguanga on December 5, 1901.

AGUANGA

After the first attempt to establish a post office at Guahonga, there were no other attempts until 1894 and both Oak Grove and Radece served the Aguanga area. Jacob Bergman had a mail contract from 1878 until his death in 1894. His original run was from Julian to Colton. There may have been variations of that run over the years.

The Bergman Post Office opened on September 15, 1894 with William Bleutter as Postmaster. Henry Bergman was appointed Postmaster on March 3, 1896, although that appointment was rescinded. Nonetheless, Bergman was reappointed on March 21, 1896 and served as Postmaster until 1901, when Smith took over as Postmaster. Smith moved the location of the Post Office to his store and had the name changed to Aguanga. The name Aguanga was not a new one to the area. The valley was marked as such on old maps, and the voting district was the Aguanga District.

Charles Clark was Postmaster at Aguanga from August 14, 1930 until he retired in June 1953. Annie E. Bergman assumed charge of the Aguanga Post Office on June 30, 1953 and was confirmed Acting Postmaster on July 17. She was confirmed Postmaster on December 17, 1953 and served until her retirement on October 11, 1964.

LAND ACQUISITION IN THE U.S.

by Charolette Fox

In colonial times, the size of a man's holdings were often determined by the area he could pace off by foot or circumscribe in one day on horseback. Without benefit of a survey, the language used to describe the claim was colorful and open to interpretation. A map or drawing was usually made to help explain what words could not.

The beginning of U.S. land grants goes back to the War of Independence and the formation of our federal system. In 1776, all land beyond the original 13 colonies was considered "public domain". In fact, as noted by historian Charles Beard, the U.S. Constitution itself may have been an effort by speculators to use the federal government as a land granting agency. And the record shows that land grabbing started even before the Constitution was signed. Land speculators formed companies that began bidding on large tracts and used any means possible to gain title, including bribery and fraud. In the 1780s land in Kentucky, which was at first part of Virginia, was handed over to speculators and absentee landowners.

The Cash Act of April 20, 1820 granted land patents, documents that transferred land ownership from the federal government to individuals. Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana are some of the southern states that utilized land patents. One of the primary purposes of this Act and several that followed, was to encourage people from the East to move West. In the early 1800s public land could be purchased under the Act for a minimum of \$1.25 an acre. For a time, an entire section (640 acres) could be bought under this law.

Public land sales boomed at auctions held by District Land Offices. Land patents were signed by the President of the United States. Eventually, the Cash Act was discontinued.

The Swamp Lands Act of 1850 was the precursor of today's Wetlands Act. In that day, wetlands sold for \$1 per acre but the dollar could be spent for reclamation -- in effect making the land free. Much of the land sold as swampland was dry land sold to speculators. The law required that the swamp be navigable by boat, so in one instance the buyer put a boat on a wagon and had a team of horses pull it across!

In California, Mexican land grants were recognized by the U.S. Government. But Mexican holders were often unfamiliar with U.S. law and crafty speculators used forged papers and bogus grants to gain possession....at times with the help of local sheriffs and U.S. troops.

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed settlement of public lands and required only residence and improvement and cultivation of the land. Any person, a citizen or a person intending to become a citizen, 21 years of age or older, and the head of a household could make application. With five years of residence including improvements and/or cultivation, only a \$15 fee was required to get 160 acres (1/4 section). This Act too, led to cases of fraud when cabins were built on wheels so they could be moved as soon as a pending application was approved. The Act was repealed in 1976.

Other Acts of the 1800s encouraged the development of federal land which was not deemed as desirable for settlement as it was for the income-producing ability of its natural resources. The General

Mining Law of 1872, the Desert Land Act of 1877, and the Timber and Stone Act of 1878, gave rights of way or outright ownership to large companies who in turn mined, logged, grazed, farmed or used the land for commercial gain.

The giving and receiving of lands required some proof of ownership. Proof traditionally was furnished in the form of a document of entitlement (thus, the modern term title), and included an exact description of the property as described in metes and bounds. Property boundaries were paced off with a POB (Point of Beginning), so many paces in a given direction, then paced off in another direction, and so on and so on until the POB was again reached. Lengthy descriptions referred to landmarks such as a tree, rock, gatepost or stream bank. Many property disputes arose over the shifting of a stream's course, the death of a tree, or the moving of a rock. At times, a very small property would have a very VERY long metes and bounds description. One single miscopied instruction in direction or degree could change everything, and property rights were often settled with a gun!

The movie, "How the West Was Won", depicts the Oklahoma land rush for free land and is a wonderful depiction of the lure land has held in the hearts and minds of people. The problems of title in the 1800s arising from land rushes and boom towns have largely given way to new considerations, including public use of public land.

By the 1950s, a title search of the tax rolls had to go backwards in time to try to piece the puzzle together from the earliest owner of record, the federal government or the Mexican land grant. These searches could take upwards of three weeks by highly trained and

practiced title searchers. The same property, when sold again, would require the search be redone. This redundancy is largely eliminated today by use of new technology. California's land records are automated with electronic trails and faster access. And title insurance has vastly diminished the risk that several competing owners will have claim to the same property at the same time.

Technology of record keeping is paralleled by changes in surveying and mapping advancements. GPS (Global Positioning System) and GIS (Geographic Information System) allow remote viewing as well as storage of vast amounts of data. Some current applications are used to determine the size of a land mass, its relevant features such as current and ancient streambeds, rock outcroppings, and even the types and distribution of plantlife.

America's property rights have been built by those who pushed inward from both seaboards to take their chances on land they were given as war veterans, purchased at auction, acquired as an "award", won in a poker game, or finagled by fraud or deceit. The intense and bitter battles of yore between cattlemen, oilmen, homesteaders, timbermen, and the railroads are America's history of land transactions. Since the early surveys of George Washington and mapping and exploration expeditions of Lewis and Clark, this legacy has served only to enhance the dream of land ownership in this country.

Resources:

Bureau of Land Management records
California Code

California Environmental Resources
Evaluation System (CERES),
www.ceres.ca.gov

Goldvay, Fred, PhD., "Twice Stolen Land", 1997 Berkeley, CA

As a clerk for the San Diego County Tax Assessor I researched tax rolls, calculated delinquencies, prepared bills, and handled disputes from property owners. The tax rolls were large awkward books approximately 2 ft by 3 ft in size and weighing 15 lbs apiece. There were 144 rolls in 1959. They laid on their side stacked 10 high in special "cubby holes" with ball-bearing rollers. Each tax roll was numbered and coded on the spine with the parcel numbers to be found in that roll. Looking for a property based on its parcel number meant heaving the roll out of its cubby hole and flopping it open on the countertop. A full search required reviewing the rolls archived from the 1800s. Those old rolls were beautifully handwritten books that continuously recorded information on their pages. What wonderful historical records they were showing a property's changing size and ownership!



Defining Cultural Resources

Cultural resources relate only to remains and sites associated with human activities and include the following:

- prehistoric and ethnohistoric Native American archaeological sites,
- historic archaeological sites,
- historic buildings
- elements or area of the natural landscape which have traditional cultural significance.

Prehistoric sites represent the material remains of Native American societies and their activities. Ethnohistoric sites are defined as Native American settlements occupied after the arrival of European settlers in California. Such sites include villages, seasonal camp sites, stone tool quarry sites, hunting and butchering sites,

traditional trails, and sites with rock carvings or paintings.

Archaeologists identify such sites by the presence of one or more of the following:

- stone flakes made of chert, jasper, quartzite, quartz,
- basalt, obsidian and other rock types,
- shell, animal bone, and or fish bone,
- groundstone tools used for grinding seeds,
- plant foods, or tools such as manos, metates, or bedrock mortars,
- artifacts such as arrow or spear points,
- fragments of pottery vessels,
- darker soil, called "midden",
- circular depressions representing houses or ceremonial structures.

Areas of traditional cultural significance are areas which have been, and often continue to be, of economic and/or religious significance to peoples today. They include Native American sacred areas where religious ceremonies are practiced or which are central to their origins as a people. They also include areas where Native Americans gather plants for food, medicinal, or economic purposes. A certain measure of protection is provided for such resources by California State Law.

The state's Native American Heritage Commission works to protect the remains of sacred Indian sites. Five of the nine Commissioners live in Riverside County, just one indication of the richness and culture of local Native American history being researched and preserved.



Historic Hamilton Museum

And Ranch Foundation

"Working With the Community to Preserve the Past"

Experience the rich history of the Anza Valley by taking a step back in time, discovering what it was like in the valley before paved roads or electricity. The historic Contreras homestead house is currently being developed, as well as gardens and a picnic area where you will soon be able to spend a leisurely day in a picturesque setting.

During his historic 1774-1775 expedition from Arizona to San Francisco, Juan Bautista De Anza traveled through the very spot that is now the Hamilton Museum. At this site, you can study bedrock mortars, matates and other Indian artifacts. In cooperation with local Cahuilla people, a portion of the property will be developed to illustrate aspects of Cahuilla culture.

Through stories about the local settlers of the mountain communities, you can experience how the different cultures influenced and enriched the development of the area. Don't miss a chance to revisit the past through the museum's collection of historic photographs and artifacts.

Hours

Wed. & Sat.

10 am to 2 pm

(other days or hours by appointment)

3991 Contreras Road

Anza, CA 92593

"LOOKING BACK: Anza and Garner Valley"

a book by Margaret Wellman Jaenke

Meet many of the hardy pioneers who settled in Garner Valley and Anza in the 1800s and early 1900s. Over one hundred names indexed for easy reference. Ms Jaenke descends from families who have lived in the valley since the 1800s.

ISBN 0-9719661-3-3



The Peter J. Weber House

1510 University Avenue
Riverside, California

The Weber House is one of the most delightfully unusual homes you will ever visit. It is a handmade jewel box of a house, created and lived in by the same architect who designed the Mission Inn's last additions.

Every piece of wood you see inside and outside the house is hand carved, some in dizzying geometric patterns. The bathroom's colorful floor-to-ceiling mosaic tile and sunken tub make it a must-see. The Weber House exhibits a wealth of inventive craftsmanship and sheer delight of ornamentation -- there is literally no other house like it!

Built during 1932-1938 by architect Peter J. Weber (1893-1983), it was home for his family for forty years. The design is a unique blend of numerous architectural styles, including Moorish, Spanish, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, and Craftsman. Today, the Old Riverside Foundation calls the Weber House home and carries on the restoration and preservation of this grand, but very different, edifice.

Designated a Cultural Heritage Landmark by the City of Riverside, it is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The House is now owned by Courtyard by Marriott.

Group tours are available by calling (909) 683-2725.



CELEBRATIONS & DATES TO REMEMBER

SAVE THE DATE

for the

CENTENNIEL CELEBRATION

of the

OLD VAIL RANCH

KICK-OFF EVENT

JULY 4, 2004

PATTERSON HOUSE MUSEUM

invites you to their

NEW BUILDING DEDICATION

JANUARY 24, 2004

12:00 noon

Patterson & Grand Avenue

Winchester, California

contact Gregg Cowdery at (909) 294-0899

or email winchestermuseum@earthlink.net



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!

Nov 15 to Dec 15, 2003

New Members

Mary Whitney

Gifts & Donations



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Newsletter Editor, 32800 Hupa Drive,
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302-0180, FAX (909) 302-0171.

www.tvhs.homestead.com/FrontPage.html

CHECK IT OUT !!

The Newsletter

Articles must include author's name and contact information. Historical research, biographies, and local history articles will be given preference.

All submissions are subject to editing. Some articles may be held for publication in the next newsletter or in a journal to be published at a later time.

Editor..... Charolette Fox

Printing..... Potamus Press

Calendar

Board Meeting Jan 9
Winchester Museum Jan 24
Menifee Historical Assoc Jan 24
Temescal Historical Soc
TV Genealogical Society

Active Committees:

Research & Preservation
Wolf's Tomb
Plaques & Markers
Public Relations

Board meetings and member programs are held in the Conference Room of the Temecula Library, unless otherwise stated. No RSVP is required.

Date, time and location of committee meetings or special events fluctuates. For information, contact committee or event chair.

When possible, member reminders are sent via email or postcard 10 days prior to the meeting or event. In addition, public service announcements are usually placed in local newspapers.

QUOTES

The weatherman who predicts tonight will be dark is never wrong.

Time is what passes rapidly between the easy monthly payments.

Even the woodpecker has discovered that the way to succeed is to use one's head.



COMING SPRING OF 2004

the

COUNTY HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

to be presented by the Riverside County Historical Commission



open to historians, preservationists, archaeologist, genealogists, researchers, local groups, their staffs and members



watch this space for future announcements




VOLUNTEER HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED



PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

Mission Statement

The mission of the Temecula Valley Historical Society is to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance.



TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 32800 Hupa Drive
 TEMECULA, CA 92592

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 share it with a friend? Please pass
 it on and help us build our
 readership. Thank you.

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A tax exempt charitable & educational organization

Membership

Membership/Donation Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Historian	\$ 300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$ 500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Founder	\$ 1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 5,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supreme	\$10,000.00

The Board of Directors formulate and vote on policies. The membership may vote for Directors at the annual meeting.

Membership is open to anyone regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations may be designated or undesignated.

Checks payable to:

Temecula Valley Historical Society

Mail to:

P. O. Box 157

Temecula, CA 92593-0157