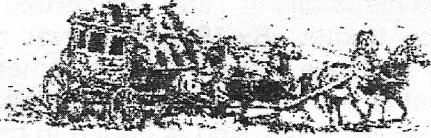


# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

January 2009

Volume 9 – Issue 1

*It is our mission to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance.*

### 2009 Officers

President	Jimmy Moore
Vice President	Bill McBurney
Secretary	Elaine Eshom
Treasurer	Bill Harker

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Barbara Tobin	Paul J. Price
Carol Strode	Darell Farnbach
Norm Taylor	Eugene Knott
Pat Lallou	Dick Fox
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Paul Price

#### **Newsletter**

Dick Fox

#### **Program Speakers**

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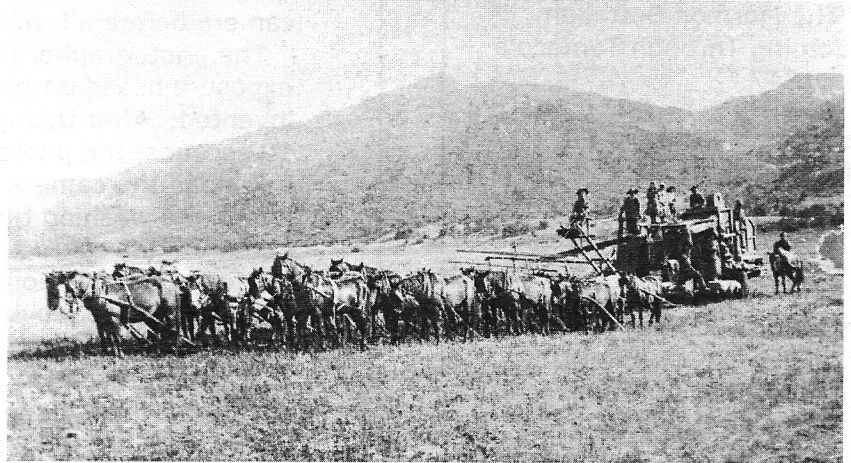
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P.O. Box 157

Temecula, CA 92593

951-553-9549

[www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculavalleyhistoricalsociety.org)



### Fun With Photos

## TVHS Picture Project

Many of you have probably seen one or more of the historic photos recently published in the *Valley News* as part of a TVHS feature column and Photo Contest headed up by our own Bill McBurney. Most of the photos have come from what has become known as the Milholland Collection, but others have come from Viola Carlson, and the Dick Ramsey collection.

Printed with this article is a copy of the Barnett Harvester taken in 1897 and the negative was bought by Viola Carlson at a garage sale! Wow what treasures can be found sometimes at yard, garage and rummage sales?

By his own admission Bill McBurney is having fun with this project. He says, "It is entertaining to try to guess the circumstances of each photo." Bill is getting at least 2 calls per week from people that are truly interested in talking about what they know about that weeks scene. To date nobody has identified any of the subjects.

Although the majority of the pictures published as part of the contest are from the Milholland Collection, Bill's favorite one so far came from Dick Ramsey's collection which was given to Viola Carlson, and is a photo of a bearded old man next to a shack that may be on Pechanga. This photo should appear in the *Valley News* before the end of December, so perhaps our TVHS January Newsletter readers have already seen it.

The Milholland Collection is a series of 54 photos done by Thomas Milholland before Riverside County was created in 1893.

## Calendar Of Events

### **Friday, January 9 –**

Monthly meeting at Pujol Schoolhouse Noon to 2 p.m. Dr. Anne Miller speaking on "The Mormon Battalion Coming Through Temecula in 1847."

### **Saturday, January 10 –**

New Gallery Show at the Temecula Valley Museum "Model T Ford 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary." 10 – 4 pm

### **Thursday, January 15 –**

Gallery Talk at Temecula Valley Museum 6 pm. Chuck West presentation On Model T Ford.

### **Saturday, January 24 –**

Mormon Battalion Trek Re-enactment display At VaRRA History Center 1 – 5 pm, with formal Presentation 7 – 9 pm.

### **Monday, February 9 –**

Monthly meeting at Pujol Schoolhouse -- 6 to 8 p.m. With a visit from American Presidents.

### **Monday, March 9 –**

Monthly meeting at Pujol Schoolhouse – 6 to 8 p.m. Audrey Cilurzo will speak on "How Prohibition Changed the Palate of America."

### **Monday, April 13 –**

Monthly meeting at Pujol Schoolhouse – 6 to 8 p.m. Bill McBurney and Mimi Milholland "The History of French Valley."

### **Continued on Page 2**

was born in Ohio, January 30, 1848. He moved to California with his family in 1889 and settled in Valle Vista, east of what is now Hemet. By 1902 he moved to Winchester, for there is evidence that he was instrumental in forming a Sunday School at the Winchester Church that year. Mr. Milholland died November 30, 1925, and is buried in the Hemet Cemetery.

He worked in the newspaper business, as well as being a photographer. During that era photography was still very much a wet process involving mixing chemicals in a dark room, sometimes in the back of a wagon. The silver iodide solution was mixed with gelatin, deposited on a glass plate and loaded into the camera before allowing any light in the room.

The photographer then posed his subjects and made the exposure based on his experience, since light meters hadn't been invented. After taking the picture, which would have been up to 10 seconds, the photographer would go back inside the darkroom to unload the camera and develop the plate. After developing, fixing and washing the image, it was then dried. The resulting negative was contact printed onto prepared print paper, which he made back at his home lab and developed much the same as the negative plate. Obviously a great deal of labor went into each captured image.

Thomas Milholland produced many images, some of which were sold in sets much like postcards were years later. Some of his works were assembled into a collection he entitled "California Views" with that title and "Thomas Milholland, Photographer, Vallevista, San Diego County, California" placed on the back of each photo.

Many years ago E. Hale Curran of Murrieta, managed to collect a set of 54 pictures and preserved them. Her descendants recognized the importance of the pictures and donated them to the Hemet Area Museum Association, which in turn donated them to the French Valley Historical Society, whose president is Mary Milholland. As third cousins, both Mary and her husband Jerry are great-grandchildren of Thomas Milholland.

In addition to having fun with this project, Bill McBurney has developed a great appreciation for the amount of planning and effort that was required of photographers of that era due to slow film speed, lighting and the development process of making negatives and prints. TVHS is certainly proud of Bill's efforts, and recognize the inherent value of finding out more about any of our treasured local historic photographs. Good job, Bill.

**Help TVHS to Go Green . . . Save a Tree**

**Sign up to get your TVHS Newsletter**

**Delivered *FAST* to your E-Mail**

To Sign Up, call or e-mail

Carol Strode at 951-440-4388, or

[carolstrode1@yahoo.com](mailto:carolstrode1@yahoo.com)



## Presidents Message

It is my pleasure to once in serve on the Temecula Valley Historical Society Board and I appreciate the faith the Board members have in allowing me to lead the Society again.

First I would like to thank Barbara Tobin for her leadership of the Society the past two years, and Eve Craig for her outstanding contributions to the Society since its beginning. The completion of the Wolf Memorial restoration will serve as a major accomplishment of the Society for years to come. All of the Board members are to be congratulated on the progress the Society has made in preserving and sharing the history of Temecula with residents and visitors alike.

We will be changing our meeting time effective in February to the second Monday each month at the Pujol Schoolhouse from 6 to 8 p.m. Our previous meeting time was conflicting with other organizations meeting in the Church.

We hope this new meeting time will allow more members and residents to attend. Our guest speaker will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and the business meeting will follow. Don't miss this months meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2 p.m. to hear Dr. Anne Miller presenting *The Mormon Battalion Coming Through Temecula in 1847*.

If you need to reach me at any time my e-mail is: [jandp.moore@roadrunner.com](mailto:jandp.moore@roadrunner.com) or call me at (951) 302-9536.

## Early Health Seekers Visit Lake Elsinore

By Julie Gilbert

When the S.S. Constitution steamed into San Francisco Bay, May 8, 1873, on board were Mr. Charles A. Sumner, his wife and two children. After a six-week voyage from England, the family had arrived in the new land anxious to find a new home. This was soon accomplished when Sumner purchased Rancho La Laguna, now known as Lake Elsinore. The parcel consisted of 12,838 acres, including the lake, then called Laguna Grande.

Undeterred by the fact he had no experience as a rancher, Sumner settled on raising sheep as his chosen profession. One day he noticed several sickly cows drinking from a pool of foul-smelling water, one of the many common to the area. Believing that the water was the source of their illness, he set about building a fence around the pool to keep out both cattle and sheep. But the local Luiseños, who realized what he was doing, explained that the steaming pool was medicine water. The stock came because they were already sick, and the water would make them well.

The Luiseños were not the only ones to assert the benefits of the hot springs. Other settlers claimed they had wonderful curative powers for rheumatism, and used them regularly for bathing. In time, a small "bath house" was erected. Consisting of nothing more than a wooden shack where the hot sulphur water bubbled up from a hole in the ground, it was nonetheless the first place campers visited when reaching La Laguna.

By the time it was incorporated as a city in 1888, Lake Elsinore included, along with two banks, two hotels, and a schoolhouse -- two bathhouses. One of them, the Crescent Bath House, was promoted during its 1887 construction as "an introduction of the exotic Orient into California". Upon completion, visitors came from as far as the East coast, enticed both by its purported luxury and the therapeutic properties of its water, which by now had grown legendary. Indeed, it seems there was virtually no affliction for which the magic waters could not offer relief. George Wharton James, author of *The Travelers' Handbook To Southern California*, wrote in 1904, "Diseases of the nose, throat and bronchial tubes are surely and quickly relieved. Dyspepsia and derangement of the kidneys and liver improve and grow rapidly better without exception. The hot mud and mineral water baths, given by skilled attendants cure la grippe, rheumatism, skin and blood diseases, kidney, stomach and bladder troubles."

Though Charles Sumner and the early settlers are long gone, Lake Elsinore remains. And, though the mineral springs no longer bubble from the floor, the old Crescent Bath House still remains. Designated in 1976 as a National Historical Place, it is enjoying its second reincarnation as the antique store called "The Chimes".

**(Editor's Note:** From our friends at Pechanga comes additional insight to the importance of the springs.) "The Hot Springs at Elsinore are called in Luiseño, *'iténgvu wumówmu*, the first word is the place (the exact meaning of this word is not known), but the second word means 'hot spring.' This place name is specifically the area that encompasses the springs in old town including a village located to the west. These particular springs were important because it was the last place *Wuyóot* (who was one of the First People) visited in an attempt to be cured after he was poisoned. The reference to these waters being medicinal probably stems from the Luiseño creation account that names all the hot springs *Wuyóot* visited in his attempt to be cured. So these springs were not only for medicinal purposes but they were also viewed as sacred areas."



Temecula Valley Historical Society  
P.O. Box 157  
Temecula, CA 92593

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## Membership Activity

### Renewals

Garth & Janice Bricker  
Margaret Cushing  
Laura 'Sis' Herron

Remember !  
Beginning in  
February 2009  
TVHS Meetings  
Will be Held  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
Each Month  
6 to 8 p.m.  
Pujol Schoolhouse

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## -- Special Event --

# Re-enactment of the Mormon Battalion Trek Encampment at the Pauba Ranch

Since July, 2008, Kevin & Denny Henson, and others have followed the trail and the schedule of the original Mormon Battalion from Council Bluffs, Iowa, and will arrive in Temecula for a public visitation encampment at the

## Little Temecula History Center

(next to Kohl's on 79 South & Margarita)

**Saturday, January 24, 2009**

**1 p.m. to 5 p.m.** (visit encampment informally)  
**7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** (evening program / presentation)

Co-sponsored by VaARRA, Temecula Valley Historical Society,  
Pechanga Cultural Resources Department, Temecula LDS Stake,  
And the Temecula Valley Genealogical Society

For more info contact Rebecca Farnbach at 951-699-5148  
Also checkout the website: [www.battaliontrek.com](http://www.battaliontrek.com)