

Milpitas Muse

May 2018

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXX, No 4

A Century-Old Murder Mystery in Campbell

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 9, in the Children's Activity Room of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main St.

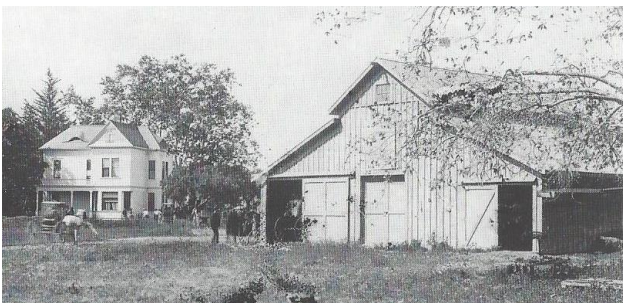
Our speaker for this meeting will be Tobin Gillman, who spoke to us three years ago about his previous book, *19th Century San Jose in a Bottle*, and will now tell us about what was probably the most horrifying crime in the Santa Clara Valley up to that time, and the title of his new book: *The McGlincy Killings in Campbell, California* in 1896.



Tobin Gilman

In May of that year, upon hearing shots in the middle of the night, neighbors rushed over to the home of Colonel William McGlincy, and found the bodies of the Colonel, his wife, his stepdaughter, his stepson, and two of their employees. His son-in-law, James Dunham, was missing.

What had happened? We will find out all that was ever discovered about this horrific incident in Tobin Gilman's fascinating talk at this meeting.



The McGlincy house and barn in 1896

We will have the sign-up sheet for our upcoming field trip on Saturday, May 12, 10:00 am to Martial Cottle Park, led by Eric Goodrich, our March speaker, so you can join us then for an interesting tour of this historic and currently-operating farm.

Our meetings are free and all are welcome. Hope you can join us then.

Milpitas School Name Stories: Marshall Pomeroy Elementary School

Marshall Pomeroy, born in 1835, came to California from Somers, Connecticut in 1858, having taken a steamship to the Isthmus of Panama, which he crossed with his fellow travelers on foot, with pack animals, and then took another steamer north to San Francisco.



Marshall Pomeroy School

His father, Warren Pomeroy, had arrived here in 1849 in search of the newly-discovered gold. He but did not find his treasure in the mines, however, but rather in the rich soil of the Santa Clara County, where he purchased farm land. When Marshall arrived, he farmed with his father for some years, and then purchased 180 acres in Milpitas, where he raised grain and stock.

During the Civil War he was a member of the Alviso Rifles, but was never called up for duty.

In May, 1867, Marshall Pomeroy married Miss Ella French, who came to California with her parents as a child in 1852. Ella (Elvina) French's father, Alfred French, had also been a miner for a while, and then settled in Sacramento County, where he served as a member of the State Legislature. After that, he moved to Milpitas and it was here that these two young people met.

Ella's father was the same Alfred French who was the proprietor of the longtime (1860s-1890s) French's Hotel in Milpitas.



Marshall Pomeroy

Marshall and Ella Pomeroy farmed in Milpitas until 1875, when they moved to San Jose. Mr. Pomeroy was appointed a deputy sheriff, serving the term of four years. He then decided to return to farming, so he bought 208 acres two miles west of Santa Clara on the San Francisco road and went in for raising hay, grain and stock

He and his wife had five children: Irwin, Clarence, Delia, Warren, and Clovis.

As his older sons grew up, they encouraged him to plant an orchard, and with their help, he planted 100 acres in prunes and 20 acres in apricots. He also installed a pumping plant for irrigating the ranch, and built drying and packing houses, until he had one of the best fruit growing and packing establishments in the valley.

In their later adulthood, his son Irwin became manager of the Pomeroy Orchard Company and chairman of the board of trustees of the California Prune & Apricot Growers. Clarence assisted in the management of the Pomeroy Ranch, and Warren and Clovis became proprietors of Pomeroy Bros., a large clothing store in San Jose, while Delia and her family assisted with the needs of the family home.

In 1900 Marshall Pomeroy purchased a residence at 429 North Third Street, San Jose, where he and his wife lived until her death in 1917 and his in 1921.



Pomeroy School was built and opened in 1967 and has been well serving the needs of Milpitas students now for over 50 years.

Remembering Lahoma Bunnell

By Kraig Bunnell



Lahoma Elizabeth Bunnell
July 19, 1923 Avant, OK
April 12, 2018 Milpitas, CA

Lahoma moved to Milpitas in 1949 with her husband Virgle and young son Kent. She was a founding member of The Milpitas Green Thumb Garden Club. Mayor Gross awarded her the 1968 Milpitas Woman of the Year. She should be remembered for her flowers and as a long-time member of the Milpitas Historical Society.

Another One of Our Yard Sales This Fall

The Milpitas Historical Society is continuing our revived tradition of a yard sale at Kim Parker's Last Word Ranch (the historic Belshaw house) at 430 Evans Road. This one will be on Saturday, September 15 from 8 am until 2 pm.

So save those treasures that you've been thinking about getting rid of for this fun event.

Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

The Society's May Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at 2:00 pm in Group Study Room A at the Milpitas Library. Members are always welcome.

Our Society's Contact Information

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by mail at 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA 95035
- by email at tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org

Here's the new website for the Milpitas Historical Society: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>, with information about the society and upcoming events.

The traditional Milpitas history web page is here:

<http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html>

Milpitas Historical Society
160 North Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035

First Class