

Milpitas Muse

November 2024

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXXV, No 8

Next Meeting: NOVEMBER 12th at 7:00 pm

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will begin at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 12, in the main auditorium of the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street.

The Presentation

Alfred Doten: Chronicler of Life in Early Milpitas.

This month provides a very rare opportunity to hear what life was like in Milpitas Township during its earliest years of the American period from someone who actually recorded it while residing here. It is documented in 2,284 pages in three volumes of *The Journals of Alfred Doten*. He left Plymouth not yet 20 years old in the hopes of becoming rich from the California Gold Rush, in which he nearly died, prompting him to come to the Bay Area and specifically to Milpitas to farm its rich soils in the recently created State of California. In 1863 he left Milpitas and Warm Springs for the next big bonanza: the Silver Rush in Nevada Territory.



Alfred Doten (1919-1903)

During the early 1850s, a number of pioneers arrived to start the township of Milpitas (originally named Penitencia): Augustus Rathbone, Michael Hughes, Alfred French, Joseph Weller, Frederick Creighton, Josiah Evans, John Sinnott, Martin Murphy Jr. to name only a few. It would be more than a century before Milpitas would incorporate as a city in 1974.



General Store/Saloon and Milpitas Hotel at the intersection of Oakland Road (Main Street) and Alviso Road (Serra Way).

Our Presenter

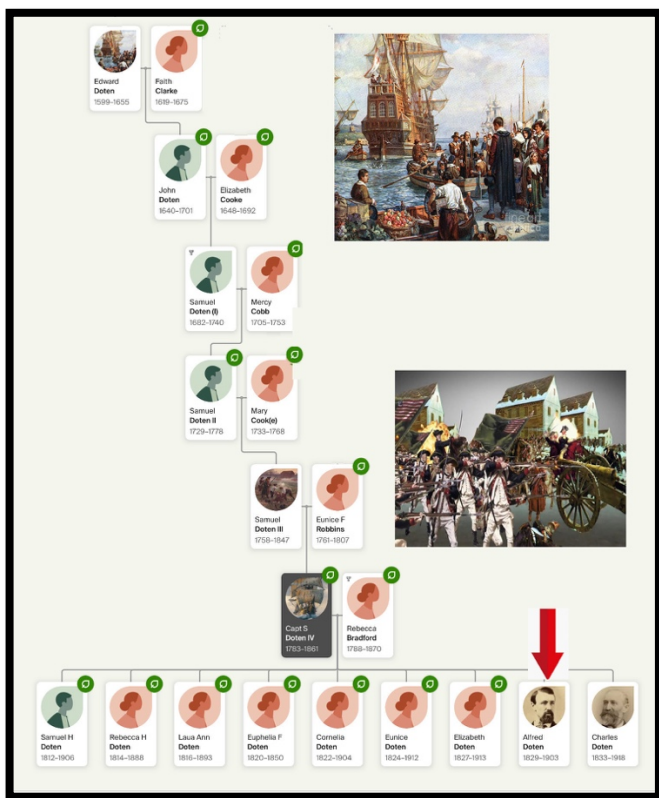


Joseph Ehardt is a member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and the Milpitas Historical Society, in which he holds several positions on the latter's Board of Directors. He also is a docent at the José Maria de Jesus Alviso Museum and author of a growing collection of website articles.

Alfred Doten's historic roots

Alfred Doten (marked by the red arrow) was born in Plymouth, Massachusetts on July 21st, 1829.

His father was ship's Captain Samuel Doten IV, and his mother was Rebecca Bradford (more on her in a moment). His grandfather was Samuel Doten III, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. His great grandfather was the Reverend Samuel Doten/Doty II, and his fourth great grandfather was Edward Doty, who arrived in 1620 on the Mayflower as one of two servants of the Stephen Hopkins Family. Hopkins is famous for being the only English colonist to settle first in Jamestown, Virginia and afterward Plymouth in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



A FREE Society Membership Benefit

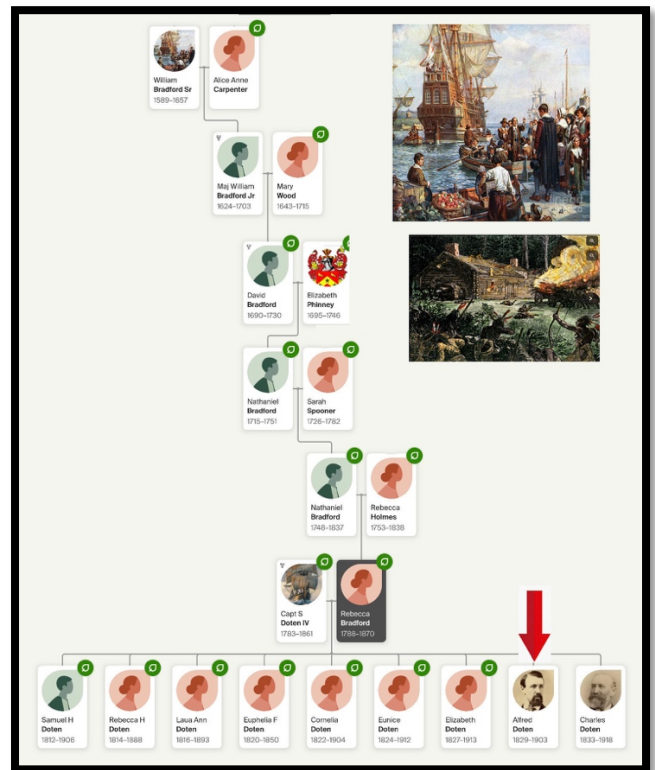
The Society continues to offer the commemorative floaty pen for free to all of its active members. To receive it we simply ask that you come to a monthly meeting to pick it up.



Rebecca Bradford's illustrious roots

Alfred Doten's mother, Rebecca Bradford, like her son Alfred and four generations of Bradfords before her, was born in Plymouth, Massachusetts on February 5th, 1788.

Nathaniel Bradford Jr, her father and a Captain in the Massachusetts militia, was born July 28, 1748. Her grandfather Nathaniel Bradford Sr was born December 10th, 1715; her great grandfather David Bradford was born April 4, 1690. Rebecca's 2nd great grandfather Major William Bradford Jr, second governor of Plymouth Colony and a veteran of King Philip's War (1675-1678), was born in 1614, while her third great grandfather, William Bradford Sr, sailed on the Mayflower in 1620 and was elected the first governor of Plymouth Colony. He was born in Austerfield, Yorkshire, England in 1589.



This issue of the Milpitas Muse was prepared by Joseph Ehardt

Our Society's Contact Information

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by mail at 160 N. Main St., Milpitas CA 95035
- by email at tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org
- our website: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>
- by land-line at 1-408-262-1776 (Bill Hare)