



Saratoga Historical Foundation

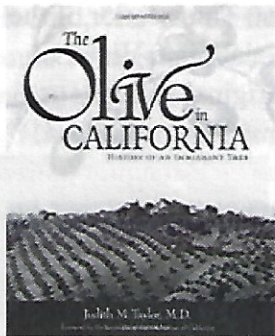
PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

February 2021

Olives, a Supreme Court Justice, and Flight--- What Do These Have in Common?

It's All About the Lineup of Great Programs Coming Your Way!

Dr. Judith Taylor will give a presentation on her book, *"The Olive in California: History of an Immigrant Tree"* on **March 29 at 7:00 PM on**



Zoom. The great antiquity of olive trees and their role in human society lend them a romance which is still with us. The trees and their fruit were central to the ancient civilizations. Emigrants took the trees with them wherever they settled, forming a great arc

along the Mediterranean coasts. The talk hinges on trees being taken to Mexico and later California from Spain soon after Columbus's voyages. Included in the talk will be the first rancho planted in Saratoga by Senor Don Jose Ramon Arguello in 1865. It was later purchased by Edward E. Goodrich who marketed El Quito Olive Oil.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87348255407>

Meeting ID: 873 4825 5407

Passcode: 106253

Superior Court Justice Paul Bernal, historian and eighth-generation descendent of ranch founder Jose Joaquin Bernal will speak on **April 26 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.** A popular speaker, Bernal

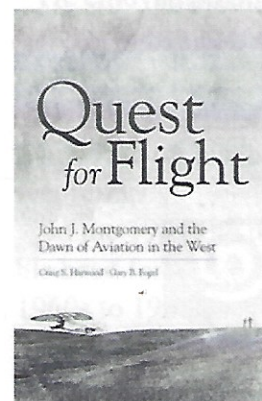
will talk about growing up in the Santa Clara Valley and the history of his family's ranch.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81964318081>

Meeting ID: 819 6431 8081

Passcode: 124472

Many believe that only the Wright brothers



invented the airplane. Craig Harwood author of *"Quest for Flight: John J. Montgomery and the Dawn of Aviation in the West"* has written about John J. Montgomery, a California scientist who succeeded in flying gliders twenty years before the Wright's powered flights at Kitty

Hawk in 1903. The presentation will be based on the book and reveals the amazing accomplishments of Montgomery who piloted the glider he designed in 1883 in the first controlled flights. This presentation is co-sponsored by the California Pioneers and will take place on **May 24 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81285601473>

Meeting ID: 812 8560 1473

Passcode: 566642



Tinkering with the Plumed Horse 69 Years in the Same Location

In the late 1800s The Swiss Hotel on Big Basin Way was constructed and had a livery stable nearby. The hotel had a colorful history fitting of the times until it was destroyed by fire. Some of the wood was salvaged and a second-hand shop was opened on the site by Norwell Thompson.

Thompson and his wife, Louise decided to give up selling antiques and the structure became a tea house due to local demand.

In 1952 the Plumed Horse restaurant opened taking the whimsical name from the past when a tinker housed his horse in the stable that was on-site. The tinker repaired pots and pans and dressed his horse in a hat with a plumed feather. The interior of the restaurant was furnished with elaborate Victorian furnishings-- many from the original antiques housed. And a legacy of gourmet dining ensued.

In 1975 the tea house became a restaurant under the ownership of Klaus Pache. The modest building with a picket fence and colorful morning glory flowers continued to gain a reputation for ambience and fine dining under his management. It quickly became one of the premier restaurants in the Santa Clara Valley. Baseball hero Joltin' Joe aka Joe DiMaggio dined there. Singer Harry Belafonte once joined the band for a few songs. Actress Olivia deHavilland made it a favorite spot while staying at the Inn of Saratoga.

The restaurant has since been remodeled and is under new management and has continued using the Plumed Horse name. And it kept its reputation for fine dining with a Michelin star rating! Proud of its history, you will find many framed photos of the early days in Saratoga inside the restaurant.



Contact Us!

Saratoga Historical Foundation

The mission of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is to preserve the unique history of Saratoga for the education and enjoyment of the community.

The Saratoga Historical Park is open from 1-4 PM on Fridays and Sundays and from 10-4 PM on Saturday. For more information, i.e. group tours, you can call 408-867-4311 or e-mail info@saratogahistory.com. Be sure to also check the website at www.saratogahistory.com or see us on Facebook at facebook.com/saratogahistory. Newsletter suggestions can be sent to the editor at: info@saratogahistory.com.

UPCOMING Events

Current Exhibit

The Saratoga History Museum is closed until further notice due to the pandemic.

February 10 see the recording of the History of San Francisco's Chinatown presentation held on Feb. 10 on www.saratogahistory.com

March 29 zoom presentation at 7:00 PM

April 26 zoom presentation at 7:00 PM

May 24 zoom presentation at 7:00 PM

Remembering Yehudi Menuhin

Famed violinist, conductor, philanthropist Yehudi Menuhin had a special love for living in Los Gatos. He said, "for all my family, the Garden of Eden could be very exactly pinpointed in the Santa Cruz mountains."

His parents and his family had homes near the Sacred Heart Novitiate in the 1930's. The main home had five pianos and a chamber hall. The family spoke five languages but used Italian for daily conversation. He said "he remembers Los Gatos as all orchards and blossoms with one bumping two-lane road!"



At the age of 7 Yehudi gave his first concert with the San Francisco Symphony. He had his New York debut at the age of 10 playing the violin with the New York Symphony. At the age of 13 his performance with the Berlin Philharmonic Symphony inspired Albert Einstein to say, "Today Yehudi, you have once again proved to me that there is a God in Heaven."

Yehudi was born in 1919 in New York to Russian parents, newly arrived from Palestine. The family moved to California where his father resumed his

profession of teaching Hebrew. Yehudi's sister, Hephzibah was born in 1923 and was a fine pianist--frequently his accompanist. Sister Yaltah, was born in 1925 and was also a pianist.

A wealthy attorney Sidney Ehrman, helped fund the family so they could move to Switzerland while Yehudi continued to train and give concerts.

During the war he performed over 500 concerts for Allied soldiers and war-related charities. After the war, he performed in Germany as a gesture of reconciliation.

He moved to Britain in 1959 to live permanently and received honorary knighthood in 1965 and became a British lord in 1993.

He returned to Los Gatos at least once a year where his parents lived until their death. He was an honorary member of the Montalvo board and provided concerts locally. He had an intense interest in music and founded schools in England and Switzerland. He also formed two in the Bay Area-- in Hillsborough and Berkeley. He couldn't say "no" and was known for giving his talent to many philanthropic events.

He enjoyed practicing his music at Casa Tierra in Saratoga with friends-- because the acoustics were good!

He wrote books about playing the violin as well as two books on his memoirs. And left a legacy of recordings.

In the 1950s he took up yoga and would stand on his head for 15-20 minutes each day. During the 1960s to 1980s he performed as a conductor.

He sold the over 162 acres in the mountains his parents had purchased to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in 1988--he liked the idea of his land being preserved as open space.



He died in 1999 preparing to conduct a concert in Berlin at the age of 82.

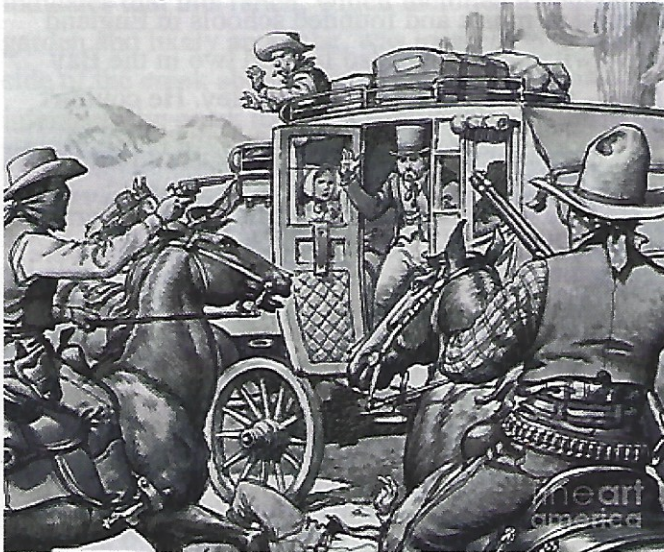
"The ultimate aim in life should be to fulfill to the utmost all that within our

ability and to share that which is good and beautiful" --Yehudi Menuhin

The Bullion Bend Bandits

by John Fitzpatrick, Saratogan

A brazen armed robbery of two stagecoaches carrying sacks of gold bullion and Wells Fargo deposit boxes valued at approximately \$26,000 (or approximately \$433,000 in today's dollars), occurred between Placerville and Lake Tahoe on June 30, 1864, while the Civil War was raging far to the east. 1) As the wagons rounded a bend in the road in the middle of the night, they were ambushed by a half dozen heavily-armed highwaymen in masks. 2) The leader of the gang allegedly told the passengers at gunpoint that he and his accomplices were raising money for Confederate recruitment, before signing a receipt for their takings in the name of the rebel government.



3) A steel-nerved young lady in one of the stagecoaches was said to have interrogated the culprits, hoping to be able to later identify their voices, before the bushwhackers hastily departed with several sacks of gold bullion and approximately \$2,000 in gold coin from the first stagecoach, reportedly missing eleven more sacks of bullion in the second wagon. 4) Perhaps this claim of lost loot was merely a ploy fed to the press by law enforcement, in the hope of causing the criminals to turn upon each other after learning of such a costly oversight. Whatever the case, early the next day, El Dorado County Deputy Sheriff Joseph Staples and another officer stumbled upon the gang

in their nearby hillside hotel hideout, perhaps after being alerted to their presence by a pair of the perpetrators' pistol practice. 5) Staples was gunned down in the ensuing shootout, yet the deputy gravely wounded one of the robbers, Tom Poole, a former sheriff of Monterey County who had served time at the military prison on Alcatraz for a prior Confederate conspiracy. 6) Believing he was dying, Poole confessed and implicated his accomplices, telling authorities they would likely be found in the San Jose area. 7) In fact, the remaining rebels had reportedly planned to rob the New Almaden Mines payroll on July 15, but their loose lips led to a local rancher tipping off Santa Clara County Sheriff John Hicks Adams, a veteran of the Mexican War. 8) Sheriff Adams and his posse surprised the gang around sunset on July 14 at a ranch on Almaden Road, a mile and half outside San Jose. 9) Once they had surrounded the house, Sheriff Adams ordered the men inside to, "Come out and deliver yourselves up!", and the gang quickly obliged, as each exited with a pair of pistols firing. 10) "Forty shots were exchanged at close range," and three of the suspects suffered fatal wounds, one was captured alive, yet two escaped into the brush, and two officers were seriously injured. 11)

During the Civil War, McCartysville was reportedly home to a branch of the Knights of the Golden Circle ("KGC"), a "super-secret semi-military organization of Secessionists, active in recruiting and robbing stages and banks in California." 12) These rebels were said to meet in the foothills west of town, hidden from view of the village, and had reportedly been plotting to raid the city of San Jose, much like the Quantrill's notorious raid of Lawrence, Kansas, in which the stagecoach bandit's leader had allegedly taken part, where every man in that town was savagely slaughtered and 185 buildings burned. 13) Even though California was a free state, every significantly-sized town reportedly contained a branch of the KGC, known as a castle, and the organization's total membership may have numbered over 20,000 men, including prominent figures in business and politics. 14) Bullion Bend, as this infamous stagecoach

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robbery had become known, raised quite a stir in the area and throughout the state, until the investigation culminated in the arrest of eleven men in Santa Clara County in late July or early August, 1864, including three McCartysville residents, by Sheriff Adams, along with four companies of infantry. 15)



Soon after, a desperado named Jim Grant, who had left the gang before Bullion Bend after quarreling with another of the bandits over a woman, continued his crime spree with another associate, robbing three separate stagecoaches in San Benito County for a total of \$185. 16) He was eventually captured by a posse after they surveilled the same woman's residence near Forbes Mill in Los Gatos, until Grant eventually appeared, though it took a load of buckshot in the back to bring him to submission, as he was killed attempting to escape. 17) The suspects were variously charged with treason, murder, grand larceny, and conspiracy to plan the heist, and while the cases against all but two were eventually dismissed, the reputation of all the men, and the town in general, had been terribly tarnished. 18) Of the six Bullion Bend Bandits, a form of frontier justice had been delivered, for "two had been shot to death, two fled the state, one had turned state's evidence", leaving only the one, Tom Poole, to be hung in Placerville for the murder of Deputy Staples. 19) Whether the allegations against the other men were based in truth or mere rumor

may never be known, but McCartysville was seen as "a stronghold of secessionism." 20)

In response, local residents promptly held a patriotic flag-raising celebration on October 5, 1864, at the village's picnic grounds, not far from where our Stars and Stripes still stand today at Blaney Plaza by the WWI Memorial Arch. 21) The town's own mounted cavalry, the Redwood Volunteers, were in attendance, along with a huge crowd and lively band, to witness pro-Union speeches and an eighty-foot pole flying the American flag setup on the site, followed by dinner and "more rollicking festivities". 22) Most notably, the villagers voted there that day to change the name from Bank Mills, which few had apparently adopted anyway since the recent change from McCartysville less than a year earlier, to Saratoga..

Footnotes

1. Florence Cunningham First Hundred Years, pg. 64; John Boessenecker, Badge and Buckshot: Lawlessness in Old California, University of Oklahoma Press, 1988, pg. 141
2. Id.
3. Cunningham, pg. 65; Boessenecker, pg. 144
4. Boessenecker, pg. 142
5. Boessenecker, pg. 152
6. Boessenecker, pg. 138
7. Boessenecker, pg. 150
8. Id.
9. Cunningham, pg. 64
10. Cunningham, pg. 64; Boessenecker, pg. 137, 139
11. Cunningham, pg. 64
12. Boessenecker, pg. 154
13. Boessenecker, pg. 156
14. Cunningham, pg. 64
15. Id.
16. Boessenecker, pg. 157
17. Cunningham, pg. 66
18. Id.
19. Id.
20. Id.
21. Id.
22. Id.

The Saga of Rancho de Tito

By James Hecox, Saratogan

Sometime in the 1830s the first documented settlement occurred in Saratoga, California. This happened when an Indian neophyte named Titus (known as "Tito") of Mission Santa Clara established a "dairy ranch" at



a rancheria along the creek named Arroyo Quito. This creek was later named Campbell Creek and today is known as Saratoga Creek. An oral tradition indicates that this ranch, which included a vegetable garden and likely an adobe, was located on the east side of the creek about where Herriman Avenue intersects the creek today. A biography of John Ellsworth published in the 1888 *Pen Pictures of the History of the World*, authored by historian Horace Foote, mentions that when Ellsworth purchased his 50-acre property in the 1870s, there was about one acre of pre-existing Mission grapes. Ellsworth's property was located northwest of Saratoga Avenue across and west of Saratoga's Heritage Orchard. This early ranch appears to coincide with the Mexican Secularization Act of 1833 for this early rancheria. This information is from the 2009 Saratoga Planning Department Heritage Resources Inventory.

Tito was a Christian Indian who had been baptized at the Mission. When Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821 it started to remove the power from the Spanish Missions. The Mexican Secularization Act of 1833 required the Spanish Missions release all of the indigenous Indians. The Secularization Act also required that the Indians be given Mission land up to 33 acres and some cattle.

Rancho de Tito along Arroyo Quito would later become the established rancheria farm that the 13,310-acre Mexican Land grant Rancho Quito was issued in 1841 to José Noriega and his father-in-

law, José Zenon Fernandez. To be eligible for a land grant from the Mexican government you had to prove that you had an established rancheria for 5 years on the land, adobe house, garden and cattle.

The 1861 and 1864 maps of Rancho Quito by maker Charles T. Healy in the Bancroft Library today both make reference to Tito Rancho surveyed by C.C. Tracy. This survey occurred because of land disputes after José M. Alviso bought Rancho Quito in 1844.

I'd really like to know what happened to Tito and his family! Did he die of one of the many diseases that plagued the indigenous Californians? Was he swindled out of his rancheria by greedy Spanish and Mexican businessman who knew they could get a massive government land grant based on his hard work? Are there any wild Mission grape vines growing along Saratoga creek near Herriman Avenue today?

Tips on Researching

By April Halberstadt
Historian, Author

The questions at the end of the article of Rancho de Tito asked by James Hecox are intriguing. Author and Historian April Halberstad suggests some of the following means of research to possibly answer those questions.

The archives at Mission Santa Clara would be



valuable if they were open at this time. The Mission has the baptismal records which usually include a substantial family tree for each of the neophytes. Not surprisingly, there was a substantial oral tradition, so for many of the early converts we get a *continued on page 7*

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good picture of the size and membership of the various "tribelets". There are several local "genealogy clubs" who have worked on these records- the Los Fundadores (losfundadores.org) for example.

There were apparently several rancherias that were providing the Santa Clara mission with supplies. A very similar operation was the rancho property of the neophyte Roberto - also known as Roberto Balermينو, who had a substantial vineyard related to the mission. His property became known as the Rancho de Los Coches. That adobe is located in Willow Glen (www.bvnasj.org).

The information in the 2009 Saratoga Planning Summary is the best information we had at the time of the ranch. The Context Statement was written by Franklin Maggi and Associates.

The most revealing information on Rancho de Tito is in the testimony regarding Rancho Quito, when it was adjudicated as part of the hearings before the Bureau of Land Commissioners. Those written records are available at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley. Some of the maps are available online, but the actual testimony was taken from witnesses by a court reporter and is difficult to read.



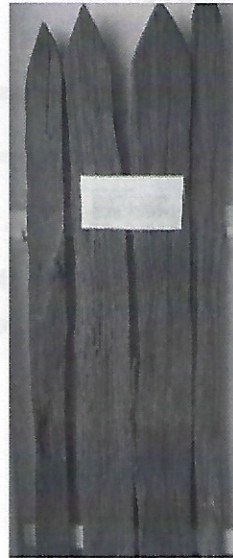
Here is what I recall from the testimony I read. Noriega and Fernandez were soldiers stationed at the Monterey presidio and the land was awarded to

them in lieu of back pay and retirement pay. They never visited the property. The diseno (early map) that was filed as part of their claim was a casual sketch (available online) but it was later discovered to have the north arrow pointing in the wrong direction!

When Martin McCarthy came to the area and wanted to buy property, he tried to be very careful to purchase property outside the rancho boundaries. But the mistake had been made and half of his town had to be re-purchased. That is why we have two identical plat maps of Saratoga, one produced in 1852 and the other in 1876.

This was also part of the difficulty that later resulted in the so-called "squatters wars". The actual boundaries of various ranchos were originally extremely inaccurate, but that did not stop the early rancho owners from selling parcels to newcomers.

Florence Cunningham's father rescued some of the redwood palisades from the corral that was part of the Tito dairy operation. These can be seen in the Saratoga History Museum. As I recall they were making cheese and I have often wondered about how and where on the property this was done. Part of the dairy operation would have been in the creek behind the Cunningham property.



Early maps of Santa Clara Valley show there is a fairly straight line between the Santa Clara mission and Saratoga. I believe there was always substantial traffic between the two locations. I believe the local natives were traveling from the rancherias surrounding the mission to their other villages in the hills and on to Santa Cruz.

We have not looked at what happened to Tito but it would be interesting to research. Roberto Balermينو was fairly old when the Yankees showed up and he was happy to sell parts or all of his rancho and buy other property. His story is at the Roberto Adobe. Cash in hand is better than acreage you will never use!

There were forty-three ranchos in Santa Clara County - four of them went to mission Indians who hung onto them. They covered thousands of acres - Rancho Posolmi in Mountain View was nearly 1,700 acres - Roberto Balermينو had over 2,200 acres.

This is an interesting topic! Maybe someone will have time to do more research.



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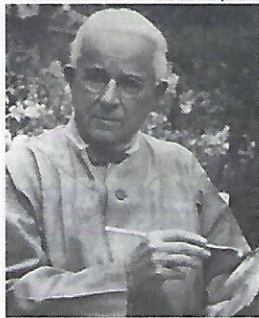
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Famous Plein Air Artist from Saratoga

Albert DeRome (1885-1959) was born in Cayucos, California. His family came to Saratoga in the 1900's. His father, AP DeRome took over Martin Kane's blacksmith business. He came from a family of metal workers and mechanics. AP's brother, Louis, established a brass foundry in San Francisco and



manufactured liberty bells, bronze plaques and other items in bronze.

Growing up in Saratoga, Albert worked for his father as well as at the Congress Springs Hotel in Saratoga.

He studied art at the Mark Hopkins Institute under Arthur Mathews and Lorenzo Latimer.

His art career spanned from 1905 to 1959 with a variety of work from penning political cartoons for the San Jose Mercury News, advertisements for Chas, Green Company—one of California's largest advertising agencies in San Francisco, to paintings in oil and water color to photography.

DeRome's art style is impressionistic and includes landscapes and seascapes in both oil and water color. Most of his paintings were small-- 6" x 8" and later 18" x 24". When friends would critique his work, he would capture their comments on the back of the paintings.

Following a serious accident in 1931 that left him partially paralyzed, DeRome gradually recovered the ability to paint, however, an insurance policy prevented him from selling his work or exhibiting as a professional artist. He would trade his paintings for rent or services. He began to recover by sketching and painting in Pacific Grove.

He became interested in photography at the turn



of the twentieth century. The photos taken were typically historical in nature with a nostalgic look at California.