

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Volume 10 – Issue 4

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.

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P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593
951-302-9536
www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



Mysterious Headstone in Temecula Cemetery.

Established in 1884

Temecula Public Cemetery Land Donated by Mercedes Pujol

(Excerpted from the Temecula Cemetery website, with permission.)

Originally written by Darell and Rebecca Farnbach).

Land for what eventually became the Temecula Public Cemetery was donated by a widow, Mercedes Pujol, who came from Spain in 1884, to settle the estate of her late husband Domingo Pujol. She sold much of her property, but with philanthropic foresight, she deeded the land for a cemetery, and also gave land for a school, a town site and a rail station.

The land was a pioneer cemetery, maintained by families of the interred, until 1928, when Public Cemetery Districts were formed in California to provide lower cost burial facilities to residents. Alex Escallier and James Freeman were two of the three men who were responsible for the new cemetery district. Frank Salas was hired as a groundskeeper. Frank, who was 73 at the time, dug all of the 6-foot graves with a hand shovel. The graves sold then for \$200.00 and Frank charged \$75.00 for opening and closing the graves.

Annie Santa Maria served as a trustee for fifty years, the longest term of anyone's service. In 1968, while Annie was president of the cemetery board, the board put a moratorium on the purchase of more than two graves per family, because cemetery space was limited. Additional land

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Calendar Of Events

Monday, April 12 – Monthly Meeting ***Note Change Location*** – to be held at VaARRA Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn Next to Kohl's Store) 6 to 8 p.m. "*The Lewis and Clark Story*." Jim Thomas will come dressed in period costume to relate stories of Lewis & Clark, and their amazing journey. Jim's 550 page book "Corps of Discovery" will be available For \$15.

Thurs., April 15 – 7:00 pm Gallery Talk at Temecula Valley Museum. "Perry Mason – The Case of the Murdered Miner", a true story from the life of Erle Stanley Gardner.

Saturday, April 24 – The Alamos / Hyatt Reunion at the Alamos Schoolhouse at Lake Skinner Park. Former students, family, & friends are welcome. Starts at 10:00 am, with a Potluck At 12:00 pm. Bring your favorite dish to serve 8 – 10 folks. Coffee, iced tea and water provided. If have questions call Mimi at 951-926-5080 or email Pennysue83@bak.rr.net

Monday, May 10 – Monthly Meeting – 6 to 8 p.m. Dr. Anne Miller and David Armstrong will present "*Mapping the Southern Emigrant Trail*". This meeting will be held at the VaARRA Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn next to Kohl's Dept. Store).

was purchased in 1987, allowing for expansion. Two sizeable areas now have double depth gravesites.

The oldest grave is Lovica Welty's. She was the daughter of Richard and Mary Welty, who owned the Welty Hotel and the Welty General Mercantile Store. The marker for Lovica's short life of sixteen years shows the dates 1873-1889.

A marker that attracts attention simply reads, "LADY AND BABY". No one seems to know who they were or the story behind the epithet.

In a cemetery this old, it is not uncommon to have several unmarked graves. Some are unmarked because of the expense of a marker, others because the deceased didn't have family to provide one, and others may have had wooden crosses that deteriorated over time.

There are several unmarked graves in the old original section. Although the cemetery always had an overseer, record keeping was not done as carefully as we do today. Therefore several of the graves are unmarked or marked "UNK", for "unknown". The graves in the older section are not in a single orderly row as our more recent ones are, nor do the markers all face the same direction.

Mahlon Vail, who managed the nearly 90-thousand-acre Vail Ranch is buried near Eli Barnett who promoted the building of the First National Bank of Temecula in 1914. The Ludys, Cobbs and Culvers ranched on the same land, prior to the Vails.

Alex and Pete Escallier, shareholders in Eli Barnett's bank venture, are buried in the cemetery. The Escallier family has the most graves – a total of 21 - including one marked "SIX GUN", a nickname that stood the test of time.

Other families represented in the cemetery include GONZALEZ, BURNHAM, LUDY, FRIEDEMANN, SWANGUEN, MAGEE, MACHADO, KOLB, NICOLAS, SERVEL, FREEMAN, HICKS, RORIPAUGH, MC SWEENEY, FERNALD and TOBIN.

Most of the large upright markers in the cemetery were mined from the granite in the Temecula hills. While Alex Escallier was one of the cemetery board members, they adopted a resolution to stop placement of upright markers (which are obstacles to lawn mowing), thus limiting the need of additional groundskeepers.

Did You Know?

In 1958 Robert Heft, a 17-year-old Ohio high school junior, designed our 50-star American flag for a U.S. history project. He took his family's 48-star flag and twelve hours later, using \$2.97 worth of blue cloth and white iron-on material, his flag was made. His design was selected from 1,500 submitted to Congress on July 4, 1960 to celebrate the addition of Alaska and Hawaii to the United States.

Robert spent the rest of his life teaching school and traveling around the country telling his "Betsy Ross" story. The flag he sewed has flown over the White House, each state capitol and 88 U.S. embassies. His teacher originally gave him a B-, but after Congress selected his design, she changed it to an A. Heft died in December 2009.

TVHS Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

The Temecula Valley Historical Society was formed in 2000, and received its 501(c)3 non-profit certification soon after. There are a number of **members** who have been with us continually right from the start – let us celebrate and congratulate these loyal and long time original “charter” members, with uninterrupted support:

Steve Allen
Malcolm & Loretta Barnett
Paul & June Buhler
Community Little Book
Donald Coop
Eve Craig
Shari Crall
Anne Miller & David Elliott
Darell & Rebecca Farnbach
Dick Fox
Bill Harker
Rhine & Sandy Helzer
Patricia Lallou
Leeland & Helen Lovass
Gary & Sally Meyers
Jim & Dorothy Meyler
Mission Oaks Bank
John Moramarco, Sr.
Gary & Sally Myers
Duane & Judy Preimsberger
Randall Family
Bonnie Reed
Rod & Dee Reynolds
Dan Stephenson
Norm & Betty Taylor
Gerhard & Mia Thyzel
Gene & Barbara Tobin
Donald & Esther Trunnell
Rod & Judith Turco
Donna Webster
Art & Janet York

Over the Years We've Had Four Serve as President

Eve Craig
Charolette Fox
Jimmy Moore
Barbara Tobin

Recent Membership Renewals

Robert & Elaine Culverhouse
Jack Bauer
Judy Hancock
John Randall III Family
Hidden Market Realty
Mike McMillan

President's Message

Our Goals Committee have been working on restructuring our Committee System since the first of the year. They have done a fabulous job, now all we have to do is populate the committees with working members. We will have four standing committees. First is the Membership Committee whose goal is to grow our membership. They will be responsible for maintaining contact with the membership. The Second committee is the Public Relations Committee, whose responsibility includes press releases and Newsletter and the creation of a Speakers' Bureau. Our Third Committee is the Projects Committee who will be designing and implementing projects for the Society. The Fourth permanent committee is the Events/Education Committee. They will be planning our tours, luncheons and dinners for the Society.

Now that we have a decent committee structure we need volunteers to staff the committees. As you can see below, we have openings to chair some committees, as well as adding members to help. If you would like to serve on one or more of these committees, please plan on attending our monthly meeting on April 12th. If you are unable to attend, please call me at (951) 302-9536.

Jimmy Moore

Many Openings on New Recommended Committees

Membership

Chair:

Members: Barbara Tobin, Dick Fox

To have responsibility for keeping membership list current, building e-mail list, sending Thank You Cards (or membership cards to New & Renewal Members, sending a DVD to new members, have telephone contact sub-committee, Honorary Memberships for Guest Speakers.

Public Relations

Chair:

Members: Bonnie Martland

Handle Brochures distribution & find outside funding for same, maintain Society Web-site, News Releases, Newsletter, establish a Society Speakers Bureau and presentations, participate in Community Outreach.

Projects

Chair:

Members: Dick Fox

Create sales plan for remaining DVD's, complete Historic Highway 395 Sign Project (raise funds, get installed), consider possible new projects for the Society, review Old Grants.

Events / Education

Chair:

Members: Lisa Woodward

Plan Society sponsored field trips and events, participate where needed in Special Events, do planning for annual Society events (such as Annual meeting).

*** Checkout our NEW Website ***

www.temeculahistoricalociety.org

"Kudos to Dale Garcia for all his hard work."



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

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**On Sat. & Sun.
April 10th & 11th**

1 to 4 pm (each day)

A special opportunity to see an amazing collection of Edward S. Curtis photogravures of North American Indian life. Some are turn-of-the-century photos taken in Southern California.

See this display at the **Fallbrook Historical Society**
260 Rocky Crest Rd.
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Attention: New Meeting Location --



The Temecula Valley Historical Society has moved its meeting location to the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn building next to Kohl's Dept. Store).

Next meeting Monday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. at History Center, near intersection of Temecula Parkway & Margarita Road.

Remember before each meeting visit our Welcome Table, where we have TVHS produced DVD's and books for sale. Also membership forms and other activity flyers are available.

Look for us on Facebook . . .