



**City of San Bernardino**  
**Historical and Pioneer Society**  
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[www.sbhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.sbhistoricalsociety.com)

## **LIBRARY NEWS FEBRUARY 2013**

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

### **STODDARD-WAITE REDEDICATION CEREMONY UPDATE**

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 18, 2013**

A cautionary note for our May 18th Cajon Pass dedication: it can be windy and cold in May. This photo was taken during the original 1913 ceremony and it shows Mrs. Harris holding onto her hat with a gloved hand while her neck scarf blows in the wind. Other photos show participants warmly dressed in heavy coats and sturdy footwear. For all who plan to attend the 100th anniversary this coming May, be prepared by bringing along such clothing in case of a wintry day.

Last month I mentioned that our webmaster Joe Fondy's grandmother was part of the program. We looked through the available 1913 photos and found one with several people around the monument, including his grandmother and her mother. Enlarging the original several times and cropping out everything else, Joe came up with this close-up picture of Mary and her mother, Florence Littlefield Harris. Mary's father was David Marion Harris.

Mary went on to be quite active in community affairs and was an excellent school teacher in the San Bernardino school system. She unfortunately died at age 45 from breast cancer.



**Florence Harris and her daughter Mary at the Stoddard-Waite monument, 1913**

### **MAY 2013 DEDICATION IS ADJACENT TO CAMP CAJON**

Camp Cajon, the well-known park/rest stop built by William Bristol, is very near our two monuments. Bristol attended the 1917 Pioneer dedication and was inspired to build a welcoming park for weary travelers entering the area. Society member John Hockaday and his wife Sandy wrote a book on Bristol, which includes a chapter on Camp Cajon. The book is available at the following Internet address: <http://www.buckthornpublishing.com/orders.html> You will want to bring that with you in May.

# Pioneers Honor John Brown, Jr. At Annual Picnic Held on Site Of Wagon Train Camp at Cajon

## Last Survivor of Forty-Niners in County Paid Tribute by Life-Long Friends

It was a double motive that brought more than 400 pioneers, their descendants and friends together Sunday at Camp Cajon. First, the occasion was the annual Pioneer picnic, held in celebration of that brave band of gallant men and women who arrived in June, 1851, in San Bernardino county after a long and dangerous journey by wagon train across the plains from Utah. Under the leadership of Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich, 100 pioneers left their homes, with Capt. Jefferson Hunt as their guide to the new country. Their first permanent camp was in Cajon pass.

Secondly, the celebration honored John Brown Jr., the last survivor of the pioneers who came to San Bernardino county in 1849; the only living charter member of the Pioneer society, who has served as secretary of the organization since its beginning Jan. 21, 1888.

**Silent Prayer  
Said for Departed**

This year's anniversary celebration was sponsored by the Golden State club, auxiliary of the Pioneer society and composed of the children of the first settlers of the country. Mrs. Zetta Van Leuven Wright, president of the club, was general chairman of the affair, and with the assistance of a large committee, successfully staged the finest celebration of its kind ever held at Camp Cajon.

The formal program opened with the singing of "America" by the audience, followed with the invocation given by Chaplain Alonzo Jones, and a silent prayer for the pioneers who have passed on. Thomas Holmes recited an original poem dedicated to the pioneers, and the favorite old-time songs were played on the violin by Andrew DeWitt.

With the close of the musical numbers John Henderson, president of the Pioneer society, introduced John Brown Jr., known and beloved by all. He was accorded an ovation from his friends and decorated with a floral regalia formed from red, white and blue flowers, which was placed on his shoulders by Lucinda Hancock Lord, daughter of the late Joseph Hancock. Mrs. Leila Whitlock presented him with a beautiful gold pin adorned with an engraving of Old Glory and the bear flag, and inscribed with his name and his office in the society. It was pinned to his coat lapel by Mother Annie Alexander.

Both honors were bestowed with expressions of the esteem and love with which Mr. Brown is regarded by the pioneers and their children.

**Brown Recalls  
Early-Day Events**

Letters from Judges Benjamin F. Bledsoe and Rev. B. Goodcell, both of Los Angeles and both native sons of San Bernardino pioneers, were read by Mrs. Whitlock. The messages regretted the inability of the writers to be present and sent congratulations to John Brown Jr., and all the pioneers.

In his splendid address Mr. Brown recalled stirring and thrill-

ing incidents of pioneer life in the county, and introduced prominent pioneers whose names are linked with local history. Among those pioneers, who occupied seats of honor on the speakers' platform, were Mrs. Rudeclinda Sepulveda de Dodson, now of San Pedro and Los Angeles. Mrs. de Dodson is a member of the famous Sepulveda and Lugo families, who owned vast territorial grants, and from whom the first settlers purchased San Bernardino rancho, the site of the present city. She was born in the adobe home of the Sepulveda's in Yucaipa valley.

**Survivors of 1851  
Expedition Speak**

Mrs. Julia Tanner Tyler and Randolph Seely, the only living survivors of the pioneer party which arrived in 1851, were also called upon as were Mrs. Slaughter, daughter of F. M. Slaughter of Chino, whose heroic task of supplying food to the pioneers who were struggling under many hardships as they crossed the mountains, makes him a historical figure.

G. W. Beattie, historian and president of historical society, recalled unusual facts in county history during his short talk on "Pioneer Landmarks." Byron Waters was also an interesting speaker of the day.

A song which recalled happy days of long ago was given by Elizabeth Keller and Julia Coe. The ode of the pioneer society closed the impressive program.

**Pioneer Mothers  
Serve Luncheon**

An elaborate barbecue dinner was served before the program, the pioneer mothers vying with one another in filling the tables with delicious home-cooked dishes, while the pioneer fathers presided over the barbecue pits and aided in many other helpful ways. Mr. Brown was presented with a decorated cake, baked in his honor by Dale Holmes, native son of a pioneer.

Among the pioneers who occupied the platform with Secretary Brown were those who arrived in San Bernardino county before 1855, and were: Lizzie Southworth Jones, Lucina Huntington Godfrey, Leonia Ferguson Peik, N. M. Strong, Smith Halle, Edward Stiles, Thomas H. Ashcroft, Byron Waters, Jane Cadd Smithson, Lydia Van Leuven Wilson, Eliza Ousterhout, Alice Everett Benson and Mrs. E. Beck.

Others occupying the stage were Alonzo Jones, Jerushia Hancock Tyler, Jeannette Henderson Roberts, Mrs. Mary Wixom, Maggie Zimmerman, Charles E. Bradford, Eliza Cunningham Bradford, Laura Case Clark, Emily K. Lemon, Hiram Clark, Randolph Seely, Mar- tinia Stewart Huslon, Annie Cadd Alexander, Edward H. Pine, Frank Holmes, Wardman Holmes, Lucy Atwood Janney, Julia Ann Tanner Tyler, Elizabeth Boren, Matilde Welty, Mary Singleton Welty, Hattie Welty, Sylvia Brown Davenport of Colton, Mrs. Byron Waters, sisters of John Brown Jr.

John Hockaday writes that following the 1917 dedication the Pioneers adjourned to a spot beneath some willows and had a picnic, and this is what gave Bristol the idea that others would also enjoy the site. That the Pioneers continued to hold festivities there, is evidenced by the adjacent article. This was sent in by Feldheim Library docent Sue Payne, and is from the June 18, 1928, issue of the San Bernardino *Daily Sun*.

Sue is enthusiastic about the reception she is receiving from pioneer descendants who plan on attending. She also believes, based on evidence in the Mary Lewis File, that descendants of Pablo Belarde exist. Belarde took a part in the original dedication. He came to San Bernardino in 1843 and was much liked and respected by the Pioneers. Sue told me that Belarde was the vice president of the Society at the time of the 1913 dedication.

## ELECTION RETURNS FOR 1939 CITY OFFICES

Last month I ran a photograph of a piece of campaign ephemera from Ray Castro's 1939 candidacy for City Council, along with an inquiry regarding the outcome of the race. Feldheim Library docent Sue Payne came through with this article showing that Castro, a retired locomotive engineer, was just barely edged out. The winner was incumbent Dr. George E. Shafer. We have some Shafer memorabilia on display at the Santa Fe Depot, including his 1899 Locomobile.

# FRAZEE BEATEN BY 1,223 VOTES IN CITY ELECTION

## Shafer Keeps Council Seat in Close Race; Plumbing Ordinance Defeated 4 to 1

H. C. McAllister, a business executive of 30 years' experience, was elected mayor of San Bernardino yesterday, defeating the liberal William N. Frazee by 1,223 votes.

### NEW MAYOR



H. C. McAllister, retired business executive, who will be San Bernardino's new mayor.

The complete returns from the city's 48 precincts follow:

McAllister .....	7,049
Frazee .....	5,826

Mr. McAllister will take office at noon on May 8.

Dr. George E. Shafer retained his seat on the city council by defeating R. O. (Barney) Castro, a retired Santa Fe locomotive engineer by 39 votes in a bristling contest in the Third ward.

The vote was:

Shafer .....	963
Castro .....	924

### Plumbing Ordinance Turned Down 4 to 1

Mathematically it could be possible for Mr. Castro to overcome Dr. Shafer's majority as there were 46 absentee votes issued to electors of the ward. It would be necessary, however, for Mr. Castro to receive 43 of the 46 absentee votes, which remain to be counted, to defeat Dr. Shafer. In a statement last night, Dr. Shafer said he is positive that 18 of his supporters, who were issued absent voters' ballots, had cast their votes for him.

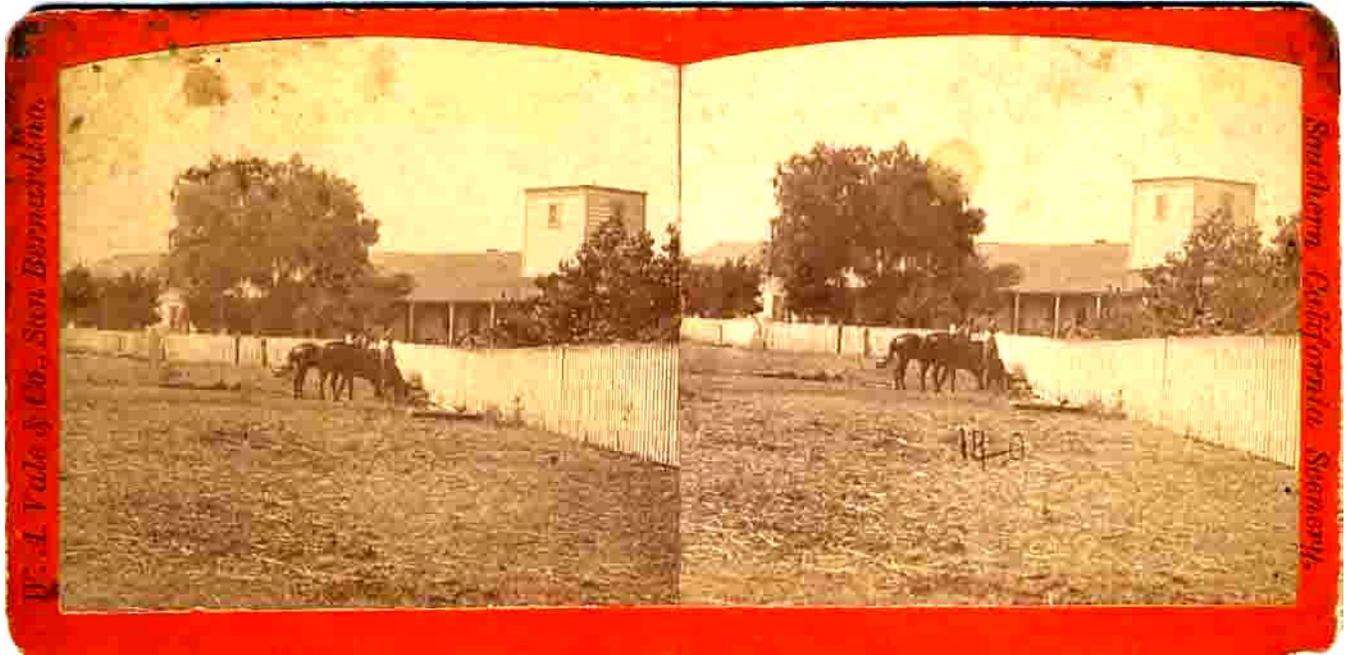
By a majority of almost four to one, the voters rejected the proposed plumbing ordinance which

### BLACK FIGURES 'EM

George L. Black, campaign manager for H. C. McAllister, on Saturday made an estimate of 1,122 as the majority which Mr. McAllister would receive. His analysis was made by wards. Veteran political observers said this was one of the closest estimates in city elections for many years.

## TWO MORE VALE PHOTOS ACQUIRED

Steve Shaw donated two W. A. Vale photographs to our growing collection of Vale originals. Neither of these have been identified and it is hoped somebody will recognize one or both photos for us. The first is a very long building with what might be a water tank camouflaged to look like something else. The second is a non-descript house showing the lack of architectural flourish in the 1870s or '80s.



*Steve Shaw donation*

Can you identify either this Vale photo.....

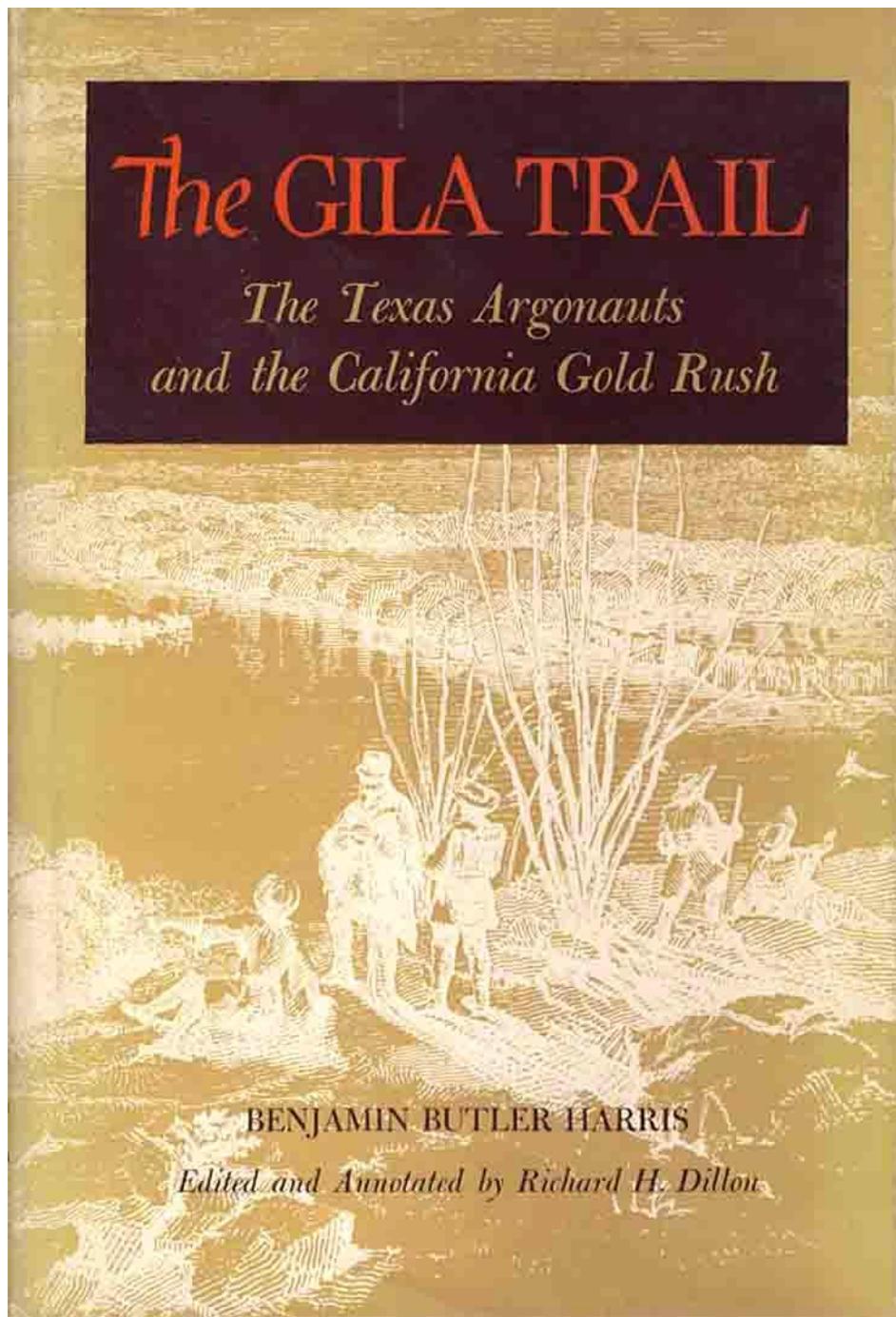


*Steve Shaw donation*

.....or this one?

**OUTSTANDING BOOK BY FOUNDER OF THE PIONEER SOCIETY**

I decided to donate a copy of this book to our library; after all, what kind of library would it be without the story of Benjamin Butler Harris, the founder of the Pioneer Society, which tells how he came to California. Edited by the experienced author and librarian Richard Dillon, and published by the University of Oklahoma Press.



*Richard Thompson donation*

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