



**City of San Bernardino  
Historical and Pioneer Society  
P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402**

**LIBRARY NEWS JANUARY 2012**

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

To start off the new year, we have a second article by author Nick Cataldo, who graciously allowed us to use his Jacob and Melissa Roesch story last month. Just a reminder, if you have a local story with photographs that you would like published in the newsletter, please contact me.

**THE MAKING OF SAN BERNARDINO  
(PART ONE OF TWO PARTS)**

**By  
Nicholas R. Cataldo**

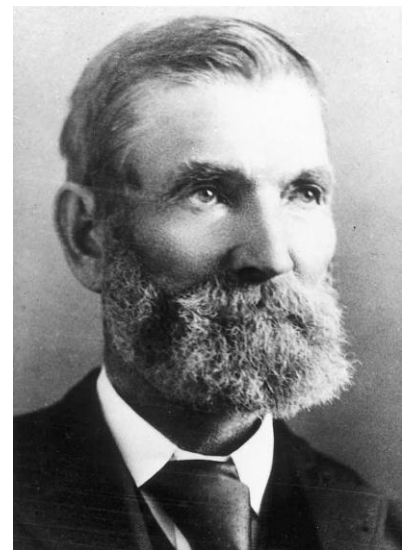
Soon after the first streets in San Bernardino were laid out during the early 1850's, the young town's population seemingly mushroomed overnight. A number of people felt a bit claustrophobic living within the one-mile-square Mormon community, not to mention concerns regarding water rights and other political issues. These non-conformists sought open land on the outskirts of town and started up little communities...the building blocks of today's city of San Bernardino.

Here are a few of those building blocks:

**CITY CREEK AND TIMBER SETTLEMENTS**

The first group settled east of what is now Waterman Avenue and formed two small villages. Those who filtered in near the channel of City Creek (so named because it was an earlier proposed San Bernardino town site) started up the "City Creek Settlement." Pioneers such as David Seely found the soil so moist that deep-rooted plants could flourish through sub-irrigation. In fact, the "Seely Place" eventually accounted for 600 bearing orange trees, 4,000 nursery trees, 7,000 Muscat grape vines and 20 acres of apricot, nectarine, fig, peach, and walnut trees.

A similar, though larger offshoot village, called the "Timber Settlement," developed further south among a heavy stand of cottonwood trees growing near the banks of the Santa Ana River. Farmers there enjoyed the benefit of soil naturally moistened by the river. According to author/historian Richard Thompson, one of the first landowners in the area was Aaron Lane, who bought 20 acres of farmland northwest of today's Mill Street and Sterling Ave. Francis Goll and Edwin Hueston, who became his neighbors to the west and east, respectively, soon followed him.



**David Seely lived in City Creek**

## **MOUNT VERNON**

The donor of the name “Mount Vernon” was early San Bernardino Valley pioneer Joseph Hancock. His grandfather, Henry Hancock, was brother of the immortal John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. Obviously, he was well acquainted with George Washington...and the name of our first president’s home.

The Ohio native arrived in San Bernardino during the spring of 1854 and settled down in the western portion of town where Joe Hancock became a successful farmer.



**Joseph Hancock celebrating his 99th birthday in 1921. He died in 1924 at 102 years of age.**

When San Bernardino County officials planned on building a school in close proximity to his farm, “Uncle Joe,” as he was affectionately called, became one of the school trustees along with John Garner and Joseph Thorn.

The original Mt. Vernon School was a small one-room adobe built in 1854 near the corner of 7th Street and what would soon become—fittingly enough—Mount Vernon Avenue.

There have been several “Mount Vernon Schools” in San Bernardino. The original one-room adobe gave way to an L-shaped two-room building. And a third facility was built sometime before 1886. In some families, at least four generations of children went to the Mt. Vernon Schools. Among those who attended were the Hancock, Nish, Tompkins, Alexander, Metcalf, Knight, Stuchberry, Bemis, Cadd, Fabun, Henderson, Holcomb, Metcalf, Garner, and Roberds clans. The first teachers were Edith Martin, H. C. Brooke, and Richard Curtis.

Today, the Mt. Vernon District plays a major role in San Bernardino’s “West Side.”

## **ARROWHEAD SETTLEMENT**

Much has been written about the popular San Bernardino County mountain resort of Lake Arrowhead, and to a somewhat lesser extent, Arrowhead Springs, which has been owned by Campus Crusade for

Christ since the early 1960's. However, what is not well known today is that at one time several tracts of land now encompassing the north end of San Bernardino were also called Arrowhead.

This “other” Arrowhead got its start during the 1870's when Mark Severance and his brother were deeded 10,000 acres of land, which had been part of the old Rancho Muscupiabe Land Grant. They sold off some of this land near what is now the corner of 40th Street and Sepulveda Ave. to Jeremiah Ousterhout and a Mr. Gray who started up a small cattle ranch. At that time the area near their ranch was called “The Drag Yard.” That peculiar name was coined by the practice of using small trees tied to the back of the lumber wagons coming down the old logging road in Waterman Canyon as auxiliary brakes. The “drags,” or branches, dug into the road and were finally left at the foot of the grade—hence the name Drag Yard.

By the late 1880's, Ousterhout and Gray had moved on and were replaced by the Lancaster, Bryant, and Willard families. The three families combined to buy up 160 acres of land. Lancaster owned 80 acres, while Bryant and Willard each had 40.

As the community began to grow, its citizens couldn't quite decide what to call their new home. Drag Yard soon became known as “Hardscrabble” and then “Glen Eden.”

Finally, a consensus was reached with the name “Arrowhead Settlement”—so named because of the near-perfect figure of an arrowhead pointing downward in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains directly north of the small community.



**Arrowhead Settlement in 1904**

The Arrowhead Settlement was located above today's 40th Street. It was bound to the east by the road leading to the mountains eventually to be known as Sepulveda Ave. The western boundary was where the old Pacific Electric Railroad went up to Arrowhead Springs along what is now known as Electric Avenue.

The fertile land in the area was found to be ideal for farming. When the land was sub-divided into five, ten, and twenty-acre ranches by the original owners, delighted new arrivals to Arrowhead Settlement—people like the Van Doren, the Stephens, the Huff, and the Emrick families—soon found out that the land was excellent for growing a variety of fruit trees such as oranges, olives, lemons, peaches, pears, apples, apricots, loquats, almonds, grapefruit, walnuts, and plums.

The community continued to grow when the Santa Fe Railroad built the famous circular “Kite Route” between Los Angeles and East Highlands in 1893 which helped lure many travelers desiring to see the sights in Southern California.

A station was established mid-way between today's Mt. View and Arrowhead Avenues and a post office was built close by. The land encompassing the station became known as the Arrowhead Tract, and just east of it became known as Arrowhead Junction Tract.



**Arrowhead Station — 1887**

**(To be continued)**



## **JANUARY 14, 2012 — SATURDAY PROGRAM ON THE MAPS OF FRED T. PERRIS**

The next afternoon program will be presented on the second Saturday of January, 1:00 p.m., at the Heritage House, 8th and D Streets. Admission is free.

Roger Hatheway, the County Transportation Department's expert on historical maps, will be making the presentation. Roger has compiled an impressive collection of maps prepared by pioneer Fred T. Perris, which Steve Shaw has put into a PowerPoint program so that they can be seen on our large screen in the Society's Meeting Hall at the Heritage House. If you love maps, and who doesn't, come see the show.

Fred Perris arrived in San Bernardino in 1853 with his mother and two sisters, and he immediately became a favorite of the colony's founders, Amasa Lyman and Charles Rich. Although Perris was only 17 at the time, Lyman had the youngster prepare the architectural drawings for enlarging the Lugo adobe into a two-story structure with accommodations for several of the his wives and children.

In the first election of county officers in 1853, Henry Sherwood was elected County Surveyor. He was assigned to survey and map the mile square that would become the City of San Bernardino, which seems the natural choice since Sherwood previously had laid out Salt Lake City in Utah. Unfortunately he proved to be old, cranky, and so stubborn that Lyman and Rich could not work with him, so the project was reassigned to Perris.

In 1857 John La Croze, the Deputy U.S. Surveyor General for California, began the survey of the boundary of the Rancho San Bernardino. Perris held an important position on that crew. After the boundary map was completed, Perris divided the Rancho into blocks and lots (subdivided it, in other words) at the instruction of Lyman and Rich. Thus Perris was involved with major surveys that defined the layout of San Bernardino.

There are also maps from the 1870s when Perris was the County Surveyor, and one from when he was U.S. District Mining Surveyor. In the 1880s he became the "Napoleon of the railroads," as one newspaper editor called him, and Roger has maps from that period. One of Perris's better known maps is his "Miner's Map" showing mining districts, roads and watering holes on the Mojave Desert. Roger has done considerable research on this map.

## **JANUARY 21, 2012 — 124<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PIONEER SOCIETY FOUNDING**

On the third Saturday of January we will celebrate the founding of the San Bernardino Society of California Pioneers. One of the leading lights of the Society's early years was William F. Holcomb, and we will have a display of his artifacts at the Santa Fe Depot (see flyer on following page).

## **FEBRUARY 11, 2012 — SATURDAY PROGRAM ON THE KITE-SHAPED TRACK**

Mark Landis, feature writer for the San Bernardino *Daily Sun*, has put together a program on the Kite-Shaped Track, otherwise known as the Santa Fe's "Loop Line." He has presented the program before, but never to our Society. He tells the history of the line and illustrates it with the colorful advertising brochures of the Victorian Age.

## **MARCH 10, 2012 — SATURDAY PROGRAM ON ALFRED R. CALHOUN IN SAN BERNARDINO**

Author, editor and lecturer John Marnell is preparing a program on the 1860s correspondence of a reporter who accompanied a survey team on the Mojave Desert. John will focus his presentation on the people and events having to do with the City of San Bernardino.

FLYER FOR THE 124<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE  
SAN BERNARDINO SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS:



**January 21, 2012 @ 11 AM**

**Celebrate the 124th Anniversary  
of the**

***San Bernardino Society  
of California Pioneers***

See our *new* Pioneer display featuring artifacts once belonging to *William F. Holcomb*, like the gun he carried when he battled Grizzly Bears in the San Bernardino mountains and the Rocker Box he used to discover gold in Big Bear in 1860.

Guns and artifacts from other pioneers will be on display.

Also joining us will be members of the *Billy Holcomb Chapter of E Clampus Vitus*. Refreshments will be served.



***San Bernardino History & Railroad Museum***

At the Depot --- 1170 West Third Street, San Bernardino

[www.sbdepotmuseum.com](http://www.sbdepotmuseum.com)

**Saving The Past For The Future Since 1888**