

Alameda Museum

Quarterly

LOCAL LANDMARK: AN ORNAMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

by Judith Lynch



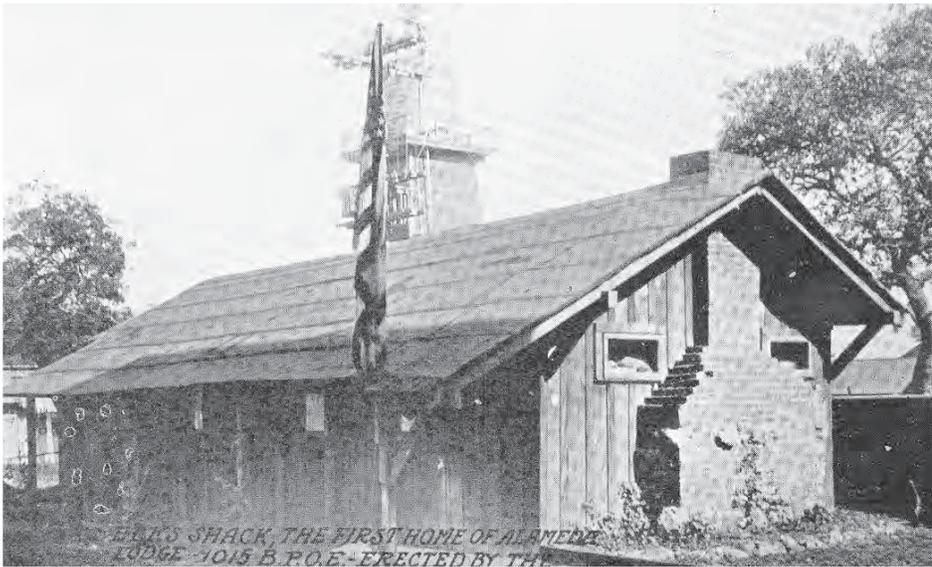
The Alameda Elks Lodge stands proudly beside City Hall on Santa Clara Avenue. In this photo, part of the City Hall tower has already been removed for seismic safety after the 1906 earthquake. Image: Alameda Museum.

ONE OF THE MOST STRIKING BUILDINGS in the Alameda Civic Center is the Elks Lodge, a palatial example of the Classical Revival architecture popular in 1910 when the place opened at 2255 Santa Clara Avenue. The national "Benevolent Protective Order of Elks" (BPOE) was founded in New York City as an informal club for actors, entertainers, and theatrical agents called "The

Jolly Corks." Their members decided that the "Corks" should organize as a lodge along benevolent and fraternal lines with formal rules, a suitable ritual, and a new name. "The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos" was first suggested, but after reading about the elk as "fleet of foot and ever ready to defend itself or the female of the species," organizers put forth that name instead.

On February 16, 1868, the "Jolly Corks" emerged in New York City as the BPOE. The men's club grew in stature throughout the United States, and in 1906 a group of Alamedans formed their own lodge, number 1015. They then embarked on a construction project that eventually created an impressive local landmark.

Continued on page 2...



The Shack exterior and interior. Images: Alameda Museum.

Finishing "the shack" in 24 hours was remarkable, especially considering that some seventy crew members built it with no evidence of haste or compromise in quality. Too bad the affectionate nickname lingers, because the solid nature of its planning and completion are easy to overlook!

The broad-shouldered cinder brick hearth and chimney are carefully stepped down in a classic masonry pattern. The board and bat outside walls and framed windows add to its traditional aspect, and the interior broad space proved ideal for committee doings and general revelry to supplement the formal aspects of the Lodge that opened with suitable fanfare two years later.

They needed a construction headquarters, so the group first built what they nicknamed "the Shack," a low slung building on the back of the property. In an amazing feat, the shack was completed in only twenty-four hours on Sunday, September 27, 1908. Some seventy Elks took part in the flurry of building, with only one mishap: "A board fell from the roof and struck Brother Tom Carpenter on the backside . . . Doc Bill Higby performed the remarkable feat of plucking out a splinter eight inches long with his teeth. Tom couldn't sit down for a week," according to the lodge newsletter. The shack still lingers behind the lodge; it has been used over the years for storage, as a bowling alley, and as a scout meeting place.

When the shack was ready, the Elks hired local architects Freeman & Rogers to draw the plans for the big clubhouse. Elk Charles Rogers prepared the design for "the best laid out and equipped lodge in the United States," according to the *Alameda Argus*, October 18, 1909. "The groundbreaking took place before an immense throng of onlookers, and a beautiful day was vouchsafed." A suitably lofty ceremony followed. Ten little



girls dressed in white sang *The Star Spangled Banner*, while Thomas Valerga played a coronet solo from the upper window of City Hall "with fine effect." Then a burnished copper box of Lodge 1015 memorabilia was placed inside the cornerstone of the structure. Head Elk Exalted Ruler W.O. Smith noted that the Alameda lodge membership had swelled from 25 to 450 Elks and praised the group for its "spirit of mirth and real good fellowship."

The opening gala followed on May 9, 1910, when the brethren dedicated their spanking new lodge. After a private ritual for members, Lodge 1015 was thrown open to more than

2,000 people who came to "inspect the elegant clubhouse." The *Alameda Argus* described the red leather and mahogany furnishings and appointments in the reception hall, card and billiard rooms, and the "most daintily furnished" ladies' parlor. Highest praise was reserved for the "great lodge room on the top floor. Critics declare it the finest on the Coast, furnished in mahogany with green plush furniture and hangings to match. In the center is a great dome that serves both ornamental and useful purposes." This magnificent centerpiece, featuring a dignified elk, was composed from thousands of pieces of colored glass soldered

Continued on page 3 . . .



Local Landmark . . .Continued from page 2

together with lead." The new building was "a monument to the zeal of the Elks and an ornament to the community. Everything is in the best possible taste and carried out to the letter without hitch or hesitation."

Beyond building this glorious addition to Alameda's architectural heritage, the lodge has done good works over many years. When the 1906 earthquake and fire struck San Francisco, the fledgling Alameda club quickly established a tent shelter on Oak Street where they cared for more than 600 refugees.

Other ventures were of a theatrical nature consistent with their origins in Manhattan. To raise money to feed the poor of Alameda during the 1908 Christmas season, the members embarked on "a joyful jingling night when the Elks sang "minstrels will be / For sweet charity," as reviewed in the *Alameda Argus*.

Baseball provided a both favorite sport and a community service for the order. They hosted "two annual events that bolstered Alameda's reputation as a baseball town," the All-Star Major-Minor Game and Baseball Night, "that grew into a banquet attended by hundreds of professional ballplayers," including Ty Cobb, Casey Stengel and the DiMaggio brothers, according to Woody Minor's book *Alameda at Play*.

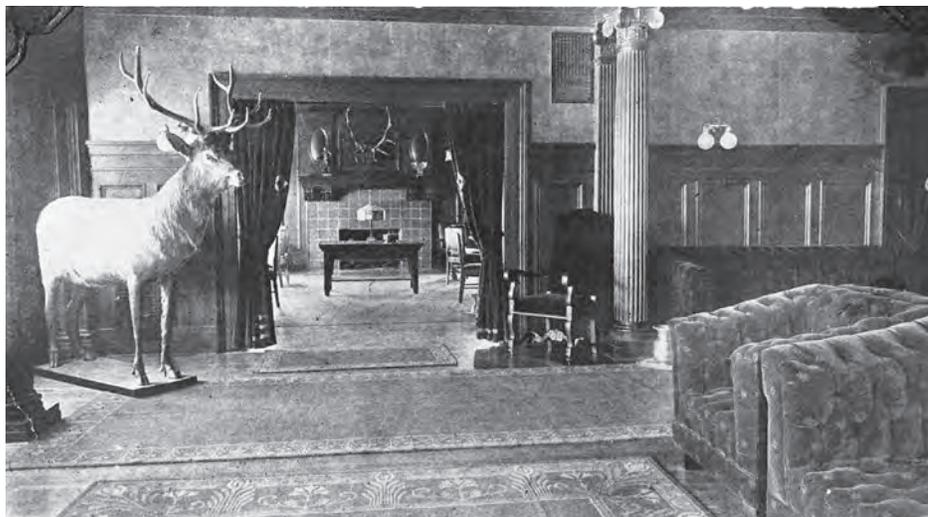
Congratulations to members of Elks Lodge 1015, as they savor more than a century of good works in a structure that ennobles their principles.

Always improving and expanding, the brethren added another structure to their property when they completed a gymnasium in 1922; it was refurbished and newly outfitted in 1976 as a Bicentennial project.

Story first published in the *Alameda Sun*, 2008



On the top floor is an enormous dome made of glass pieces in glowing colors. The clock stands at 11:00 P.M., the hour the Elks remember their departed brethren. Image: Hiveminder.com.



The reception hall in the Elks Lodge featured an actual elk of grand stature. The interior was attired with plush carpets, Corinthian columns, and stylish furnishings. In the room beyond a tiled fireplace can be seen with antlers above the mantel. Image: Alameda Museum.



The Alameda Museum currently holds the Lecture Series April through August downstairs at the Elks Lodge.

Our last presentation for the season will be August 22 at 7:00 pm, featuring *The West End* by Woody Minor, sponsored by Peter Fletcher, Windermere Bay Area Properties.

Is there a topic you would like to learn more about?
Do you have a research project you would like to tell others about?
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Please send an email to info@Alamedamuseum.org



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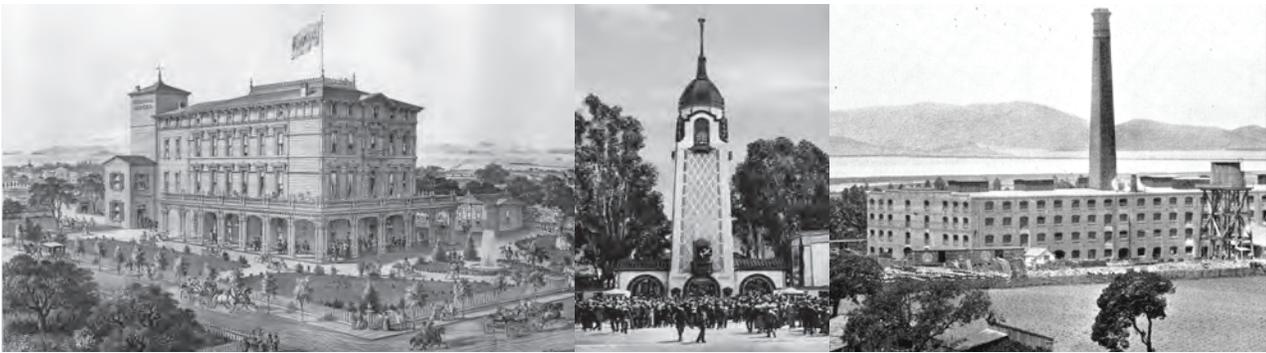
Our gift shop is stocked with donations from the public. All proceeds help the Alameda Museum preserve and restore Alameda history. Donations are accepted during regular museum hours & a receipt is available.



Alameda Museum Lecture Series 2019

❖ AUGUST 22: THE WEST END – WOODY MINOR

This lecture will relate the history of the West End from the first land divisions during the Gold Rush to the present day. Vintage maps and photographs will help us track the first railroads, bathing resorts, and industries. Webster as the West End “Main Street” will receive due note, as will 20th century icons like Neptune Beach, Bethlehem shipyard, the Naval Air Station, and the wartime housing projects. Along the way we will see how the area’s rich history is reflected in its wealth of well-preserved architecture. *Sponsor: Peter Fletcher, Windermere Bay Area Properties.*



WALK THE WEST END AUGUST 25 SEE THE BACK PAGE

NOTE: Lectures take place at the Alameda Elks Lodge: 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, downstairs. Parking is available behind the lodge building. Admission is free for museum members and \$10 for others. No reserved seats. We open at 6:30 pm and the lecture begins at 7:00 pm.

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The Alameda Museum Quarterly is published four times a year and is available in electronic form on the museum website.

Alameda Museum
2324 Alameda Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
alamedamuseum.org
510-521-1233

Designer: Valerie Turpen
Web: Myrna van Lunteren

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THANKS TO OUR HERITAGE PARTNER

Alameda Sun



From the President's Podium

by Valerie Turpen



The Museum had a very successful day on Sunday, July 7 while the Alameda Summer Art Fair & Maker Market was happening on Oak Street between Alameda Avenue and Encinal Avenue. Saturday was spent pulling art donated to the gift shop from the warehouse. There was quite a variety of subject matter and mediums for all tastes. The collection was displayed on easels in front of the museum and at the entrance. Board member Myrna van Lunteren and I opened the museum early. As foot traffic increased it became a record day for visitors and sales. Docents Jean Wolslegel and Jean Graubart were kept busy wrapping items and collecting cash until closing time.

We were not open for the Park Street Faire at the end of July, and I felt staffing a table available for non-profit groups in the carnival rides was not conducive to our display items. However, available board members teamed with the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society to support the Home Tour table. That's right, the Alameda Legacy Home Tour is next month on September 22. The eight houses are in the East End this year, so tickets sales on tour day is not at Franklin Park. A ticket table will be located on the grounds of Edison School, 2700 Buena Vista Avenue. Docents (see page 12) and volunteers for tickets sales, refreshments, and set up are needed (Contact jerry.a.schneider@gmail.com). Tickets will be sold at the Museum and other Alameda businesses in the weeks leading up to the tour. Training will be provided.

Our final lecture for this season is August 22 with Woody Minor. He'll be speaking about the history of the West End, home of many "firsts" for our city and beyond. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our lecturers—Dennis Evanosky, Transcontinental Railroad; Greta Dutcher, Alameda Neon; Leon Watkins, Black Military History/Port Chicago Tragedy; James McGee, John Towata, and Kent Takeda, ATK Baseball League; and Woody Minor. These individuals donate their time and share their research with Museum members and the community to promote knowledge about our history. I know I learn something new every time I attend a lecture. I look at every neon sign now with a critique on how it has been or could be restored. And, on my drive home the other evening I spotted the ATK plaque on Buena Vista. Something that never caught my eye before the lecture.

Also, a thank you goes out to the individuals and businesses that sponsor the lecture series—Evelyn Kennedy, APR Referral Network; Liz Rush, McGuire Realty; Pacific Coast Community Services; Litho Process Printing; and Peter Fletcher, Windermere Bay Area Properties.

Your support of the Museum is greatly appreciated.

Valerie Turpen
President, Alameda Museum

FROM THE COLLECTION

Alameda's Postal Posts

by Myrna van Lunteren

OUR ALAMEDA SUBURBAN STREETScape has many objects sticking up along the curbs. There are thick telephone posts and power line posts. There are trees, with or without wooden supports. There are bicycle stands. There are lamp posts in differing heights and styles. There are posts holding little libraries and posts holding fences. There are vents for sewer lines. Also present are parking meters, street name signs, and traffic signs, including those for periodic parking restrictions. There are poles for traffic lights, poles for buttons for pedestrian crossing lights, poles for protecting electric meters, or for protecting pedestrians from drivers taking tight turns. And there are fire hydrants.

All these objects have a clear purpose. However, in Alameda, there are also a few mysterious obelisks, in various states of decay. For instance

the one on the corner of Washington and Versailles (see below left).

I've found nine of these slender concrete obelisks, some unpainted, some painted grey, some with traces of blue. Some of these have the digits 1945, others 1948, on some you can only make out the 19, and some have nothing at all. The picture below is from one on Clinton and Oak. That one still has a metal bracket, which is missing from the one on the first picture. The finest example is on Santa Clara and 5th, but unfortunately it has some graffiti on it. Another nice one sits on the corner of Washington and High.

There are two more mysterious metal poles of similar height to these concrete pillars, one rusting away on the corner of Buena Vista and Wood, the other on the corner of Santa Clara and Pearl. The last one has the digits 1953 stamped on top. So, what are these for?

Nothing now. They were once posts for post-mounted US mail collection boxes. Our museum has a prime example of these, in fact, this one used to be on the corner of Versailles and Washington.



This metal postal post is marked with the year 1953 on its cap, some paint, and even a sticker.

Judging by the history page of the USPS, this one appears to be of the type called 'Second Scheble Box', US Patent No. 674,619, designed by postmaster Alfred W. Smith, from Adrian, Michigan, made from 1901 to 1903. Smith had assigned the patent rights to entrepreneur Eugene D. Scheble, who was in cahoots with Postal Service superintendent August Machen, who ordered many more of these boxes than was needed. Machen got a share of the profits.

The first mail collection boxes were placed in cities, in 1833. In places without a collection box, folks went to the post office to stamp and mail a letter or package. Since 1915, one can also raise the special 'signal flag' on the side of the tunnel-shaped (or similar shaped) mailboxes, to let the postal carrier know there is outgoing mail.

The USPS purchased the last post-mounted collection boxes in 1955, since then, the squat, blue, garbage-can style mailbox has taken over. The red, white, blue paint scheme of the mailbox in the museum, however, is from after 1955. Earlier, mailboxes were painted green (as of 1860), red (1887 / 1891), silvery-white (from

Continued on page 7 . .



Far left: An obelisk at the corner of Washington and Versailles once held the letterbox for this neighborhood.

Left: The obelisk at Clinton and Oak is clearly marked with its date and retains the remnant of the box mount.

Images: Myrna van Lunteren.





Continued from page 6 . . .

1897 to 1905), green again from 1905, briefly red (which caused an uproar, as they were now being confused with fire alarm boxes and police call boxes), to green again. The silvery white was the result of another scheme thought up by the same superintendent Machen as mentioned before. It was a vulnerable color, requiring unnecessary (re)painting at inflated prices. The dark blue of our current squat mail collection boxes has been in use since 1970.

The Post Office periodically re-evaluates the most efficient and cost-effective locations for the mailboxes. Based on this evaluation a mail collection box may get moved, or removed. This had happened to the museum's mailbox; it was initially on the corner of Grand and San Antonio. As there is no post there now, we can only assume that as construction happens on these corners, the posts do sometimes get removed. Yet we still can enjoy a few of them, for now.

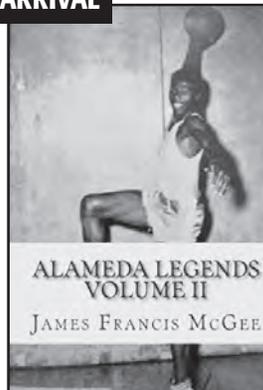
To read more about different styles of letterboxes, see: about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/mail-collection-boxes.pdf



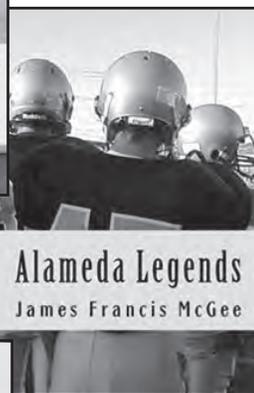
The museum's Second Scheble Mailbox.

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE ALAMEDA MUSEUM

NEW ARRIVAL

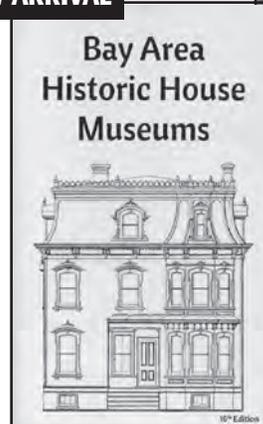


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James Francis McGee
The second book recognizing nearly 300 Alameda sports legends.
Sequel to...



Alameda Legends
James Francis McGee pays tribute to some of the famous, and not so famous, intriguing individuals from the island city

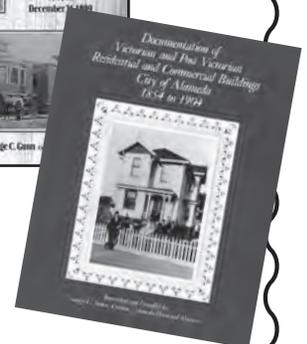
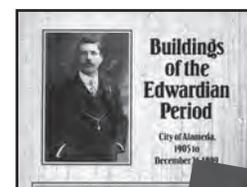
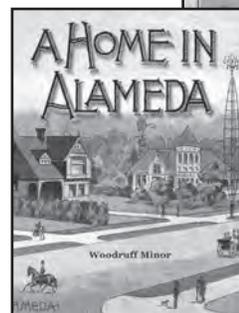
NEW ARRIVAL



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- A Home in Alameda
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Benevolent Societies of Alameda

▼ Odd Fellows Hall, Encinal Lodge #3, 2329 Park Street.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was founded in 1819 by Thomas Wildey in Baltimore, Maryland. The order is known as the Triple Link Fraternity, referring to the motto "Friendship, Love and Truth". This ornate structure, complete with a clock tower was built in 1878 at the northwest corner of Park Street and Santa Clara Avenue. Commercial tenants served the public with storefronts at street level while lodge members gathered above. This building was demolished making way for an Art Deco version in 1927. Recently the neon sign which presides over the corner was restored to working order.



▲ The Masonic Temple, Oak Grove Lodge #215

1329-31 Park Street, 1890-91 is Alameda Monument #10. Masonry is guided by the enduring belief that each man has a responsibility to make the world a better place. In the community they provided charitable and civic activities, established friendships, secured business and political alliances. As their membership increased the Masonic Lodge was built on Alameda Avenue in 1927. Today the ground floor is home to the Alameda Museum with the Island City Masonic Lodge meeting on the floors above.

► Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie 1076. ►

The F.O.E. was founded in February, 1898 by six theater owners gathered in a Seattle shipyard to discuss a musician's strike. After addressing the matter, they agreed to "bury the hatchet" and form "The Order of Good Things." As numbers grew, members selected the Bald Eagle as the official emblem and changed the name to "The Fraternal Order of Eagles."

This large gathering is at the corner of Oak Street and Alameda Avenue on May 16, 1914. It may be in celebration of the new hall, although there appears to be scaffolding still erected on the west side.





◀ **Native Sons of the Golden West, Halcyon Parlor #146.** The Alameda members are attired in linen suits and boater hats, with a walking stick. They may be participating in a parade, as their grand banner sets atop bicycle wheels. Founded July 11, 1875 by General A. M. Winn, NSGW served as a lasting monument to the men and women of the Gold Rush Days. The women's order, Native Daughters of the Golden West was formed on September 11, 1886 in Jackson, California, a focal point of Gold Rush activity. Today both organizations headquarters are in San Francisco.

Images: Alameda Museum Archives.



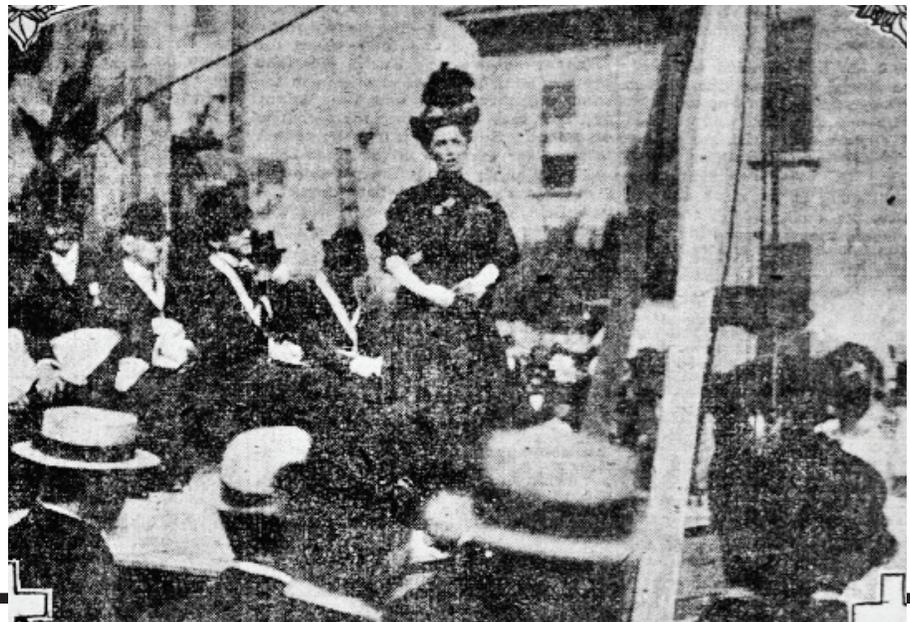
▲ **Adelphian Club, 2167 Central Avenue.** Designed by W.C. Wilcox, the Mission Revival building is Alameda Monument #23. The club, establishment in 1896 to promote study among women, had a membership of over 200 at one time. In 2002 the clubhouse was sold and is used as a church today. The women's group fulfilled their goal to the end, donating the proceeds to Alameda schools.

San Francisco Call, August 16, 1908. ▶

"Mrs. I.N. Chapman, president of the Adelphian Club Building Association, was the general director of the exercise, but the actual laying the cornerstone was under the auspices of Oak Grove Lodge of Masons." Speaker, Mrs. P.S. Teller proclaimed, "This clubhouse will be dedicated to study, to education, to progress upon broad lines of education and philanthropy. We feel that our work in this community has been appreciated and that we have become a factor in "the life of our city." Image: *San Francisco Call*.



▲ **Knights of Pythias Dinner, 1916.** The order was founded during the Civil War in Washington, D.C. Justus H. Rathbone based the group on the legend of Damon and Pythias, a Greek story of honor and friendship. Lodge 49 in Alameda was formed November 9, 1878 and later merged with the Fruitvale Lodge in 1919, eventually dwindling to 12 active lodges in California.





Drawing of Camp Allen looking toward the San Francisco Bay. Images: California State Military Museum.

Welcome to Camp Allen

by Dennis Evanosky

The Civil War came to Alameda in October 1863, when the State of California chose the peninsula as a place to stage military training for the state's Second Brigade. Exercises began on October 6, 1863 and lasted until October 16. Brigadier General John Ellis named Camp Allen in honor of Major General Lucius Allen, who commanded the state militia.

The highlight of the camp was a "sham battle" at the adjacent Kennedy family farm. Oakland's Kennedy Street near the Park Street Bridge pinpoints the farm's location. The Second Brigade's infantry "battled" against its cavalry. Note the use of Napoleonic-era, "regimental squares." Ellis organized his Second Brigade into the First, Second ("Irish") and third regiments of infantry, a cavalry battalion and a single artillery battery.

The "sham battle" was an exercise for California's Second Brigade in October of 1863.



Civil War Vets at Home in Alameda

by Dennis Evanosky

UNION ARMY CIVIL WAR VETERANS founded the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in 1866. These veterans banded together to help disabled veterans, widows and orphans to better survive their trauma. They organized Joe Hooker Post, No. 11—on paper— on February 21, 1866.

Alameda's GAR post's namesake, General Joseph Hooker, had to deal with a name he despised: "Fighting Joe" Hooker. He was living and farming in Sonoma when the Civil War began at Fort Sumter. He paid his own way back to Washington D. C. to join the fight. During the war, a copyist misconstrued one of Hooker's messages. He had signed the missive, "I am still fighting—Joe Hooker." Someone either misunderstood or changed the message deliberately. The dash became a comma and Hooker's message appeared in print as "I am still, Fighting Joe Hooker." Newspapers seized on it and a nickname was born.

On December 27, 1879—thirteen years after the GAR set up Post No. 11 on paper—Marshal James Cook formally organized the Alameda post with ten fellow veterans. Cook was serving as the city's marshal, the equivalent of the chief of police at the time. He lived on Webb Avenue.

Post No. 11's charter members included" William Seymour, A. J. Bancroft, Charles Boehse, H. F. Poindexter, D. B. Taylor, Harvey McCoun, Dr. R. H. Cummings, H. Gritt, H. F. Prindle and A. F. Wolff. They elected Cook as their first commander. They met the first Friday of each month at the Odd Fellows Hall on Santa Clara Avenue and Park Street.

One of their members, William Seymour worked as a plumber. He lived with his wife, Elizabeth and three children on Park Street. He had an unusual military career. He served until 1863 as a volunteer. He then stepped in as a "substitute," serving the last two years of the war for a man who bought his way out of the draft. The man whose shoes Seymour filled paid him \$300 for doing so.

Many of the rich bought their way out of service this way. For example, future president Grover Cleveland paid George Beniski to serve for him. As president, Cleveland later tried to strip Civil War veterans of their benefits, making him one of the GAR's boogeymen.

On formal occasions, members of the Joe Hooker Post wore dark-blue coats adorned with bronze GAR buttons. Their wide-brimmed felt hats sported golden wreath insignias with the number 11 and hat cords. They could

Continued on page 11. . .



West Pointer "Fighting Joe Hooker" was working as a rancher in Sonoma after he thought he had ruined his military career by testifying against General Winfield Scott after the Mexican War. Image: Library of Congress.

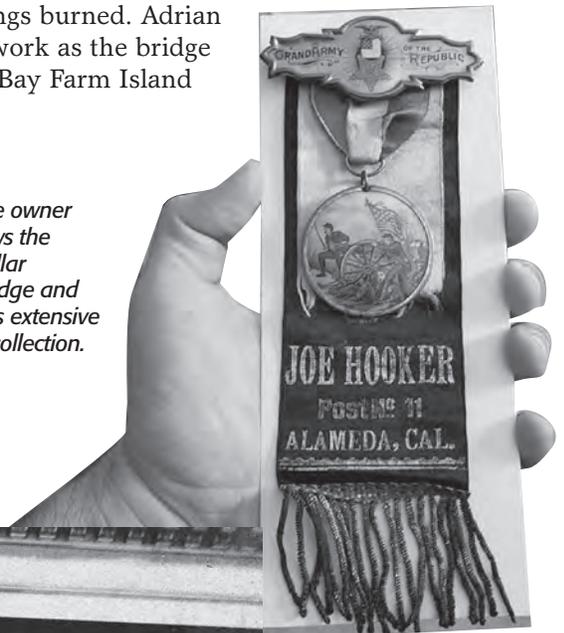
These veterans included John Ellsworth, a Superior Court Judge who served as the post commander. He and his wife Ada lived in a home that still stands at 3000 Central Avenue. Adrian Hamlin and his cousin Orrin Hamlin also wore a Post No. 11 badges. Adrian arrived in San Francisco as a young man to learn that his father had died. His mother Persis Alvira Hamlin left Adrian with his uncle Orrin and went to "Mountain Country" to find a new place to live. She returned and married the successful Bay Farm Island farmer Benajah Benedict in 1857.

During the Civil War Adrian served in the First California Cavalry. He was either wounded or took ill during the war and returned home a disabled man. His stepfather helped him start a farm, but the buildings burned. Adrian then went to work as the bridge tender on the Bay Farm Island Bridge.

also chose to wear the 1872 U.S. Army pattern hat with the No. 11 either in bronze or embroidered on the front of the cap.

Members always pinned their GAR membership badge on the left side of their coats. The Joe Hooker Post No. 11 featured a Union army artillery group. After 1893, GAR members from across the country could order the correct uniforms from the Sears catalog. By then the post had grown to 37 members, who represented twelve different states of the Union. Post 11 also counted three Navy men and a man who served aboard a revenue cutter, service that a presidential order later incorporated into the Coast Guard.

Post No. 11 badge owner Chuck Millar shows the GAR heirloom. Millar purchased the badge and made it part of his extensive Alameda history collection. Image: Eric J. Kos.



Members of Alameda's Grand Army of the Republic, Joe Hooker Post posed for this picture in the early part of the twentieth century. Image: Alameda Museum.

Continued on page 12. . .



Civil War Vets . . . Continued from page 11

Post No. 11 member Robert Bakker had one of the more interesting experiences during the war. This did not happen on an eastern battlefield, but here on San Francisco Bay. On November 14, 1861, Bakker was serving aboard the revenue cutter *USS William L. Marcy*, when word arrived of the arrival of the Confederate privateer *Nava* in the bay. The *Nava* had sailed across the Pacific from China. "Merchants" bearing letters from the Confederate government and gold bullion purchased the ship. The *Nava* sailed across the Pacific with the intent of disrupting Union ship traffic.

The Union learned the *Nava* was underway. The vessel entered the Golden Gate with guns at both Fort Point and Fort Alcatraz properly aimed. Captain William C. Pease ordered the *Marcy* attack and captured the Confederates. Post 11 member Bakker was aboard the *Marcy* during the successful mission.

Post No. 11 also had among its members a man featured in an earlier edition of the *Museum Quarterly*, George Anderson. He sat for a photograph with his wife, Josephine. He is proudly wearing his Grand Army of the Republic medal to show that he had served his newly adopted country during the Civil War.

Commander John Ellsworth retired from the Superior Court bench in 1913. He passed in 1918. Joe Hooker Post No. 11 did not long survive him.

Lost in the Wilds by Dennis Evanosky

BREAKING NEWS, "The *Daily Encinal* newspaper shouted to its readers in all capital letters "Veterans Lost in the Wilds of Alameda!"

The newspaper reported in its May 25, 1902, edition that six Civil War veterans got lost trekking through Alameda after leaving a service at Christ Church on Grand Street. Journalist David Baker wrote in the May 30, 2014 edition, of *The Alamedan* that "they exited the church through a different door than they had entered." *The Daily Encinal* describe these men as old-timers in the town who had lived there since it was "a village of oaks." Baker wrote that these veterans "did not realize their error until they looked up and discovered they did not recognize their surroundings."

After wandering around toward the West End of Alameda, they finally broke down and knocked on the door of a house to ask for directions back home. "Luckily, the veterans were able to find their way with the help of a friendly Alameda resident, none the worse for the wear," Baker related.

DOCENTS DESIRED

ALAMEDA LEGACY HOME TOUR

Sunday, September 22, 2019

If you would like to be a docent for the first three hours (morning shift) or the last three (afternoon shift), you can tour the homes for free and be our guest at a thank you party after starting at 5:00 pm. Information about the homes is provided for docents, and while we encourage vintage clothing, it is not required. The tour benefits the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society and the Alameda Museum.

Contact Patty Ferrari at patty5138@gmail.com or 510-217-8946



ALAMEDA LEGACY HOME TOUR

INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE

Alameda's Hidden Gems

Sunday, September 22, 2019 10am-4pm

Advanced tickets on sale now!

Enjoy Alameda's annual home tour featuring a unique selection of East End architectural gems ranging from the 1880's to the 1930's!



To purchase tickets please visit:

alameda-legacy-home-tour.org

Advanced Tickets \$35 | Day of tour \$40

Our 2019 Home Tour Features:

- Homes in a variety of styles including Queen Anne, Arts & Crafts, and Streamline Moderne
- The General Electric "New American" Demonstration home, including GE memorabilia
- Costumed docents appear at each home
- Keepsake guidebook included with each ticket purchase



ALAMEDA
MUNICIPAL POWER

Thank you AMP for sponsoring this year's Home Tour!

Docent Dossiers

Who's aboard, what are they doing, and why?

Robert Welch

Robert was born in Florida, but grew up in Iowa. He moved to the Berkeley in 1979 to go to Cal and moved to Alameda in 1997.

He is interested in seeing the “echoes of the past” in the way, things look today. One example is how certain streets in Alameda are wide because trains used to run down them.

Robert shared, “I met Diane Coler-Dark through my neighbors and I must have seemed interested in the Museum because before I knew it, I was a docent!”

At the Museum his favorite exhibit is Neptune Beach. “Such a wonderful place of which nothing is still around. It basically vanished”.



▲ *Museum Docent Robert Welch enjoys the echoes of the past found around the city.*



▲ *Jean Wolslegel was born and raised in Alameda and has witnessed many changes over the years.*

Jean Wolslegel

Jean is an Alameda native and so were other members of her family. She grew up in the family home on Park Avenue which her parents bought before World War II. She attended Porter School which stood near Alameda Avenue and Oak Street before burning in 1973. Jean continued her education at Alameda High School.

“I grew up with stories of Neptune Beach and the Alaska Packers,” she remembers. The fun at the amusement park and waterfront shipping industry are legendary in Alameda. Jean recalls the changes in town when the South Shore fill happened in 1955. “Park Street became a ghost town, Woolworths was gone after the shopping center came”.

Jean feels, “Volunteering with the Museum lends itself to more wonderful history of this great island”.

Images: Evelyn Kennedy.



VOLUNTEERS: ALAMEDA MUSEUM & MEYERS HOUSE & GARDEN



- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Margaretha Augustine | Evelyn Kennedy |
| Margie Benko | Julie Kennedy |
| Ginnie Boscacci | Carole King |
| Gene Calhoun | Marylou Kurtz |
| Dora Calhoun | Jessica Lindsey |
| Janine Carr | Gayle Macaitis |
| Katherine Cavanaugh | Nancy Martin |
| Barbara Coapman | Jeannie McCaffery |
| Cathy Conley | Jim McGrogan |
| Lin Datz | Joanne McKay |
| Robbie Dileo | Chuck Millar |
| Ross Dileo | Lloyd Novakowski |
| Marilyn Dodge | Patt Petrosky |
| Linda Domholt | Carl Ramos |
| Joanne Dykema | Shirley Ramos |
| Brian Ellis | Holly Schmalenberger-Haugen |
| Tom Faulds | Margy Silver |
| Pamela Ferrero | Virgil Silver |
| Jean Follrath | Trish Herrera Spencer |
| Jean Graubart | Myrna van Lunteren |
| Debra Hilding | Gerry Warner |
| Charlie Howell | Robert Welch |
| Gail Howell | Helen Wittman |
| Charles Kahler | Jean Wolslegel |
| Ashok Katdare | Joe Young |

Volunteer docents are the folks who keep our doors open. An enthusiastic group, they help run the gift shop, and on occasion, do tasks like help with mailings. Training is available. Do you have three hours to make new friends? Come and spend that time with us!

Docent Coordinator for Alameda Museum
Evelyn Kennedy
volunteer@alamedamuseum.org
510-504-5612

Docent Coordinator for Meyers House
George Gunn, 510-521-1233

JOIN ALAMEDA MUSEUM

Preserving the Past for the Future
for over 65 Years

New Membership

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- Free admission to the lecture series
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For more information
alamedamuseum.org • 510-521-1233

Join any time. Dues based on calendar year.
 Renewals after September will continue through
 the next year. Tax I.D. #94-2464751 

Membership levels are annual, except one-time Lifetime. Please check the appropriate box or boxes. Thank you for your support.

- \$30 Adult
- \$20 2nd Household Member*
2nd Member Name _____
- \$25 Senior
- \$20 Docent/Volunteer
- Heritage Partner
 ___ \$200 Non-profit or Art Group
 ___ \$250 Business
- \$1,000 Lifetime Member
 (one payment only, for life of the member)

**Person who resides with a paid Adult Member at same address, also gets voting privilege.*

To pay by credit card visit alamedamuseum.org

Make check payable to: Alameda Museum
 Mail to: **Alameda Museum**
2324 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501

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Meyers House and Garden Alameda Museum

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ALAMEDA MUSEUM

2324 Alameda Avenue
Alameda CA 94501

IN THIS ISSUE

- *Local Landmark: An Ornament to the Community*
- *From the President's Podium*
- *From the Collection: Alameda's Postal Posts*
- *Benevolent Societies of Alameda*
- *Civil War Vets at Home in Alameda*
- *Docent Dossiers*

READING THE STREET:
Visual Analysis of History

Looking for a weekday jaunt while learning local lore along the way? Join author-amateur historian Judith Lynch in a free class at **Mastick Center, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue.**

Enrollment is limited to 15 Mastick members; please call 510-747-7506 to sign up. Mastick membership is free to anyone 50 plus years. You need not live in Alameda to join and enroll.

Introduction: Thursday, October 3
11:00 am - noon

Slides and discussion: recognizing building details, comparing different kinds of houses, learning about vintage streetlamps, hydrants, and sidewalk stamps.

Walks: October 10, 17, and 24
11:00 am - noon

→ *This rare fleur-de-lis design is stamped in concrete near Alameda Hospital, heralding the work of sidewalk contractor Gardner Marshall.*



ALAMEDA MUSEUM
2324 Alameda Avenue

HOURS

Wed. – Fri., Sunday
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturday
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

510-521-1233

MEYERS HOUSE & GARDEN
2021 Alameda Avenue

HOURS

4th Saturdays
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

(Last tour at 3:00 pm)

alamedamuseum.org

WOODY WALK

The West End

Sunday, August 25, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Meet at Longfellow Park, 520 Lincoln Avenue at the picnic area next to the slides

Sponsored by Peter Fletcher, Windermere Bay Area Properties



The West End has a dynamic legacy of railroads and resorts, shipyards and factories, airports and military bases, with notable events ranging from the completion of the first transcontinental train trip to the start of the first transoceanic airline flight. Join Woody Minor on a walk through the heart of this fascinating section of the city showcasing its history and architecture.



For more information about AAPS events visit **alameda-preservation.org** or call 510-479-6489.