



Alameda Museum Quarterly



Fred J. Croll's love of Alameda's history inspired the formation of the Alameda Historical Society and the opening of the city's history museum.



Deputy Palmer and Auditor and Assessor Fred Croll in the Auditor's office at City Hall, 1909. Croll served in the position for 40 years. Images: Alameda Museum.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO by Dennis Evanosky

Each January 24 California marks the anniversary of a day that changed everything here. On January 24, 1848, James Marshall was in the midst of building a lumber mill on the American River for John Sutter. That January morning, he noticed something glistening in the mill race. It did not take long for the word to get out and spread like wildfire. "Gold! Gold on the American River," Sam Brannan would shout on the streets of San Francisco, waving a vial full of the precious metal for all to see. The world listened and headed for California.

The celebrations of that day in 1948—100 years later—served as a catalyst to heighten interest in Alameda's history. Residents formed a society, which worked closely with the City and the Free Library. A little more than two years later, this partnership created Alameda's first history museum.

January 24, 1948, was a special day to anyone and everyone interested in California history. The centennial of Marshall's discovery of gold had arrived. The United States Post Office created a postage stamp to remember that day. Decrees and events throughout the state awakened local historians here, none more so than Fred Croll. Everyone knew Fred. He had served as Alameda's City Assessor-Auditor since 1909. His father, John, brought those boxers to town and served delicious food at this Neptune Gardens restaurant. His family later took over Britt's Hotel. Everybody called it "Croll's" now.

Interest in creating an organization to preserve Alameda's history began informally in March 1948 and blossomed into action in June. Fred started things off by giving the City what the *Oakland Tribune* called "a group of pictures."

Continued on page 2...



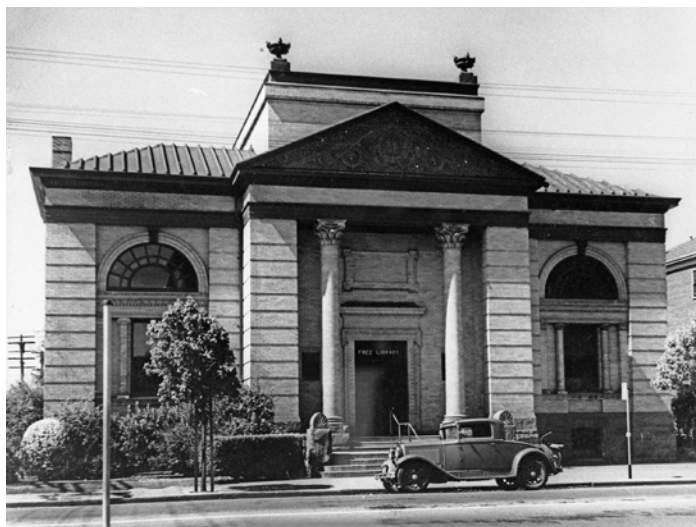
Seventy-five Years . . . *Continued from page 1*

The City responded, declaring June 14 to 18 "Alameda History Week." On Friday, the 18th, the Free Library hosted an open house and entertained all who chose to attend—more than 100, the *Tribune* reported—with Croll's pictures. Among the photographs and slides on the *Tribune's* lengthy list were those of Terrace Baths, the *Daily Argus* Building on Central Avenue, the high school baseball team of 1900, and the interior of Fred's office at City Hall

That June 18 open house inspired those in attendance eager to preserve Alameda's history to form a society. Fred Croll, William Paden and friends spent the rest of the summer forming an organization. They met again at the Carnegie Library on the evening of September 16, 1948. They voted to name their group the Alameda Historical Society, naturally, they tapped Fred as their president. They also elected Paden and Dr. Harry G. Smith to serve on the board.

Paden addressed the group, entertaining them with stories concerning everyone's favorite subject, California history. Smith, a retired dentist, would later take on the role of managing the Society's collection, a task that gradually morphed into his role as curator. He served in this position until his death in 1961.

The City's Superintendent of Recreation Otto Rittler stepped up that evening with the first of many contributions the Society would receive, a check for \$223.28. That would come to almost \$3,000 in 2023. Rittler explained that the money represented the balance in a wartime recreation fund. According to the *Oakland Tribune*, a note accompanying the check stated that "Alameda's war record would play a prominent role in the work of the Society."



The Alameda Historical Society's first home was in the basement of the Carnegie Library shown here in 1941. Image: Alameda Museum.



Free Library board members and librarians study material that were part of the landmark June 18, 1949, history presentation. From left to right: William Johns, president of the Free Library's Board of Trustees; Louis H. Larsen, board member; Ethelreda Davis, who assembled the presentation; and Theodora Larsen, head librarian, who suggested offering a larger space in the library than the Society had hoped for. Image: Oakland Tribune.

The Society adjourned its first official meeting with plans to convene the following March, the anniversary of the unofficial start. The Society put out a call for charter members. By April 1, 1949, more than 1,000 Alamedans had signed up.

On January 14, 1949, Fred Croll told the *Tribune* that the Society "hoped to obtain the lower floor of the annex of the Alameda Free Library... as a meeting place and exhibit room." Fred was thinking of the brown-shingled building on Oak Street tucked next to the Carnegie Library. Sadly, Fred passed on November 4, 1949. His death prodded the Society to meet again on November 30. They decided to approach the City and the Free Library's Board of Trustees to ask for assistance in fulfilling Fred's vision of creating a history museum for the City.

On May 4, 1949, the Free Library's Board of Trustees stepped up. The *Tribune* reported that the board recommended to the City that a basement room on the west side of the (Carnegie Library) building—a larger space than Fred had hoped for—be remodeled for the Alameda Historical Society. According to the *Tribune*, "alterations would be made at the expense of the city." City Librarian Theodora Larsen advised the City Council that the library would accommodate the Society by moving items stored in museum's new space elsewhere in the facility. "City

Continued on page 3 . . .



Seventy-five Years . . . Continued from page 2

Manager Carl Froerer is studying the plan," the *Tribune* reported.

At its last meeting of 1949, the City Council approved spending \$5,500 to renovate the library's basement to accommodate a history museum. That comes to about \$70,000 in 2023 dollars. The Alameda Historical Society set up a fund in Fred Croll's name. Money to help pay for the society's moving in and setting up the museum poured in, much of it from his colleagues at City Hall.

On Friday evening, February 10, 1950, the City and the Free Library held a ceremony to hand the AHS the keys to its new quarters in the basement of the Carnegie Library. Members of the City Council and the Free Library Board of Trustees were in attendance.

On July 11, 1951, everything was set to go. "The Alameda Historical Society's collection of historical documents may be viewed by the public each Wednesday beginning today," the society announced.

Fred Croll's dream had become reality.



Although there was talk of using an acorn in the logo, the original Alameda Historical Society logo featured a drawing of the ferryboat Alameda. The outline around is reminiscent of a wax seal, an early devise for officiating contracts or securing envelopes.

**First Board of the
Alameda Historical Society
1948**

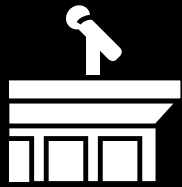
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- Fred J. Croll, President
- W.E. Horrisberger, Vice-President
- Theodora Larsen, Secretary-Treasurer
- Herbert D. Clark
- Daniel H. Knox
- Louis H. Larsen
- William G. Paden
- Dr. Harry D. Smith

Dennis Evanosky is past-president of the Alameda Museum. Research contributed by Alameda Free Library librarian and Alameda Museum docent Beth Sibley.

ALAMEDA MUSEUM HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1948** Alameda Historical Society is founded and Fred Croll is elected as first President.
- 1950** Through an act of the City Council and the Library Board the AHS began life in the basement of the Carnegie Library.
- 1951** The Historical Room or Society Room is opened in the Carnegie Library for public viewing on Wednesdays from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm.
- 1955** Dr. Harry Smith, is appointed as custodian and later curator of the museum.
- 1958** AHS is incorporated as a non-profit corporation solely supported by its members and benefactors.
- 1960** *AHS Bulletin* begins and is published three times a year.
- 1962** Myrtle Richards is hired as the new curator. She serves until 1966.
- 1971** The History Room expands hours to Saturdays 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, as well as Wednesday 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm. George Gunn is hired as curator.
- 1981** The collection moves to the former auto shop at Alameda High School. The early days at this location were highlighted by the renaming the historical society's room the Alameda Historical Museum.
- 1983** The Alameda Historical Museum is designated as the official repository of City historical documents and artifacts.
- 1986** The name is changed to the Alameda Museum.
- 1991** The museum moves to 2324 Alameda Avenue in the Masonic Lodge building.
- 1994** The Meyers House at 2021 Alameda Avenue is deeded by the Henry Meyers family to the City of Alameda for use as a house museum and park.
- 2013** The Alameda Museum assumes the deed of the Meyers House and continues to offer tours for the public.
- 2020** The process of digitizing the Museum collection begins with the Catalog database.
- 2021** Curator George Gunn retires.
- 2023** The Museum reaches its 75th year of preserving the past for the future.



From the President's Podium

by Valerie Turpen

The Alameda Historical Society found its first physical home in the Carnegie Library in 1950 with funding from the City to remodel the basement of the library for public displays. Today we have come full circle with the Alameda Museum now being in partnership with the Alameda Free Library under the City plan.

This year volunteers continued to work in the archives recording information in the CatalogIt digital database. We receive new donations regularly that are assessed and archived. Some of the archives are currently available to view on the museum website at hub.catalogit.app/2299

In 2020 the museum began recording how many people were coming to visit and why. At that time we averaged about 150 visitors a month. At the end of this year we have averaged 400 visitors a month with 918 visitors in July during the Makers Fair and the Downtown Alameda Art & Wine Faire. Thank you docents who use the clicker!

The highest percentage of visitors come to view exhibits with research second and the shop third. We receive research requests weekly by email, over the phone and in person. Dennis Evanosky is now at the museum on weekends to answer questions and assist with archive inquiries by email.

Our lecture series continued on Zoom in 2023 with reference to Heritage Month themes and speakers addressing more diverse topics. We plan to continue and expand our series to include hybrid / in person lectures.

When the historical society established a home in the Carnegie, the library had a display of Native American artifacts. This collection moved with the museum to two other locations. The museum has reached out to three local Ohlone tribes for advice and collaboration on the best path forward for these items. We plan to meet in January.

For the future our board has many great ideas and changes we would like to make. However, the Alameda Museum has reached a point that it can no longer be managed and run on volunteer power. We are in the process of filling the Executive Director position.

Other plans for 2024:

- Engage in the STEPS program, a self-paced assessment program designed specifically for small- to mid-sized history organizations to review their policies and practices.
- Increase community outreach to promote awareness of our resources and promote collaborative partnerships specifically with groups that have been underserved.
- Reimagine our gallery space to broaden the stories told and histories displayed.
- Increase programming at the Meyers House to include in-depth displays on the Meyer sisters who were college educated career women at a time when that was unheard of.

The museum is in a strong position to bring on a new leader and enact a new strategic plan. Please support the museum in these efforts – Renew your membership; Consider a donation; Volunteer on a committee or as a docent; Attend the lectures and workshops; Visit the museum and bring your friends.

The Alameda Museum is your museum!

Valerie Turpen
President, Alameda Museum

BE A MUSEUM DOCENT

MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS

Please contact the
Docent Coordinator

Jean Graubart

510-217-8193

volunteer@AlamedaMuseum.org

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

Alameda Museum
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Designer: Valerie Turpen

Museum Directors

Valerie Turpen, President

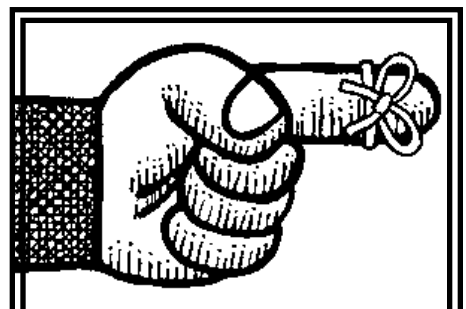
Rasheed Shabazz, Vice-President

Ron Mooney, Treasurer

Melissa Warren-Hagaman, Secretary

Melissa Marchi

Kalie Sacco



**HAVE YOU RENEWED
YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**
See the insert included.
To pay by credit card visit
AlamedaMuseum.org



What's the Name?

The *Euphorbia pulcherrima* is in abundance this time of year. Most of us not being well versed in Latin names for plants would not recognize the name, but if you mention Poinsettia...

This plant is native to Mexico and Central America, mostly found on tropical Pacific-facing slopes. What we see in the United States as a potted plant is a product of many years of breeding and engineering. In nature they are considered a shrub or tree that may grow as tall as 13 feet. Most believe the red leaves are the flower, but that is incorrect. The red and green parts are both modified leaves known as a "bract". The flowers are the small yellow clusters in the center.

The plant was cultivated by native peoples in the south long before the Europeans arrived. Known as *Cuetlaxochitl* (the flower that withers) it was used to make red and purple dyes for textiles. The plant's white sap was also used for medicinal purposes to treat fevers and infections.

They are sensitive to the length of the day and start their color transformation in the Fall. As the days shorten the bracts start to turn red reaching their full color in the darkest month, December. After the Spanish conquest friars associated the flowers with the Christian holiday season and used it extensively in churches to decorate alters and nativities. They knew it as *Flor de Nochebuena*. The legend of Pepita was the story of a girl who picked weeds along the road as a gift for a nativity Jesus on Christmas Eve. Because she gave from her heart, the weeds turned into beautiful red flowers.

The name *Poinsettia* came to be after Joel Roberts Poinsett became the first US Ambassador to Mexico in 1825. While in the town of Taxco he observed the plants growing on the hillsides and his botanical interests led him to ship the blooms back to his greenhouse in South Carolina. There he cultivated the plant and began giving it to friends. Poinsett sent one of the unusual red plants to Pennsylvania botanist Robert Buist who proclaimed it "Truly the most magnificent of all tropical plants we have ever seen." He began to sell the plant and promote it around Christmas time.

By 1836 it was officially known as the Poinsettia in the United States. Today it is to be seen if the name will remain. There is favor in returning to the name *Cuetlaxochitl* used by the people of its native habitat rather than using the name of someone who "found" it.



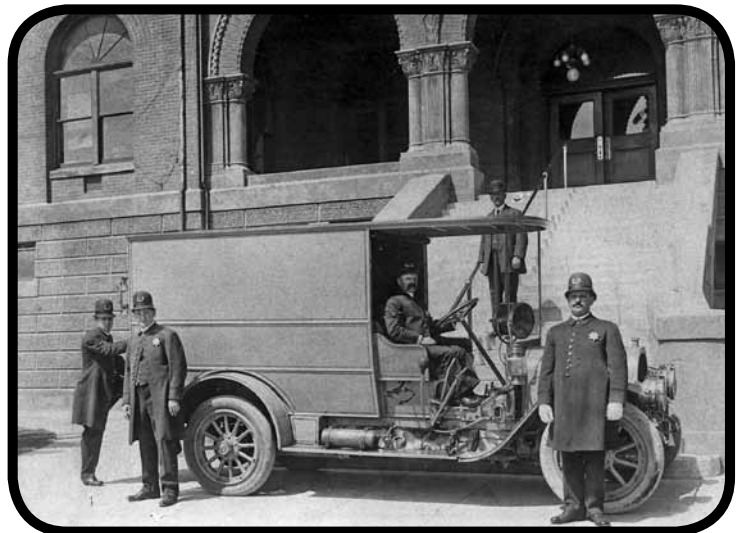
ALAMEDA TIMES STAR • JUNE 15, 1948

Library Gets Old Alameda Views

A set of slides showing early Alameda scenes and a group of pictures, the gift of Assessor-Auditor Fred J. Croll have been added to the historical material being collected by the Alameda Free Library in connection with Alameda History Week June 14 - 19.

Croll's contribution which motivated the establishment of a historical society also included a few images from the Oakland side of the estuary.

See more of the show on the center spread >>>

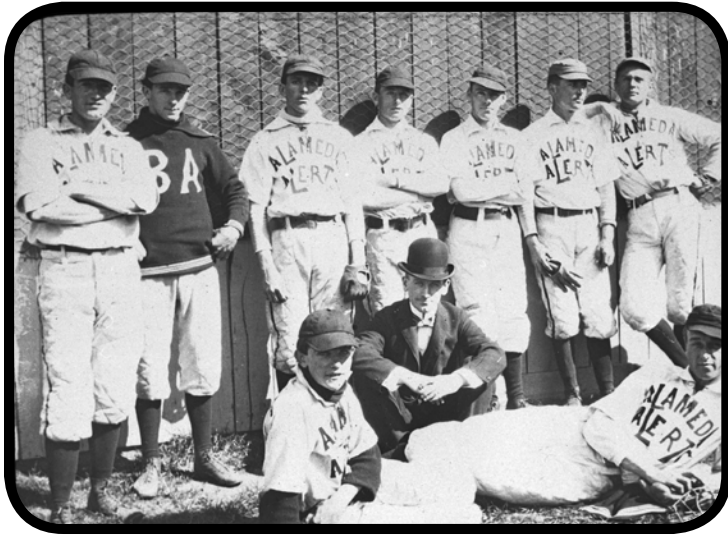


The first aid police patrol car, 1907



Longfellow School in the West End

●●● Fred Croll's Slide Show



Alameda High School baseball team – Alameda Alerts – 1900



Fernside Estate oak trees



Sunset on the estuary



The California Yacht Club, foot of Broadway, Oakland



The Alameda Daily Argus at 2311 Central Avenue



Haight Avenue east from Sixth Street

of the Early Days ●●●



The Terrace Baths, proclaimed the world's largest bathhouse



Breaking up the ferryboat Alameda



Lake Merritt, Oakland



Oak grove with a woodcutter and his mule



The Anderson Academy, formerly the Kohlmoos Hotel



Sixth Street and Haight Avenue

The Advent of the Telephone *by D.S. Smith, November 1958*

A HAPPENING IN BOSTON ON MARCH 7, 1876, had a great bearing on the East Bay's future development. On that day the telephone was patented by Alexander Graham Bell. Less than one year later, the first switchboard on the Pacific Coast was installed in San Francisco, and in April, 1878, the new invention was introduced in the East Bay when a second exchange was founded in Oakland.

In April of 1882, the original Alameda exchange was installed in Elbe's Drug Store, at the corner of Santa Clara and Park avenues. Housetop construction was used within the town, but service to Oakland was over circuits placed on Western Union poles. On this line porcelain knobs were used as insulators fastened on with iron screws. In



foggy weather, mist collected on the insulators and thus formed a connection between wire and screw, causing a slight leakage of current through the damp pole to the ground.

The total leakage caused by all the insulators together was so great

that there was not enough current left to operate the telephones. On foggy mornings, therefore, Alameda had no telephone service to Oakland. Subscribers had to wait until the sun dried up the dampness before they could obtain satisfactory service.

Changes in the location of the Alameda Central Office was made during the 1890s. The first transfer was made from the original location in Elbe's Drug Store, to a small back office on the second floor of a building on Santa Clara Avenue between Park and Oak streets. A move was subsequently made to a room over Vosburg's Hardware Store, on Park Street near Santa Clara Avenue.

In 1900, the company erected an exchange building of its own at 2152

Continued on page 9 . .



Female operators shown hard at work at the Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Company at 2152 Central Avenue (1930s). The building is currently the home of the California Historical Radio Society. Image: Alameda Museum.



Telephone . . . Continued from page 8

Central Avenue. Some two hundred and eighty subscribers were served at the start. On January 1, 1926, Alameda had 7,299 telephone stations in service, the result of a slow but steady growth in the number of customers. Today (referring to 1958 when the story was written) from our modern Dial Central Office located at Willow and Central Avenue we serve 23,565 telephones.



The building referenced by D.S. Smith in 1958 at Willow and Central still sports the AT&T logo and is owned by the company.

FROM THE COLLECTION

Making a Connection

by Valerie Turpen

IN THE IMAGE ON PAGE EIGHT

the women on the right are seated on revolving phone operator's stools. One of these stools can be seen in the museum, donated by the son of Grace Hall Smith.

This chair was given to Grace upon her retirement from the phone

Grace Hall's chair from the telephone company. She was given the chair when she retired.



company where she had worked her entire life. In the 1920 census Grace was eighteen and already working as a telephone operator. She was a prime candidate for the position.

The first telephone operators were young men and boys who made the transition from the telegraph company to the telephone company. However, customers found their customer service skills lacking and the caller's connection requests were often met with rudeness and impatience.

Alexander Graham Bell himself solved the problem by deciding to hire the first female operator Emma Nutt on September 1, 1878. She began her career at Edwin Holmes Telephone Dispatch Company in Boston, Massachusetts. A few hours later her sister Stella joined her on the job. This introduced a new career path for women. At least for some women... Only young unmarried girls were recruited for switchboard operator jobs. Women with foreign accents were not accepted. Jewish and Black women were also refused.

Height and weight were considered because working in front of the switchboards required a reach to connect the plug to the socket. Most women under five feet tall were too short to be switchboard operators.

So what did these telephone operators do exactly? Originally one phone was connected to another by a wire allowing two people to speak. This was expanded by connecting the wire to a telephone exchange where one phone could be connected to

multiple phones. The owner of a telephone called the exchange and the switchboard operator answered, connecting a patch cord into the requested person's socket on the switchboard. Eventually long-distance calls could be made by the local exchange patching the call through to distant exchanges.

Early photos of the Nutt sisters show them standing during their shift. At some point the elevated stool gave the operator height while allowing her to sit down during a ten to twelve hour shift. The swivel helped with movement in the small space.

The photo on page 8 shows managers on the floor overseeing the work. The rules of the workplace were very strict with no conversation allowed amongst employees and a required number of calls answered per minute.

In 1919 eight thousand New England Telephone Company phone operators staged a walkout demanding better pay and working conditions. They shutdown communication on the East Coast. Less than a week later, the company raised their wages and gave the women the right to bargain collectively.

When Grace Hall went to work improvements had been made all around for women—not only could she work outside the home—she could vote. Later in life the telephone company also let Grace keep her job after she was married and had a child.

Wings in Question

by Myrna van Lunteren

The retired (after 50 years!) curator George Gunn left behind a rich legacy of acquired objects and documents, well documented in a card system. This card system provides the information if you have an object's catalog number. However, the cards did not specify where the objects were located. Thus, the system is not helpful in finding an object if you have only the card. After digitizing the cards into a searchable database, it proved to be necessary to do inventory.

In the process of this inventory, I get to look into every cabinet, drawer, box and chest, in the museum warehouse and Meyers House searching for cataloged objects. I then photograph the object, noting and often photographing any markings, and add the location and photo(s) into the system.

During this process of poking my nose into everything, I encounter objects that need to be analyzed further.

When appropriate for the collection, the object needs to be numbered, described, measured, photographed, protected or wrapped if applicable, and given a permanent location, which also needs to be added to the system.

Time to research the object, can take a few hours, if there is sufficient information, to a few days. Sometimes the research shows the object does not belong to the collection after all, at which point I try to find another home for it. Sometimes that's the museum shop or sometimes we offer an object to other museums or organizations.

I found such an object in an unlabeled cardboard box. A brown metal pin of a shield with two attached wings. The pin was connected to a pale blue piece of note paper, with letterhead of a Mrs. Carl A. Pedersen,



Orinda. The note stated "Belonged to Bayard Sharp WWI".

The questions then were: What is the relation to Alameda? Who was Bayard Sharp? What is the history of this type of insignia - WWI? Did Bayard Sharp acquire this object "for fun" or was there a historically relevant reason for him having this? What was the connection to Mrs. Pedersen?

I knew that "wings" insignia are typically given to or worn by pilots in uniform. So I searched for "wings" and "WWI" (or World War One). This gave the information that this type of pin was indeed a military insignia of

WWI pilots; however, there was no standard issue by the government. It appeared from the online information that pilots bought these themselves from a number of manufacturers, who made them according to Special Regulation #41.

This type of "wings" is commonly called Dallas-style, but for collectors, there are crucial differences between the pins made by various manufacturers, especially around the number of feathers in the top section of the wings, the backing, the presence of cloth or not. Bayard's wings look like the online pictures of those made by Bailey Banks and Biddle of Philadelphia.

The next question is, was Bayard Sharp an Alamedan in WWI? For this, I reached back to our previously photographed objects; a list of "Honored Sons and Daughters" which is found in the documents acquired from City Hall in the 1990s. After the war, the City Council decided to have a ceremony honoring all Alamedans who fought in the war, and give them a medal. The medals have a top section stating "Honored Son" or "Honored Daughter", featuring the seal of Alameda, with names and service organization engraved on the back if known. The medals for those who died were given to their families, and their medals were adorned with a small star. The honored received an invitation, with program for the Welcome Home event, on Flag Day, June 14, 1919. Over the years, the Alameda Museum has been the recipient of a number of these medals from descendants of these fighters.



A drawing of the "Honored Son" medal. This was printed in the program for the event held on Flag Day 1919 which honored those who served in WWI. Image Alameda Museum.

Continued on page 11. . .



Wings... *Continued from page 10*

I searched the system and found I had taken a photo of a version of the list of recipients and handwritten on the bottom of the list was "Lieut. Bayard Sharp". So this was proof Bayard was indeed an Alamedan in WWI. He was a Lieutenant, which pilots were... but I needed more proof.

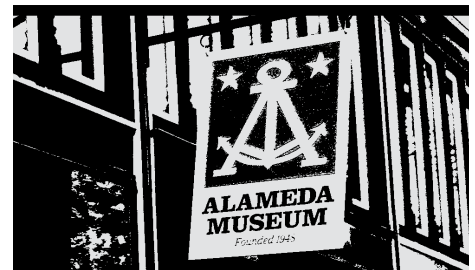
Next I did a search on Ancestry. The census, birth and death records showed Bayard Sharp was not born, nor died in Alameda, but was living in Alameda in between as a son, 18 years old in 1910; a single boarder in 1920; head of a family at 1362 Fernside in 1930, 1940, and 1950. This search also popped the proof I needed, in the Veterans Administration master service record Bayard was listed as 2nd Lieut. Air Service. So he merited his wings.

Further Ancestry research showed that his mother was a Gibbons,

daughter of Dr. Henry Gibbons, an early resident of Alameda. One of his aunts was Emilie Cohen who had married Alfred A. Cohen, the founder of Alameda's first railway system and owner of the Fernside estate. The Fernside district still reflects this family, as does Gibbons Drive.

The last remaining question regarding the connection between the person on the note's letterhead, and Bayard Sharp was solved by museum President, Valerie Turpen, who did a newspaper search and located a clipping mentioning Capt. and Mrs. Pedersen with Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Sharp attending a social event in Alameda.

Bayard Sharp's wings were added to the exhibit of WWI memorabilia honoring participants from Alameda. It is currently on display with the other medals mentioned.



THIS IS YOUR MUSEUM GET INVOLVED

The Alameda Museum still has open board positions and we remain interested in connecting with those who have skill sets in all areas including technology, education, fundraising, non-profit management, team building, and more.

This is an opportunity for members of our community to update our strategic plan and create a dynamic, working board striving to keep the museum collection interesting, educational, and enjoyable for our diverse population.

Email:
volunteer@
alamedamuseum.org

Phone:
510-521-1233

Form 1		845 REGISTRATION CARD		No. 444
1	Name in full	BAYARD SHARP		Age, in yrs. 25
2	Home address	3116 CENTRAL ALAMEDA, CAL.		
3	Date of birth	OCTOBER 2 nd 1891		
4	Are you: (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?	NATURAL		
5	Where were you born?	SAN FRANCISCO CALIF. U.S.A.		
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?			
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office?	ASST Supt CONSTRUCTION		
8	By whom employed?	GREAT WESTERN POWER CO.		
	Where employed?	SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.		
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)?	MOTHER - YES		
10	Married or single (which)?	SINGLE Race (specify which)? WHITE		
11	What military service have you had? Rank _____; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____			
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	YES - MOTHER DEPENDENT		
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.				
1326		Bayard Sharp (Signature or mark)		

Bayard Sharp's WWI registration card shows he was a resident of Alameda at that time. It also shows he was supporting his mother. Further research found his father Louis Sharp had died in 1916.



ALAMEDA MUSEUM

2324 Alameda Avenue
Alameda CA 94501

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ALAMEDA MUSEUM

OPEN WEEKENDS

Saturdays - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sundays - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Interested in research? Call 510-521-1233
or email info@AlamedaMuseum.org



MEYERS HOUSE & GARDEN

OPEN THE 4TH SATURDAY

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The last tour starts at 3:00 pm

Cash payment only.



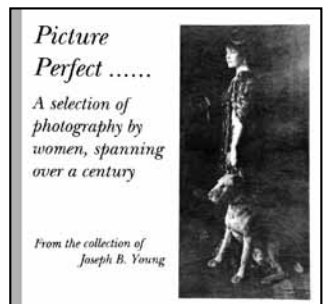
Farewell to Joseph Bayard Young Friend, Docent, and Assistant Curator

Joe passed away on November 3, 2023, after a lengthy illness. For 25 years, Joe volunteered as the Curatorial Assistant at the Alameda Museum. It was through his interest in photography that Joe first came in contact with then Curator George Gunn, who convinced him to become his assistant. Joe retired from the position in 2021.

Joe was born on January 5, 1932, to M. Bayard and Esther C. Young and raised in Salinas, California. He received his Associate of Arts degree from Palomar Community College and his Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce from Santa Clara University. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era. Joe became a Merchandising Executive for the Montgomery Ward Catalog House in East Oakland. After Wards closed he was employed by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Francisco. He was a resident of Alameda since 1963.

Collecting photographs became a great joy and pleasure in Joe's life. Two of his friends were instrumental in encouraging his early interest in the history and evolution of photography. This began many decades of his passion for collecting photographs resulting in a collection of 2,300 photos from both the 19th and 20th centuries. His real pleasure came from researching and donating photos to appropriate historical societies and state archives.

His book *Picture Perfect... A selection of photography by women, spanning over a century* represents Joe's favorite photos by woman photographers. Some of the images were acquired at Alameda estate sales, antique or book stores, or at the Alameda Point Antiques Faire.



Portrait by Myra Silverman, 2018