

# Santee Historical Society

## HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Volume 7, Issue 3

July • August • September 2015



Carol Crafts

### President's Message

In an effort to be consistent we are planning to issue our newsletter every 3 months.

Thanks to the hard work of all of our members for submitting articles, Carole's research, Arli's graphics in putting our contributions together, and to Bob Newton who prints the newsletters, we are making progress.

Thank you to all who made the River Kids Days on May 16th such a success. The power of the San Diego River here in 1916 and other years has been brought to life in the recent coverage of flooding in Texas and other parts of our great Country. It is hard for us to visualize the river rising to the edge of our big barn.

Thank you to the many people who spent hours at the Santee Street Fair. Carole, Ken and Arli spent the entire day there. What troopers!



Our last General meeting was poorly attended. Those who were there voted to keep the current officers in office. Our next election of officers will be in the spring of 2017. If you would like to participate in the governing of Santee Historical Society now, please let us know.

We have been the recipients of many photos and artifacts from the Walker Family. Many of these items are now on display. We are planning a new "Salute to our Military" exhibit.

I recently presented our request for grant funding to the County Board of Supervisors: "Santee Historical Society represents the early activities of East County along the San Diego River from the native Americans, the granite quarrymen, the dairymen and the agriculturists. George Cowles, the Raisin King, lived near where the Barn is located. We maintain the inside of the Barn for visitors. Thanks to previous grants we provide educational materials to Santee's 3rd graders. Our exhibits reflect the early educational activities from a one room school in Stowe to the Victorian style Cowles School – later re-named Santee School; the path of the railroad from San Diego thru Santee to Foster; and Edgemoor Hospital as it grew from the Poor Farm to a geriatric Hospital to the current state of the art facility on the north side of the San Diego River. We are requesting funding to help us re-shingle, repaint and repair the county-owned Barn listed on the National Historical Registry. As you can see from the handout, the paint is blistered and the shingles are coming off. We look forward to showing you the Barn and our displays and thank you for your support."

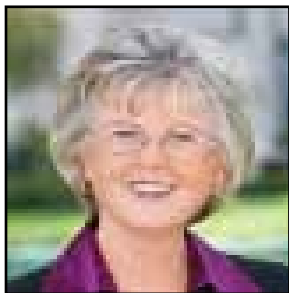
Have a great summer, *Carol*

**You are invited to join us at 6 pm on Tuesday evening, August 18th to meet and greet County Supervisor Dianne Jacob at our first evening General Meeting.**

*More info on page 2*



The Barn, at 9200 Magnolia, is open every Tuesday except the 2nd one of the month, from 10 to noon... and the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 to 2 pm. Come visit... everyone is welcome!



***Please join us at 6 pm Tuesday, August 18th  
for our first EVENING  
General Membership Meeting...***

6 pm - Welcome Dianne Jacob, others and members  
Fr. Crafts, life member, will dedicate the Barn's new flag pole

6:15 pm - County Supervisor Dianne Jacob will be the guest speaker, addressing questions about the future of the Edgemoor property and its link to the River Park, followed by a Q & A.

6:55 pm - Santee's Boy Scout Troop 347 will provide the Color Guard to Retire the Colors.

Light refreshments will be served. See you then!

## **Flags, Flags, Flags!**

### **SHS continues to honor the requests of Past President Elaine Murphy**

One of Elaine's great desires was  
for a flag pole to honor our country.

This past month we were able to have this pole  
with yardarm installed and now proudly fly both our  
National and State flags , as well as the County and  
City flags when we are open.



Look for our 'OPEN' flag as you  
drive by the Barn on Magnolia Avenue



## **We welcome Lloyd Collision as a Business Member**

Lloyd Collision offers super friendly service and quality Collision Repair work, featuring:



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# THE NEW COWLES SCHOOL

## One of the Best Appointed School Buildings in The County



*Land was deeded to School District by Jennie B. Santee, B. L. Cowles, et al on June 13, 1891 in the amount of \$1.00*

“W. H. Sommers writes from El Cajon that the Cowles school took possession of the elegant new school house on Monday morning of this week.

It is doubtful if there is any building of the kind in the county provided with more conveniences. In the first place the furniture and school apparatus is of the very best. Then it is provided with a good well, wind mill and a large tank from which water is piped into the cloak room, where there is a wash bowl placed upon a neat marble slab.

On Arbor day the children will plant trees upon the acre and a half of ground embraced in the school block. The intention is to irrigate the trees and shrubbery and make the grounds as

handsome as good taste and care can make them. The lot is, of course, to be neatly fenced.

A nice bell of fine tone is one of the features of interest, which every school should possess.

This elegant little building will be dedicated with appropriate exercises on Friday evening, December 11 [1891]. The entertainment will consist of recitations, music and short addresses. At the close of the school exercises a lunch will be served, after which the young people will spend a few hours on the always popular amusement of dancing.”

– *San Diego Union, San Diego, CA Thursday, December 17, 1891*

– *Story researched by Carole Delozier*

## Looking for a good time?

The Santee Historical Society has been busy with new acquisitions, new displays, and continued research. With the passing of Ms. Elaine Murphy and Mrs. Elaine Brack, we have fewer volunteers and are asking for your help.



We are a fun group and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with spending some time together for a worthy cause.

We need people to help with things like painting benches and display cabinets, archiving newspaper articles about Santee, and greeting people at events. Your help will allow us to continue participating in Santee events such as the Santee Street Fair and the Santee Car Show.

Please volunteer some time... even a few hours a month would be a big help. We welcome new ideas and energy. Call us at 619-449-2024, leave a message, and we will return your call.

Come on by... we are open 3 Tuesdays a month and at least one Saturday. If you see the 'Open' flag flying, we are here!

| 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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## SANTEE THE SCENE OF SUNDAY WEDDING

At Santee, on Sunday, occurred the marriage of Rasmus Hofto and Frances Fisher. Rev. J. E. Hoick of this city officiating.

The bride is the daughter of J. C. Fisher, who is employed by the Simpson-Pirne Granite Company, and the groom is the manager of a large saw mill in Tacoma, to which city the young couple will go after a few days in this city.

The romance, which has now culminated in the wedding of the principals started during their school days.

— *San Diego Union*, January 9, 1906

Erasmus Holto's family emigrated from Norway. His father Lon O. Hofto being born there in 1850. Erasmus was born in Minnesota on Oct 3, 1881. The family moved to Santee where Erasmus met Frances P. Fischer, the daughter of Joseph Fischer of Stowe and later Santee. Frances was born in 1887 in New Mexico right before the move to California.

## SANTEE HOME WEDDING

A pretty home wedding took place in Santee Wednesday morning. Miss Mary Williamson and Fred A. Griswold being united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Williamson, of Santee.

Rev. A. H. Abernathy performed the ceremony in the presence of about forty guests, friends and relatives of the young couple. Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Griswold left for the future home at El Centro.

Mr. Griswold was formerly connected with the Merchants National bank of this city, but he is now with the Valley State Bank at El Centro in the new county of Imperial. Mrs. Griswold was one of the most popular members of the society set of El Cajon valley.

— *San Diego Union*, September 29, 1907



Harry D. Williamson and his wife Ella bought lots "H" and "O" of Rancho El Cajon from the Cosmos Land and Water Company on May 31, 1902. The Williamson Dairy was from Mission Road (now Mission

Gorge Road) to north of the river, and stretched from around where Cuyamaca is now to east of Magnolia. He sold the dairy to John and Walter Dupee, who established Edgemoor Dairy in 1913. Harry and Ella Reed Williamson moved to Napa, CA. Mary and Fred Griswold continued to live in San Diego County.

## WED IN NORTH

The marriage of Miss Isabel Kennedy Hayes of La Jolla, to Walter H. Dupee, well known Coronado sportsman, was announced here yesterday. The marriage took place at Tustin, Monday. The bride was formerly a teacher in the Indian school at Warner's Springs and it was here, it is said, the romance of herself and Mr. Dupee started.

Mrs. Florence Kennett Dupee secured a divorce from Mr. Dupee last year, the final decree being granted April 10, of this year. Walter H. Dupee is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dupee of Chicago and Coronado.

After their marriage Monday, Mr. and Mrs. Dupee motored to his stock ranch at Santee, where they are spending their honeymoon.

— *Evening Tribune San Diego*, June 4, 1919

Walter Hamlin Dupee came from a very wealthy family. He was born in 1874 in Chicago to John Dupee and Evelyn Walker, the second of two children.

He was a dashing young man who married three times in his short 59 year life. He first married Agnes Florence Kennett born in France in 1878. They married in 1900 and had 2 children before divorcing in 1918.

He married his second wife Isabel Kennedy Hayes, the divorced wife of John Chauncey Hayes Jr. in 1919, as shown in this wedding announcement. They were married 13 years until her sudden death on Mar. 9, 1932 in San Diego.

Walter married his third wife Helene M. Kavanaugh Whitehead, the widow of Jesse Whitehead in Missoula, Montana in Sept, 1932. Helene filed for divorce but Walter died on May 1, 1933 in Los Angeles, before that could happen.





## YOUNG COUPLE PLIGHT TROTH AT SANTEE

A simple marriage service at the Santee community church parsonage last Thursday Mrs. Ettie Sanders of Magnolia Avenue became the bride of James M. Tarpley of Santee. Rev. Frank Newman, pastor of the Santee church, read the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of R. W. Barratt and a cousin of Mrs. Louis Philips and James Crocker. She recently came from Wisconsin to make her home in El Cajon valley. The groom is well known where he is employed as an electrician.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarpley will make their home in the Strawn house on the ranch just south of Coyote Mountain, at Santee, during the absence of the Strawn family at Pine valley, where Strawn is employed in construction work.

— *Evening Tribune San Diego, Sept 14, 1923*

Linda Ettie Barratt was born in 1876 in Nebraska the daughter of Richard W. Barratt and his wife Catherine Worley.

The Barratts had a large family of 13 children and lived in Nebraska and Wisconsin before moving to El Cajon in 1921.

James Monroe Tarpley was born in 1870 in Tennessee. The couple later lived in La Mesa, Ca. and both are buried at Glen Abbey Memorial Park, in Bonita, CA.

James died in 1959 and Ettie died in 1966.

The wedding picture was found on the Michael Macht Family Tree on Ancestry.com



## WEDDING IN SANTEE

Miss Eva Higbee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Higbee, of Santee became the bride of W. B. Summers, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Gregory, of Santee, yesterday at 2 p.m. in Santee Methodist Episcopal church. The Rev. James E. Ferris officiated in the presence of 100 guests.

The bride, smartly attired in a tan sport suit with white accessories, was attended by Miss Gladys Higbee. The bride wore a corsage of lilies of the valley and roses. Ed Howell was best man.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mrs. Edward Howell sang "I Love You Truly" preceding the wedding march which was played by Mrs. Ralph Goldsberry at the piano and Mrs. Frederick Walker, violinist.

A wedding reception for relatives followed in the Higbee home. After a trip to Little Bear lake and a month's sojourn at Mission Beach the couple will reside at 3676 Adams ave. The bride was educated in Redlands and at State College.

— *San Diego Union, July 9, 1934*



One of the well-known families of Santee is the Higbee family.

They lived here a long time intermarrying with the Nesbitt, Pittman, Conant & Ward families.

Eva's grandfather, George Herbert Higbee moved to El Cajon Twp. from Hillsdale, Michigan after 1900. and all his children lived here.

Her father, Dwight Carrell Higbee, owned a farm on Bostonia Road in 1910. Dwight C. married Mertie Tingley in MI in 1904 where there first daughter Lillian was born, their other children; Helen, Mary Louise, Eva May, Homer, Gladys and Hazel were born in California.

William Breed Summers was born in 1911 in Los Angeles, the son of Edward Summers and Vesta Lindblad who married 2nd Edward Gregory.

The picture of Eva was supplied by Debbie Winteer who has extensively researched her family tree.

— *Story researched by Carole Delozier  
Santee Historical Society, 2015*



*A look back...*

## James Ogden Miner

The east inland valley area of San Diego County was granted to Maria Antonia Estudillo de Pedrorena by Governor Pio Pico in 1845, five years before California was admitted. Rancho Santa Monica was later called Rancho El Cajon, "the box". The northern part of the valley containing the river and fertile grass lands and the southern portion of the valley was being settled and developed.

James Ogden Miner was an early settler in Rancho El Cajon. He was born in Connecticut in 1835, a third generation to be born there, following his father Adam Miner Jr. in 1793, and his grandfather Adam Miner Sr. in 1774. His mother, Marilda E. Alden Miner was also from Connecticut, being born there in 1807.

When his father Adam Miner Jr. died in 1854, his mother moved the family west to Alameda County California. There he married Anna Frances Crane on April 26, 1866. His daughter Gertrude, was born in 1868 and by 1870, the family had moved to San Diego County.

J.O. Miner bought property in Rancho El Cajon, along the San Diego River, and started a ranch. By 1874 he also opened a tourist destination, a Bed and Breakfast of his times. He advertised his valley ranch heavily in San Diego. It was in a beautiful location near the river that attracted the wealthy travelers.

One notice placed in the San Diego Union on December 8, 1874 reads:

"We call attention to the advertisement of Mr. J. O. Miner's charming place at El Cajon, published in another column. Visitors to the country can look for no more delightful spot than the Cajon Valley, and Mr. Miner is prepared to furnish the very best accommodations to tourists and sojourners. The scenery is remarkably fine – none more attractive in the country, and the climate is perfection. Go to the Cajon for a good time. The hunting is good for all kinds of feathered game, rabbits and deer, and there is no end to the pleasant drives in every direction."

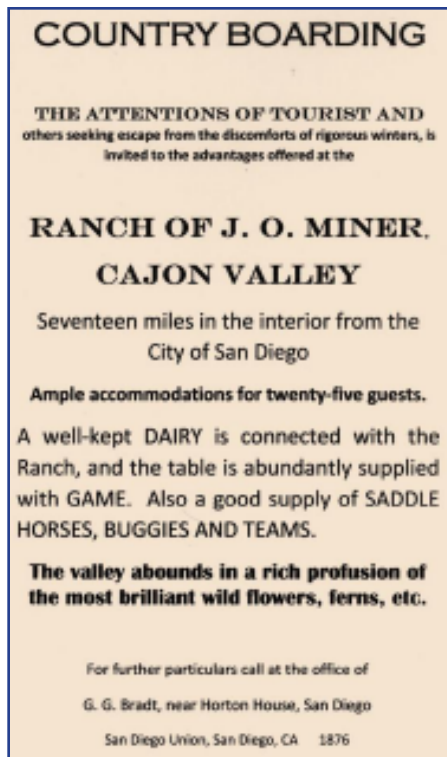


Between 1873 and 1875 George Algernon Cowles (pronounced Kohls) had visited San Diego and had stayed at the Miner ranch. He had contracted malaria while in Florida in 1870 and was looking for a warm, dry climate for his health. Mr. Cowles loved the area and the horticultural possibilities of the land so much, that he bought about 4,000 acres in the valley including the Miner ranch.

Mr. Cowles established two properties "Woodside" where his main house was located and "Magnolia" where he planted magnolia trees, every kind of fruit trees, and fields and fields of grapes. He processed the grapes into raisins on site and shipped them worldwide, becoming known as the "Raisin King" of California.

After selling his place to Mr. Cowles, James Ogden Miner moved his family, now including two more daughters, Edith born in 1872 and Anna "Anita" Francis, who was born in El Cajon on February 19, 1877, north to Lafayette in Contra Costa County, CA.





In 1892 Mr. Miner visited San Diego County and the visit was noted in the El Cajon Valley News in an article titled "RETURN AFTER 13 YEARS," printed on April 16, 1892.

"J. O. Miner of Oakland, California who is here with his wife and daughter visiting old friends had not seen the Valley for thirteen years until now, and is naturally surprised at the progress in improvements made during that time.

His visit is one of more than ordinary interest, as he formerly owned what is now known as Cowles ranch, and built the old ranch house near the river, now standing amidst large trees growing there.

Mr. Miner was one of El Cajon's first settlers, having located the next year after A.E. Horton laid out San Diego. This was in 1866. The streets of the town were not even brushed out in 1868. He came to the Valley about the time that Major Chase and a few others of the old ranchers located here, or commenced improvements.

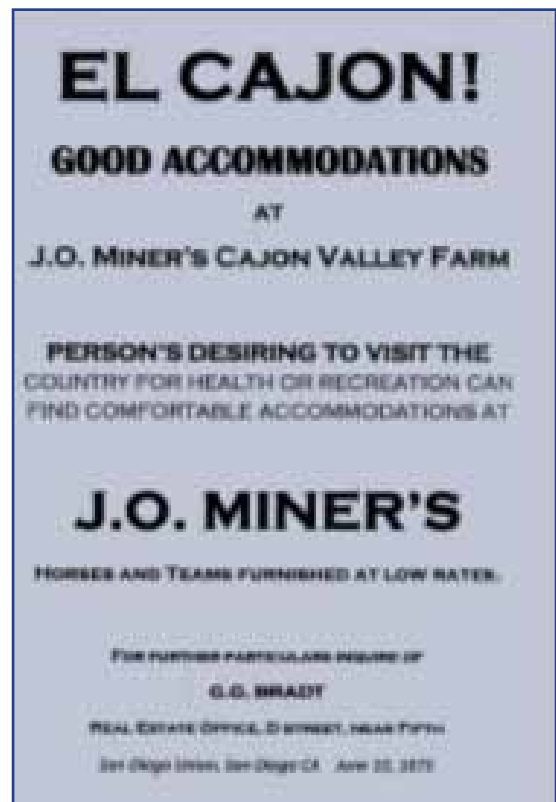
Mr. Miner was engaged in growing wheat and raising stock, but shipping facilities were then so poor, that expenses swallowed up profits, hence he was obliged to abandon these enterprises and seek another field for operations. He moved to Contra Costa County where he still owns a ranch.

Those were the days when it was thought nothing could be raised in the Valley except grain

and livestock. Certainly none was given to the subject of growing fruit until a few years before he left. Behold what a transformation. The list of fruit now successfully grown is the largest of any county in the world; and El Cajon raisins have long since taken front rank in Eastern markets. If so much has been done in a little over thirteen years, mostly years of experimentation at that, what may the next thirteen years produce; when the more than 30,000 orange and lemon trees, to say nothing of the thousands of deciduous trees, are in full bearing; and the Nicaraguan Canal completed, giving us cheap transportation for our fruits to the Atlantic cities."

James Ogden Miner continued to ranch in Contra Costa County and died Alameda County, Ca when he was 74 years old. His wife Anna Frances died in 1923, she was 78 at the time.

All of the Miner's daughters lived until the 1950's. Gertrude Ashley Miner Cotton died in 1957; Edith Emily Miner in 1955; and Anita Frances Miner Macey in 1954.



– Story researched by Carole Delozier  
Santee Historical Society, 2015

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Carole Delozier, Treasurer  
Irene Holstein, Sunshine Committee  
Gary Strawn, Facilities Engineer  
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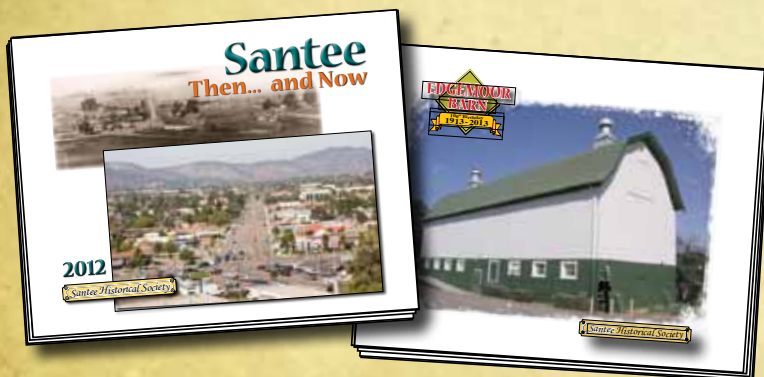
***Please join us Tuesday, August 18th  
for our first 6 pm EVENING  
General Membership Meeting...***

Dianne Jacob will be the guest speaker at a short open meeting of the Santee Historical Society at the Barn. She will address questions about the future of the Edgemoor property and its link to the River Park.

*More info on page 2*

**Looking for unique gifts...**

**Now available...**



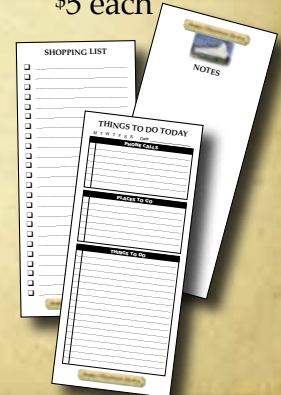
**Learn more about Santee's history!**  
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**3 Notepad Set**  
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Note Pad  
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**Note Cards**  
Set of 5  
Cards & Envelopes  
\$5 each



These great gift items are available for sale at the Santee Chamber of Commerce office,  
or at the Edgemoor Barn on Tuesdays 10 to noon, or the 3rd Saturday of every month 10 to 2.  
For special arrangements, please call 619-449-2024