

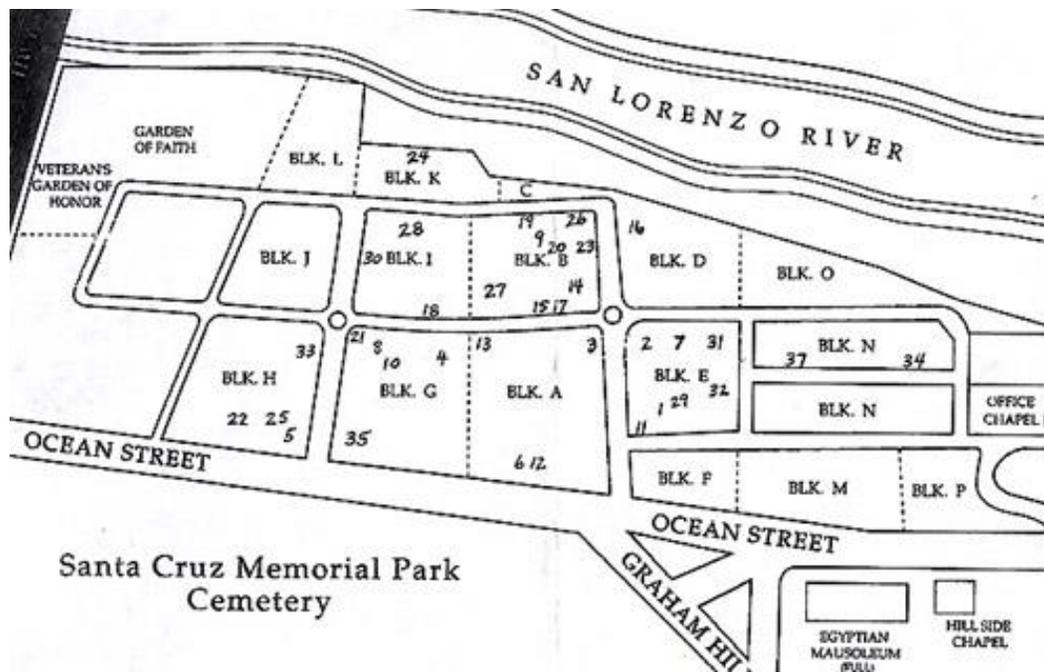
## A Walk Through Time: A Historical Guide to Santa Cruz Memorial Park

*By Janet Krassow and Randy Krassow*



*Santa Cruz Memorial Park*

*From a pamphlet produced by Randy and Janet Krassow, for Santa Cruz Memorial Park, ©2004 I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 96, Santa Cruz, California. The pamphlet lists the names of some of the individuals that helped make up the history of Santa Cruz who are buried in the Park, along with a brief description of who they were. Each entry is keyed to a "walking map," showing where the gravesite of the individual is located in the Park. – Editor*



*Walking Map for Santa Cruz Memorial Park*

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### 1. Colonel William Marcellus Ord

Colonel William Ord was a member of the prominent east coast military family for which Fort Ord is named. Upon retiring from the army after the Civil War, he came west and settled on a large farm near Aptos. Before he died in 1882, Ord served in a number of elective capacities including Justice of the Peace and the California State Assembly. Legend has it that William's father, James Ord, was the illegitimate son of King George IV by the reigning court beauty of the time, Lady Fitz-Herbert.



*Grave Site of William Marcellus Ord*

### 2. Robert Majors

Robert "Bob" Majors, a descendent of the famous Castro family, is regarded as one of the most brave and quick-witted lawman who ever wore a badge in Santa Cruz County. Majors first made a name for himself in 1871 when the infamous bandito Tiburcio Vasquez rode, with his outlaw gag, in to Santa Cruz. After being denied admittance into a local brothel, the gang charged wildly through town shooting up everything in their way, including policeman Robert Liddell. Several days later, Majors led a posse to Vine Hill where the gang was holed up. In the fight that ensued, the steel-nerved deputy stood fast and exchanged shots with ex-convict Francisco Barcenas. When the smoke cleared, Barcenas lay dead on the ground, while Majors walked away unscathed.

Twenty years later, however, another shootout ended Bob Majors' career. While standing in front of a Pacific Avenue saloon, his long simmering dispute with James Harris suddenly burst into gunplay. The two exchanged shots at point blank range. Harris was killed immediately while Majors lingered on for nine months before dying of his wounds on November 11, 1893.

### 3. Georgiana Bruce Kirby

Born Georgiana Bruce in Bristol, England on December 7, 1818, Kirby was a woman with ideas far ahead of her time. She was a pioneer for women's rights and civil liberties and many of her deeds are prevalent in Santa Cruz County today. In a world dominated by men, Kirby's intelligence and questioning mind would not allow her to accept a traditional life in which she could not pursue her personal ambitions and goals.

As a teenager Kirby came to North America, became a school teacher, and eventually drifted to the Brook Farm colony established by the Transcendentalists outside Boston, Mass. While there, she came under the influence of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Margaret Fuller and Ralph Waldo Emerson. It was there that she took up writing and made the acquaintance of Eliza Farnham. In 1850, Bruce migrated to the west coast where she settled in Santa Cruz and married Richard C. Kirby, a local tanner. Eliza Farnham later joined her here and the two published numerous writings on a variety of subjects including the abolition of slavery and women's rights. Their originality of thought was to influence many generations of feminists yet to be born. Georgiana Bruce Kirby died January 26, 1887.



*Grave Site of Georgiana Bruce Kirby*

#### **4. Henry and Marion Meyrick**

The graves of 23-year-old Henry Meyrick Jr., and his wife, 21-year-old Marion Armstrong, contain the seeds of tragedy worthy of the talents of any great romance writer. Meyrick was the shy retiring son of a prominent local businessman and his wife, a fun loving daughter of a neighbor. In spite of their personality differences they were inseparable throughout their childhood and adolescence. So when Armstrong came of age, they were married amid bright prospects for a happy future, receiving the blessing of all who knew them.



*Henry and Marion Meyrick's Memorial*

But fate is seldom the way you wish it to be, and so, eight months after their wedding, Marion was smitten by a mysterious ailment, passed away, and was buried at the Santa Cruz Memorial Park. Her death left Henry shaken with grief and inconsolable. From that moment on his life was inexorably changed as he slipped deeper and deeper into melancholy. Then, on the evening of February 26, 1888, Meyrick made his way to the cemetery and curled up on the grave of his beloved. Later, as the fog rolled in from the sea and enveloped the graveyard, he put a small pistol to his heart and pulled the trigger. Henry and Marion were buried side by side to rest together in eternity.

## 5. Fred Swanton

Although local citizens may forget the benefits of the tourism industry when enduring the snarled weekend traffic and congested beaches, it is a major contributor to Santa Cruz County's economic health. It has always been -- and will continue to be -- a major financial artery for the county.

Fittingly, the foundation for the successful tourism industry we know today was largely the work of a New York native: Fred Swanton. Widely recognized as the Father of Santa Cruz's tourism industry, Swanton was a true visionary who possessed the unique ability to transform the environment around him to meet the specifications and desires of the greater population.

After graduating from college, Swanton quickly immersed himself in Santa Cruz's business community. In 1889, Swanton launched the first gas light system in the city, later becoming the Santa Cruz Electric Light and Power Company, and within a few years his power was blanketing the entire county. Later, Swanton helped found the Union Traction Company, running electric streetcars from Santa Cruz to Capitola. Swanton was also instrumental in developing a phone system for the county in the 1880s.

But Swanton's true claim to fame came from establishing Santa Cruz as a landmark destination across the US, and encouraging legions of people to visit its beautiful beaches and majestic mountains. Swanton was a colorful promoter who put Santa Cruz on the map by establishing the Seaside Company, and, ultimately, fulfilling his dream to build the "West Coast Coney Island," with the Neptune Casino and "pleasure pier" in 1904. The new attraction was a major success, but only two years later, in 1906, the casino burned to the ground in a specular fire. Not to be discouraged, Swanton quickly built a new one that was operating by the end of 1907.



*Swanton's Neptune Casino Burns to the Ground, 1906*

Swanton also helped publicize the scenic beauty of Santa Cruz through Hollywood. He was instrumental in attracting directors -- including Cecil B. DeMille and Thomas Ince -- and film companies to the area, and securing Santa Cruz as the backdrop for numerous early films.



*Fred Swanton's Memorial*

In the 1920s and 30s, Swanton was continually elected and reelected mayor of the town he helped build. He was so closely identified with the city that local residents, often called it "Swanta Cruz."

In old age, Swanton could look back on a life marked by a string of unqualified successes. Yet during his final years, he witnessed most of his fortune slip through his fingers so that when he died on September 3, 1940, he stood on the brink of bankruptcy.

## 6. "Uncle" Dave Boffman

Dave Boffman was born in a slave's cabin located on a large cotton plantation in Lincoln County, Kentucky. As a young man, he was married to a fellow slave known only as Matilda and they had six children together.

Boffman's master, Newt Boughman, got wind of gold fever in 1851 and decided to try his luck in California. As with Boffman's entire life, the trip west was an eventful journey during which he became separated from his master, chased by slave hunters, and captured by Indians.



*Grave Site of "Uncle" Dave Boffman*

Eventually, after walking barefoot for two thousand miles across prairies and mountains, Boffman reached the gold fields.

After a short stint in the mines, Boffman was able to unearth enough gold to buy his freedom, and migrated to Santa Cruz. Boffman planned to make enough money milling timber to send for his wife and children, but his dream quickly disappeared when the ship hauling his lumber sank off Pigeon Point in 1853. Never easily discouraged, Boffman hired himself out as a day laborer until he was able to purchase a small farm in Rodeo Gulch. Misfortune was quick to follow when a crooked sheriff stole Boffman's land.

Several years later, with the help of his friend Elihu Anthony, Boffman took out a homestead claim on twenty acres of land in Vine Hill where he remained the rest of his life. As time passed, this much-loved local character was given the nickname "Uncle Dave" out of respect. He died on September 23, 1893 and is buried in the Anthony family plot.

## 7. The Rountree Family

The men of the Rountree family served as peace officers for nearly a century in Santa Cruz County.

The Rountree lawman dynasty began in 1869 when Almus L. Rountree was elected sheriff -- a tenure that officially marked the advent of law and order in Santa Cruz County. The tough-minded Tennessean wore the badge during the most turbulent period in Santa Cruz history, featuring the likes of bandito Tiburcio Vasquez and Irishman Matt Tarp. After retiring from office, Rountree opened a butcher shop on Pacific Avenue and later hotels in both Davenport and Felton, where he was elected justice of the peace. He died in 1891.

Two of Rountree's sons followed in his footsteps. Young Tom Rountree was a lawman during the wild 1870s, and deputy-sheriff Richard "Dick" Rountree was killed in the line of duty on September 5, 1925. Dick was a popular figure around town and a trusted lieutenant of Sheriff Howard Tafton when the two were called out to Seacliff to serve an eviction notice on Paul Woodside. In the gunfight that followed, all three died in a hail of bullets.

Other members of the Rountree family who saw action as peace officers include Lowell Rountree, known through the community as "Pappy," who served 43 years with the sheriff's department and Fred Rountree, longtime city policeman.

## **8. Joseph Roberts**

Born in 1829 to a seafaring family at Falkirk, Scotland, Joseph Roberts was a natural sailor and journeyman. His life was marked with exciting adventures and travels across the world.

At the age of 15, Roberts packed his sea bag for what was supposed to be a six-year journey of sailing, exploration and discovery. In 1848, while aboard an English merchant vessel sailing the South Sea Islands, the crew's food supply became dangerously low. A group of sailors boarded the ship's dinghy and headed toward a small, fertile island. Upon reaching the island's outer reef, Roberts noticed that his bare feet would not fare well on the reef's jagged edges, and returned to the ship. His lack of shoes probably save his life, as the crewman aboard the dinghy that returned to the island were captured and reportedly eaten by a tribe of cannibals that inhabited the island.

Roberts' adventures didn't end with the cannibals. A few months later, he went ashore by himself on another South Sea island whose natives were known to be more congenial. While ashore, the ship sailed away without him and for eight months he lived among the natives as both a king and god. Because of his fair skin and red hair he was looked upon with great reverence -- lucky for him because it later became known that these natives also practiced cannibalism.

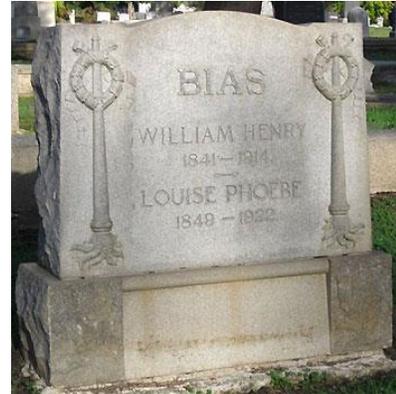
Soon an American ship visited the island and Roberts left for San Francisco, arriving two years later. After trying his hand at mining during the gold fever, Roberts left San Francisco and settled in Santa Cruz, where he settled down and married and raised a family. Roberts died quietly in his sleep on March 5, 1895.

## **9. William H. Bias**

Eulogized as a man "who handled many millions of dollars without ever losing a cent," William "Uncle Billy" Bias was elected by Santa Cruz residents as County Treasurer for 25 consecutive years. The trust and respect citizens had for Bias was a reflection of his devotion to his job and loyalty to his people.

Born in Waukesha County, Wisconsin in 1841, Bias left home at 16, and came west to California in the wake of the gold rush. In 1857, Bias settled in Santa Cruz and eventually purchased the Santa Cruz and Pescadero Stage Lines, which offered plenty of opportunities for danger and adventure.

During that time, the coastal trail (now Highway 1), was notoriously unstable and fraught with landslides and washouts -- Bias lost several coaches and horses. The Pescadero run also passed through some desolate and lonely country, making the driver an easy target for bandits. Bias survived several ambushes including an attack by "Chesano" Jose Rodriguez, who had vowed revenge on Bias after Bias served as a jury foreman and sent him to San Quentin Prison. Rodriguez fired two shots from a rifle while Bias was guiding a team through the mountains above Waddell Creek, one missing and the other hitting a driver in the shoulder.



*Memorial for William H. Bias*

In addition to serving as County Treasurer, Bias was also elected to other offices including clerk and assessor. Bias died on November 11, 1914.

#### **10. Amos Lunt**

Nestled comfortably in the confines of Santa Cruz Memorial park is the headstone of Amos Lunt and it seems only appropriate that this placid scene should serve as the final resting place for the famous "Hangman of San Quentin."

Lunt, a Civil War veteran, came to Santa Cruz during the pioneering days. While a young man, he entered law enforcement after being elected constable of the city of Santa Cruz. In the late 1880s he served as Chief of Police, but was fired in 1889 after a policy dispute over the arrest of alcoholics.

The following year, Lunt went to work as a guard at San Quentin prison and was given the difficult job of hangman. For eight years, Lunt was responsible for releasing the trap door on dozens of condemned men. By 1899 the faces of the prisoners he had executed were beginning to haunt him and he grew restless and violent. Lunt would suddenly draw his pistol and attempt to fire at the hallucinations that he believed followed him.

Declared a danger to the general public, Lunt was eventually hospitalized and placed in the Napa State Asylum for the Insane. He later died on September 20, 1901.

#### **11. William Ely**

Few pioneers literally pave the way for others to follow, but William Ely did just that.

Born in New York in 1828, the call of gold sent him to California in 1850. After succumbing to the lonely life of a miner and later failing as a potato farmer, Ely returned to the east coast and married. Ely returned to the west coast and settled in Santa Cruz in 1869 and quickly acquired a considerable fortune, largely from real estate investments. At one time he owned a block of

land on Pacific Avenue near Cooper Street that included the Court House lot. This section of properties became known as the "Ely Block."

Perhaps his best remembered commercial enterprise is the horse drawn trolley line that extended from the downtown region out to Twin Lakes and would later become part of the electrified Union Traction Line.

In 1898, Ely severely injured his spine when he was thrown from a cart. He died on June 25, 1909 at the age of 80 years.



*Grave Site of William Ely*

## 12. Elihu Anthony

Widely considered as the Father of Santa Cruz, Elihu Anthony was born in New York and arrived in Santa Cruz in the spring of 1847.

Anthony initiated a number of "firsts" in Santa Cruz including organizing the first protestant Church, establishing the first blacksmith foundry, building the first wharf, and was appointed the first postmaster.

Over the years Anthony served as a member of the board of supervisors, a town trustee, minister, and an assemblyman in the state legislature. In the early days he bought a lot on Mission Street and Pacific Avenue and developed the first commercial block in Santa Cruz. Together with Frederick Hihn, he built the first waterworks system, adding impetus to the county's prosperous growth.

A religious man, Anthony was a strong supporter of the Union cause during the Civil War and an avid abolitionist. He helped the small struggling African American community establish itself in Santa Cruz, and as a trustee, ensured all schools were fully integrated. In a strangely paradoxical move, Anthony was a leader of the Anti-Chinese movement of the 1870s. He died in 1905.



*Grave Site of Elihu Anthony*

## 13. Fredrick A. Hihn

For more than 60 years, Fredrick A. Hihn was the dominant figure in the commercial, political, and social life of Santa Cruz County, and was instrumental in shaping the community into the great body it is today.

Hihn was born in Germany on August 16, 1829. While still in his teens, he fled the political repression of his country and joined the flow of humanity towards the gold fields of California. Hihn enjoyed moderate success in the mines and eventually entered the world of commerce in San Francisco and, later, Sacramento.

In 1851, Hihn landed in Santa Cruz and built a mercantile store with partner Henry Hintch. Hihn's entrepreneurial acumen and creativity spurred business growth in the county and helped guide the commercial community into the 20th century.

Hihn was also Santa Cruz's first millionaire and one of its greatest philanthropists. Not only did



he serve the community honorably in various political capacities, ranging from school trustee to state assemblyman, but his countless charities also distinguished him. Twice a year, on Christmas and Easter, the Hihn family opened their doors to the children of Santa Cruz, showering them generously with gifts.

When he died on August 24, 1913, thousands of local citizens joined the funeral cortege to pay their last respects.

*Memorial for Fredrick Hihn*

#### **14. George and Ernest Otto**

This father and son team led lives of great divergence. The father, George, died in great shame while the son, Ernest, was one of the most popular men to grace the community.

George Otto was another of the sturdy Germans who fled to America in order to escape the endless series of wars plaguing their homeland. In 1851, he arrived in Santa Cruz after a short stay in Baltimore, Maryland, and quickly immersed himself in local business. After starting several personal businesses, George was elected County Treasurer in 1876, and subsequently reelected in 1878. During these years, however, his personal enterprises became heavily burdened with debt, and he began embezzling county funds to meet his business obligations. An audit of George's books in 1879 found that the treasury was \$25,000 short. A grand jury indictment followed, and he was sent to San Quentin prison for five years. Upon his release from prison, George returned to Santa Cruz to rebuild his reputation, but he died in 1899 a broken man.

George and his wife had Ernest in 1871 at their home on the corner of Cedar and Church streets. By the time Ernest was 18, he had found his niche in life as a reporter for the *Santa Cruz Daily Surf*. While with the *Surf* he wrote about every aspect of local life -- his most popular columns were vignettes about life along the waterfront and articles on local history.



*Lawn Memorial Section at Santa Cruz Memorial Park*

During his 74 years as a columnist for both the *Surf* and *Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, he became a personal friend of thousands of local residents. When he died in 1955, the *Sentinel* eulogized him as a "legend in the newspaper world."

## 15. John Burns

A native Scotsman, John Burns permanently brought part of his homeland to Santa Cruz County. Burns married Miss Margaret Oswald at Falkirk, and had five children when he moved to Canada in 1852. Ten years later, he and his son Thomas settled in the mountains to the north of Santa Cruz.

His homestead was located high on a ridge from which the ocean could be seen in the distance. The view reminded Burns of his beloved native Scottish highlands, so he named the mountain Ben Lomond in remembrance of his old home

Local legend also has it that Burns named the settlement of Bonny Doon after one of the songs by poet Robert Burns, who composed *Ye Banks and Braes O' Bonnie Doon* -- perhaps the most popular song in Scotland.

Burns died in 1880 and is buried at a spot almost as beautiful as his homeland -- a gentle sloping knoll near the banks of the San Lorenzo River.

## 16. Jacob Kron

During the 19th century, the tanning of leather was a very prosperous industry and helped put Santa Cruz on the map. During this time, many tanneries came and went, but only one stood the test of time, the A.K. Salz Tannery on River Street along the San Lorenzo River. For most of its history, this local landmark was owned by Jacob Kron.



*Jacob Kron's Memorial*

Kron was born in Prussia in 1823 and migrated to America in 1855, settling in New Orleans. Three years later he came west and engaged in cattle business in Napa County. After a very successful tenure in Napa, the Kron family relocated to Santa Cruz where he bought a number of local leather working firms.

Among other businesses, Jacob Kron purchased a faltering tannery along the river and built it into a prosperous enterprise. It was his pet project which he ruled with an iron hand until his death on April 20, 1879.

He was buried at the Santa Cruz Memorial Park cemetery, and a large monument was set over his gravesite. It consists of a large erect figure gazing furtively across the river down onto the Kron Tannery.

## 17. William Waddell

Surely back in the mid-to-late 1800's there were many who were looking for new adventures, and with the onset of the California Gold Rush in 1849, many moved west in search of that opportunity. The mass migration brought many an entrepreneur to California in search of a prosperous new life. One of those was Santa Cruz's own William White Waddell.

Waddell was born on January 31, 1818 in Madison County Kentucky, and moved to Lexington Missouri in 1837. There, through several successful business ventures, he amassed a large fortune. Unfortunately for Waddell, a few investments went sour, and within a short amount of time, he found himself with a dry bank account and a thirst for a fresh start. The golden hills of California, thought Waddell, held the answer.

In 1851, Waddell arrived in Santa Cruz where he began working at the Williams Landing lumber mill. Over the next 10 years, he operated several prominent lumber mills, including Rincon Mills, Branciforte, and Blackburn Gulch. In 1862, he purchased his own "goldmine" -- the famed Rancho del Oso -- and began constructing the largest and most productive lumber mill in Santa Cruz County.



*Waddell's Railway Tram to Año Nuevo*

In 1865, he built a wharf on the beach at Waddell Creek from which his lumber could be shipped. The wharf, however, exposed to the power of the Pacific, was soon crushed by the high wind and pounding surf of the Northern California coast. In 1866, another wharf, built in the more protected waters of the bay at Año Nuevo just up the coast, lasted until well after the mill closed down.

As successful as it was, Waddell's lumber mill wasn't without its problems: besides losing his first wharf to the elements, his first mill burned to the ground in 1864. Unwilling to accept defeat, he rebuilt the mill, which, as testimony to its success, acted as the center of a small settlement called Seaside. However, this sawmill was eventually destined for disaster as well, and also burned in 1883 -- but not before Waddell's own death in 1875.

On October 1, 1875, Waddell was hunting deer on the land above his homestead. Unlike today, at that time, California's coastal mountain ranges were still home to many bears, and as Waddell started up a ravine, he was attacked by a large Grizzly and severely mauled. He lived just long enough to tell the story to his closest friends and family, and to have one of his arms amputated; he died five days later.



*William Waddell's Memorial*

## 18. Duncan McPherson

Duncan McPherson, longtime publisher and editor of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, is another member of an elite group of pioneers who oversaw the growth of Santa Cruz. Born of Scottish ancestry on April 13, 1839 at Rigo, New York, McPherson crossed the plains with his parents in 1852 and engaged in mining in Placerville.



*Duncan McPherson's Memorial*

By 1856, the McPherson family was in Santa Cruz, where Duncan enrolled in local schools. At the age of 16, he entered the University of the Pacific, but dropped out of school four years later to join the work force as a self-employed teamster. With his earnings he purchased a half interest in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* and began his career as a newspaperman.

Between 1871 and 1876, young McPherson left Santa Cruz for San Mateo County, where, together with his brother, he published the *San Mateo Gazette*. Upon his return to the area, Duncan streamlined the *Sentinel* and expanded it to a daily.

McPherson married Amelia Hinds, the daughter of another Santa Cruz County pioneer. Together, they raised a large family while involving themselves in a number of civic affairs. When McPherson died on February 16, 1921, the *Sentinel* was deluged with dozens of cards and letters from citizens paying tribute to the man who was, in many ways, the voice of Santa Cruz.

## 19. Leah and Joseph Baker

Within Santa Cruz Memorial Park's beautiful grounds rests a majestic Oak tree which offers hikers an ideal spot to pause for a short rest. Under this tree rests a splendid example of a wooden, hand carved burial monument that was common during the 19th century. The monument marks the final resting place of Leah Baker.

Baker, together with her husband Joseph, whose headstone can be seen directly behind the tree, were natives of Pennsylvania who crossed the plains by oxcart during the 1850s. They were sturdy farming folk who tilled the soil in quiet anonymity while raising their children.

In the 1890s they quit their farm and moved to a small house on Broadway Avenue in east Santa Cruz. The old couple became favorites of the area residents, and one night at the Soquel Avenue saloon, the "somewhat drunken" local populace, in a unanimous vote, amid great pomp and ceremony, declared Joseph Baker to be "Mayor, Council, Justice of the Peace, and Lord High executioner of east Santa Cruz!"

His honor died December 1, 1894, and Leah Baker followed him on August 10, 1904.



*Wooden Monument of Leah Baker*

## 20. Adna A. Hecox

On March 17, 1883, the flag at the Santa Cruz lighthouse was lowered to half-mast to signal the death of Adna Hecox, the first light keeper. But this Michigan native was much more than just that, because a history of early Santa Cruz could not be written without including the Hecox name.

Born in 1806, Adna Hecox apprenticed as a carpenter, and as a young man, worked at various locations in the Midwest. In 1846, he set his sights on the healthy climates of California, and departed for the coast. Traveling in his party were several other men who would one day pioneer the area around Monterey Bay. At the Great Salt Lake the party divided into two groups, the first of which Hecox was a member, continued due west along the old Oregon trail, while the other turned south toward the Humboldt Sink and Sierra Nevada mountains. This group was led by Captain Donner and would soon meet with a horrible fate in the snow covered ridges.



*Memorial for Adna Hecox*

When Hecox arrived in California he took part in the rebellion against Mexico. Afterwards, he settled next to the Soquel Creek and built a saw mill which was prospering when the cry of gold sent him scurrying toward the gold diggings at Hangtown.

After a short stint in the mines, he returned to Santa Cruz and went into partnership with Elihu Anthony in some of the first commercial ventures in Santa Cruz. He was elected Alcalde (Mayor) in 1849, and was the last man to hold that position. He would later serve as associate county judge and treasurer of the newly formed county.

Hecox is most often remembered as the man who brought into existence the first temperance union in the state of California, and in 1870, when the lighthouse was built, he was appointed the first keeper. After his death, his beloved daughter Laura Hecox was selected to replace him. Father and daughter are buried in adjoining plots.

## 21. Cornelius Cappelmann

Cornelius Cappelmann, born in Spandau, Prussia, in 1830, was orphaned while still an infant, and spent his early years being shifted from one relative to another. At 16, he came to America, where a brother was a New York businessman, but left when word of the California Gold Rush hit the east coast. Arriving in San Francisco on Christmas Day, 1850, he had just departed the ship when it was entirely consumed by flames. It sank quickly and took all of Cappelmann's meager possessions.

During his first decade in California, he worked as a miner, stage driver, butcher, teamster, and river boat captain -- all with but little prosperity. In 1868 "Captain" Cappelmann moved his family to Santa Cruz and opened a saloon on Pacific Avenue. Cappelmann was an unqualified success as a saloon owner, running the most popular establishment on the Avenue.

When he died on August 27, 1888, his family and friends pooled their resources and constructed a towering, handsome monument to honor the captain's memory.



*Cornelius  
Cappelmann's  
Memorial*

## **22. Edward L. Williams**

Called "E.L." Williams, this Philadelphia born pioneer not only made history in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, but he also lived long enough to write it. When, in 1892, E.S. Harrison published his monumental *History of Santa Cruz County, California*, two chapters were penned by E.L. Williams.



*Edward Williams' Memorial*

After leaving the east coast, he arrived in Monterey via the Isthmus of Panama on Christmas Day in 1849 and went into the general merchandise business. He married Narcisa Watson, the daughter of a prominent citizen of early California. In 1852 he opened a branch store in Santa Cruz, on Pacific Avenue, and spent the next six years serving as Monterey county clerk.

He later moved to Watsonville where he studied law. In 1862, Williams relocated to Santa Cruz where he remained the rest of his life, functioning as under-sheriff and deputy clerk, as well as collector of internal revenues. In later years, it was he that researchers, journalists, and historians turned to for answers about central coast history. He died on August 17, 1906.

## **23. Hinds Family Children**

On the grounds of Santa Cruz Memorial Park can be found a neatly configured row of four small marble tombs which contain the bodies of the four children of Alfred and Sarah Hinds.

It was during the winter of 1876, when a dreaded diphtheria plague struck California unchecked, carrying away scores of small children. The economic times were hard following a decade of floods, droughts, and earthquakes. The state of medicine was still so primitive that the disease was allowed to vent its fury without mercy.

The Hinds family had a small stationary and music store located on Front Street which was just beginning to prosper. Their children ranged in age from five years to eight months when diphtheria struck, and one by one, death bore them away. The first died on Thanksgiving Day, 1876, and the last passed away on Christmas. Even though they would later rebuild their family with the births of three more children, the sorrow of that dreaded winter would haunt them for the remainder of their lives.



*Grave Site of the Hinds Family Children*

#### **24. Levi Starbuck**

Levi Starbuck, whose grave overlooks the pauper's corner of Santa Cruz Memorial Park, is representative of a sturdy group of men who fought in the great civil war and drifted west in the migration that sealed the growth of the country.



*Memorial for Levi Starbuck*

He was born in 1828 at the Nantucket, Rhode Island estate of his grandfather, Captain Starbuck, a famous ship owner and sea captain in the War of 1812 against the British. As the Civil War loomed, Levi joined Company D of the First Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry and fought in a number of famous battles.

After he mustered out of the service in 1865, he came to California and farmed in the vast San Joaquin Valley. In the late 1880s, he moved to Santa Cruz and took up a small farm and orchard on what is now 7th Avenue and Soquel Avenue in Live Oak. There he remained until his death on April 28, 1905. A living legacy to his life on the farm is the cork oak that he planted -- one of the few in the area -- that still stands on the corner of 7th Avenue and Soquel Avenue.

## 25. Henry P. Rice and Sheriff Elmer Dakan

Henry P. Rice was a Hollander, and genuine Dutchman, who enjoyed the distinction of being the first native of Holland to reside in Santa Cruz County. His habits were sober, industrious, and economical, and this pioneer carried within him the noble traits of honesty and integrity. He was well known throughout the area and was a very successful businessman.

Rice arrived from Holland in the early 1850s almost penniless, however, his great work ethic built him quite a fortune. Rice set himself up as a money lender, but he could hardly be called greedy as the amount of interest he charged was always modest. Later in life, Rice retired to his home and became a recluse. When he did find it necessary to go into town, he did so clad in wooden shoes that was the custom in his native land. Henry Rice was an eccentric person indeed, but the townspeople always held him in high esteem.

As death approached, he bought a plot at Santa Cruz Memorial Park and designed his own monument. He passed away on September 14, 1904 and his many friends followed along behind the horse-drawn hearse as it brought his remains to their final resting place. When the grave was opened, found within was a bottle containing precise instructions how Rice wanted to be buried.



*Memorial for Henry Rice*

Buried next to Henry P. Rice is his son-in-law, Sheriff Elmer Dakan. The sheriff was born in Ohio, but came to California at an early age and spent the greater part of his life in Santa Cruz County. He was a farmer in Soquel, and afterward a butcher, being the longtime proprietor of the Central Market on Pacific Avenue.

Dakan, however, is best remembered as one of the sheriffs who brought law and order to Santa Cruz. He ascended to that office in 1879 and held it for a total of ten years. During his tenure, most of the old time banditos, who plagued the countryside, were run into the ground and either killed or sent to state prison. Dakan was a tough, resolute man, who never allowed himself to back down from a fight. After retiring from office, Dakan bought a farm near Soquel, where he died on December 2, 1899, the result of being thrown from a horse.

## 26. "Judge" Edgar Spalsbury

*The Place on Laurel Street* is one of the most popular books written on historical subjects in Santa Cruz County. It is the reproduction of a diary kept by Edgar Spalsbury during the years of 1876-77. It relates the daily life of one of the most picturesque characters to set his heels in the direction of our city.

Spalsbury, a man of education and culture, was born at his parent's farm in 1835, located along the Black River in Jefferson County, New York. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1856 at the age of 20 years. Law was in Spalsbury's blood and he flourished as a lawyer, quickly establishing a large and lucrative practice.

With the onset of the Civil War, Spalsbury quickly enlisted as a captain in Company C, 35th New York Infantry Volunteers, and saw his first action at Bull Run. As a member of the Army of the Potomac, he also participated in numerous other campaigns in Northern Virginia. But the war took a toll on his already fragile health and brought about a lifelong addiction to various drugs. After the war, Spalsbury drifted west in search of a healthier climate. He established himself in Chicago for a time before arriving in California in 1875, and Santa Cruz County in 1876, where he established another practice.



*"Judge" Edgar Spalsbury's Memorial*

Spalsbury quickly became a favorite of the citizens in his newly adopted city. He was elected Justice of the Peace by popular acclaim and dubbed "Judge" by his many friends. In the mid-1890s, his health took a turn for the worse, and he passed away on August 16, 1897. He is buried in a private family mausoleum that proudly displays his name, and his stately mansion can still be seen on Laurel Street, near the intersection of Pacific Avenue.

## **27. Mary "Maria" McDermott**

"Maria" was a tough little Irish lass who worked the saloons of Santa Cruz during the wild years of the 1870s. Her colorful lifestyle made her one of the most successful practitioners of the world's oldest profession to ever ply their trade in the county.

Her real name was Mary McDermott and she was born in Stone Pew, Ireland. She left her native land during the great famine that devastated the country. In 1866, "Maria" arrived in Santa Cruz in the company of her brother who was a successful druggist.

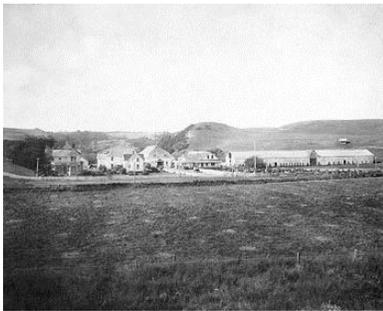
She first found employment at a restaurant, and then went into a saloon as a waitress, but before long she followed the path of prostitution. She quickly generated the funds to open her house on Front Street, in the infamous Red Light district. As one of the city's most celebrated madams, "Maria" was able to prosper from the wages of sin to such a degree that she could afford to send \$3,000 dollars a year to her widowed mother back in Ireland.

In 1881, she fell in with a ne'er-do-well named Tim Collins, who she supported for the next couple of years. After he left her, she took to drinking and slipped deeper and deeper into alcoholism. She died on December 11, 1883, a tired old woman at the age of forty.



*Remembrance Garden at Santa Cruz Memorial Park*

## 28. Delos Wilder



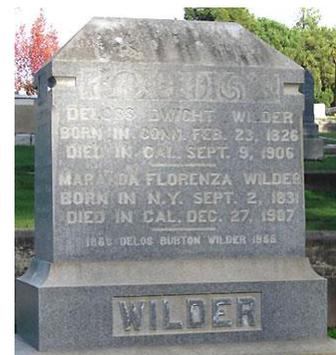
*Wilder Dairy Ranch of the Coast Road*

Wilder Ranch is now a state park and a name synonymous with the history of the north coast of Santa Cruz County. This beautiful pastoral site was, at one time, one of the finest working dairies in the area. Delos Wilder and his partner Levi K. Baldwin established it in 1871.

The man who gave his name to this park was born at West Hartland, Litchfield County, Connecticut, on February 23, 1826. When he was just ten years old, Wilder hired himself out as a farm hand at the anemic wage of \$6.50 a month, but even at that rate, the thrifty young man was

able to accumulate enough money to open his own book agency in Ohio where he resided.

In 1853, Wilder answered the cry of "Gold" and set out for California. It was a journey which would take him seven months to complete. He went immediately to the mines at Placer County and met with a certain amount of success. With his earnings, Wilder started a chicken ranch and small dairy in Marin County before coming to Santa Cruz in 1871. His efforts here proved to be quite profitable and settled, remaining on the dairy until his death on September 9, 1906.



*Memorial for Delos Wilder*

## 29. Robert Liddell

Robert "Bob" Liddell was a hard-bitten lawman who shot it out with the infamous bandit chief Tiburcio Vasquez, and lived to tell about it. As a matter of fact, he was standing on the scaffold when the desperado was hanged at San Jose in 1875.

Liddell was the scion of a pioneer Santa Cruz family who came from England in 1851 and built a saw mill near Davenport along the creek that now bears the family name. Always a man of action, Liddell was named the town night watchman during the 1860s, at a time when Santa Cruz had some tough characters roaming the streets after dark.



*Memorial for Robert Liddell*

His encounter with Tiburcio Vasquez occurred on the night of September 10, 1871. Vasquez and his gang were hiding out in the Santa Cruz Mountains after robbing a stagecoach near Hollister. One of his band, Santa Cruz native Narciso Rodriguez, had been captured in Salinas and was sitting idly in the Santa Cruz County jail awaiting trial.

Vasquez decided a jailbreak was in order, so he and two gang members, Francisco Barcenas and Garcia Rodriguez, rode into town heavily armed. At the corner of Ocean and Water Street, they stopped at a brothel for a little entertainment. The madame of the house refused to let the ruffians in, so they drew their weapons and opened fire on the building, shooting out all of the windows before riding off.

Across the San Lorenzo River, Bob Liddell was on duty, and at the sound of the gunshots, hurried to the scene and then followed the bandits' trail into town. Just as Liddell entered the lower plaza -- the junction of Pacific Avenue, Front Street and Water Street -- Vasquez and his men rode into view. At this, everyone pulled out their guns and bullets began to fly.

During the shootout, Liddell took a pistol ball in the upper leg and fell to the ground, but just as he went down, he took aim and shot Vasquez through the chest. Seeing their leader wounded, the gang retreated down Front Street, firing wildly at the buildings as they rode out of town. Meanwhile, Liddell was taken to a nearby saloon where his injury was treated.

Within a few weeks, Liddell's leg had healed and he was back on the job. In later years, he moved to the city of Fresno, where he died on November 14, 1917 at the age of 79. His body was returned to Santa Cruz for burial at Santa Cruz Memorial Park.

### 30. The 1898 Powder Mill Explosion

On the southern end of the cemetery at Santa Cruz Memorial Park stands a towering marble pedestal upon which rests a large cistern that is draped with a long, flowing, delicately hand-carved mourning cloth. It is a memorial dedicated by the people of Santa Cruz to the 13 young men who lost their lives in the devastating explosion that rocked the California Powder Works on April 26, 1898.



*California Powder Works*

The powder works, located at the present site of Paradise Park, shipped thousands of tons of blasting powder and smokeless gun powder to outlets throughout the United States. It was also one of the largest employers in Santa Cruz County, where the work was very strenuous and extremely dangerous. For this reason most of those working at the plant were young and vigorous.



*Memorial Honoring the Victims of the Powder Mill Explosion*

The explosion, or more correctly, series of explosions, began at one of the drying sheds and ricocheted from one building to another. They were so cataclysmic that they were felt as far away as Salinas and San Jose, where citizens of these towns assumed that they had experienced a major earthquake.

In nearby Santa Cruz, there was no doubt as to what had just happened as giant plumes of smoke and dust shot skyward and the ground trembled with every explosion. The city went into shock and then mourning as the dead and injured flooded into local hospitals and mortuaries. Most local families were touched in one way or another by this tragedy. The community drew together and put on a series of benefits to help the bereaved families build a fitting monument to the men who died that day.

The victims of the April 26, 1898 explosion buried at Santa Cruz Memorial Park:

- Ernest Marshall, 19 years old
- Luther William Marshall, 18 years old
- Henry Clay Butler, 45 years old
- Benjamin E. Joseph, 19 years old
- Charles A. Cole, 51 years old
- Charles Miller, 16 years old
- James E. Miller, 27 years old
- Ernest Jennings, 21 years old
- Guy Seward Fagen, 16 years old

### 31. Joseph Smallwood

Joseph "Joe" Smallwood was an African-American pioneer of Santa Cruz County, who was instrumental in leading the civil rights movement in the days before the Civil War and Emancipation Proclamation.

Smallwood, a barber by trade, was born in Maryland on June 11, 1814 to parents who were ex-slaves, having been granted their freedom when England banned slavery on the island of Jamaica. As a young man, he married and moved his family to Philadelphia where he set up shop in the North Mulberry district.



*Memorial for Joseph Smallwood*

With the discovery of gold in Sutter's Mill, he signed on as the ship's steward aboard the *George Washington*, a ship bound for California. Upon reaching San Francisco during the summer of 1849, he left immediately for the goldfields, taking a claim at Coloma in El Dorado County. Smallwood remained there until 1863 when he moved to San Francisco and, in 1868, then on to Santa Cruz where he headed the local black community until his death on July 5, 1880.

During his years in California, Smallwood was active in the movement to secure voting rights and other civil liberties for African-American citizens. He was a delegate to all of the Colored People's Conventions and a frequent contributor to the African-American press on the west coast. At the local level he led the fight to integrate Santa Cruz County schools and sponsored several local youngsters who went on to attend the University of California at Berkeley. One of them, his godson, Joseph Smallwood Francis, became the publisher and editor of the *Western Outlook*, a large west coast newspaper.

### 32. Sheriff Milton Besse

Newspapers of the time called Milton (Milt) Besse "the most effective man to hold the important office of sheriff in the history of Santa Cruz." During his ten years in the sheriff's office, he streamlined the department, added more deputies, and raised the standards of employee acceptability and accountability. When he retired from office, the wild years of cattle rustling, horse thieving, and sidewalk shootouts had passed, and -- with the turning of the century -- peace and tranquility followed in its wake.

Sheriff Besse was born at the family farm in Pescadero on November 4, 1862. His parents and grandparents were pioneers of that north coast town and as a young man, he was a carpenter by trade, and was fully employed when he was elected sheriff for the first time in 1894.



*Memorial for Milton Besse*

After two terms as the man behind the badge, he resigned and moved to Nevada where he supervised the construction of the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad. He later moved to San Jose, where he died on October 8, 1926.

### 33. Doctor Benjamin K. Knight and Family

Doctor Knight and his family were among the most prominent residents of Santa Cruz County during its first century. Not only did they occupy numerous important positions in the community, but they were held in the highest esteem by the citizenry.

It has been said that the measure of a man's worth are the friends he leaves behind. If so, Doctor Knight should be judged by the opening lines of his obituary, which ran in the *Santa Cruz Surf* on June 2, 1905. It read: "Dr. Benj. Knight, the beloved husband and father, the faithful physician, the friend of thousands, former State Senator, and school trustee, passed away this morning."

Doctor Knight was born in Mansfield, Connecticut on October 16, 1836, and his parents took him to their native Rhode Island while still an infant. It was there that he was reared and received his early education, afterwards teaching school until the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted in Company I, of the first Massachusetts Cavalry. His regiment was sent into service in South Carolina where they participated in the battle of Pocotalago and other engagements.

At the end of the war, he enrolled at Harvard Medical School and received his diploma as a physician in 1869. In the same month, he married and set out for Santa Cruz where he was to practice medicine for the remainder of his life, serving 14 years as the county physician.

Dr. Knight was also a man of strong political convictions and ran for office on a number of occasions. He was elected State Senator in 1883 and was appointed President Pro Tem of that body.

Dr. Knight and his wife Lydia were people of culture and refinement, and they supported the arts in every way possible, including the construction of the famous Santa Cruz Opera House,

which was dubbed Knight's Opera House. But what he is most often remembered for, is the many acts of charity that he performed for his patients, having donated his services to many a needy families.

The Knight children were successful in their own right. Benjamin Knight Jr. was the longtime District Attorney as well as a school trustee. Daughters, Edith and Ida were both prominent educators.



*Memorial for Benjamin Knight*

### 34. Judge Lucas Smith

Judge Lucas Smith was one of the most colorful men to sit on the bench in Santa Cruz County. He lived a life that would do justice to the talents of any great Hollywood screenwriter.

Born at Wells County, Indiana, he worked on the family farm until the age of 14, after which he learned the printing business. In August 1862, before he was 17 years old, he enlisted in the 101st regiment, Indiana Volunteers, and served three years until the end of the Civil War. After fighting in numerous battles, including Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Peach Tree Creek, and Atlanta, he joined General Sherman on his famous march to the sea, and was honorably discharged before reaching the age of 20. After the war, he declined an appointment to West Point, in order to study law at the University of Michigan.



*Judge Lucas Smith's Memorial*

After earning his degree, Smith moved to northern Texas where he was elected District Attorney of Fannin County, where he prosecuted the famous Ballew-Golden murder case. His work on this case got him appointed U.S. Attorney for the New Mexico territory, a position that he resigned to raise a company of rangers to fight the Apache Indians.

He returned to private practice and came to California where he eventually settled in Santa Cruz. In 1896, he was elected superior court judge of the county and re-elected time and time again. After the hard fought 1905 election campaign, in which he received over 80 percent of the vote, he waged a decade long verbal battle with

Arthur A. Taylor, the diminutive editor of the *Santa Cruz Surf*. Judge Lucas Smith died on September 22, 1924.

### 35. Moses A. Meder

Meder Street stretches out long across the western edge of Santa Cruz, tying Mission Hill to the north coast. This avenue is named for Moses "Mo" A. Meder, who was born on December 18, 1802 at Grafton County, New Hampshire. He came to California in 1846, in the days before statehood, as part of a mass migration of Mormons led by Sam Brannan. Arriving at San Francisco on August 1 of that year he, like so many others, had a falling out with Brannan and drifted south finding his way to the redwood groves at Zayante, where he went to work.

Meder leased a saw mill, began cutting lumber, and was extremely successful. With his proceeds he began to buy land, first on Branciforte Creek, and then up the coast, where he bought a portion of Joseph Major's place, Rancho Refugio. From this section of land, he carved out one of the finest dairies and cattle ranches in the area.

There is a story that the pioneers told of Meder's integrity and honesty. When, in 1850, the county was first formed, Joseph Majors was selected as the first treasurer. Before long tax monies began to pour into his office and he found that there was no safe in which to store the vast amount of gold coin. A hurried search was undertaken for a secure haven in which to place

the money. It was decided by all that the most secure location was in a trunk under Moses Meder's bed. And there it remained, undisturbed, for well over a year until Santa Cruz could afford its own safe.

Mo Meder died on October 13, 1890, a well-respected member of the community.



*Moses Meder's  
Memorial*

### **36. Louis Schwartz**

In the early 1870s, a meeting was held at the home of Louis Schwartz on Mission Street. During the course of the congenial affair, the men founded a local chapter of The Hebrew Benevolent Society, an organization dedicated to the interests of the Jewish community.

It was a time when racism and anti-Semitism was rampant among certain groups of people in California, and many Jewish citizens chose to hide their ancestry, merely referring to themselves as Germans. Although the Santa Cruz Jewish population was small, they were among the foremost business and political leaders of the time. Prominent in this circle were Louis Schwartz and the three Bernheim brothers, Jacob, Reuben, and Emanuel.

Schwartz was born on January 5, 1834 in Schildberg, Prussia, apprenticing as both a butcher and baker. It was a time of great persecution, when Jewish people were being dispossessed, put off of their lands, and had their goods confiscated. When Schwartz was 17 years old, he fled his native land, settling first at Hull, England, and later moving to London. While in England, he learned to make rubber coats (macintoshes). A year later he booked passage aboard the sailing vessel, Henry Clay, bound for New York.

After a year on the east coast, Schwartz sailed for California via the Isthmus, arriving at San Francisco with just seven dollars in his pocket, but a head full of ideas and the determination to go with it. In 1855, he came to Santa Cruz and it was here that his enterprises met with great success.

During the next forty years of his life, Louis Schwartz established several merchandising businesses, maintained interest in a number of sailing ships, as well as real estate. In his later years, he was a major stockholder in the Butcher's Union and in the Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Valley Bank, serving as bank director for almost a decade.

While always taking a leadership role in the Hebrew Benevolent Society, he also took an active part in civic life, being elected to a number of political offices including terms on the Santa Cruz City Council. His disposition was of a jovial and genial nature -- always witty, making him a great companion. Louis Schwartz died May 23, 1893 at the age of 69.

### 37. Thomas J. Weeks

Thomas Jefferson Weeks was born into a prominent family in the town of Wayne, Kennebec County, Maine on November 22, 1829. But as a child, he had a strange far-away look in his eyes, the kind of look that made it impossible for him to fit into the niche his family had carved out for him.

While still in his teens he was seized with the wanderlust and set out for New Bedford to sign aboard a whaling ship, but along the way, news of the discovery of gold in California reached him. Against everyone's advice, Weeks set sail on the ship *New Jersey*, bound around Cape Horn for San Francisco, and he never looked back.

After a long and dangerous six month voyage, Tom Weeks arrived at California and set out immediately for the goldfields. A summer spent in the rough and tumble mining camps made it clear to him that this was not the life he sought. He wandered south and during the month of November 1849, emerged from the Santa Cruz Mountains into the sleepy village of Branciforte.



*Memorial for Thomas Weeks*

Looking for a place to stay, he went down to the harbor where he found an old schooner that had run aground, and literally tore the cabin off of the rotting hull. After placing it on the beach and filling it with supplies, he moved into his new "home."

One day while lounging around the shore, he hit upon an idea for a career. Noticing the sandy bottom lands that lay between the San Lorenzo River and Branciforte Creek, Weeks decided to experiment with potato raising. He and a partner rented 25 of these acres from Judge William Blackburn at \$15/acre and put in a crop. That first year, the partners, harvesting four hundred sacks of potatoes to the acre, cleared \$5,000 each. The following year, they met with the same success, only now they were forced to pay rent at the rate of \$100/acre.

The idea quickly caught on and soon potatoes were the number one crop in the state. Within a few years, however, the bottom fell out of the market when the production out stripped demand. But Tom Weeks had secured his future, investing his earnings into real estate, buying much of what is now downtown Santa Cruz. Over the years he sold off his holdings, while maintaining a large farm on the land where Santa Cruz High School is now located.

In his later years, he became noted as a breeder of fine horses. His animals, both work and race horses, were highly prized. Tom Weeks died on April 18, 1905, after leading a long and successful life, during which he never once returned to his native New England.



*Pioneer Section at Santa Cruz Memorial Park*

## **Source**

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