

## **Presidents Letter**

Dear Members: In this newsletter, you'll find several articles that will enhance your knowledge of Carlsbad's history, the families that contributed to our city, and learn of a few of the ways our members are participating in outreach to community groups throughout the county. In future newsletters we will be including short biographical sketches of local families, and when available some of their writings. As always we welcome your involvement, please contact us at 760-434-9189 or cbadhistory@ gmail.com if you want to learn about ways you can contribute and share in our promotion of Carlsbad History.

## **School Tours**

Recently we expanded our "Elementary School Tours/ Local History" presentations, by reaching out to other cities. So many topics covered in our elementary local history presentations overlap with the history of nearby cities, that we decided to offer our programs, when appropriate to other school districts.

In north San Diego County, we all share in our common history of native peoples, missions and ranchos. Many of the earliest Spanish/Californio, and latter the American ranching families intermarried or moved back and forth from one area to another. Their experiences and family histories enrich our understanding of our area history.

In November and December 2018, President Susan Gutierrez gave presentations on First Peoples of the north county area, and also on the local San Luis Rey Mission to Mrs. Zimmer's 4th graders at Richland Elementary in the San Marcos Unified School District. Vice President Marvin Sippel contributed with his program presentation of ranchos in February. Marvin's teaching experience made history come alive. If you were fortunate enough to have seen Marv at the annual meeting you know he is a gifted speaker, and he had the kids mesmerized with his descriptions of ranching. He always includes lots of visual aids, and this helped the kids understand his explanations. They learned about different types of horse bits, and why they were used, boots, for riding and boots for on the ground ranch work, branding irons, and lassos. And of course, the favorite was when all the kids participated in a

round up; the kids got to be horses, sheep or cattle. Let's just say there was a lot of giggling as well as learning going on.



Marvin with kids and table with bridles

## **Borden**

Richland Elementary in San Marcos has a unique connection to Marvin, it is located on Borden Road. Borden Road in turn is named in honor of William Webster Borden, a grand uncle in law to Marvin Sippel though his first wife Lucia Kelly Sippel.

W. W. Borden was the son of Oscar Borden one of the founders of the La Costa Land and Water Company. W.W. was married to Lucia's grand aunt Minnie Kelly. Minnie was the sister of William Sherman Kelly, Lucia's grandfather. Both Minnie and William Sherman were children of Matthew and Emily Kelly, the original homesteaders of Los Kiotes now known as Carrillo Ranch.

W.W. or William Webster and Minnie were married in 1881, and moved to a home in Barham, what is now known as the area near the intersection of San Marcos Blvd and Rancho Santa Fe Road. It was in this home that W.W. and Minnie began their family, of ten children.

W.W. began his newspaper career with the publication of "Our Paper" with the help of William Sherman Kelly. This newspaper, is one of our earliest records of activities in north San Diego County. The newspaper contained information on births, deaths, marriages, land sales, lost animals, who was traveling, and where, establishment, and development of the newly created cities, rain records, and farming information. The newspaper name changed to "Plain Truth" and yet again to "Spirit of Love".

W.W. was a devote Christian, a teacher, an amateur inventor (creating his own printing press) and managed the San Marcos U.S. Post Office.

In 1893, after a house fire, W.W. and Minnie and their children, moved back to Carlsbad, and built a home on Minnie's parcel of land inherited from her Uncle Robert Kelly, owner of the Rancho Agua Hedionda. Minnie and W.W. left many descendants in Carlsbad.



W W Borden and Family

### **California Questers**

Hosted by the combined El Camino Real, Live Oak, and Orange Country Blossoms chapters, the State Council's of the California Questers met in Carlsbad for their "History in Bloom" event. These events "connect California Questers to the rich history of our state through local speakers, displays, and visits to homes and historical locations all over California." On Friday, March 22, more than 35 members toured Magee House and in particular were interested in viewing the restored Twin Inn Guest Registries whose restoration was funded by the El Camino Real Chapter. The California Quester chapters are located throughout the state, and function as an "organization dedicated to the study, conservation and presentation of historical objects for the benefit of today and tomorrow."

## **The Wilson' and the Rawson's written by Jim Wilson**

### **A Brief Family History**

This is a tale of two families. It starts in the mid-19th century, when our father's family, the Wilsons, Henry and Ellen, left Manchester, England arriving in New York City in July 1837. They settled in the New York City, Newark, New Jersey areas.

Our mother's family, the Rawson's, Joseph and Martha (Robinson), left Thorne, England, arriving in New York City in October 1853. The Rawson's did not stop in New York, but continued on to settle in Ontario, Canada.

Henry and Ellen Wilson's eldest, Joseph married Elizabeth Bonnell Sayre in 1854. The Sayre's were in America in 1638, and their family traces to England in 1564. In 1872 Joseph took the big leap and moved to Los Angeles. The family arrived on March 2, 1874, 13 days before the 16th birthday of Roswell Henry (RH), their third born. Oral Family history is that RH saved the seeds from oranges served on board the ship, as he was intent on starting a nursery. In the 1880s RH Wilson was in the nursery business in Duarte, he married Florence Alameda Campbell in 1887, and they moved the Pioneer Nursery to Monrovia in 1895, the year their youngest, Charlie Roswell was born.

The nursery prospered, having sold what has become the celebrated Sierra Madre Wisteria Vine to Alice Brugman for 75 cents in 1894. In 1912 RH sold the Pioneer Nursery to the Monrovia Nursery Company (today Monrovia Growers), moved to Oceanside and in 1913 purchased 60 acres in San Luis Rey, and another 60 acres in Carlsbad. They lived in downtown Oceanside, in a house on Highway 101, while establishing the Oceanside Nursery on the San Luis Rey property. By the flood of 1916 they were living in San Luis Rey. In 1919 they moved to the Carlsbad property and established the Hillcrest Nursery.

The 60 acre property was bounded by Highland Drive on the west, Crest on the east, Buena Vista on the south, and Forest on the north. Their house at 2778 Arland Road still stands.

In 1880, Joseph and Martha Rawson's fifth child, Alexander Kilham Rawson came to California to try his luck in Sacramento, where he was naturalized in 1895. In 1899 Alex returned to Canada to visit his parents and while there married their neighbors daughter, (Annie) Lottie Lawrence. Alex and Lottie returned to California settling at 552 Redfield Avenue in the Hermon district of Los Angeles, where their fourth child Ruth Eleanor was born. Hermon is

on Avenue 60 off the Pasadena freeway in the Arroyo Seco. Alex worked as a lineman for Western Union Company.

In 1925, after a work place injury, Alex Rawson retired, relocating his family to Carlsbad. As lineman for Western Union Telegraph Company he had traveled much of southern California and Arizona, picking Carlsbad as the ideal location for retirement. He bought a few acres on Chestnut Street and planted lemons

In 1925 the Carlsbad Union Church was organized, Charlie Wilson, and Ruth Rawson, were members of the youth group. They were married October 29, 1927. Charlie was a farmer, first he farmed 40 acres in San Luis Rey which belonged to his sister Nellie. When she sold the property at the depth of the depression, he worked at the North Hubbard gold mine in Julian and the Harquahala mine at Salome, Arizona. In the mid-late 1930s and early 1940s he raised grain on rented parcels in the hills of Oceanside, Carlsbad, and Vista.

In 1942 they purchased 160 acres of the Agua Hedionda land grant (now the location of the City of Carlsbad Safety Center) and raised beans and grain for the remainder of his career. Ruth and Charlie raised four sons, James(our author of this piece), Richard and Arthur, twins, born in 1937, and Lewis, born in 1943.

#### FURTHER READING

Above is just a most bare outline of our family's history, much more has been detailed, suggested reading would include: Ruth Wilson, Life History of Ruth Eleanore [sic] Rawson Wilson Ruth Wilson, Life History of Charlie Roswell Wilson Ruth Wilson, Charlie and Ruth Wilson's Days in San Luis Rey Lewis Wilson, Tales of the Wilson Ranch James Wilson, Hold 'er Tight Charlie, in preparation James Wilson, multiple three-ring binders of family.

#### Editors note:

We will be including excerpts from the above mentioned resources in the upcoming Carlsbad Historical Society newsletters with the permission of brothers Jim and Lewis Wilson. Many of these resources are available in the reference section of the Magee House.

#### Rain Records

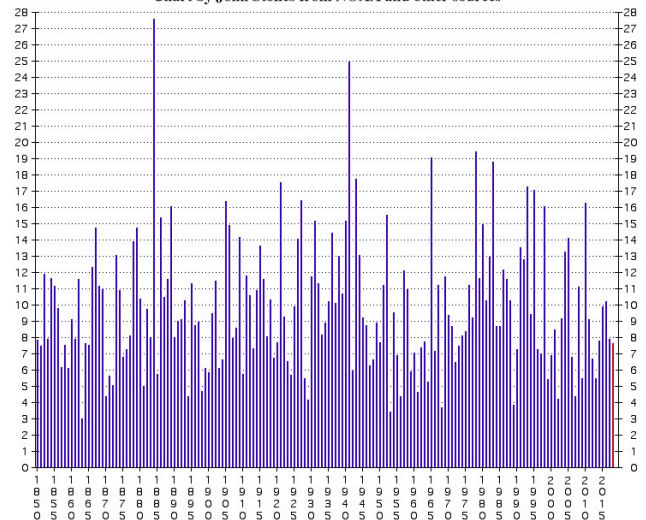
We recently found this San Diego County Rain Record Chart online at this [site](#) with dates from 1850 to 2018. The data was collected from NOAA and other sources by John Stokes. After years of drought and now with a rainy winter

*Carlsbad Time Lines*

behind us, we thought it might be interesting to look back at some historical events that transpired in San Diego County that are reflected by recorded rain amounts listed in this chart. We've chosen three events that stand out from verifiable documentation.

#### *San Diego Annual Rainfall by Calendar Year*

Chart by John Stokes from NOAA and other sources



One of the earliest recorded comments on the rain comes from Elizabeth Kelly, eldest daughter of Matthew and Emily Kelly, homesteaders of Los Kiotes/ Carrillo Ranch. She wrote a recollection of moving to San Diego County in "The Kelly's, 1819-1944" that highlights the significance of rain.

"In 1868 my parents decided to move to San Diego County, Uncle Robert (owner of Rancho Agua Hedionda) was living there, having come with the army in 1851. Father went to San Diego first and was greatly pleased with the country, He returned to Deadwood (northern California Gold Country) with a glowing description of San Diego being a fine cattle country. He visited it in a the spring of a wet year when grass was high. But after we came we had four dry years in succession and it did not seem so much like a good cattle country, I disliked it very much and begged to be allowed to return to Vallejo.(with her Uncle John Kelly and wife)".

When the train connected this area to the rest of California, we had a whopping 25 inches of rain. This was the year that John Frazier sunk wells and discovered a potable source of water for folks, and this in turn spurred the development of the City of Carlsbad. By 1890 drought had struck and we experienced a population loss. This left a small population in the town of Carlsbad and those few ranch families that had been here since the late 1860s.

By 1916 the heavy rainfall caused much flooding. W.W. Borden wrote in his paper, " The January rains, considering their terrible affects on property and loss of lives in the floods must go down in history as the worst on record in this part of the State. Even the unprecedented rains of 1884, when my records made in history by [Richard, Arthur, and Lewis]. San Marcos showed over 36 inches of rainfall, mostly during February and the Spring months, did less damage than was inflicted in this year's storms."

### California First People and the Missions

On February 28th, our president, Susan Schnebelen Gutierrez, presented historical research on the Native Peoples of San Diego County during a lecture at the Carlsbad Senior Center. Sharing archaeological findings from per-and post-Columbia times and using primary source information, Susan spoke of the circumstances that affected the lives of our locale's indigenous people and colonizers. She narrated a slide show that traced history from 12,000 years ago to the mid 1800s. Seasonal migrations of clans (small family groups), their food and shelters, and examples of the disparate languages within the county were all on display. The audience learned of the rise of the Spanish mission system and of the complex social interactions among the native peoples, the soldiers at the Presidio, and the mission Fathers.



*California State Prehistoric Artifact – Chipped Stone Bear*

Special emphasis was given to the trials of mission life and the intermingling of the Native Peoples with the Californios (Spanish-speaking, Catholic persons of Latin American descent born in Alta California) and others. Spain declined as a world power in the early 1800s, Mexico gained control of Alta California, and the California governors dissolved the missions. Land that was to be given back to the native peoples was either sold or given to wealthy families who were living near the missions. One slide even depicted the first generation children of John Magee of New York State and his native wife Castoria who were listed as Native American on census records. The melding of cultures continued.

### Tour by Cub Scout Troop

A Cub Scout Troop had a field trip to Magee House on March 13th. A father accompanied each of the boys. One mother also attended. They were attentive and polite, and were a delight to the docent who gave the tour of the house.

They spent an hour touring the house and barn, and expressed great interest in a number of antique items in the house, asking a number of questions.

They were puzzled by a warming pan on the bed in the west bedroom, until it was explained that the house did not have central heating in the 1890s, and bedding was very cold in winter, initiating the use of coals in a closed pan on a long handle to rub through the sheets to warm the bed.

They were surprised to see a popcorn popper on a long handle used in open fireplaces, along with a washtub and scrubbing board for washing by hand.

The barn excited them, especially the carriage that had belonged to Florence Magee's mother, Mrs. Shipley.

After the visit/tour, they had some paperwork follow-up to complete, which they did at the picnic tables behind Magee House. We hope they will return with other family members for a tour of the house and barn.

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