

**General  
Membership Notice**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the  
month

6:30pm start time

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, May 21st**

12pm to 4pm

Baseball card signing  
with

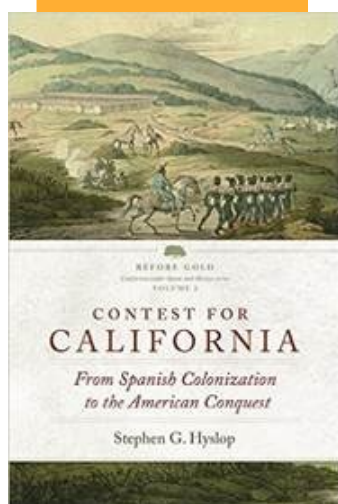
Marge Villa Cryan

**Sunday, June 26th**

12pm to 5pm

Rancho Fiesta Day

(Juan Sanchez's  
birthday)



Book reviewed  
on page 4 of  
newsletter

# Adobe Dust

JUAN MATIAS SANCHEZ  
ADOBE MUSEUM



MAY 2016

## Mother's Day-

## The Domestic Responsibilities and Roles of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Women

May is the month of Mary and Motherhood and we see an appreciation of women everywhere. Mothers Day is celebrated with flowers, candy and kind acts to those who nurtured us and made us who we are. There are working mothers and single mothers who couple the physical and emotional well being of their children as their main responsibility and there are those who remain mainly focused on the domestic aspects of family rather than financial. What has changed over the years is the female role in the workplace and in education and the creation of the career mother as we know of today: the woman who has entered what was once a man's world of external power yet still responsible for the internal dynamics of the home. For a time the term "housewife" meant a level of inferiority to many feminists, as if to exclude the necessity of the matriarchal figure in the home or to view it as less than rewarding because its value could not be assessed in terms of money. What price can we put on a woman's role within the family?

In terms of the civilizing effect women had in 19<sup>th</sup> century America upon the family and men in general was considerable. This is true both for the upper classes and those we call frontier women. The frontier women were the wives of fur trappers, gold miners and farmers. These were the wives of opportunists of all sorts settling in the west. They provided stability for men through the institution of the home. The home was not just a physical place but a moral permanent foundation of the family structure, something viable and safe and non-aggressive. In the words of historian Robert Griswold, "Entrusted with primary child-rearing responsibilities, intent on protecting and enhancing the morality of their families, women's opposition to frontier vice had roots deep within their own perceptions of self, family, and society. To protect morality, to build churches and schools, to see that sons and daughters grew up morally straight, these were important goals." If viewed in this context, the mother can be seen as a primary enforcer in the home, creating a domestic law for spouse and children to follow.

Continued on page 4



# Message from the President

do-cent

noun: docent; plural noun: docents

a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis, in a museum, art gallery, or zoo.

Etymology: late 19th century: via German from Latin docent- 'teaching,' from docere 'teach.'

Every Saturday our docents light the torch and provide an invaluable service by giving tours and sharing the rich history of the Juan Matias Sanchez adobe. It is a forty plus year tradition that started in the early 1970s. This tradition was carried on by Bud and Tom Sanchez, the grandsons of Juan Matias Sanchez, until their deaths. Docents serve as ambassadors for the Montebello Historical Society and the Sanchez adobe by interacting directly with the public. Serving as a docent requires (i) knowledge (ii) good communication skills and (iii) an enjoyment with talking and sharing with others. We docents spend a lot of time together at the adobe arriving late morning and opening the adobe at 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. We raise the flag and set-up on the porch and wait for visitors to arrive. There will be times where we have several visitors and times where we have no visitors. As we wait for visitors, we discuss and share the history of the Sanchez adobe and its residents and the history of Los Angeles and California during the 19th century. More importantly, we learn from each other and our visitors. That said, we will need to look to the future, at some point, for additional docents to carry on the tradition and to keep the Sanchez adobe open to the public. As a reminder, the Sanchez adobe is open every Saturday from 12 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Drop by for a visit.

Thank you, Chris Vargas

## News From Arlene, Membership

We would like to thank our vendors for making the Wine Cheese a success: Freddy Real

Berealart, Terry Garcia Inspired Jewelry, Mary Nykoluk Wise Owl Creations, Yolanda Guzman & Lori Miller.

# The Standard Oil Beacon in Montebello

On April 15, 1928, there was a ceremony to mark the lighting of two revolving aerial navigation beacons mounted on 75 foot towers erected by the Standard Oil Company. They were installed to guide West Coast pilots and they had 10,000,000 candlepower each.

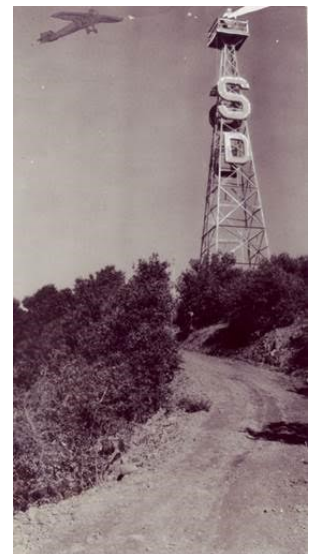
One was placed on top of Mount Diablo, 25 miles southeast of San Francisco. The other was located on the Merced Hills in the Los Angeles basin, just north of Montebello. Charles Lindbergh, in Denver, pressed a button which lit both these beacons at once. They flashed at ten second intervals from then on.

On May 31, 1928, departing from San Diego, Lindbergh was flying to Los Angeles. At 2:00am, flying in the fog and trying to find Los Angeles Airport, Lindbergh spotted the beacon light which had recently been installed in the Merced Hills. Lindbergh believed he was nearing an airfield. Only quick work at the control stick enabled him to avoid crashing into the Hills. He landed safely at the Long Beach Air Field.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 both beacons were turned off so they would not attract enemy aircraft.

In 1964 Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander in Chief of Pacific Forces during World War II, relit the Beacons for the first time since the war and suggested they be lit every December 7th to honor those who served and sacrificed. But a year later the Montebello station was decommissioned and the beacon removed.

The Mount Diablo beacon survives. The Civilian Conservation Corps replaced the tower with a summit building during the years 1939-42 and the beacon underwent an extensive restoration process in 2013 to ensure it continues to shine for many more years.    Written by Jon Reed



## **The Domestic Responsibilities and Roles of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Women—Continued from page 1**

The domestic responsibilities of the higher classes were somewhat different yet essentially the same. The core values of motherhood tend to remain a constant: raising children, protecting, nurturing; however, family honor becomes central to a high class woman's role in the home. The higher classes had status and the wife had to uphold the status of her spouse by exhibiting the attributes of good breeding and refinement. "In light of their high cultural status, wifehood and motherhood were very appealing in comparison to life as an unmarried domestic, seamstress, or laundress." So although the higher classes may have had less freedom publicly it by no means implies that these women were repressed within the home. Many of these women were skilled in art and writing and to some extent philosophy and morality and this is what they taught their children. They could play a musical instrument and excelled in areas which took precision and discipline. While not doing physical chores, she was the master of the house in charge of cooks, maids and the education of her children and her success was demonstrated by her constant authority over the household and how well it functioned.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the home functioned as a basis for the family as we know it today and we still uphold these same values. Our mothers and wives may have entered into what was once a man's world but their domestic value based out of love and loyalty will always remain a priceless gift in any century.

Written by Barbara Garcia-Guzman

### **Contest For California, By Steven G. Hyslop**

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Reviewed by Colin Whipple

This book is a history of California from when the Spanish started their permanent occupation in 1769 to the American takeover in the 1840s. The first part of the book describes the initial Spanish settlements starting in 1769. It is a story of conflict between the Spanish religious leaders, including Junipero Serra and Pedro Font, and the secular leaders, including Gaspar de Portola and Juan de Anza, over the treatment and exploitation of the Indians. The secular leaders were more affected by European Enlightenment ideas than the religious leaders who thought ordinary people, including the Indians, should be submissive towards God and King.

The second part describes the visits of explorers and traders from other countries, such as Jean-Francois de Galup of France and George Vancouver of Great Britain. The first American ship to visit California was the Otter, captained by Ebenezer Dorr. There were a number of smugglers visiting the California coast, seeking sea-otter pelts. The third part of the book tells of increasing numbers of Americans coming overland into California, starting with Jedediah Smith in 1826. Many of these men were seeking beaver pelts but others were permanent settlers, such as William Workman and John Rowland.

The last part of the book is about the American conquest, which was greatly facilitated by superior naval power. John Fremont led several expeditions into the West. The second one took him into California to Sutter's Fort, close to what is now Sacramento. His third expedition, also into California, nearly resulted in a battle with General Jose Castro near Monterey. His fourth, which arrived at Sutter's Fort in December, 1845, found him heavily involved in the takeover of California by the United States. Other American leaders in that were Commodore Robert Stockton and General Stephen Kearney. Kearney later caused Fremont's court-martial for mutiny and disobedience. This book is well-written and offers excellent portraits of men such as Junipero Serra, Johann Sutter, and John Fremont. I learned a lot from it.

Written by Barbara Garcia-Guzman

### **Adobe Dust**