

**General
Membership Notice**

2nd Thursday of the
month

At the

Senior Citizen's
Center

6:30pm start time

**Let's start planning
for our Open House
Christmas Event at
the Adobe**

Adobe Dust

JUAN MATIAS SANCHEZ
ADOBE MUSEUM



OCTOBER 2016

Message From the President—Chris Vargas

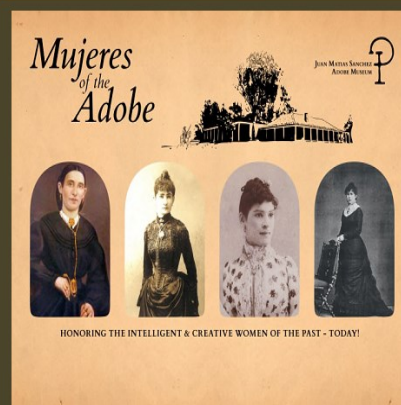
Two Sundays have passed since our Evening in Italy event. The day started off warm and climbed to 100+ degrees by mid-afternoon. Some of our MHS members arrived at 10:30 a.m. to set-up for the event. People started to arrive at around 5:00 p.m. or so. Fortunately, by this time the heat started to taper off and the sun was setting to the west. Our event had a DJ playing music by some of our great Italian-Americans crooners, great food from Salvatore, a silent auction, a raffle for gift cards at a number of local eateries, but, more importantly, we had great people attending and showing their support for our community and MHS.

And we did something different this year—we staged our Evening in Italy event in our own backyard-i.e., the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe! This was a good decision and it was based on the premise that one of our MHS goals is to promote the adobe, its history and preserve the adobe for future generations—and what better venue than our adobe to host an event. Many people I spoke with at the event agreed with this decision. I want to give a big shout out and THANK YOU to Veronica Diaz, Esabel & Jon Reed, Phil Rodriguez, Arlene Sandoval, Carolina Ibarra-Mendoza, the Feldman's and their family, Kathy Rabago, Tom Dutcher and Barbara Garcia for playing a big part in making this event successful.

Thank you and persevere.

—Chris Vargas

Coming Event! The Montebello Historical Society is proud to announce a new exhibit. We are planning a new exhibit focused on the Mujeres of the Adobe.



We are planning a new exhibit focused on the Mujeres of the Adobe. Visual displays of the key women of the Sanchez Adobe will be accompanied by biographies and a narrative about women's roles in the Latina society of 19th century southern California.

The Scott Family

After volunteering for 2 years at the Juan Mathias Sanchez adobe, I started looking into the architecture of the adobe. There were three different configurations of the adobe.

The Dona Lobo original three rooms; Juan Matias Sanchez 1850 addition making the adobe L shape; and finally William B. Scott 1915-1920 upgrades with "what a porch!"

Looking at the old photographs, it was amazing to see how large the porch was and it covered all sides of the adobe. It was huge and made all sides of the adobe cool.

William Benjamin Scott was born November 15, 1868 in Warrensburg, Missouri, he started out as a carpenter and then as an oil rig builder's helper coming out to central California building rigs for the Union Oil Company. In June 1894, William B. Scott moved to Los Angeles building rigs for the early Los Angeles oil companies. He took over drilling operations for many of these companies and soon started his own independent drilling contract work.

On June 24, 1896, he married Luna Mentora Hardison (b. January 31, 1869, d. July 05, 1925) and her family was in the oil business, Union Oil Company. They has two children, William Keith (b. March 05, 1904, Los Angeles, CA., d. date unknown) and Josephine (b. October 21, 1901, Los Angeles, CA, d. September. 21, 1988, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale).

In 1898, William with his brother-in-law and Wallace Hardison, who was Union Oil Company president, started a new company called the Columbia Oil Company. Hardison served president and Scott as vice-president. In May 1900, the company reorganized under a new name, Columbia Oil Producing Company with \$1,000,000 in capital and with 1,050 acres of purchased land, 3,600 acres of mineral rights and about 200 leased acres at Brea Canyon, Olinda and the Puente Hills.

With his new found fortune in 1915, William purchased the Sanchez adobe ranch. In the following years he started rebuilding on old adobe and modernizing the structure but keeping the original walls. He added rooms, fire places and a second story floor including 8 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. He also added a concert foundation, steps, hand rails and ivy. Inside there were murals of old California missions and portraits of Father Serra. He added ornate wooden ceiling beams and paintings. He made the old watering trough into beautiful fountain. He enlarged the porch which ran all away around the adobe. There were plans for a large ornate arch over the driveway. It became known as the Scott Adobe and some called it the Mansion.

On April, 27 1920, 51-year old William suffered a heart attack at his home west of downtown Los Angeles and was buried at Inglewood Memorial Cemetery. Scott's widow, Luna, then created the W.B. Scott Investment Company in 1924 to manage the estate, but Luna passed away the following year. Her two children, William Keith and Josephine, became heirs to a wealthy fortune. Josephine attended Stanford University and then married Roy Palmenter Crocker.

They had a double wedding with one her sorority sister on August 20, 1932 at the Scott Adobe Mansion. Roy was an attorney and later became the president of Lincoln Savings and Loan from 1921 to 1969. They had three children, Donald Wilson Crocker, Benjamin Scott Crocker and Steven Hardison Crocker. Her brother Keith would use the adobe as a resident but by 1957 Keith sold off his interest of the rancho for residential development. The mansion was abandoned for years. Locals called it haunted.

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Midwives in 19th Century America

The practice of midwifery was commonplace in 19th century America . According to the article posted in History of American Women entitled “19th Century Midwives” they not only delivered babies but “helped deliver the offspring of animals, attended the baptisms and burials of infants, and testified in cases of bastardy.” It is recorded that in many cases an unwed mother would cry out the name of the father while experiencing the pains of labor. This became grounds for trying to bring the man to court to assume legal status as biological father. Now we have a simple DNA test to prove that.

Most midwives were older women who had practical experience in delivering babies. The more experienced, the better. They administered no painkillers except alcohol. Women from the upper classes would commonly spend three to four weeks in bed after birthing a baby while women of poor families would be back to work in a couple of days. Now many doctors would agree an uncomplicated birth should allow a mother to be up and about in a few days rather than have her confined to her bed for an extended period.

Abortions although immoral and illegal, were still common. “It is estimated that in the 1840s, one in every thirty pregnancies was terminated by abortion. Methods ranged from surgery, poisons, home remedies from plants and herbs, and mechanical means such as striking the woman’s abdomen repeatedly.” Aside from the fact that these methods were inhumane, they were also a great danger for the mother. If a daughter from a wealthy family became pregnant out of wedlock, many times she was sent off to live with other family relations until she had the child. The child was often raised by others and not until adulthood did the child find out his/her true parents. Sometimes out of remorse a parent would confess this information. There are stories of how a “kind lady” would come to visit one’s mother and bring gifts to the child, when in fact this visitor was the real mother.

Midwives were also valued due to modesty. Most women did not want a male midwife or even a male doctor viewing them. Men would deliver babies by reaching under the woman’s skirt with his head turned away. It was not until later when medical practices were established in hospitals that this trend changed. Many doctors used forceps to tug the child through forcibly causing birth defects and brain injuries. Many children suffered mild mental retardation and disfigurement as a result. Until medical practices were widely accepted many women relied on the expertise of the midwife. In fact, today we see a trend in licensed midwifery as an alternative to hospital births. Now with proper training, midwives can assist at homes and provide emergency care if needed.

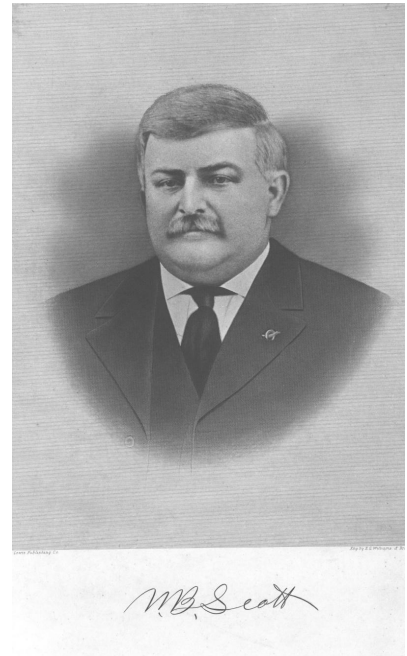
Barbara Garcia-Guzman

The Scott Family Continued From Page 2

In the mid-1960s, hippies started hanging around and living in the old escape tunnel under the adobe. By the late 1960s the adobe became an eye sore. The City of Montebello contacted Josephine Scott Crocker and asked what she was planning to do with the adobe. Josephine decided to donate the adobe to the City of Montebello in 1972. Josephine hired an architect and paid for the restoration of the adobe back to its 1850-1860s Juan Matias Sanchez appearance. The adobe became a local historic site and museum.

The Montebello Historical Society ("MHS") was formed to operate the museum with volunteers. Today the MHS is working hard to get the site recognized as a California State Historical Landmark.

Jon Reed



Where Did All the Palm Trees Come From?

Once, while visiting the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe, I was asked if the cluster of 50 foot + tall palm trees that enhance the grounds, are native to this area. I wasn't sure. I mean; daily I see palm trees of many sizes, colors and shapes as I drive our Southern California streets and freeways. Yet, in 1957, historian, Thomas Workman Temple II, who was commissioned by the Scott Family to write a historical report dealing with the Sanchez adobe property that they now owned, wrote about a palm tree. He said it was planted in the patio at the neighboring adobe home of Sanchez's friend, and joint owner of the Rancho La Merced, FPF Temple, to celebrate the christening of his new baby daughter, Lucinda Amada Temple. TWTII refers to the palm as a "famed landmark" that stood where the house was until the late 1940's. Interestingly enough, the museum archives of Rancho La Puente's, Workman and Temple Family Museum, contains an 1870s photograph outside the Temple home that features a palm tree with family members standing out in front of it. Additionally, I've been told that this palm tree became a long distance identifying marker along the river's edge to locate FPF Temple's home. OK. At this point the question is begged; why would a palm tree stick out as an identifier in an area where there are so many palm trees, unless they were not growing here at that time?

As it turns out, only one palm tree is native to Southern California; *Washingtonia filifera*, the California fan palm. This tree only naturally occurs in California desert oasis areas like Palm [Springs](#). The palms we have at the Sanchez Adobe are *Washingtonia filifera*'s extremely close cousin from across the border, and almost look-alike; *Washingtonia robusta*, the Mexican fan palm. The main differences between the two palms is *filifera* has a thicker trunk, has a tendency to grow straight, rather than straight to slightly curving, and it grows slower, and stands shorter than its South of the Border cousin, *robusta* does.

So, where did all our Southern California palm trees come from? According to Nathan Masters in a *KCET 12/7/11* article I read, the original palm tree transplants were brought in by 18th century Franciscan missionaries, as probably a familiar symbol of the tree's Biblical associations. For example, Palm Sunday would be one of those associations. Later, in the early 20th century, palm trees came into vogue as a Southern California status symbol, and many exotic palm varieties were brought in to grace avenues of grand homes and help showcase wealth.

Later still, the Los Angeles area helped sell itself as an exotic, movie-making, Mediterranean climate destination for the 1932 Olympic Games by planting more than 25,000 palm trees as part of a city-wide beautification project. And the rest is history.

Now, so many years later, we LA locals have grown up living in a city of palm trees. Very few of us now remember when they were considered a novelty to be flaunted and have a photograph taken standing out in front of. So it is today, if you were to ask someone from another state or country to describe Los Angeles, I'm sure their description would include warm weather, blue skies, beaches, our city buildings, and of course; palm trees. LOTS of palm trees.

Gail Feldman, MHS and Sanchez family member

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