



Alba School
Photo by author, 2007

**THE FOUNDING OF BEN LOMOND, A MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY:
A HISTORY OF ALBA SCHOOL AND ITS DISTRICT**

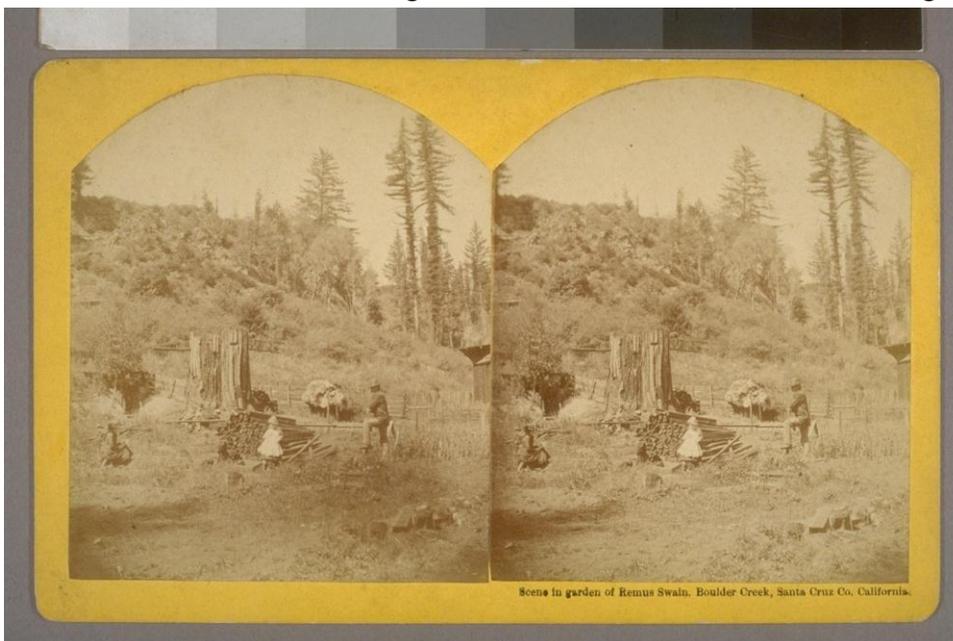
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Preface

Alba School is in Ben Lomond, founded in 1895. It is located on the forested slopes of the Ben Lomond Mountains in the San Lorenzo Valley of Santa Cruz County. In this area, annual average rainfall can measure between 60 and 80 inches per year. In this type of climate very few wooden structures last for long, unless there is a lot of on-going maintenance. Alba School still exists. It is one of the original San Lorenzo Valley buildings. It is not a decrepit building barely clinging to life as one would think after 118 years of history; it is in excellent condition. Then as now, Alba School provides a place of community in an area where road access can be cut off by tree falls and slides. It is the people in the surrounding area who have lovingly kept it going all these years, generation after generation. In today's world of broader communities, Alba School keeps it local. This history will show why this much-loved institution is unique.

Introduction

With the end of the Gold Rush, people in California sought new ways of earning a living. The rich resources of the Santa Cruz area, such as lime and lumber offered opportunities to people willing to work hard to establish themselves. The San Lorenzo Valley, among other locations in the Santa Cruz Mountains, contained huge groves of original growth redwood trees. This valley, situated in a protected fold between the Ben Lomond Mountains on the west, and the Santa Cruz Mountains on the east, had been sheltering these trees for thousands of years. As the push for more lumber crept up the valley from the south, the hills were slowly decimated of trees until mostly stumps were left. Photos of the valley from the turn of the century show barren hills. This seems shocking now that the hills are abundant with new growth.



This image from 1874 Boulder Creek shows how the hills were stripped of their timber. Photo from Online Archive of California.

The Founding of Ben Lomond

After the survey of land completed by the U. S. Government in 1868, it was opened up for sale. James Pierce and I. T. Bloom among other lumbermen of the era, purchased vast acreage of the land in the area of Ben Lomond Mountain. After the land was cleared of timber, it was sold to farmers.

In addition to the cutting of redwood trees for lumber, other native trees such as Douglas fir and madrone were used to feed the lime kilns in nearby Felton. Lime was in high demand for use in the manufacture of mortar and cement, and the lime found in the Santa Cruz area was of excellent quality. Tan bark oak was also used by the tannery on the San Lorenzo River in Felton, creating a unique color for tanning leather, Santa Cruz Tan. Charcoal was also made from these woods and was used in the manufacture of explosive gunpowder at the California Powder Works at the foot of the Santa Cruz Mountains in Santa Cruz.

At first, logging was done in areas easily reached by the few roads that existed. But as this timber was cut, new roads were constructed. Many times these roads were temporary, such as the skid roads used to bring the logs down to the sawmills located on the San Lorenzo River. On skid roads, logs were placed across the path of the road, making it easy for oxen to drag the logs over the "skid" road. Then came the era of steam donkeys. They were large engines, which replaced oxen in dragging the logs down from the hills.



Photo courtesy of the San Lorenzo Valley History Museum

Hastening the cutting of timber in the San Lorenzo River Valley was the construction of a railroad between Felton and Boulder Creek. The area around Felton had been a tourist area and major lumber mill area since the 1860's. The finished products of the mills located on Zayante Creek, at Olympia, Pacific Mills, and other mills further up the valley ended up in Felton for

shipment out on Graham Hill Road to Santa Cruz. Prior to November, 1875¹ an open water-powered flume had served to bring the lumber down from the northern end of the San Lorenzo Valley. But beginning on November 4, rail service began from Felton to Santa Cruz. This was a more efficient way to transport the lumber down to Santa Cruz. A huge area still exists in Felton near the train where the lumber was stockpiled for shipment. It is now owned by the Lumbermen's store.

In May of 1880, train service began on the South Pacific Coast's railroad line from Alameda south to Santa Cruz, via Felton². This would have a major impact on San Lorenzo Valley. Now it was possible to ship not only the various products of the San Lorenzo Valley out to the San Francisco Bay Area, but to bring tourists in see the famous original growth redwoods at Big Trees Resort, in Felton. Many more people were introduced to the beauty of the San Lorenzo Valley.



Photo Courtesy of the San Lorenzo Valley History Museum

By the end of the 1883-84 rainy season, the route between Boulder Creek and Felton had been selected and secured for the new South Pacific Coast Railroad. On April 28, 1885, railroad service began from Felton to Boulder Creek³. This further hastened the development at the northern end of the valley's development. Now wood could be shipped out more quickly and economically to both Santa Cruz and the San Francisco Bay Area.

¹ California Central Coast Railways, Rick Hamman, 1980

² California Central Coast Railways, Rick Hamman, 1980

³ California Central Coast Railways, Rick Hamman, 1980

The town of Ben Lomond began life as Pacific Mills. Pacific Mills itself was located where present-day Mill Street is, on the east bank of the San Lorenzo River. Pacific Mills operated for 10 years, between 1877 and 1887⁴, and along with the mills located on Love Creek and Newall Creek the mills were responsible for the denuding of the surrounding area. In those early days, the settlement of Pacific Mills was very much a company town. Facilities such as hotels, rooming houses, and saloons were built to serve the lumbermen.

Pacific Mills was owned by James Pieronnet Pierce. Pierce migrated to California in 1854. He first began his career in mining, then saw the potential of banking and railroads, services important to a developing community. He was the first owner of the Pacific Avenue Railroad company, a horsecar line in Santa Cruz which began in 1877. He also owned a manufacturing company in Santa Clara. With the railroad now functioning between Pacific Mills and the San Francisco Bay Area, Pierce shipped the milled lumber from his mill in Ben Lomond to his Pacific Manufacturing Company, and the lumber went into products such as coffins, windows and doors⁵.

With the wood in the surrounding hills largely cut down by 1887, a meeting of the area's residents was called to discuss changing Pacific Mills into a town. One of the first things a new town needed was a post office. The U. S. Post Office turned down the name of "Pacific Mills" suggested as the town's name because confusion would result in a town named "Pacific Mills" due to all of the other places named either "Pacific" or "Mills". Pierce then called another meeting of the community to decide upon a name. When "Ben Lomond" was suggested, after the name of the mountain chain, all agreed that it suited the area⁶. Some of the mill buildings were converted into businesses and residences. One of these buildings, the current home of Sew Rose, at the south corner of Mill St. and Highway 9, began life in 1900 as the Hessey Building, and was formerly a meat market, a mercantile store, a phone company, and the photography studio of Fredda Car⁷. Streets were laid out, trees planted, and businesses started.⁸



Mill Street,
Ben Lomond.
Date unknown
but possibly
1910-1912.
Courtesy of
the San
Lorenzo Valley
History
Museum.

⁴ Santa Cruz County Place Names, Donald Thomas Clark, 2008 ed.

⁵ Santa Cruz County Place Names, Donald Thomas Clark, 2008 ed.

⁶ i Santa Cruz County Place Names, Donald Thomas Clark, 2008 ed.

⁷ From a Historic tour along Highway 9 visits Ben Lomond, Brookdale, by Robin Hutchings, Valley Press, May 5, 1982,

⁸ Please see Appendix B for a map of downtown Ben Lomond in 1908

Two years later, in 1889, James Pierce built the Hotel Ben Lomond, the first of three large hotels in Ben Lomond. The Hotel Rowardennan followed in 1895, and the Dickenson Hotel was built in 1914. See Appendix B for a map of early Ben Lomond.



Postcard photo Courtesy of the Santa Cruz Public Library Local History Gallery

By 1890 the timber was gone from Ben Lomond and the town had turned into a well-known resort town

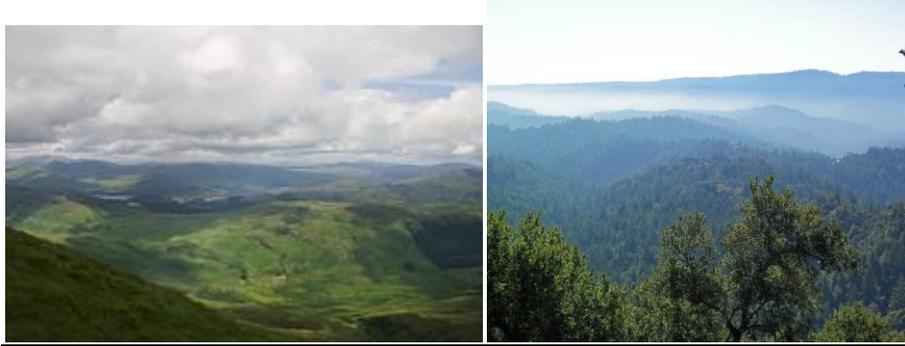
Early settlement of the Alba Road area

The first settlers in the Alba District were the Burns family. John Burns was the first person to plant a vineyard outside the Santa Cruz Mission in Santa Cruz County. His vineyard stretched along the west side of Empire Grade, opposite from the eventual route of Alba Road. He and his family left Scotland in 1852 for Canada. In 1862⁹ John and his son, Thomas, left eastern Canada, and came to California by the way of the Isthmus of Panama. On that trip, Thomas celebrated his 17th birthday. As a treat, John went ashore and bought oranges and bananas, and other fruit for his son. On the boat again, the crew and passengers helped Thomas celebrate by singing Scottish songs, including "Old Lang Syne". They arrived in San Francisco in October of 1862 and from there came to Santa Cruz. They got work at the old Glassal mill, which was situated on San Vicente Creek, near Davenport. Looking up at the ridge above him, John thought of the Ben Lomond Mountains in Scotland, and how much the mountains before him resembled them. In fact, the Burns' were so pleased with the mountains now called Ben Lomond, they took up approximately 170 acres of land along the top of the ridge¹⁰. John Burns was also responsible for

⁹ Donald Clark's Santa Cruz County Place Names, 2008, has John Burns arriving in 1852. However, a letter from daughter Charlotte Grinnell to her sister Nellie Patrick states that John and Thomas arrived in 1862.

¹⁰ Santa Cruz Sentinel Jan 12 1884, 8:5

naming nearby Bonny Doon. Thus began the naming of other area locations with Scottish words such as Loch Lomond, Brook Lomond, and Breamore.



Ben Lomond Mountains, Scotland. Photo from Visitscotland.com Ben Lomond Mountains, California (far ridge)
Photo courtesy of Chelsea Rumford

Several years after arriving on Ben Lomond Mountain, John Burns sent for the rest of the family from Canada to live on his acquired acres. The first vineyard outside of the Santa Cruz Mission was planted by the Burns family. In 1884, as many as 2000 gallons of wine were produced from the Burns vineyard¹¹. Later, it was absorbed by the Ben Lomond Winery and was famous for the excellent quality of wine produced. The Burns family also had cattle on their ranch. John Burns died on his beloved mountain, and is buried in the International Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery in Santa Cruz.



Margaret and John Burns, photograph courtesy of the Ben Lomond Library.

It wasn't easy being a pioneer. In 1972 a UCSC student named James Doan interviewed Thomas Burns' daughters (John's granddaughters) Flora Bell Gibson, Mrs. J. B. Chandler (granddaughter to Thomas), Margery Burns Lozier, and Nellie Burns Patrick, as well as others in the Alba

¹¹ Santa Cruz Sentinel Jan 12 1884, 8:5

District¹². They told him about “bear trees”. These oak trees would be fitted with a seat fashioned out of a board placed in the yoke of the tree. The older residents would sit and watch for bears. One night, John Burns heard rustling in the bushes. He shot and was sure he had killed the bear. The next morning though, he discovered that it was his hog he shot and not the bear. The Burns’ also described fending off rattlesnakes, which infested the area west of Empire Grade. Later, when Alba School opened up, several of Thomas’s children attended the school.

Ben Lomond became known for fruit other than grapes. Orchards of apples, peaches and plums were planted, and the fruit consistently won first prizes in fair competitions before Watsonville became the county’s center of fruit growing¹³. Later, crops such as strawberries were planted as the photo shows below.

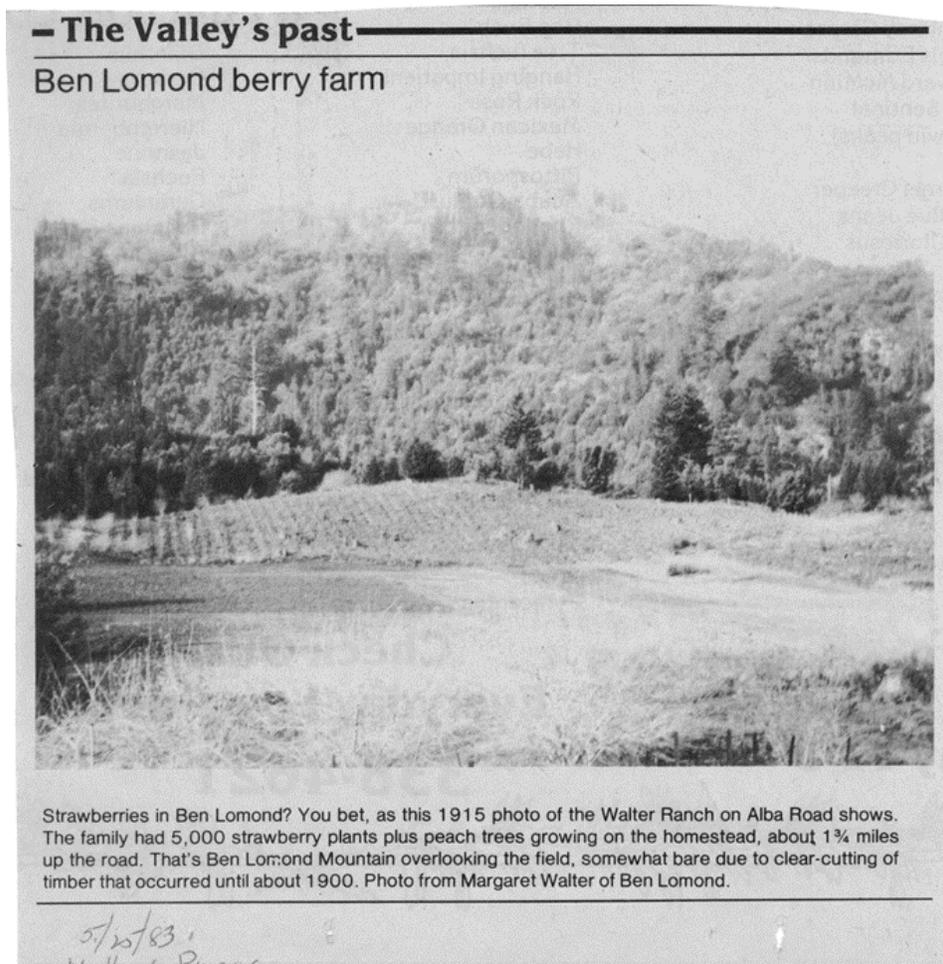


Photo of newspaper clipping courtesy of the San Lorenzo Valley History Museum, from the Valley Press May 25, 1983.

Stoddard Road, later renamed Alba Road, was constructed in 1887¹⁴. The new road was 3 1/8 miles in length, and built at a grade that “will enable a six-horse team to haul 2,000 feet of

¹² Doan was working on an Anthropology 121 class project which involved studying how communities of people of divergent backgrounds interacted. See bibliography for more information.

¹³ May 5, 1978, THE LOG, a newspaper published in Ben Lomond by Mike Doyle. Quoted in San Lorenzo Valley, Gem of the Mountains, by Faye Ellis, 1987. MAH; UCSC Special Collections

¹⁴ Santa Cruz Daily Surf, Feb 3, 1887 3:5

lumber at a load up the mountain. It will be from nine to eleven feet in width and well provided with turnouts. This enterprise is mainly due to J. P. Pierce of the Pacific Mills and J. F. Coope of the Ben Lomond vineyard Company. The citizens on Ben Lomond have also taken an interest in the work and when completed in first-class shape it will be tendered to the county for a public highway. This road will put the whole of the Ben Lomond mountain country, which contains some of the finest fruit land in this county within from three to five miles of a railroad station and post office, telegraph and express facilities, and we predict that a 'right smart' village will grow up about Pacific Mills. The future of that section of the county will someday astonish the most sanguine 'boomer'"¹⁵. Although still very steep (10%), the original grade was in excess of 10% grade. There was a lumber mill on Stoddard Road at the junction of Western Ave., as well as a lumber mill at the foot of Stoddard Road to process the logs brought down the mountain side.

Stoddard Rd. left Empire Grade at now-Lower Summit Road, and descended very quickly down the eastern face of Ben Lomond Mountain, to the lumber mill and other places of business in Ben Lomond. Directly opposite Lower Summit Road is a row of Douglas Fir trees running alongside Empire Grade which were planted by John Burns.¹⁶



Douglas Fir Trees planted by John Burns. Trees are opposite Summit Drive on Empire Grade. Photo by author.

Stoddard Road was so steep that occasionally driverless wagons would be found in Ben Lomond or Boulder Creek, the drivers having fallen from the wagon. There was one death, and several injuries of the men who had tumbled from these wagons. The drivers learned to tie themselves to the wagon to avoid toppling overhead first¹⁷. Stoddard Road, after being renamed to Alba Road in 1895, was later realigned to today's route, but the original road can still be seen at the trailhead to the Fall Creek Unit of Henry Cowell Redwood State Park from Summit Road and Empire Grade. It rejoins Alba Road., .6 of a mile northwest of the School.

¹⁵Santa Cruz Daily Surf, Feb 3, 1887 3:5

¹⁶ See pg. 12 of Appendix D

¹⁷ Santa Cruz Daily Surf, Feb 3, 1887 3:5



Old Alba Road from lower Summit Rd. off Empe Grade Road. Part of the upper old Alba Rd. is now a trail In Fall Creek Park, part of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Photo by author.

In 1892 the residents of Stoddard Road signed a petition to ask that the County take over “ownership” of the road¹⁸. Those signing the petition were:

Ben Lomond Co	J. F. Cooper
S.(?) Blodgett	J. W. Denison
B. F. Waldo	Peter Peterson
L. H. Comstock	Henry Smith
A.M. Stoddard	E. R. Herbert Stoddard
Walter Rose	N. (?) E. (?) Rushton
George Cooper	The IXL Lime Co.
Ben Lomond Land & Lumber Co.	David Jones
? ? Drake	S. F. Van Winkle
Joseph Rossi	Thom Cooper (?)
William Crooks	H. Blantha?lingen
Levi Smith	A.H. Fitch
G. L. Fitch	

Privately held roads such as Stoddard were commonly “given” to the County when the residents could no longer afford to maintain them. When petitions such as this one arrived at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, a group of “viewers” were sent out to assess the condition of the road. When the petition concerning Stoddard Road was received at the County, the viewers agreed that the County would take over the road. The viewers report stated that the road began at the San Lorenzo Road to Boulder Creek, opposite the saloon of Thomas Peterson. This saloon was strategically located at the base of Stoddard Road, probably to fortify those who were going

¹⁸ Stoddard Road viewers report, available at the Santa Cruz County Public Works dept.

up the road, or perhaps to celebrate those having made it down the road. James Pierce stated in the Viewers Report that the road had been constructed at a cost of \$2500.

In October, 1894, D. R. Guichard , accompanied by his brother Leopold, left their family homes in New Orleans. D. R was searching for better health in California¹⁹. D.R. had been given a letter of introduction to Wesley Fanning, described as an old timer in Santa Cruz County. Fanning drove Guichard into the Ben Lomond area, and D. R. Guichard bought 40 acres from Fanning. Fanning Grade, a private road off Hubbard Gulch, was named after him. Fanning owned acreage adjoining the land Guichard purchased. After the hillsides had been cleared of trees, Guichard purchased the land for \$.50 per acre²⁰. By 1895, D. R. Guichard, with help from the neighbors, had built a log cabin on his property. He sent for his family.

The D. R. Guichard family left home in New Orleans in June of 1895. There were seven children. They traveled by train to California. The family traveled with seven children on a dusty train for several days, during the hot, humid summer.



Photograph of second home of the Guichard family on Alba Road, 1908. Louise Althee Guichard, D. R. Guichard, Rudolph Guichard, unknown. Photograph courtesy of Mary Claire Caron, Guichard descendent.

The Founding of Alba School

D. R. Guichard had already started lobbying in 1894 for a school closer to home than Ben Lomond School on Newell Creek²¹, in Ben Lomond. At a time when roads were not paved, and often made impassable by wet weather, traveling the distance of approximately 3 miles to school in Ben Lomond was not practical. At first, the County Superintendent, John W. Linscott

¹⁹ The Little Red School House & Alba District, from an account of Odessa J. Guichard, Alba School Archives.

²⁰ See the account of Odessa J. Guichard Gilson Ryan, in the Alba School Archives. 1968

²¹ Where Grizzlies Roamed the Canyons, Nancy McCarthy, 1994

balked at putting a school in so remote a location as 2 miles up Stoddard Road, but D. R. bet him a chicken dinner if he walked the distance to the Guichard property from Newell School. Linscott did not walk the distance. He took a horse and buggy. But as he ate his chicken dinner, he was immediately convinced of the wisdom of a school at the Alba location²². It is easy to understand Linscott's hesitation; with 67 schools in the county at the turn of the century, 46 of them one-teacher schools²³, care had to be taken when approving another school. However, both D. R. Guichard and Linscott were probably aware that children would not attend school if they lived in out-of-way places with no transportation, or were needed at home to assist during crop times.²⁴



John W. Linscott became County Superintendent of Schools in 1885, and served for more than 20 years. Altogether he spent 55 years in the field of education--50 of them in Santa Cruz County. A school in Watsonville is named after him.

Photograph and caption from "Going to School in Santa Cruz County, A History of the County's Public School System" by Margaret Koch, 1978.

Alba was the name of the youngest daughter of Joseph Rossi, who had resided on Alba Road (Stoddard Road) since purchasing his property on December 19, 1890. He had emigrated from Italy in 1869. He and his wife, Sarah Jane, were the original owners of the Rossi fruit farm. He had first cleared the land of redwood trees, and then planted vines and fruit trees. Alba was born in November, 1888, and was one of the first pupils at the school²⁵. Prior to the arrival of the Guichard children, the four Rossi children had gone down the mountain to Ben Lomond School. With the arrival of the Guichards, it became more practical to bring the school to the children, rather than the children to the school. In addition to the seven Guichard children who

²² Alba School archives.

²³ Going to School in Santa Cruz County, Margaret Koch, 1978 p.45

²⁴ Going to School in Santa Cruz County by Margaret Koch, 1978 p. 23

²⁵ Biography of Joseph Rossi, Alba School Archives

started school on the first day, there were three more to follow later.



Joseph Rossi



D. R. Guichard

At the first official meeting of the neighbors, now named the Alba District, plans were discussed, and names were submitted to the Superintendent's office as prospective trustees. On July 6, 1895 the first meeting of trustees A. Ruff, Joseph Rossi, and D. R. Guichard was called to order. According to the account recorded in the first minute book of the Alba District:

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Mr. A. Ruff. Present Messers A. Ruff, Jos. Rossi and D. R. GuichaRoad According to credentials, Ruff's term to expire in two years, Jos. Rossi in three years and D. R. Guichard in one year.

D. R. Guichard was elected Clerk of Alba School District of one year.

Resolved to accept contributions from citizens for the site and materials to erect a school house for the district.

Adjourned subject to call.

D. R. Guichard (Clerk of the District)

One of the first decisions was to draw an order on the treasury to purchase a secretary's book for \$.30. The treasury was contributed to each week by the residents. This journal was used to record the minutes of each monthly meeting of the District. Although there are gaps in the records, such as the gap between September, 1904 and September, 1911, minutes were faithfully recorded over the years. The same composition book was used until it was full, even after large gaps in time; one as long as 15 years. One can imagine the careful selection of the secretary whose handwriting and sense of propriety would be adequate to the job (and not all

were – one secretary was elected at the annual election, but quickly resigned). It is due to the retention and care of these books over the years that the history of Alba School has been documented. Unfortunately, however, there are other large gaps due to the theft in the early 1980's of a metal voting box that contained the pupil's school records, and the journals and minute books covering 1939 through 1954. There are also no photographs during these years, and those of succeeding years until the 1980's. Also missing are complete rosters of school children.

D. R. Guichard had offered land to build the school but the location, being further down the mountainside, was deemed too near that of Ben Lomond School. The site further up the mountain was adopted.

By all accounts, James Brooks donated the property that Alba School sits on. However, in a newspaper article dated around 1960-1970 in the Alba School Archives (date and source unknown), it states that "Maurice Roulet, who then owned the property, deeded library rights in an attempt to preserve the building as a community service center of some sort. And the schoolhouse has remained in that status ever since." The San Lorenzo Valley School District is now the owner of the property.

The neighbors banded together to "raise the school" in the time-honored tradition of barn-raising. One can imagine the hampers stuffed with food to feed the workers. People in the area contributed whatever they could to the effort. Some donated cash, some contributed labor. The local lumber company, Pacific Mills, offered to wait on the bill for the lumber, as did local stores for such materials as nails, fixtures. Four blackboards were nailed up in the school house. Because some of the lumber used was still green when the school was built, the school children later helped chink the gaps in the walls with Woodwardia ferns.

One-room schoolhouses of this period generally had two entrances and two cloak rooms, one for the girls and one for the boys, although Alba School did not.



Notice the two entrances to Sequoia School in Boulder Creek, which later became an addition to Alba School .
Photo courtesy of the San Lorenzo Valley History Museum.

One-room school house structures were put up by local craftspeople who were influenced by the styles of the period²⁶. D. R. Guichard was listed as both the architect and the builder according to the Historical Landmarks Survey Form from the Santa Cruz County Society for Historical Preservation. One-room schoolhouses did not always have education as their sole consideration. Often, the structures served dual or triple roles in the community. Certainly that was true of Alba School. The first journal entry on August 11, 1895 begins, “Alba Union Sunday School”, a non-sectarian school. Sunday school was held at 3:00 p.m. each Sunday. Later on, the community surrounding the school would become a social club, a road-improvement club, and a community center as it is today. It has always morphed to suit the needs of the time.

Care had to be taken when orienting the school to maximize the amount of light coming in through the windows²⁷. This is certainly true of Alba School, because the building faces due south. The windows along the both sides of the structure are oriented directly East and West. Although this seems unimportant now that the lights can be switched on, there was no electricity at the school until 1932. The lack of tall trees in the immediate vicinity at that time helped with the light situation too.

²⁶ The One-Room Schoolhouse, A Tribute to a Beloved National Icon, Paul Rocheleau, 2003

²⁷ The One-Room Schoolhouse, A Tribute to a Beloved National Icon, Paul Rocheleau, 2003



First row: Nellie Burns, Odessa Guichard, Mai Guichard Back row: Margie Burns, Altheé Guichard (teacher), Frank Walter, Waldo Guichard, Elias Silvey, Donald Burns . Photo courtesy Lorenzo Valley History Museum.

The first teacher, Miss Josephine Holyer was hired at the rate of \$50 per month. She was described as a very efficient and enterprising individual. The school was ready to open by August 12, 1895, and by September 9th, she had a full academic program in place.

On September 27, 1895, the other Guichard family, that of Leopold and his wife, Maria Theresa left New Orleans. The Guichard brothers had each married a Tiac sister. One of the Leopold Guichard children, Leonide, documented their journey by train to Oakland. She was sixteen at the time of the trip:

Leaving Louisiana we passed through beautiful swamps....After leaving Houston, Loulou and I were taken ill, just like sea-sickness. We passed through a number of small towns reaching San Antonio at eight o'clock Sunday Morning... Nothing worth mentioning was passed that evening so we retired. At five o'clock A. M. we were awakened by a crash. My sister was thrown into the window panes, while mother and I who slept in the opposite berths were almost thrown to the floor. We immediately looked out the window and beheld the engine in fragment up an incline. The train engineer was dug out from the debris bleeding and dying while the fireman was found bruised and scalded.

She goes on to say that the engineer died, and they almost got hit by the train that came to rescue them. However, further catastrophe was averted when they realized that the train wouldn't see them because it was around a bend. They sent someone to flag the train, telling it to stop before it rounded the bend and plowed into the stopped train. The "fallen foe" was so badly wrecked that each passenger was able to take a piece of it in remembrance of their

narrow escape.

We only crossed a bridge from Yuma and we entered California. Several beautiful places were passed before we entered the city of Los Angeles, at eleven o'clock. A number of our acquaintances left us there. We traveled on, passing Colton, Niles and other places one of which was the beautiful Alameda. When we neared Oakland, oh how we jumped for joy. The bay looked beautiful as the sun had just set. Papa met us there and we crossed the bay by ferry....I thought San Francisco was too noisy. The next morning, (Thursday) we recrossed the bay and took the early train for Ben Lomond. We passed many beautiful places and buildings, among them Agnews Insane Asylum. San Jose is a wide awake little city. We also passed through tunnels which the little ones did not like as we had already passed so many on our way to San Francisco.

After changing cars at Felton a few minutes ride brought us to Ben Lomond, where Mr. Smith awaited us with a vehicle. We had to go several miles up a mountain that was carpeted with wild flowers and ferns. Altheé and all the other cousins had come to meet us a short distance from home so I got down and walked with them to our new home which pleased us very much.

This story of the family trip was written shortly after they arrived in Ben Lomond. She was the fifth child of sixteen born to Joseph Leopold and Maria Theresa Guichard. She married in 1904, had two children, and died at age 27 of ptomaine poisoning in 1907. Please see the complete account of Leonid Guichard's journey in Appendix B.

Going to school in a one-room school house

At various times during its history, there were upwards of 25 pupils attending Alba School. With children of all ages and grade levels and only one teacher, the older students became mentors to the younger students. This experience was important to several of the students who later went on to become teachers themselves, one of them at Alba School. Guichard descendents are still teaching school.

The school property at Alba was kept clean by the residents. They organized work days to come and clean the school grounds. However, the teacher and pupils were responsible for the daily chores, such as stocking the wood supply for the stoves, and cleaning out ashes, sweeping the floor, and dusting the bookshelves.

One of the students of the school, Linton von Beroldingen, had this to say about his experience at Alba School, "We carried our lunches in yellow tobacco tins with double bale handles and we had a dog named Boulder, possibly after Boulder Creek, who walked to school with us. We sat on a huge fallen redwood tree behind the school house and ate our lunch in what seemed something like heaven for a couple of city youngsters." Von Beroldingen attended Alba School from 1914-1915. He said that he and his brother came "to Alba Road fresh from New York. We lived in a house on what is now the Nerney property. We went to the Alba Little Red Schoolhouse where I entered the first grade and I learned to read and write that year and the instruction from Miss Guichard must have taken hold because I subsequently made my living by

reading and writing.”²⁸ Von Beroldingen went on to be the editor of both the San Francisco Examiner and later the L. A. Examiner. He also worked as a public relations consultant for various Fortune 500 companies. He returned to the Santa Cruz area after retiring, and helped found the U. C. Santa Cruz Arboretum. The “Miss Guichard” he refers to is L. Altheé Guichard McGarraugh.



Linton von Beroldingen, Adnah Fruchte, Alfred von Beroldingen & Balder
Off to Alba School 1914

Many schools in the Santa Cruz area at this time had large bells which were rung to mark the beginning and ending of school, and at recess and lunch times. Alba School did not get its own bell until the 1906. In early 1971 the bell was stolen from the school. In 1978 the school acquired the school bell of Brown School on Bear Creek Road in Boulder Creek, which had been closed in 1950.

²⁸ Taken from an account written by Von Beroldingen for the School's centennial celebration.



New bell at Alba

This newly-acquired school bell will ring out the sound of freedom during Alba Recreation District's annual Forth of July celebration at the Little Red Schoolhouse on Friday. Standing by the bell, is Mrs. Julia Gotthold, wife of the rec board's chairman, Don Gotthold. The public is invited to the celebration, which

Teachers in the county were selected from those who held county certificates. It was unusual for teachers to attend college in these days, although several of the Guichards did so. According to Linscott, who arrived in California in 1869 at the age of 21, and had been a teacher in Maine prior to coming to California, describes the examination to obtain a teaching job,

...for two days [I] passed through a grill which could only be conceived by a board of Examiners of that day. Puzzles in arithmetic, algebra, and analysis were fairly well met; but geography, school law, and methods of teaching were posers.

By trying to answer every question, I think that I secured the good-will of the examiners, and I was granted a Second Grade Certificate. A few months later, I was able to secure the highest grade of Certificate then issued by the state.²⁹

Once a year, the county conducted a "Teacher's Institute". In these institutes, which were

²⁹ Going to School in Santa Cruz County, Margaret Koch, 1978

conducted by the county superintendent of schools, teachers were kept up to date on new teaching techniques and methods.

During this era of one-room schoolhouses, teachers commonly boarded with one of the families in the area, sometimes sharing a bedroom with the children. They were held to strict moral standards, and often had no life outside the schoolroom. It was important that they set an example to the students.

In the author's family history, her Great Aunt Kay McMillian was the schoolteacher at the one-room schoolhouse in Hyampom, a remote valley in Northern California. She boarded with the author's grandparents until a separate cabin was built for the schoolteachers across the river from the school. Her job as schoolteacher, which she held for about 5 years, resulted in the author's mother meeting her father.



1907 – Photo courtesy of the San Lorenzo Valley History Museum

The founding of the community

The Alba community banded together to achieve common goals. Each time a large project was identified, and approved by the members of the board of directors, a committee was appointed to effect the change. Monthly reports were given at the business meeting on the progress of the project until the goal was achieved. Members of the Alba community often traveled up to the Bonny Doon area to enlist new members, and obtain more support for large projects.

One of the first big accomplishments was bringing music up the mountain, in the form of a piano. It is hard to fully appreciate this endeavor, given that Alba Road was not paved, and the piano had to be hauled up the mountain by a team pulling a wagon carrying the piano. In 1911 a committee was appointed, and they identified three pianos for sale in Santa Cruz. The best terms for purchase of the piano were determined, but before making the final purchase, Mrs. Guichard made the trip to the hall where the piano was located in order to put her seal of approval on the instrument. It met with her approval, and she made a \$5 deposit.

One of the longer struggles was to get rural free delivery (aka mail delivery service). The community struggled with this on-going endeavor from February, 1932 to March, 1935. They met with the local postmaster, Mr. Nicholson, who came to a meeting and helped map out a possible route. In June of 1932, a petition signed by nearly all the residents on Alba Road was sent to Washington D. C. Representatives of the Alba community traveled to San Francisco, hoping to get support for the project. They also enlisted support from the Bonny Doon area. Finally, 3 years after beginning the project, the community was finally successful in obtaining mail delivery.

Another community project was bringing electricity to the school. Rights of way were secured in order to bring the line to Alba School. On November 5, 1932, the school made the transition from oil lamps to electricity. The change "was quite noticeable and appreciated by all." In order to secure the electricity, an advance on the following year's budget was made, and the total cost of \$131.77 was the "largest cost the organization has met on anything so far"³⁰.

Not all projects submitted for consideration were feasible. In April of 1914, the group considered building a tennis court at the school. However, it was determined that the schoolyard was too small for a tennis court.

The members of the Alba community raised money by hosting card parties, dances, raffles, and plays. At a time when there was no television or other diversions, the social life offered by the community was very important to the residents. For his Anthropology 121 class project, James Doan interviewed Viola Guichard, Carmen Guichard, Odessa Guichard Ryan and Stella Guichard Wallace. During that interview, Viola Guichard described the parties hosted by the Burns family. "Some of the girls and boys from Ben Lomond used to go up there and they'd dance and sing and they never go back until 3:00 in the morning because it would rain and they couldn't get out...the road was [impassable]...so they stayed and they danced all night and they'd have coffee...and a wonderful time together....Maybe once a month everybody would go to somebody's house ...we went on a hay ride you might say, hitch the horses to a big wood wagon and mothers and sisters and brothers and everybody went. It was a family affair...and one man used to play the guitar and one played the banjo and we'd all sing and dance....we'd go home at 7:00 in the morning because you didn't dare go out in a wood wagon unless you had lanterns. Sometimes the road was slippery so we'd dance all night till the sun was low. That's all we had to do."

³⁰ Alba School Archives



January 8, 1955 community event at Alba School. Alba School Archives.



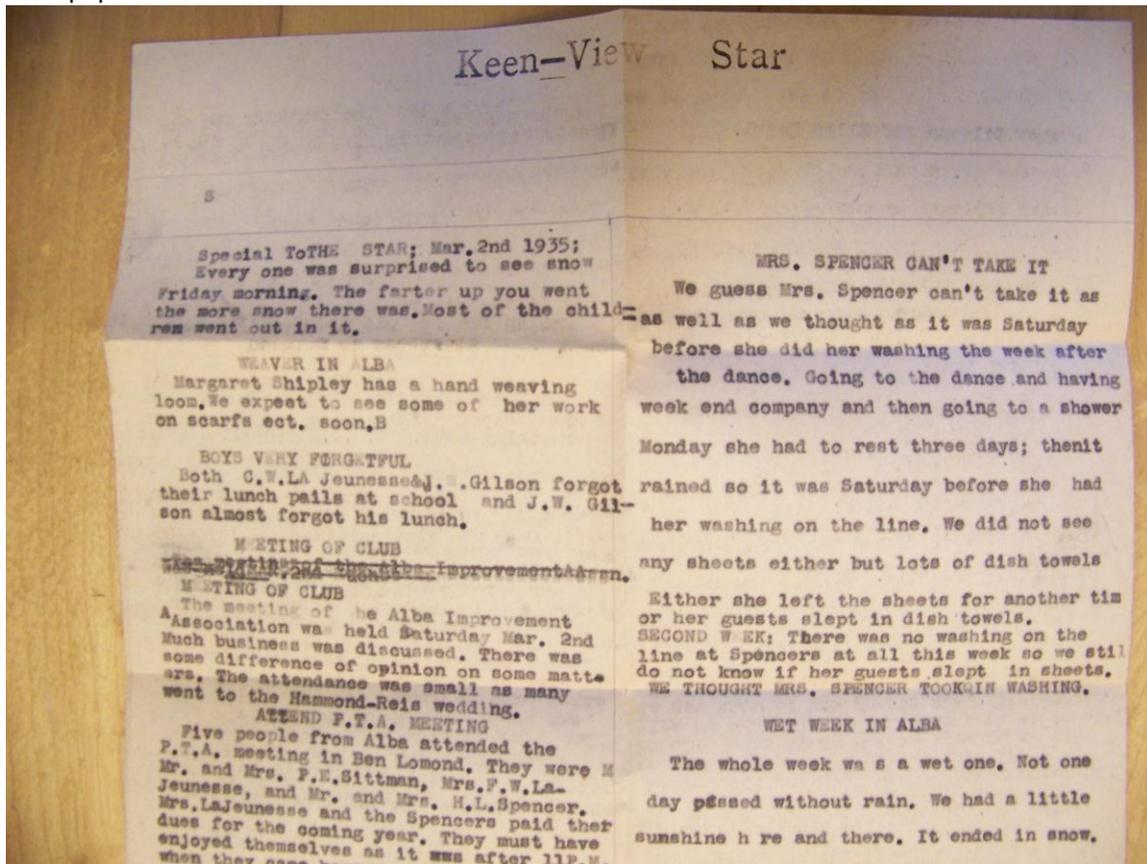
January 8, 1955 community event at Alba School. Alba School Archives. (Notice the man in the white shirt sitting on the right. He's not playing the fiddle.)

The members also paid monthly dues. The one fundraising activity still hosted by the school

today is its 4th of July celebration. This celebration includes the raising of the flag, a group sing-along of patriotic songs, complete with the San Lorenzo Valley Band, a barbeque, homemade ice cream and other desserts, and most importantly for fundraising, an auction of donated items. As of 2012, the school has hosted 117 annual 4th of July celebrations. The funds raised by this event help pay the electric bill, and other routine maintenance projects.

The community helped those who were experiencing difficulty. In the winter of 1933, Mrs. Randalls had no firewood. The community formed a committee and some gave money and some cut wood to help her through the winter.

In 1935, some of the children of Alba School decided the neighborhood needed a newspaper. They obtained a typewriter, named their paper the Keen View Star, and published the following newspaper:



Here is the full transcription of this edition of the newspaper:

Special to THE STAR: Mar. 2nd 1935;
 Every one was surprised to see snow Friday morning. The farther (sic) up you went the more snow there was. Most of the children out in it.

WEAVER IN ALBA

Margaret Shipley has a hand weaving loom. We expect to see some of her work on scarfs ect. [sic] soon. B

BOYS VERY FORGETFUL

Both C.W.LA Jeunesse & J.W. Gilson almost forgot his lunch.

MEETING OF CLUB

The meeting of [t]he Alba Improvement Association was held Saturday Mar. 2nd. Much business was discussed. There was some difference of opinion on some matters. The attendance was small as many went ot the Hammond-Reis wedding.

ATTEND P.T.A MEETING

Five people from Alba attended the P.T.A. meeting in Ben Lomond. They were Mr. and Mrs. P.E.Sittman, Mrs. F.W.LaJeunesse, and Mr. and Mrs HL.Spencer. Mrs. LaJeunesse and the Spencers paid their dues for the coming year. They must have enjoyed Themselves as it was after 11 P.M. when they came home.

Goes to Carmel

Mr H.L.Spencer went to Carmel Wednesday. It was raining hard when he left. Here's hoping him a good trip. He expects to remain a week or more.

Working at Brookdale

Mr. J.J. Guichard and his boy friend John were cutting wood at Brookdale.

We hope they will be through soon as we miss them.

MRS. LOHEN WALKS UP ALBA ROAD

Mrs. Lohen visited the Bickels and the Sittmans Tuesday. Sheh was not feeling well so did not attend the P.T.A. meeting as she had expected but sent a cake.

MRS. SPENCER CAN'T TAKE IT

We guess Mrs. Spencer can't take it as as well as we thought as it was Saturday before she did her washing the week after the dance Going to the dance and having weekend end company and then going to a shower Monday she had to rest three days; thenit rained so it was Saturday before she had her washing on the line. We did not see any sheets either but lots of dish towels. Eitehr she left the sheets for another time or her guests slept in dish towels. SECOND WEEK: There was no washing on the line at Sepncers at all this week so we still do not know if her guests slept in sheets. WE THOUGHT MRS SPENCER TOOK IN WASHING.

WET WEEK IN ALBA

The whole week was a wet one. Not one day passed without rain. We had a little sunshine here and there. It ended in snow.

VOTE FOR UNCLE LEE HE IS THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND.

(adv. paid)

WANTED: Home for boy who can do small chores (adv. paid.)

GOSSIP: By Lois LaJeunessee

Mrs. Lohen wen to Santa Cruz on Wednesday with the Shipleys.

Mrs. L.F.LaJeunesse attended the teachers meeting in Santa Cruz March 2nd.

The following people as far as we know) went to the show Sundayto see Shirley Temple in " The Little Colonel; The Shipleys and Lois LaJeunesse, The ilsons and Elen Pearl.

We saw Mr. Bickel walking to Ben Lomond Friday. The Chevrolet (shove it and leave it) must be out of

order. Mr. F.W. LaJeunesse returned him to his home.

We found out that Frank Walter is working on the house in nBen Lomond where the new Bride and groom will live.

Mr. F.W. LaJeunesse and son got a hair cut in Ben Lomond Friday.

Mr. Washburn has been travling up and down Alba Road. We wonder swhere he is going to all the time. We hope he likes our road.

Mrs.E.H. Goodwin gave Mr Manley a ride up Alba Road. She left him off at Kalapa yard.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Walter came all the way from Sterlings Ranch to attend the Alba Improvement Club meeting.

Mrs. O.J.Gilson came to see her son Warren Gilson.

Mr. David Shipley stayed home from school Friday to go up to the top of the mountain in the snow. Pretty soft for some people.

Mrs. Stuart attended the Ladies Aid Wednesday.

Our Printer being out of town we had to substitute so excuse mistakes.

Several people have been on the jobseeing people for childrento keep our school open. Several have been located but no hope to place them. If Mrs. Sepncer can locate two that will get along [rest is cut off]. LaJeunesse and others will donate toward their support.

We have not seen any thing of Goe Gai since the dance. We wonderif he is like Mrs. Spencer. He can't take it.

Miss Stella Guichard and Mis Ellen Pearl McGrury from Carmel, Mr. Carey Guichard form San Jose, Miss Bertha Guichard from Santa Cruz, Mrs, O.J.Gilson from Santa Cruz were visitors in Alba after attending the wedding.

News was reeived from Mrs. Althee McGarraugh from the Bay Cities where she is enjoying a two weeks vacation with friends and relatives. She is having a good time.

WATCH THIS SPACE

This edition of the Keen View Star was donated to the Alba School Archives by Guichard descendants. Some of the children in this photo are the likely authors:



Back Row: Lois LaJeunesse, Margaret Shipley, Mrs. LaJeunesse, Ann LaJeunesse, Eleanor Ripley
Front Row: George Chelesedos, Clyde LaJeunesse, Patty Smith

Alba Road

Besides the school, Alba road itself was an ongoing community maintenance project. The roads of the early era were unpaved, and oil, and sometimes water, had to be put down on the road surface to keep them passable. Still, during the rainy season, wagons could be bogged down in as much as four inches of mud. In summer, dust was the problem. One of the earliest residents in the area describes sinking up to the knees in dust.



Notice the thickness of the dust on this image from the San Jose Public Library. The photo is of a road in the Santa Cruz Mountains, but not Alba Road.

The condition of the road was one of the impediments to obtaining mail delivery service. Major efforts at improving the surface of the road were required before the Post Office would consider the service. During the years of 1933-1938, the organization of the Alba Road residents called themselves the “Alba Improvement Association”, because much of what they were trying to accomplish (mostly mail delivery at that point) was related to the maintenance of the road.

It was important to keep a route open to Ben Lomond, especially during the winter. The Alba community worked to secure passage and connections to some of the upper roads, such as Fanning Grade, Western Avenue, and Hubbard Gulch. These roads pass through private property and are normally secured with locked gates. The Alba Improvement Association frequently formed subcommittees to investigate and resolve opening road connections during inclement weather.

Between 1913 and 1916, the original route from Alba Road to Empire Grade was changed in order to make it less steep. The original route of Alba Road can still be seen when hiking from the trailhead of the Fall Creek Unit of Henry Cowell Redwood State Park located on Summit Road in Bonny Doon. However, the original Alba Road itself is on private property.



Terminus of old Alba Road at junction with present Alba Road. Photo by author.

Adding on to Alba School

As more people moved into the Alba District, with more students attending the school than could comfortably fit, a building fund was established in 1933 to add on to the school. In September of that year over one hundred people attended the monthly meeting of the Alba Improvement District.

In 1924 Sequoia School on China Grade in Boulder Creek was permanently closed. The Alba Improvement District realized that the Sequoia School structure could be put to good use if added on to the present building, and a committee was formed to look into the matter.

In March, 1934, Sequoia School was disassembled and attached to the rear of Alba School. While the inside was painted, a photo from June, 1939 shows the outside still unpainted.



Back row; Betty Peterson, Doris Peterson, John Bobell. Front row: Sam Peterson, Dave Peterson, John Peterson, 1939. Photo courtesy of Steve Benson, Peterson family descendent.

During its history, Alba School closed down a number of times, sometimes because of funding, but most of the time because of too few pupils. Whenever a new family moved into the area, Alba School could be opened again to accommodate the additional students. During earlier periods in the school's history, much before the advent of automobiles, families visiting their property entered their children into the school for the length of their visit, making the population of the school elastic. Both teachers and students learned to accommodate new and sometimes temporary pupils into the school. In 1940, Alba School ended its history as a functioning school. The Alba School Library functioned from 1940 until 2007 as a lending library, open each Tuesday afternoon. The Alba District community still uses the school for monthly potlucks and other events, and books may be borrowed during these functions.

Disasters in the area

In December, 1955 there was a disastrous flood which affected all of Northern California. There was a series of storms over about 8 days which dumped enormous amounts of rain. During one 24-hour period, over 9 inches of rain fell in Bonny Doon. The city of Santa Cruz was especially hard-hit as the San Lorenzo River overflowed its banks and flooded the city.

While the San Lorenzo River became a torrent, the town of Ben Lomond fared relatively well.



And the waters were due to rise some more after Freda Carr took this shot from Jack

Miller's Ben Lomond court locking toward the town and

Country lodge at Ben Lomond Thursday afternoon. The pines were just processed yesterday

as Mrs. Carr's plant was f ed.

◇ ◇ ◇

One of the worst events in the Alba Road history was the enormous slide in the winter of 1982-3 which occurred at the bottom of the road, blocking access to Highway 9. People living above the slide were allowed to use Western Ave. for access to upper Highway 9. For access to the town of Ben Lomond, the connections established so long ago on Hubbard Road and Fanning Grade were opened. The slide remained for months.



Photos above courtesy of Jane Bacon, the woman seen pointing in photo above, taken by husband Paul Bacon. Photo on the bottom shows the home of the James Helmer's. When the slide occurred, Mrs. Helmer was home sick in bed at the time, and the slide sheared off the bathroom next to the bedroom, as well as demolishing the guest cabin adjacent to the main home. The slide frightened Mrs. Helmer so badly that she refused to set foot in the house ever again.

Jim's Road

Although there is no mention of Jim's Road in Donald Clark's Santa Cruz County Place Names, it has been known as a local artist's community. According to long-time residents, the road, which branches off of Alba Rd., is named after James Guichard. Barbara Thomas, Ben Lomond local patron of the arts, artist herself, currently resides on Jim's Road. She has been assembling a history of Jim's Road. One of its most famous residents was Preston L. Prescott, renown sculptor and artist. Below is a current photo of the cottage he resided on while living in the Santa Cruz area after 1943. Photo by author 2013.



APPENDIX A
The Teachers
By Year

School closed 1940

1895-1896

Miss Josephine Holyer

1896-1897

Mrs. Cora Blodgett

1897-1898

Miss Anna Turner

1898-1899

Miss Hattie Bennett

Sept. 1899-Dec. 1899

Miss Bertha Hall

Dec. 1899-June 1903

Miss Elizabeth Monseau

July 1903-Oct. 1907

Miss L. Altheé Guichard

Oct. 1907-April 1912

Mrs. Ina Wright Hanson

School suspended, 1912-1913

1913-1916

Mrs. L. Altheé McGarraugh

School suspended 1916-1918

1919-1921

Mrs. L. Altheé McGarraugh

School suspended, to 1930

1930-1932

Mrs. Daisy Thomas

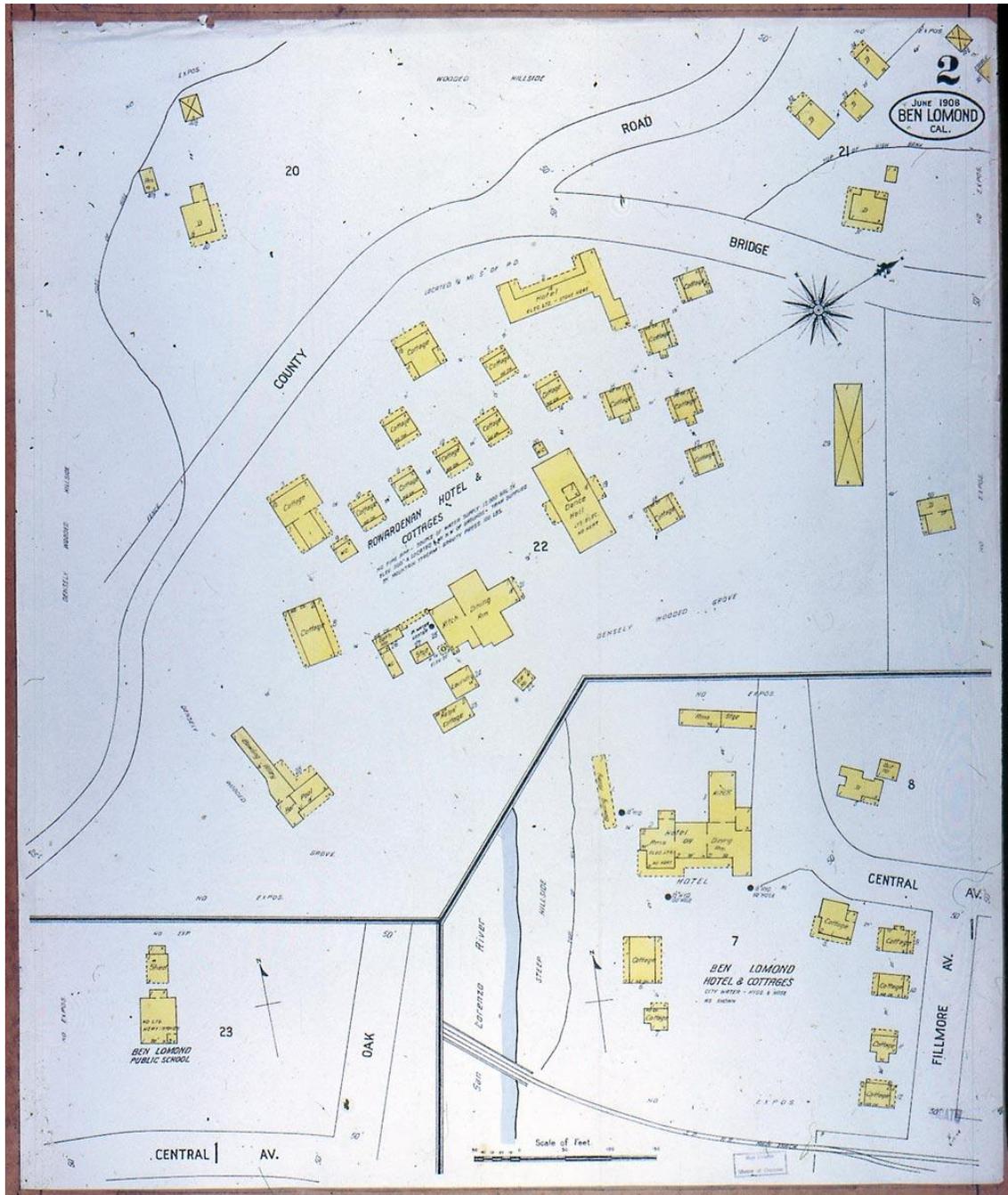
1932-1935

Mrs. Limpe Pa Jeunese

1938-1940

Mrs. Gladys Peterson

APPENDIX B



1908 Ben Lomond Map Courtesy of Sanborne Maps, UCSC

APPENDIX C

MY JOURNEY FROM NEW ORLEANS TO BEN LOMOND

By Leonide Guichard

“On Friday the 27th day of September 1895, we started from our house at 3115 Dumaine Street between Lopez and Rendon Streets with the good wishes of our friends and neighbors, Tante Tetelle, Mrs. Francois Cousin, Mrs. Frank Cousin, Mrs. Frank Lotz, Mary May George, Joe and Mrs. Landenwetsch and brother Bob, sister Nana and my best friend Lily Cousin who boarded on a Dumaine streetcar with us as we rode to the junction of Esplanada Avenue and Bayou Road. When we boarded an electric car the conductor told us that we could not take our dog, (which by the way was a Havana dog given to my sister-in-law). My sister’s first impulse was to get down and walk with the dog but we decided that it was best not to, as we would probably miss the train which started at ten minutes past 9’0 clock , so my friend kindly volunteered her services, which we readily accepted. In our hurry we forgot to give her money to take the horse car, so the poor girl had to walk from Lopez Street to the Levee, a distance of about thirty-two blocks. At the ferry station we were getting uneasy about Lily as she was not used to going about the city alone. My brother was leaving to find her when lo! In came Lily, dog and all from one of the side entrances of the waiting room. Elode Strummer, Mrs. La Forieade, Uncle Robert, brother, sister, and Lily rode across on the ferry with us, and after half an hour sailing we arrived in Algiers. Just as we were going to install ourselves and all our paraphernalia in our car for our departure for the “Golden West” the conductor said, “that dog will give you lots of trouble, M’am,” so we had to leave poor little Bell to Lily’s care. It is useless to mention the particulars of our parting for as you may presume, it was a sad one. Our porter was very polite and attentive to us.

Leaving Louisiana we passed through beautiful swamps. The principal cities we passed were Morgan City, Franklin, New Iberia and Lake Charles. After traveling a little distance past Lake Charles we entered Texas.

Beaumont and Liberty are pretty little towns but Houston is a large and beautiful city. It was eleven O’clock P.M. when we entered Houston and the park near the station might have been the garden of Eden so beautiful did it look illuminated by electric lights. After leaving Houston, Loulou and I were taken ill, just like sea-sickness. We passed a number of natives with large peaked hats riding their mustangs.

We were beginning to feel lonesome when one of our fellow-travelers came to have a chat and introduced himself as George Campbell. I can assure you we enjoyed it very much as he was very pleasant and agreeable. We also made the acquaintance several other passengers, a young man named Henry Bert, Mrs. Crooker, Mrs. Tisher, Mr. Yuma Agustin and others whose names I cannot just recall.

Nothing of importance was seen until we crossed the Pecos River Bridge. It was so long and high that a stone when thrown from the bridge would take many minutes to reach the water.

At five O’clock A.M. we were awakened by a crash. My sister was thrown into the window panes, while mother and I who slept in the opposite berths were almost thrown to the floor. We immediately looked out the window and beheld the engine in fragment up an incline. The train engineer was dug out from the debris bleeding and dying. While the fireman was found bruised and scalded. There was no graduated Doctor on the train, but the student Mr. Agustin gave him something to enable him to die with less pain. The baggage car was so badly wrecked that our luggage, which was also damaged, had to be put into a coach. Meanwhile a

conductor was sent to the nearest station. It being a great distance, it took him a long time to walk there. However, the men arrived a little before noon and begun work immediately. There being no debris to clear away as the engine was completely off the track.

Although it was raining, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Bert, several others and myself went out to inspect the "fallen foe". It was so badly wrecked that each passenger was able to take a piece of it in remembrance of their narrow escape.

When we heard that another train was coming, we were uneasy, because we were just around a bend and feared the train would not see us and would probably run into us. So someone was sent to stop the train with a red flag, which thank Providence he succeeded in doing.

When the weather cleared off we all went out to gather wild plants and flowers. When we tired of running in the "wilderness of Texas," we returned to our car and indulged in a game of cards and several other games. Of course all the passengers immediately became acquainted and we enjoyed ourselves immensely.

At about four O'clock another engine arrived and with the assistance of the other, the back train started at a break neck speed. We soon reached San Elizaro and enjoyed the scenery very much after which we proceeded to El Paso at the same speed for we were about twelve hours behind schedule and were trying to make it up.

When we reached El Paso, the dead engineer and injured fireman were left there to be brought to their respective homes. The fireman were left there to be brought to their respective homes. The fireman was to have been married the next day.

After crossing the beautiful Rio Grande which was bordered on one side with an immense wall of rock we traveled a good distance through New Mexico before entering Arizona. There we were almost suffocated by the intense heat and to add still more to our discomfort we were obligated to keep our windows closed on account of blowing sand. We stopped at Tucson where we made a number of purchases and then proceeded on our journey passing Casa Grande, Gila Bend and a number of other small places before reaching Yuma.

At Yuma we were much amused by the Indian belles promenading up and down the street dressed in all their finery. Henry Bert said in derision of the most homely one "Isn't she a beauty?" She flashed her fierce dark eyes at him and that made him dodge under the seat choking with suppressed laughter. We spoke to several of those speaking English who told us of their work which they were selling and asked us where we were going, from what place and several other questions.

We only crossed a bridge from Yuma and we entered California. Several beautiful places were passed before we entered the city of Los Angeles, at eleven O'clock. A number of our acquaintances left us there. We traveled on, passing Colton, Niles and other places one of which was the beautiful Alameda. When we neared Oakland, oh how we jumped for joy. The bay looked beautiful as the sun had just set.

Papa met us there and we crossed the bay by ferry with Henry Bert and Mr. Campbell. As we left the ferry we were almost driven out of our minds by a crowd of men, who reminded us of a swarm of bees, calling out the names of the principal hotels and others. When they saw we were determined to have the American Exchange they left us alone to enter a bus and drive to our hotel on Sansome street.

After supper Papa, Loulou and I went to see Tante Mimi. Our method of procedure was to take a market streetcar and several others before we reached Van Ness. We discovered they had moved the day before and so we missed them. We returned to our hotel immediately. I thought San Francisco was too noisy.

The next morning (Thursday) we recrossed the bay and took the early train for Ben Lomond. We saw many beautiful places and buildings, among them Agnews Insane Asylum. San Jose is a wide awake little city. We also passed through tunnels which the little ones did not like as we had already passed so many on our way to San Francisco.

After changing cars at Felton a few minutes ride brought us to Ben Lomond, where Mr. Smith awaited us with a vehicle. We had to go several miles up a mountain that was carpeted with wild flowers and ferns. Altheé and all the others cousins had come to meet us a short distance from home we I got down and walked with them to our new home which pleased us very much.

Thus ended our journey from new Orleans to Ben Lomond as described by Leonide GuichaRoad”

Leonide Guichard was sixteen years old when she made the trip to Ben Lomond by train. This story of the family trip was written shortly after they arrived in Ben Lomond. She was the fifth child of sixteen born to Joseph Leopold and Maria Theresa GuichaRoad Leopold and his brother each married a Tiac sister in New Orleans. They came to Ben Lomond for the health of Rudolph (D. R.). Their families followed later. Both families farmed on Alba Road

Leonide was educated in the convent of the Sisters of the Hold Cross in New Orleans and she entered Chestnutwood Business College in Santa Cruz where she graduated and worked. In 1904 she married Robert McCabe and had two children Lillian and Robert. She died at age 27 of ptomaine poisoning in 1907.

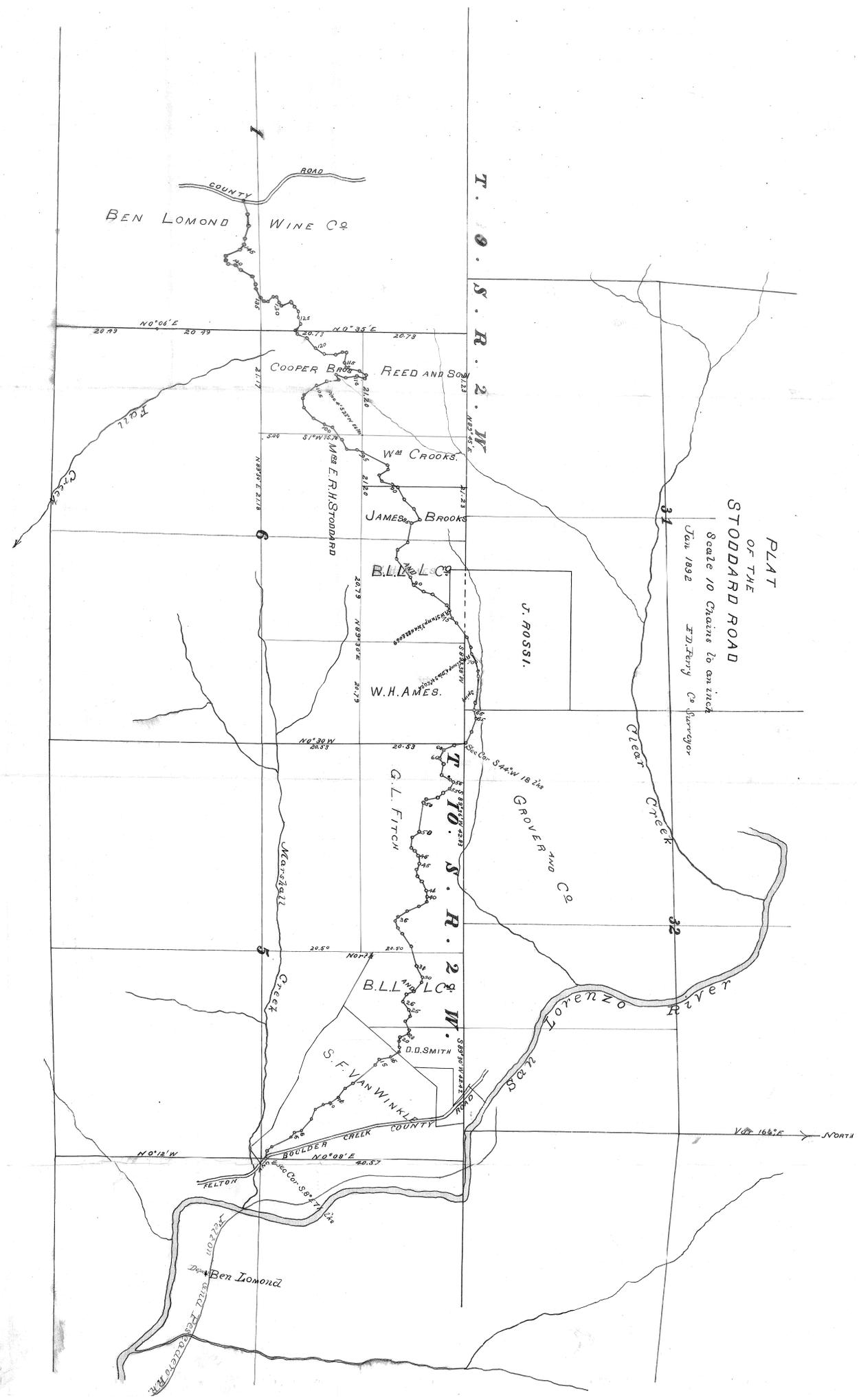
APPENDIX D Maps



The “howling wilderness” which greeted the new settlers in 1880. The approximate route of Alba Road is outlined in red above. Thomas Wright, 1880-81. UCSC Maps Room.



Segment from the Andrew Jackson Hatch Map of 1889 from the UCSC Maps Dept. website.



PLAT
OF THE
STODDARD ROAD

Scale 10 Chains to an inch
Jan 1892
F.H. Terry Co Surveyor

T. 9. S. R. 2. W.

T. 10. S. R. 2. W.

N 166° E NORTH

BEN LOMOND WINE CO

COOPER BROS REED AND SON

Wm CROOKS

JAMES BROOKS

B.L.L. CO

W.H. AMES.

G.L. FITCH

B.L.L. CO

D.D. SMITH

S.F. VAN WINKLE

BOULDER CREEK CO

Ben Lomond

Clear Creek

GROVE AND CO

Lorenzo River

Marshall Creek

FELTON

Ben Lomond

N0°06'E 20.73

N0°35'E 20.79

N89°18'E 21.77

N89°18'E 21.73

N89°18'E 21.78

N89°18'E 20.79

N89°18'E 20.50

N89°18'E 20.57

N89°18'E 20.37

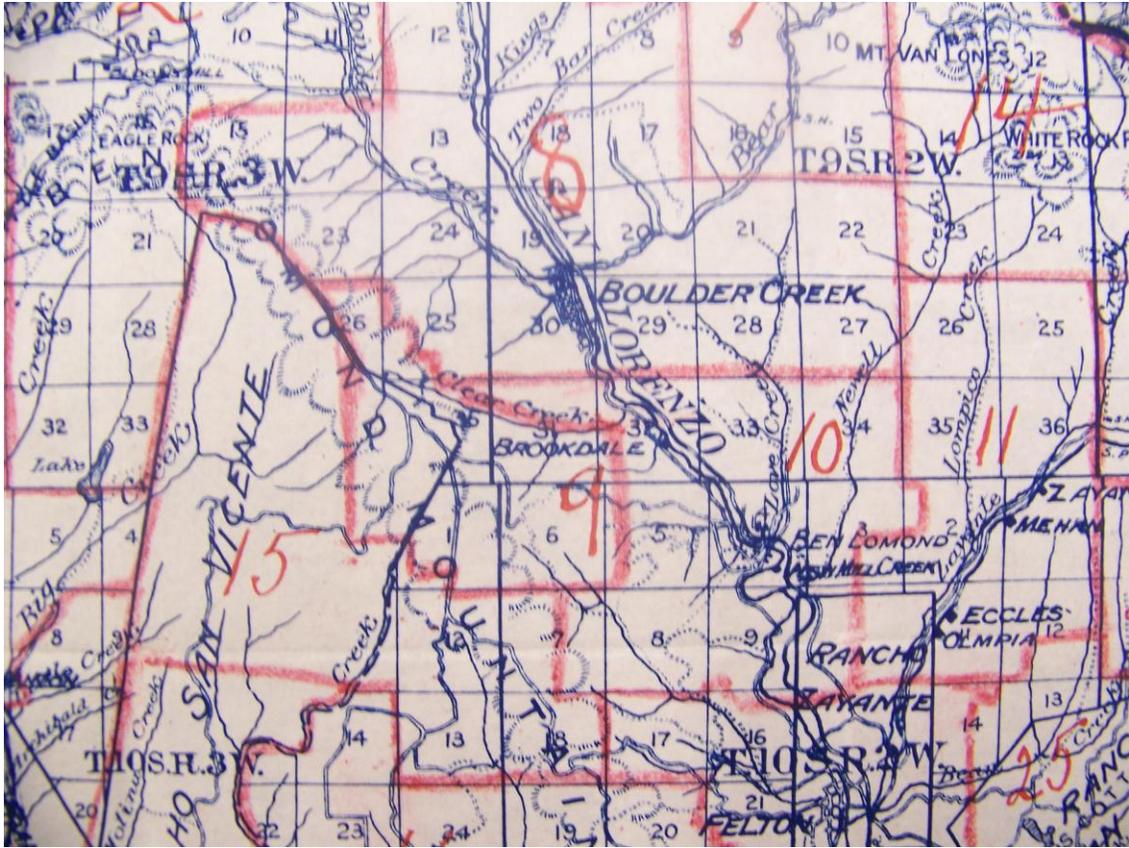
N0°12'W 20.50

N0°12'W 20.57

N0°12'W 20.37



Alba Road in 1906. Prunnett Brothers, Map Room, UCSC.



School Districts in the Ben Lomond Mountain area 1910. Alba District is section 9

Stories of the early settlement of Ben Lomond as told by the living members of the Guichard and Burns families and dealing with the years from 1860-1920.

Presented to
Gary Gossen, PhD
In partial fulfillment of
the requirements for
Anthropology 121

By
James Doan
June, 1972

*Please see last page for an explanation of the format used by James Doan for his paper, and brief biography of Prof. Doan. As his paper was transcribed, the format that he used was as faithfully followed as possible.

APPENDIX E

Informants

Mrs. Alice Earl Wilder, 80, retired, Hillside, Ben Lomond, Yankee-Am., town historian, Eng.

Burns descendants:

Flora Bell Gibson, 87, retired, 133 Towne Terrace, Scotch-Am., Santa Cruz, Eng.

Mrs. J.B. Chandler, 55, housewife, 133 Towne Terrace, American, Santa Cruz, Eng.

Margery Burns Patrick, 82, manageress, Garden Court Apts., Scotch-Am., Apt. 1, 3715 38th, Ave., Capitola Eng.

Nellie Burns Patrick, 75, retired, 145 No. 17th St., San Jose, Scotch-Am., Eng.

Charlotte Grinnall, deceased, Scotch-Am., Eng.

Guichard descendants:

Miss Viola Guichard, 84, retired, 214 Mission St., Santa Cruz, , French (La.), Eng.-Fr.

Miss Carmen Guichard, 74, retired, 214 Mission St., Santa Cruz, French (La.), Eng.-Fr.

Mrs. Odessa Guichard Ryan, 74, retired, 11130 Alba Rd., Ben Lomond, French (La.), Eng.

Mrs. Stella Guichard Wallace, 85, retired, 11130 Alba Rd, Ben Lomond., invalid, French (La.), Eng

James Doan
115 Parrington
Cowell, U.C.S.C.

Story of the naming of Ben Lomond

Mrs. Alice Earl Wilder 80
 American - Scotch
 retired
 Yankee
 English
 Hillside, Ben Lomond
 April 15, 1972

And at that time the name of this town was changed
 from Mill Town to Ben Lomond
 because the Federal Government said
 there are too many mills
 and we won't allow you to use that name for your town
 if you want a post office
 you'll have to have a name that isn't all over the state of California
 so they they
 because the Federal Government
 not Mr. Pierce or anyone in the town of Ben Lomond
 because they were furious about it
 the ridge by Empire Grade had been named Ben Lomond by a Scotchman
 named Burns who thought it looked like his home in Scotland
 with Lock Lomond and Ben Lomond
 He named the whole ridge Ben Lomond
 The Federal Government
 and Ben means mountain
 alright the Federal Government comes along and says
 if you want a post office you'll have to call it Ben Lomond
 well of course the people here were furious
 because this isn't Ben
 this is low
 and the Burns were furious and all the people on the mountain
 because doesn't anybody know that this wasn't a mountain
 so we got the name Ben Lomond changed from what it had been previously
 and the company had to reorganize to the Ben Lomond Land and Lumber Co.
 from the Santa Clara Land and Lumber Co.
 which it was
 and changed everything to meet their post office deals
 they weren't happy
 and the people on the mountain weren't happy
 another big family up there on the mountain were the Guichards
 they were the two brothers
 they had come from New Orleans
 they were French
 they had hundreds of acres along Alba Road

James Doan 19
 115 Parrington
 Cowell, U.S.C.S.

Stories, recollections
American

Mrs. Flora Bell Gibson 87
Mrs. J.B. Chandler 55
Scotch-American
133 Towne Terrace, Santa Cruz
April 18, 1972

Mrs. C. Well I remember there were stories about mountain lions up on the ranch
when they would come down from the hills
John Burs would drive them away by beating on tin pans

Mrs. G. My grandfather and father
Thomas Burns
who was 17 then
they came here from Canada
and then my grandmother came,
Mary was her name
But there were all gone before I was born
before I could meet any of them

I don't remember much about the house
there were four rooms downstairs
that's where we used to stay
I don't remember what was upstairs

There was a grape vine growing on the porch
we used to pick grapes off of it
and they made wine
they made us children pick the grapes and carry them to the press
and then they sent the wine off to Europe
and one man said it was the best wine he had ever tasted
and that seems like a purty good recommendation to me

My folks built their house there on the creek
they built that one there
there wasn't anything when they moved over
they had to build it
but we had stock then
they had a cow or two
and some of us used to run the pasture
across
up on the hillside
down the other side
and then they'd come down
and we'd have to get them in
I 'member we had an awful time with cattle
takin' care of them
milkin' cows
keepin' them from runnin' away

Well we didn't have very much to do with anybody 'round there
I can't remember any special people
I guess there's some we had to get with and meet
with the work
I guess they was all nice people
but they was all
but they was all working people
hard working to make a living
getting by some way

James Doan
115 Parrington

Mrs. Charlotte Grinnell
Deceased
Scotch-American
Letter to Flora Bell Gibson
Santa Cruz Sentinel
March 7, 1965

There were many big oak trees about the mountains that they called "bear trees." They would fix boards in these trees so they could sit and watch for the grizzly bears.

One dark night Granddad and my father, Thomas, heard an awful commotion out in their hog pen. Granddad got his gun and run out and fired at what he thought was the bear, but the next morning found he had killed his hog instead.

James Doan 19
115 Parrington
Cowell, U.C.S.C

Story about grizzly bears,
 Recollections
 American

Mrs. Margery Burns Lozier 82
 manageress, Garden Court Apts.
 Scotch-American
 Apt. 1, 3715 38th Ave., Capitola
 May 18, 1972

J.D. What did you just say about the grizzly bears?
 M.L. I said there was grizzly bears and they used to go out and hunt for them and way up in the trees sit there late at night watching for the bears to come they used to tell us the stories
 J.D. What kind of stories did they tell you?
 M.L. Oh just about hunting for them about them killing cattle and things like that
 J.D. Do you remember any of the particular ones?
 M.L. No I don't remember any of the particular ones see I'm about 82 now I kind of get forgetful I guess
 G.S. What was it like when you were little growing up there?
 M.L. What was it like when we lived up there?
 Oh we had big vineyards and we had vineyards all around and my father used to be a connoisseur (sic) of wines they made fine wines up there and we hauled it down on wagons and horses and they hauled it to Santa Cruz here then we used to hire bunches of Chinamen that had the long braids down the back the kids used to think the Chinamen ate the chickens all of it the insides and all and that's what they told us anyhow oh we had and then when the Chinamen all left there we used to hire Portugeuse (sic) they did the work the work on the ranch and us kids we used to run around like a bunch of Indians most all of them went bare-footed but I used to they didn't let me go bare-footed I was kind of sickly or something but we used to go around there and kill rattlesnakes and things like that and we never got bitten with anything leave it to kids I guess

James Doan 19
 Catherine Streip 18

recollections

Mrs. Margery Burns Lozier, American

then we used to ride horseback around the mountains there
 the kids rode horseback I guess as soon as they was able to sit on a horse
 and then they
 had a goodtime as kids up there
 and of course the school was quite a long ways
 and we had to walk to school
 J.D. Did you go to Alba School?
 M.L. No we didn't go to the Alba School³¹
 but we went to
 oh I don't know what they called the school
 you've been up there since Lockheed was moved in
 well where Lockheed is now is where they had the school
 but we were way over
 lived over further
 it looked down see the sunset the ocean
 J.D. Was the ranch along Empire Grade?
 M.L. No it was way up the end
 it was the farthest you could go almost
 why I suppose the old ranch isn't there anymore
 the vineyards have probably died off
 but
 it used to be
 big business there
 and you'd drive down the horses
 it seemed like ages for you to get there
 it was so far

³¹* Note: Perhaps Margery had forgotten that she attended Alba School. She is listed in the attendance rolls from 1905-1910, along with several of her siblings. There was a school at where the entrance to Lockheed is now, so perhaps she got that school confused with Alba School.

story about Jack Burns

Mrs. Margery Burns Lozier, American

- M.L. He remembers about tracking a lion
or a lion following his tracks
I guess it was
- J.D. Who was this?
your brother Jack
- (?) do you know this story?
- M.L. No I don't know it
but he can tell
about this lion coming up and following him

James Doan
Catherine Streip

recollections about Burns Family
Scotch-American

Mrs. Nellie Burns Patrick 75
retired, lives with husband
Scotch-American
English
145 No. 17th St., San Jose
May 27, 1972

- N.P. They had the ranch up there until 1914
J.D. Do you remember much about the ranch?
N.P. There were vineyards
some fruit trees
but most of it was vineyards
J.D. Do you remember any things that happened?
like anything about
oh say mountain lions
or anything like that
N.P. There wasn't anything like that
lions?
nothing like that in my time
it was before
before like when my father was a boy
and he and grandfather went up into the mountains by themselves
before my father was grown or married
and there were lions
and different things like that
bears and things like that
J.D. Do you remember anything they told you about them?
N.P. I just remember my sister's (sic) talking about
tracking a bear
but I really don't remember
at least that part of it
and then my father when he married in 1876
that's when
I was born in
1897
that there was ten of us
a whole bunch of us
scared the bears all away I guess
no there's just the same as here (Charlotte Grinnell's letter) about them
going up the coast and
up over the mountain
over the ridge
?.P. I don't remember that
what was this?
N.P. about them taking up land on the Ben Lomond mountain
and the mountain of course it was just wild then
and it reminded him of a mountain in Scotland
the mountain

and after he died
several years after he died
this little village which is called Ben Lomond now
the supervisors of this time
they came up
to the ranch
to see my father
and to get permission to name the village Ben Lomond

they come to get permission
 a' course he said it was alright with him
 so they called it Ben Lomond
 the post office and all
 the Ben Lomond Post Office
 J.D. You weren't born yet when the town was named, were you?
 N.P. I was born right down in that little village
 J.D. Had it been named Ben Lomond yet by the time you were born?
 N.P. Oh yes I think so
 although my grandfather had passed away in 1880
 and I was born in 1897
 I wasn't
 J.D. Did your father talk much about his father?
 or about Scotland?
 N.P. He talked a lot to my older sister
 you see after my mother died
 then my older sister Charlotte
 she's passed away now
 why she lived with him
 she stayed with Dad when most of us were married
 and he used to talk to her but
 she didn't really think anything about you know putting it down on paper or anything at the
 time
 well they did try
 they were starting to put something down about Dad himself which she was kinda getting
 at
 instead of granddad
 Dad's own
 history and
 my older sister
 she's 87 now
 and I doubt she remembers
 she's only eleven years older than I am
 she might not like me to tell you that
 she shouldn't care
 says she's gonna live to be a hundred
 when I tried to get any information
 the only ones that knew anything
 weren't around
 my grandfather lived with Dad until he passed away in 1880
 and Dad in 1923

recollection of Burns family
Scotch-American

Mrs. Nellie Burns Patrick

we had several
two ranches were cleared
at different times
and we were all married there were ten of us
and everyone of us married except me
I was down at the bottom of the hill
four miles up there
on Ben Lomond
up at the top
I'd like to be up there right now
it's up there and there's no fog ever gets kup it
you can go walk on the dirt road and look down
it just looks like a
a blanket of clouds and the fog all over Santa Cruz Ben Lomond and all the places from
the top
in the morning it would be so clear and nice
but now I don't know
the air and everything's getting so bad it may be bad up there now
but I doubt there'd be any fog up there in the morning
it's too high

One of my other sisters she was younger than I am
about 14 months
and we were like together all the time
she passed away in '58
she had cancer and
but she always said she'd like to go
you know there's a place up there
it's called the
we used to call it the Ben Lomond Winery
and dad lived up there and he planted a row of
of pine, was it pine trees?
about a dozen of them I guess
there's a row of them
and they're still there on the side of the road
Dad planted them when they were just little
but now they're great big trees
and I remember my sister saying she'd
she'd like to own the piece where those trees are

Well the most we ever killed up there were rattlesnakes
quite a few rattlesnakes
but none of us every got bit by a snake
but we were very, kind of watchful of them
and listened for them
and every one we heard we'd hunt him out and kill him
and get the rattles
we saved a lot of snake rattles
and my brother made a hatband and belt out of them

C.S. How do you kill a snake?
N.P. with anything you can get

recollection of Odessa Guichard Ryan
American

N.P. Was she
her father's the one that
Odessa Guichard
Odessa Ryan
she was just a little girl
she was the youngest one in the school

she was younger than I
yes and I remember coming up to school
she crawled along a ditch
or a kind of bank
and she fell and broke her arm right near the elbow
oh that was a big news all over the mountain
cause nobody ever broke a bone or anything
up there you know
before Odessa
I talked to her about that
I have a picture from then
how many stitches
on her broken arm
it's still not straight
but it was Odessa Ryan's father
that really
had the school built
and named the school
and up the road up the mountain was called Alba Road
and the school-house was named after it
that was her father
he was
he did a whole lot for the school
he was up there at that time
he had quite a family too
and then some
a bunch of the daughters
two or three of them were teachers
one or two of them taught there
was teaching there when I went

Customs
Scotch

Mrs. Nellie Burns Patrick

J.D. Did your father ever remember any Scottish things
like on holidays did you ever
did you ever have any Scottish festivities
sing Scottish songs?

N.P. Oh Coming Through the Rye he loved it
and Auld Lang Syne
and he talked kind of Scottish
for hike like you know he'd say hek
and he'd say sez he and dez I, sez he for says he and sez I
and I just remember at the table
he'd gone to town or something and he'd come back and say
sez he and sez I
I can just hear him say that
none of the rest of us ever used those expressions
and he'd call a house a bothel
and different things goin' on a hek

J.D. Anything else like that
cause I noticed it (Charlotte Grinnell's letter) mentioned that on his 17th birthday
they sang Scottish songs and I wonder

N.P. My sister told that
Dad told that himself
He was coming around the Horn then
and Grandmother and the other kids stayed in Canada
and so my
father Thomas and my grandfather they took the boat to come around
so Dad was the oldest of the children he had five
so he came around with his dad and had his 17th birthday on the boat
that was a big celebration with bananas and fresh fruit

Mrs. Charlotte Grinnell,
deceased
Scotch - American
letter to Mrs. Patrick
1967 (?)

This is a copy of what Lotte sent me.

John burns was born in Stirling, Scotland.

In 1852 Mr. Burns left Scotland with his family for Canada where they resided for ten (10) years. In 1862 Mr. Burns and his son Thomas left Canada and came to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama. On the trip from Canada to California young Thomas celebrated his 17th birthday on the boat going around the Horn, it was a very eventful occasion (sic) for him, so when the boat stopped at the Isthmus of Panama his father (Mr. John Burns went ashore and bought oranges and bananas + other fruits). On the boat again the crew and passengers helped him celebrate, singing Scotch songs, mainly "Old Lang Syne." They arrived in San Francisco in October of '62, and from there he and his son went to Santa Cruz. They got work at the old Glassal Mine which was situated on a ridge about (3) three miles from Williams Landing on the coast.

Running back from the ridge was a mt. which so pleased Mr. John Burns that he and his son Thomas took up many acres of land for miles along its top. Mr. Burns said the mt. reminded him very much of his mt. in his own native country of Scotland which was called Ben Lomond.

Several years later Mr. John Burns brought the rest of his family down from Canada to live on his acquired acres on this beautiful mt. Grandad John burns died on Ben Lomond Mt. (date unknown) and is buried in the I.O.O.F. cemetery in Santa Cruz. Grandma died in Canada and is buried there.

A few years after his death, the town of Ben Lomond was named after the Mt. with Thomas Burns (sic) consent.

So John Burns is actually the Founder of Ben Lomond and the Mountain. He was the one whom (sic) gave Bonny Doon its name because it was a Scottish village in Scotland.

Story about Mr. Shaddock
American

Miss Viola Guichard 84
Miss Carmen Guichard 74
retired
French (Louisiana)
English-French
214 Mission St., Santa Cruz
May 2, 1972

V.G Mr. Shaddock lived
was a

Mr. Shaddock lived in a cabin above Newell Crik Mill near
near the site of the Lock - Lomond - Newell Crik Dam
and so eh was a friend of the Fraziers, Lewis
and his mother
was a friend of him
by always going up to see him
(undecipherable)

J.D. Now, what did he say about the Civil War?

V.G. Oh, he said when we asked him if he'd been in the Civil War
he said what was so civil about that war?
that made us think that, perhaps,
that he was a deserter or didn't believe in the war effort like they don't now, see?
Now we used to go on picnics this went up
so old man Shaddock
to this little man
on Sundays and he used to
come down
on the trail from Newell Crik
ah, every week to get his foolishness (?) and he passed near our,
our fence
and one morning my nephew and my brother, Rex, were
getting wood off of the wood pile and
the nephew was a little heated and he used a bad word
and the old man says you ought to go wash out your mouth with soapsuds
I thought that was cute of him you know
but he went on his way, but the boys all knew him
and this old man
and he passed away, oh, he must have been eighty-five to six
he was seventy-five in nineteen-hundred and eight, but he looked older didn't he?

C.G. Well I think he looks pretty good for seventy-five.

V. G. Yeah, and he'd walk up and down
and they found him dead and
they were looking all over for his will and they found it in the wood box
I remember Mama and Aunt Franny went up there
and they found it in the wood-box, see

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

explanations of terms:

Frazer Lewis - invented Frazer Lewis Victorias, a type of chocolate; his mother had been a member of the Donner party

Aunt Franny - a neighbor of the Guichards whose son had married one of the Guichard daughters and so she was called aunt

family history
American

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

J.D. Tell me a little bit about your family, when they came
from New Orleans and
where they settled

V.G. Well, listen
did you want to say anything about old
you want to know about us first
so then I can tell you about old Jason Brown

J.D. Sure, or any old stories like that that you

V.G. We, my father
and my uncle came
and my father came in 1895, January
in January, 1895
but his brother had come in 1890 in 1894
about in October or November
and then my father came
was supposed to come
some real-estate man had told him about property in California
and you know it was cheap and everything
and they wanted to leave New Orleans because
well my father wasn't well
with malaria and they thought
they would like to get away at that time
they were in such a
after the Civil War there were so many strange things happening I guess that they wanted to
raise their children away from the South
I think that was the whole, they didn't believe in slavery
My father
and my uncle
their father left them
a plantation
there were four brothers
and so they decided to sell the plantation and
divide it and see what they wanted to buy from it and
his brother that was, that was his
he had four brothers and that was the
third brother
he was the younger than my father and my father
and the two brothers married sisters
as they always stuck together, the women wanted to with their
always went together.

family history
American

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

V.G So, what else do you want to know?
am I still on there?

J.D. Sure, I'm enjoying it.

V. G. Well, I know, but gee, I'm talking too much
And my little house where I was born
That's what I was gonna, starting to do
I was gonna write where I was born and how I came to be here and how I enjoyed living up
there
we were children you know we'd never seen a mountain
never saw we never saw the ocean
all we knew was the old Mississippi River it was always dirty and it looked like a
a great big ocean of water to me but when I saw the ocean the bay
well then I knew I had seen nothing when I saw the Mississippi
but anyway we lived up
see my father and my uncle came
and they came ahead
and when my uncle wrote and told my father he had found a piece of land
so my father
came and left home
in January
in 1895
and my mother stayed back
and my aunt
we all lived in one house because both the fathers were gonna be gone
so my uncle brought his brood of 12 or 13 I don't know how many of them lived there in that
house
I guess maybe they slept outdoors it was kind of warm
I know we had a great big what they call a veranda but it's porch here
and I guess they used to put beds there at night
anyway and so they brought they all came to live with my mother
and my mother and we had a house to sell and my mother stayed behind
because my father had to come and build the house
before we could come
and my uncle built a log cabin for his family by the time my father
when my father came they had no place to live
so my uncle built a log cabin my father helped him
and they had a log cabin well but my father built a regular house
and we
got all the wood from the lumber from his own place
there was a big tree
there was a big tree, oh, as a little girl I couldn't see all over it
and all the shingles he used
he made shakes
and our house was redwood and big big logs
big redwood posts just out of the woods
and then he had, he had that big tree

family history
American

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

and he had a man that worked for fifty cents a day and made all those shakes
and our house was a
four room house with porches all around it it was all shaken

C.G. a porch

V.G. and I guess he had shingles on top of it and
anyway it was all from our own place
my Papa was pretty good about that

J.D. But I'm interested in hearing what you have to say about like how you heard the story of how
Ben Lomond got its name

V.G. Well Mr. Burns
old John Burns lived on top of the Ben Lomond mountain
I guess they might have told you
you know that's where he settled and
then after he passed away
why he had a son and
they had
I guess they had about
oh a big family and
I used to know all their names
Margaret and all
but there must have been 8 or 9 children
and there was John Burns and
there was a couple of Burns boys
I guess maybe she told you that

J.D. Right.
do you, do you remember anything
any special incidents about the family?

V.G. Oh well they used to give little parties
and my sister Norma Farragut
and she was Norma Guichard then
and she
and some of the girls and boys from Ben Lomond used to go up there
and they'd dance and they'd sing and they never got back until 3:00 in the morning because it
would rain and they couldn't get out
it was the road was, the road was
steep and things so
they stayed and they danced all night
and they'd have coffee
they had a wonderful time together
I never went to those but

recollections of Burns family
American

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

Nellie Burns
they used to give these little parties up there and they'd
that's what we used to do for
we didn't have movies
we didn't have anything so
maybe once a month everybody
would go to somebody's house and
they
we went on a hay ride you might say
hitch the horses to a big wood wagon and
mothers and sisters and brothers and everybody went
it was a family affair and so
there was one man used to play the guitar
and one played the banjo and we'd all sing and dance
and they danced all night
to the broad day-light
we'd go home at 7:00 in the morning
because you see
you didn't date go out in a wood wagon unless you had lanterns
and then sometimes the road was slippery
so we'd dance all night
till the sun was low

C.G. that's all we had to do.

V. G. That's all we had to do
but that's all we did
and they sang all the old songs

recollections, customs
American, French

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

V.G. And another thing we had brought from New Orleans
we had brought the Mardi Gras
and we
Mardi Gras was the Tuesday before Lent
and so we had brought that customs to the mountains with us
and so we used to
on Mardi Gras day that they were having in New Orleans
why we'd have
we'd all dress up and go to the neighbors'
as this Mr. and Mrs. Books
they were English people
they didn't have any children
and so we used to go up all dressed up and
they'd have cookies and things for us
and they'd get the biggest kick out of that
and one time I'd had pneumonia
and I was very low
and I was just getting over it
and my mother said I don't think she should walk up
it was about a mile to walk up there
I don't think she's strong enough to go
and my father said ah, let her go like the rest of them
and I dressed up as a Red Cross nurse
and I went
I shouldna' gone
and boy, when I got back home they put me to bed for two weeks
cause that was too much for me you see
I shouldna' walked that far because of my lungs
but in the morning the doctor said you go to bed for two weeks
because but I went
my father didn't think I should have been deprived
cause I had been so close to going over the hill
that I guess he figured well let her go have a good time
so I went

recollections, holidays
American

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

J.D. Did you have any other festivities?
like at Christmas-time?

V.G. ah yes at Christmas-time
why they'd gather at the little school
and we'd have a
why everybody'd bring a present you know exchange presents
and then another big day
we introduced that
we brought all those foolish things from New Orleans
but amongst ourselves
there was nobody else up there our family, the Rossi family
and like I say Mr. and Mrs. Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. Smith they had no children
we'd all gather at the school
it was kind of pot-luck thing
and so one time my cousins
my sisters said let's have an April Fool's
and April Fool party
and they made
they made pies
we filled them up with a' cotton
and then
the men would get the pies or something
and when they opened them up there were full a' cotton
it was horrible
and we used to decorate
we used to decorate our little old school house with those beautiful Woodwardia ferns
when we gave an entertainment
why the whole place was nothing but Woodwardia ferns and everybody came from Ben
Lomond for
our entertainments
because our teachers were very good and they'd put on big plays and
Census Taker we had one they called Census Taker
and the boys would be whittling and the other man
you know how they would do
they'd run into conversation with the mother and the census taker
and had nice
and people used to come all the way from Ben Lomond to
witness all the
different plays we'd put on
they don't do that like that nowadays
now it's not the same
but we're in a different time
but that was out time
now it's somebody else's time see

recollections, games and dances
Guichard
American-French
Guichard

Miss Viola

Miss Carmen

C.G. And then there were games they used to play
and was it tin cans or something?

tin cans and an old sow

V.G. And then they used to play musical chairs
 and my mother used to play for that
 you know you put chairs in a row and everybody goes around and around first you know
 and then
 the music stops and you grab for a chair
 and we used to play musical chairs
 and they used to dance the square dance
 and the quadrille
 and the lancers
 all those dances
 my mother had wonderful music that she brought with her from New Orleans
 so we used to
 they used to
 always have piano my mother used to play for the dances and everything else
 but we had nice times I think
 I can remember them
 I should write them down myself

Explanation of terms:

Tin cans (also known as steal the pig) - there was a tin can in the middle, everyone had a hole in front of them and they tried to kick the tin can into their hole.

lancers and quadrilles - dances brought from New Orleans, types of square dances with four couples in a square; they would sashay, bow and walk around similar to the Virginia Reel Two. the pieces Viola played on the violin were Madame Mungo and Rosalie to which the couples would dance lancers.

(as told to me by Viola Guichard)

Story about Henry Smith
American

Mrs. Odessa Guichard Ryan
Mrs. Stella Guichard Wallace

O.R. And then there was
we used to
there was another old gentleman who had a horse
that was Mr. Henry Smith
he lived up there
way above the school
and he used to go back and forth with these old horses
and I used to
fat sleek horses
but I never saw such a slow horses
but' it's a good thing they were
because old man Smith fell of [sic] his wagon
I don't know how many times
the wheel ran over his collar-bone
he had his collar-bone broke
I think three times
three times I think they said
that old guy would fall off
he'd be settin' up
and a lot of times
my brothers or any of them
they would
drive for him because he was so drunk and they had to hold him on because he would
fall off
and this
these
this was an English settlement
there was Cooper and Smith and who else was up there
quite a few up there
that was called the English settlement³²
old Cooper
the man that gave the property to the school
Mr. Brooks
James Brooks

³² There have been several references to the "English settlement" on Alba Road, but this reference was not included in Donald Clark's Santa Cruz County Place Names, 2008.

Customs
American-French

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

V.G The butcher used to come once a week and I wonder how long the meat had been there

C.G Yeah, you often wondered, you know
and they used to have the butcher come around in a wagon

V.G. And he used to come once a week
and he used to go up
he'd come form Santa Cruz
he'd go up Bonny Doon and around
and come down
come down Alba Road
he always had ice in the wagon

C.G. Did he?

V.G. Yeah, he had ice
big chunks of ice
and when you bought a round-steak cost you 35¢ a great big piece of round-steak

now

C.G. When you used to pay your bill they'd give you boloney or salami

V.G. Yeah, boloney
and when you came to the wagon
why he'd cut a piece of boloney for everybody
they weren't stingy
oh that's another thing in New Orleans that we had that I guess you never knew about is what
they used to call lagnappe [sic - correct spelling is lagniappe, defined as a small gift
presented by the store owner to a customer]
you'd go to the grocery store and maybe your mother wanted
you used to get your butter in a pat
on a plate
you bring your plate and they put a piece of butter on it and then maybe you'd buy rice
oh in those days maybe you'd get two pounds of rice for 10¢
and then after you bought a certain amount
then he says what do you want for lagnappe [sic]
well we always used to take these gingerbread
gingersnaps
then everybody that went
all the kids that went
they'd keep that
we'd have a certain place where we kept that
and then one day maybe at the end of the week why we'd have a little party and we'd have
lemonade and things
and then we'd eat the lagniappes
but they don't have that anymore
that's gone
that's in the old days
they don't give you nothing for nothing.

Customs, story of Margaret Hagerty
American-French

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

But I can remember going
you used to buy your milk
you used to have to bring your pitcher
and then this lady'd come around in the mornin'
she'd come around with the great big
oh you've seen those cans on a
they were on a
on a wagon
two big things I could see this gal sitting there with the reins of one horse was frisky
and you'd come with yer pitcher
and she'd
just like a faucet
and a quart of milk that was 5¢ or maybe 4¢
what is milk now, 29¢
5¢ can you imagine that
oh and beans and rice why that was so cheap
you know and the meat was cheap
and everything was cheap
I can remember her
and the bakery used to come around too
and they would have rolls and things like that and you'd buy them from the baker
but they didn't have baker shops like they do
in my time they didn't have any baker shops
but years ago there was a
there was a
if you ever go to New Orleans
there's a statue of a Margaret
they call her Margaret
and she was an orphan that came to New Orleans during the time of the yellow fever
and she was an orphan
and the convent they took her in
and Margaret Hagerty was her name
and she took care of her mother I think
after her mother died
she lived back east somewhere
and when her mother died she came to New Orelans and went into a convent
and then she used to do for the poor
and so finally she saved all her money
and she washed and did everything to save her money

Story of Margaret Hagerty, cont.
American-French

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

and she bought a bakery and she ran that bakery for years
and later years when she made so much money and she bought cows and she used to give
the milk to the poor and everything
and then finally she got too old for that so she sold all that and she had plenty of money and
she used to wear a big black apron
with pockets
and the poor would come and she'd give this one a dime or quarter
helped all the poor
and there's a beautiful statue of her
I know where it is
it's
well it's on the American side
you go one of the old streets
and there's Margaret Hagerty
with a loaf of bread and a child
it's beautiful
and a little orphan or any child that was poor
and in her big black apron there's a loaf of bread at her feet
and the little orphan she's got her arm around it
very pretty
and that was during the yellow fever

C.G. We walked a long way to see that
and all that way to New Orleans
and we
and she vowed she was gonna find

V.G. And I vowed I was gonna find it
and the reason

C.G. That's why I don't like to go to New Orleans
she wants to go find all those old things

V.G. The Reader's Digest had something about her
and my mother used to tell me about Margaret

C.G. She walked my legs off, ha ha

V.G. And do you know
I asked them and they laughed at me
And one
and one woman said why do you want to see that
that's ancient history
that's what I want to see
I said she lived in a good old time when charity was charity
and I wanted to see her statue

Story of Margaret Hagerty, cont.
American-French

and I saw her statue
oh poor Margaret Hagerty
she was poor as a church-mouse.

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

story about Alba school
American

Mrs. Odessa Guichard Ryan 74
Mrs. Stella Guichard Wallace 85, retired
French (Louisiana)
11130 Alba Rd., Ben Lomond
May 24, 1972

O.R. I'm more interested in the school than anything else
because it's older than I...

this sister you just saw (Stella) is the only one living
that attended the school the day that it
was opened
this cousin down here (Viola) came after

and she tells the story
I didn't know that
because I guess nobody told me
that when she came to the little school-house
that shen she came
and her family came in September
that there were
tables out in the yard and they had made
oh like
an arch over the top and put ferns all over
the ferns she said were all dead but you could see where there
had been flowers and ferns
they had a big
a big luncheon and they had charged the big price of 25¢
apiece
for the ticket
and to make money to help pay for the school
25¢ can you beat that?
well I guess 25¢ was harder to find than a dollar is now

and everybody
and then in here
in this book they
how much they kept collecting you know for the dinners
I guess they didn't
everybody didn't pay for the dinner or didn't pay the 25¢
when they got there
so they kept on

Stories about the Burns
American

Mrs. Odessa Guichard Ryan
Mrs. Stella Guichard Wallace

J.D. Do you know anything about the John Burns family?

O. R. Well yes they went to school with us

Before my father came here were several Burns you see
there was the old Tom Burns that was their grandfather
yes their grandfather
and he had four sons

he came from Scotland and he probably took all the land he could
you know how you do when you're
getting Government land
and then maybe he divided it with his four sons
did she ever say anything to you about her uncles
she (Margery Burns Lozier) had four uncles
three uncles
and they probably divided it
I don't know

J.D. Does she have any other brothers who are living?

O.R. Jack is living
and Jack was younger than Nellie (Burns Patrick)
cause Jack was about my age
I think
but he hardly ever came to school
and he tells the story now
he wrote me a note
when I wrote to him for the Jubilee
he wrote me a note and said
that he remembers when he used to come down and was afraid of mountain lions
and he used to hear it
he said he used to hear them in the
well maybe he did hear them in the brush
because
I had an experience with a mountain lion too
and I saw a mountain lion
so maybe he did

so and I guess
maybe the little burns had heard that
little Jack had heard that story about the mountain lions taking the pigs so he thought if it can
take a little pig it can take a little kid too
[Note that the photocopy is too poor to make out who said what, so the conversation has been
reproduced without the initials of the speaker.]

Stories about the Burns
American

Mrs. Odessa Guichard Ryan
Mrs. Stella Guichard Wallace

and I felt the same way
I thought if it was big enough it could take me
and we came down
he came down as he says
every time
oh yes
and when he wrote the letter he said behind every bush was a mountain lion or something like
that
I just laughed I thought there's one mountain lion is about all there would be up here
or two but there wouldn't be one behind every bush
but that's what a little kid thinks you know
you'd come down
and I thought there was a mountain lion watching me behind every bush

frightened of mountain lions
poor little kid, I don't blame him

well he was a scary little guy
they were all scary little fellows
and I think they were very shy
I've never seen Jack since he's grown up

family history,
French-American

Mrs. Odessa Guichard Ryan
Mrs. Stella Guichard Wallace

O. R. No my mother's people were deMontier
the little de you know for nobility
and she was
her father, my mother's father died
he died of a heart attach
mother had always
she was just a little girl and this
you know this Viola you were speaking to
her mother was three years older than my mother
and she was the older sister
that's how she married my uncle
because as it seems
my grandfather told him
when he asked if he could marry my grandmother
my aunt
she was only sixteen
and he says she's too young to get married
but he said if anything happens to me
marry her right away so my two daughters will have protection
so he must have known he had heart trouble
and he died at his desk
so my uncle
they didn't wait until the mourning time was over
they didn't have a big wedding or anything
and my uncle married my aunt and then
Mama went to stay with her sister
helped her take care of the children that were born
and she lived with her until she married Daddy
so there's really
that's one of those things
that's how we're double cousins
that's how Viola has kept things up
and of course we had a big
my father said there was a diary
written that said all about his grandfather
and about the plantation and everything
and my aunt was
because my uncle was the oldest of the brothers
she, they had the books that had been written
and my aunt, she was always an impeccable housekeeper
not like I am that leaves everything around
I'm always afraid to burn something
afraid I'll burn something worthwhile
and she took a whole bunch of papers and threw them in the stove
and there was our book
and so nobody

family history,
French-American

Mrs. Odessa Guichard Ryan
Mrs. Stella Guichard Wallace

that's priceless we can't get that back because
you see we can't all of us remember these things
and some of them remember
of the you see even the cousins
they can't remember what
and we're the only ones that
Papa used to do a lot of talking
and he told us about it
and they're telling us that we're
that we're in the wrong
it's wrong
and we still
I still maintain that's a story my father told
and my father
told it to many people
so it isn't that I'm the only one heard it
he used to tell other stories
and of the stories I've heard that so many times
about Jodge Rousseau and his five pound
he had nothing but a five pound note
when they reached New Orleans

story about Henry Smith,
American

Miss Viola Guichard
Miss Carmen Guichard

V.G. But we used to
 when we were kids
 this old Henry Smith
 he drove a big
 a wood wagon
 he hauled wood
 and everything else
 and he drank quite a bit
 and so when Henry Smith was downtown we wanted to ride with him
 his wood wagon would be parked in front of the saloon
 well about every hour Henry Smith would come see how the horses were
 if they wanted a drink or something
 and Henry Smith
 and we'd say Mr. Smith could we have a ride
 sure get in, I'm coming out in a minute
 in a minute
 and we'd wait for old Henry
 we'd wait and we
 and maybe we'd wait until 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon
 by that time the horses used to take him home
 but old Henry Smith
 we didn't mind it
 we knew he was drunk
 but the horses would take us home
 and then we'd get in the back of the wood-wagon
 and we'd drive with old Henry Smith
 and he always
 we always got back
 but one day he was all by himself
 and he went off the grade
 it was raining and he went off the grade
 and
 the
 old
 you know they used to sell them
 jimmy-johns
 full of wine
 and he went off the grade
 he broke his ribs
 and for years
 it broke the bottle
 and it was hanging on a tree
 I don't kow who had put it there
 now when we lived up on the Alba Road every inch of that road was named
 where Mr. Smith went over the grade
 that was one place

Story about the Chinese
American

Mrs. Odessa Guichard Ryan
Mrs. Stella Guichard Wallace

O.R. See the Chinese used to come
there would be a Chinese up at the
camp where Mrs. Burns
Mrs. Lozier's telling you up near Lockheed
there was a big
lumbering camp
and there were quite a few
the Chinese used to work
well
the Chinese used to do the cooking
they weren't very good at cutting lumber
but there were problems with coolies that did the work
like cooking and cleaning and all that
because I can't see them cutting down big trees

James Doan, Ph.D, is a professor at Nova Southeastern University. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz.



The oral histories of James Doan's subjects ended here. His paper goes on to describe how he used a format of spoken word, using "little punctuation and each discrete thought rendered on a separate line, to be applicable to the ways of speaking of" his informants.

James Doan goes on to say that families of "John Burns and his family circa 1862, and the former, two brothers, Rudolph and Leopold Guichard and their families in 1895. The families sustained limited contact with one another, primarily through the medium of the little red school-house, Alba School, approximately half-way between the Burns and Guichard ranches, and attended by the children of both families. This school, no longer used except as a library, has come to play a unifying and central part in the lives of these children, now no longer children except in their memories of childhood, of the Guichards five remain, four in the area, and of the Burns, four remain, three in the area. These seven living in the Santa Cruz area formed the bulk of my informants; of the remaining two living informants, one is a daughter of a Burns daughter and the other is a long-standing Ben Lomond resident, considered the town historian by the majority of the townspeople and a good authority on both the Burns and Guichards."

James Doan said that "first the dramatic settings of the stories are within an area centered around the Alba School and extending back along the Ben Lomond ridge. Apparently sightings of mountain lions and grizzly bears were uncommon even in the years from 1860 to 1880 becoming less common gradually until they were virtually unknown. Mrs. Odessa Ryan dates her possible sighting of a mountain lion, she's not sure, it may have been a big dog, at around 1900, when she was about three years old, possibly a fabrication of a well-developed imagination, while Mrs. Nellie Burns Patrick places the time when there were mountain lions as long before, when her father was a boy, before he married, thus before 1876. Although there were furtive attempts to hunt bears and mountain lions after that date due to their sporadic attacks on livestock, cattle, and hogs, there were no definite stories among those collected of a bear or mountain lion being either seen by a reliable witness or killed, during the lifetime of the informants. In fact, the only actual evidence inherent within these stories is that, as children, they would hear mountain lions. Carmen Guichard told me that she could remember 'we used to hear mountain lions/and get scared/didn't go to school.' Mrs. Ryan stated substantially the same thing, that as children, they were scared they would come upon a mountain lion on the way to school.

Several of the informants also mentioned rattlesnakes, which were reputed to abound in the mountains at that time, yet Viola Guichard claims that she never saw any:

As long as I lived up there
 I never saw a rattlesnake
 and there were rattlesnakes
 all of the Ben Lomond mt.

Only Mrs. Margery Burns Lozier who had no personal experience with mountain lions remembered that, as children, they killed rattlesnakes. This seems to me to point to a possible generalization. The lack of encounters between men and dangerous animals, such as mountain lions and grizzly bears, within the immediate environs of Ben Lomond, during the childhood of the informants, caused the proliferation of stores about these animals both then and now. For example, I can well imagine the young Odessa Guichard and Jack Burns swapping stories about mountain lions with each other for their scare-value, or perhaps Carmen Guichard, the baby of her family, and Jack Burns using the pretext of having heard a mountain lion in the night to keep from going to school. The former hypothesis may be supported by Jack Burns' retelling of the story about hearing mountain lions in a letter to Odessa Ryan in 1970, for a July 4th Jubilee held at the Alba School, and Mrs. Ryan's remembering that he had been a scary little fellow. Regarding the second hypothesis, Mrs. Ryan also mentions that Jack Burns hardly ever came to school, that although they were the same age, when she was in third grade he was still in first, and that even if he had heard mountain lions he could have run down from his house to the school, if he had wanted to come. From the additional impressions I received, it seems that all the Burns boys were very much in the mold of the stereotypical frontier-boy who hates going to school and dips little girls' hair in the ink well.

If I am correct Mrs. Lozier, Jack's sister recently heard this story from Mrs. Odessa Ryan. Apparently the two ladies have remained in contact with each other. They are the only representatives from the two families who have done so."

Below is the citation of James Doan's paper:

Stories of the early settlement of Ben Lomond / as told by the living members of the Guichard and Burns families and dealing with the years from 1860-1920

[Doan, James.](#)

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Subject(s) [Ben Lomond \(Calif.\) -- History.](#)
[Ben Lomond \(Calif.\) -- Biography.](#)

- , Ripley, Eleanor, 28
 4th of July, 25
 A. Ruff, 15
 Alameda, 4
 Alba community, founding of, 22
 Alba Improvement Association, 29
 Alba Rd., 6, 10, 29
 Alba Road Maintenance, 28
 Alba Rossi, 13
 Alba School Bell, 20
 Alba School Trustees, 15
 Alba Union Sunday School, 17
 Bacon, Jane, 33
 Bacon, Paul, 33
 bear trees, 8
 Ben Lomond Co, 11
 Ben Lomond Grade, 13
 Ben Lomond Land & Lumber Co., 11
 Ben Lomond Mountain, 10
 Ben Lomond Mountain, CA, 7
 Ben Lomond Mountain, Scotland, 7
 Ben Lomond Mountains, 2
 Ben Lomond Road, 7
 Ben Lomond School, 13
 Ben Lomond Train Depot, 4
 Ben Lomond, Town of, 5
 Bennett, Hattie, 36
 Bickels, 26
 Blodgett, Cora, 36
 Blodgett, S. (?), 11
 Bonny Doon, 23
 Bonny Doon., 7, 31
 Boulder Creek, 4, 30
 Breamore, 7
 Brook Lomond, 7
 Brooks, James, 16
 Brown School, 20
 Burns Lozier, Margery, 8
 Burns Patrick, Nellie, 8
 Burns, John, 7, 8, 80
 Burns, Margaret, 8
 Burns, Thomas, 7, 8
 Chandler, Mrs. J. B., 8
 Chandler, Mrs. J.B.
 Appendix E, 46
 Chelesedos, George, 28
 China Grade, 30
 Comstock, L. H., 11
 Cooper, George, 11
 Cooper, J. F., 11
 Cooper, Thom, 11
 Crooks, William, 11
 D. R. Guichard, 15
 Denison, J. W., 11
 Dickenson Hotel, 6
 Doan, James, 8, 23, 80
 Drake, ?. ?, 11
 Earl Wilder, Alice
 Appendix E, 46
 Electricity, 23
 Empire Grade, 10, 29
 Fall Creek Unit of Henry Cowell Redwood State
 Park, 29
 Fanning Grade, 29, 33
 Fanning, Wesley, 12
 Felton, 4
 Fitch, A. H., 11
 Fitch, G. L., 11
 Fredda Car, 5
 Fruchte, Adnah, 20
 Gibson., 8
 Gibson, Flora
 Appendix E, 46
 Gibson, Flora Bell, 8
 Gilson, J.W., 26
 Gilson, Mrs. O.J., 27
 Gilson, Warren, 27
 Goodwin, Mrs. E.H., 27
 Gotthold, Julia, 21
 Graham Hill Road, 4
 Grinnall, Charlotte
 Appendix E, 46
 Guichard, James, 32
 Guichard, Leopold, 80
 Guichard McGarraugh, Althee, 20
 Guichard Ryan, Odessa, 23
 Guichard Wallace, Stella, 23
 Guichard, Althee L., 36
 Guichard, Carmen, 23, 81
 Guichard, D. R., 12
 Guichard, D. R., 13, 16, 17
 Guichard, Joseph Leopold, 19
 Guichard, Leonide, 18, 38
 Guichard, Leopold, 12
 Guichard, Maria Theresa, 18, 19
 Guichard, Miss Bertha, 27
 Guichard, Miss Carmen
 Appendix E, 46
 Guichard, Miss Stella, 27
 Guichard, Miss Viola
 Appendix E, 46
 Guichard, Mr. Carey, 27
 Guichard, Odessa, 81
 Guichard, Odessa Ryan, 23
 Guichard, Rudolph, 80
 Guichard, Viola, 23, 81
 Hall, Bertha, 36
 Helmer, James, 33
 Helmer, Mrs., 33
 Hessey Building, 5

Highway 9, 33
 Historical Landmarks, 17
 Holyer, Josephine, 18, 36
 Hotel Ben Lomond, 6
 Hotel Rowardennan, 6
 Hubbard Gulch, 12, 29
 Jeunesse, Limpe Pa, 36
 Jeunesse, L.A., 26
 Jim's Road, 34
 Jones, David, 11
 Joseph Rossi, 15
 Kalapa, 27
 Keen View Star, 25
 LaJeunesse, Ann, 28
 LaJeunesse, Clyde, 28
 LaJeunesse, Lois, 28
 LaJeunesse, Mr. F.W., 27
 LaJeunesse, Mrs., 28
 LaJeunesse, Mrs. F.W., 26
 LaJeunesse, Lois, 26
 Linscott., 13
 Loch Lomond, 7
 Lohen, Mrs., 26
 Love Creek Mill, 5
Lozier, Margery Burns, 81
 Mail delivery service (RFD), 23
 Manley, Mr., 27
 McGarraugh, Mrs. Althee, 27
 McGarraugh, Mrs. L. Althee, 36
 McGrury, Miss Ellen Pearl, 27
 Mill Street, 5
 Monseau, Elizabeth, 36
 Mudslide 1982-3, 33
 New Orleans, 12
 Newall Creek Mill, 5
 Newell Creek, 13
 Olympia, 4
 on Summit Rd. Bonny Doon, 29
 One room schoolhouses, 19
 One-room schoolhouses, 16
 Pacific Avenue Railroad company, 5
 Pacific Coast Railroad., 5
 Pacific Manufacturing Company, 5
 Pacific Mills, 4, 5, 16
 Patrick, Margery Burns
 Appendix E, 46
 Patrick, Nellie Burns, 80
 Appendix E, 46
 Peterson Family, 31
 Peterson, Gladys, 36
 Peterson, Peter, 11
 Pierce, James Pierpoint, 5
 Prescott, Preston, L., 34
 Railroad in San Lorenzo Valley, 4
 Rainfall, 2
 Randalls, Mrs., 25
 Rose, Walter, 11
 Rossi, Joseph, 11, 13, 14
 Rossi, Sarah Jane, 14
 Roulet, Maurice, 16
 Rushton, N. (?) E. (?), 11
 Ryan, Mrs. Odessa Guichard Appendix E, 46
Ryan, Odessa, 80
 San Lorenzo Valley, 2, 4
 San Lorenzo Valley School District, 16
 Santa Cruz., 4
 School Bell, 21
 Sequoia School, 17, 30
 Shipley, Margaret, 28
 Shipley, Mr. David, 27
 Shipleys, 27
 Sittman, P.E., Mr. and Mrs., 26
 Sittmans, 26
 Smith, Henry, 11
 Smith, Levi, 11
 Smith, Patty, 28
 South Pacific Coast's Railroad, 4
 Spencer, Mr. H.L., 26
 Spencer, Mrs., 27
 Spencer, Mrs. H.L., 26
 Sterlings Ranch, 27
 Stoddard Rd, 10
 Stoddard Road, 9
 Stoddard, A. M., 11
 Stoddard, E. R. Herbert, 11
 Storm of 1955, 31
 Stuart, Mrs., 27
 Summit Road, 10
 Teacher's Institute, 22
 Thomas, Barbara, 34
 Thomas, Daisy, 36
 Turner, Anna, 36
 Van Winkle, S. F., 11
 von Beroldingen, Alfred, 20
 von Beroldingen, Linton, 19, 20
 Waldo, B. F., 11
 Wallace, Mrs. Stella Guichard
 Appendix E, 46
 Walter Family Strawberry Ranch, 9
 Walter, Frank, 27
 Walter, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest, 27
 Washburn, Mr., 27
 Watsonville, 8
 Western Ave., 33
 Western Avenue, 29
 Zayante Creek, 4

Bibliography

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 Caron, Mary Claire (Guichard descendent)
 Gotthold, Julia (Alba School Librarian, Retired, deceased)
 Kennedy, Barbara (Boulder Creek Historical Interpreter, deceased)
 Orlando, Alverda (Historian, former pupil of San Vicente School and former resident of upper Bonny Doon)
 Thomas, Barbara (resident of Jims Road in Alba District)
 Piwarzyk, Robert , author of Laguna Lime Kilns; Alba Road Historical Interpreter