

# THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Carmel Valley Pioneer Jonathan Wright

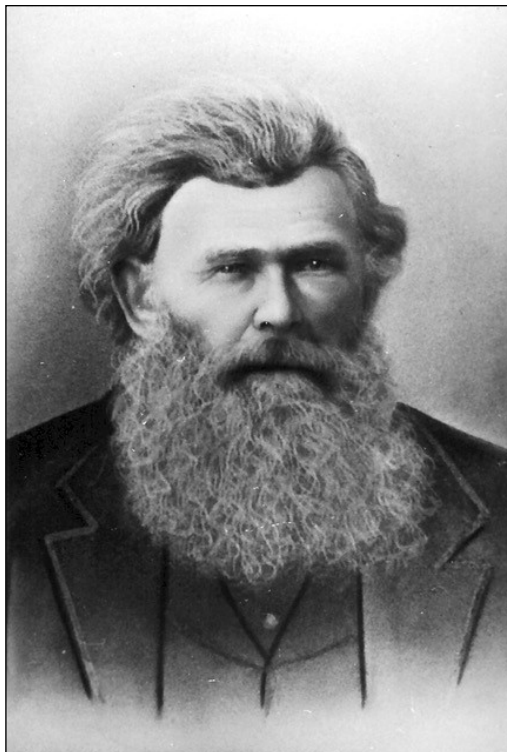
By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

The name Jonathan Wright (1821-1909) is associated with an episode in Carmel Valley history: the account of Robert Louis Stevenson's three-week 1879 stay at the Wright Cabin, located 8 miles up today's Robinson Canyon Road. With his partner, Anson Smith (1807-1889), Wright was an orchardist, farmer, beekeeper and goat herder at the property.

Wright was an enterprising California pioneer. He was born on December 23, 1821 in Mason County, Virginia (now West Virginia) but by age 10 his family had moved to a farm in La Porte, Indiana. His father, Captain Joseph Yard Wright, was a veteran of the War of 1812, serving in the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Militia.

Jonathan Wright reached California in 1846, according to an 1893 Biographical History of the Central Coast Counties. He arrived on the first overland wagon train from the Missouri River via Salt Lake City, crossing over the Bear River into Yuba County. At the time, political turmoil had erupted in California. The United States had declared war on Mexico in May 1846. That June, the Bear Flag Revolt flared up in Sonoma County. On July 7 Commodore John Drake Sloat raised the United States flag at Monterey. In this turbulent scenario, in October 1846, the 26-year-old Wright enlisted at Sutter's Fort to serve as a private under Captain John C. Fremont in Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> California Battalion of Mounted Riflemen. Wright's military orders took him to San Francisco, Monterey and southern California. He was discharged at Mission San Gabriel on April 12, 1847.

The innovative Wright remained in California, laboring in the Napa redwood timber business before trying his luck at the gold diggings. He worked as a land surveyor and a farmer. In 1849 he married Luly Brown (1821-1854) of Sacramento and they had two



daughters, Hattie and Alice. By 1859 the widower Wright was in Monterey. He spent 18 months as an assistant lighthouse keeper at Point Pinos before working about five years in the whaling business in Monterey Bay. He then homesteaded a 178-acre ranch in Carmel Valley, registering his cattle brand in 1865. He listed the property at "Carmelo," one of the early names for Carmel Valley.

By 1870, both Wright and Anson Smith were living at the ranch in Carmel Valley. They cleared the land, built a house, planted orchards, raised goats and set up an apiary and honey business. In 1871, the 50 year-old Wright married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Claudie. She was a widow with a daughter, Millie, who had been

living at the Custom House with the building's caretakers, Lizzie's sister Sarah and husband Captain Thomas Lambert. In time, Jonathan and Lizzie Wright produced three living daughters, Dollie, Sarah and Ruth.

Ever resourceful, Wright **(See Wright, page 7)**



Photos of Jonathan Wright and the Wright Cabin are from the Stephanie Culbert Collection—Carmel Valley Historical Society

## A Message from the President, Kim Williams

Each Spring, Cherie Ohlson puts together a review of the past year. I am always amazed at how much your Society has accomplished. It bears repeating here.

### Recap of Happenings In & Around the Barn in 2017

#### By the Numbers

- Membership: 21 new. 197 total, including 38 life-time members
- Visitors: Approximately 2,500 including multiple school & community groups
- Docents: 17
- Special project volunteers: 5
- Accessions: 416 documents, photos, artifacts, & library materials catalogued
- Book Sales: \$3,900
- Website Visits: 1700
- Tiles: \$2,125

#### Exhibits & Displays

- Major Exhibit Opening: Robles del Rio Subdivision + booklet of the story
- Spotlight Displays: Grant Risdon Pack Saddle, Pear Wagon Wheel, Mountain Lion Skull
- Large format photo of the Carmel Mission & Mouth of the Valley
- Library Displays: 30th Anniversary photos in hallway exhibit area for month of July; farming tools & artifacts from the Berta Ranch on the mantel.

#### Events

- 30th Anniversary Celebration
- Annual Holiday Party

#### Fundraisers

- Party in the Village! (in partnership with CV Village Improvement Committee) raised: \$3,978 for us
- Holman Ranch Tavern (surprise fundraiser) raised: \$850

#### Booths at Community Events

- CV Garden Club Flower Show
- CV Fiesta

#### Articles

- CVHS featured in the Monterey Herald's Special Section about Carmel Valley and in a CV Women's Club Newsletter; announcements in the Carmel Valley Association's weekly eBulletin

#### On-going Upgrades to History Center

- Three "History Center WalkArounds" that identified desirable or needed improvements to both exhibits & building
- Rollers affixed to all of the display cases & individual exhibits making 99% of the items in the History Center's main room completely mobile

#### Talks

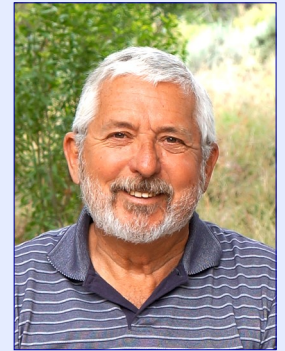
- Archeology—Gary Breschinni
- Brands & Branding—Jeff Ohlson, Steve & Mollie Dorrance
- Hatton Family History— Elizabeth Barrett
- History of CVHS (CV Rotary Club) — Jeff Ohlson

#### The Carmel Valley Historian

- March, June, September, December

#### Other

- Website upgrade to enable easier navigation of content & made mobile phone friendly
- Upgrade of our "PastPerfect" computer software designed especially for museums
- Sunday opening beginning in July. Currently open Saturday: 1-4 and Sunday: 11-2
- DVD Monitor with 3 videos for viewing: "Weaving at the Edge of the World" by Linda Yamane, Rum-sen Indian and major contributor to our Native Exhibit; Interview with Randy Randazzo, community leader and decades-owner of the Carmel Valley Market; 2013 Grand Opening Celebration.



*Kim Williams*

(See Recap page 8)

## In Memoriam — Frank Quilty

March 30, 1946 ~ February 26, 2018

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Frank Quilty. Frank was a member of the CVHS Board and served as president in our early years. It is Frank's signature that certified the incorporation of the Carmel Valley Historical Society in 1988.

Frank thrived on giving back to his community and volunteering with various local organizations. As a Kiwanis member of 30 years Frank helped establish the annual Carmel Valley Fiesta, and served as treasurer for many years. In 1980 he received the *Carmel Valley Good Egg Award*.

Frank is survived by his wife and business partner of 35 years, Sidney Slade, and sons Brian and Scott Quilty, plus many family members and friends.



## A Bird's Eye View of a Wildfire

By Jeff Ohlson



Photographs transport us back in time like no other medium, and a wildfire photo such as this will get the attention of Carmel Valleyites. This 1947 aerial photo looks southeast over the Carmel Valley Village at a wildfire in an area known by locals as Russell Ridge, just east of Hitchcock Canyon.

The Double H Ranch (now Stonepine Estate), Carmel River, Los Tulares, Sleepy Hollow, and San Clemente Dam are close to where the large plume of smoke is rising. Back then few structures other than hunting or summer cabins would have been in the path of this wildfire.

The fledgling Tularcitos Fire Protection District (later named the Carmel Valley Protection District) had just formed a year before this photo was taken and its fire station on Via Contenta was yet to be built. The ability to fight wildfires at this time was not fully developed and the nearest fire station would have been the original Sleepy Hollow Tularcitos Fire Station located 2 1/2 miles east of Carmel Valley Village that was built in the 1940s. Years later, in 1966 and 1989, there again would be fires in this area.

Photo credit: James Sweeney family archives, son of Larry Sweeney who worked at the Carmel Valley Vintage Airfield as airport manager and instructor pilot in the late 1930s and 1940s.

# A History of Carmel Valley's September Ranch

By Jeff Ohlson

Situated 3 miles east of HWY 1 on Carmel Valley Road, September Ranch's 20-acre equestrian facility is a well-known historic landmark that Valleyites drive by every day.

The 4,366-acre Rancho Cañada de la Segunda land grant of 1839 was situated in the northwestern section of Carmel Valley. Its ownership changed several times before Carmel Valley pioneer William Hatton purchased its western section in 1892, owning its entirety over time. The Hatton family eventually controlled over 10,000 acres in the Valley.

After William Hatton's death in 1894, his Rancho Cañada holdings were partitioned to his surviving family. One of the tracts was the 909-acre future site of September Ranch, deeded to his son Frank D. Hatton, in 1925. The northern section of this property

was heavily forested with elevations up to 968 feet with steep terrain in some areas. Its southern section had terrain suitable for structures and pastures. The Sarah (Hatton) McAulay tract was located to the west of Frank Hatton's tract and Anna (Hatton) Martin's tract was situated to its southeast.

The Porter-Marquard family purchased the Frank Hatton tract in the 1950s after which the Rancho



This 1903 Rancho Cañada de la Segunda land grant map was made by Monterey County Surveyor Lou Hare for William Hatton's widow Mrs. Kate Hatton. The outline of September Ranch is shown in the far eastern section of the Rancho. The map was donated to the Historical Society by the Porter-Marquard family.

Cañada Subdivision was developed on the southern section and the ranch property on the north was sold to Barbro Fridden. In 1966 Fridden sold the 896-acre ranch to Howard Morgens, then CEO of Proctor & Gamble. Howard Morgens and his wife Anne named it September Ranch because September was their favorite month, when the weather and the ranch with views from it were all spectacular.



With over a half century of Morgens family ownership, the ranch saw many changes. The Morgens family planned to develop and sell the property, while maintaining and upgrading the ranch's 20-acre equestrian facility. The overarching development philosophy was to preserve the historical landmark by minimizing visibility of houses from Carmel Valley Road while keeping the equestrian facility untouched. Some of the development plans were vigorously contested, such as water rights and whether or not the ranch's water sup-



The September Ranch equestrian facility in 2018. A view of looking east from Del Mesa.



This 1925 photo looks southeast over Carmel Valley Road, Frank Hatton's wife Irene and daughter Harriet are in the foreground. His sister Harriet Hatton's ranch house and pasture are now the site of the September Ranch equestrian facility. Frank Hatton actively managed his ranch until his death in 1943.

ply came from the Carmel River's aquifer. The county eventually determined that the two aquifers were separate.

In 1991 the Morgens gifted a 5-acre parcel in the northwest corner of the ranch property to Monterey County as an addition to Jack's Peak Park to settle a lawsuit that the Sierra Club had filed against the City of Monterey. The lawsuit contended that the site planned for a hospice included genetically unaltered Monterey Pines. The Morgens gift to the County enabled the hospice construction to proceed.

The ranch was managed for many years by Ray Hackworth, a premier horse trainer and showman in California's 1960s to 1980s. A WWII combat veteran,

Mr. Hackworth founded the California Reined Cow Horse Association and won several championships and honors at its reined stock horse competitions.

For over 2 decades thereafter, Gerry Paddock leased the property and, with the help of Tanya Bennett and her husband Blaine Whiteman, operated its boarding facility. In 2016, after Gerry Paddock's health declined, Tanya and Blaine became the lessees and operators. A September Ranch cattle brand was never registered as each of the tenants grazed their own cattle. The equestrian facility currently boards about 40 horses and boarders have access to about 12 miles of riding trails on the property. In 2018 the 891-acre ranch was sold to real estate investment company DLC Capital Partners.



A rock quarry on the ranch was operational into the 1950s. Much of the Monterey Formation shale supply (Carmel Stone) for the area came from this site.

The Carmel Valley Historical Society thanks the following individuals for their help with this history: Jim Morgens (Howard Morgens son), Skip Marquard (Porter-Marquard Realty), Lynn Kovach (Polaris Consulting), and Anna Williams (Great Grandniece of Frank D. Hatton).

## Annual Meeting Held on April 21<sup>st</sup>

By Cherie Ohlson

Annual meetings by their very nature are historical, covering activities that have already happened. Dave Terdy, Treasurer, highlighted the financial status of the Society and we are indeed financially very healthy with our only debt being the parking lot that has a no-interest loan. We continued to build our reserve account, saving for the time when the building

will demand attention or for an unforeseen event that requires an infusion of funds. We enjoyed generous donations from our members and community organizations that allowed us to continue our mission of preserving the history of the Valley.

The meeting was truly historical this year with the introduction of our latest exhibit, "Rusticating in CV 1870s-1940s" which tells the story of "enjoying the rural environment" (wild & otherwise) during this time period. For those unable to join us, the exhibit has 23 great photos, guest registers from the 1800s, a boar head, grizzly skin, and a couple of poems by noted authors. Board Member and Exhibit Committee Chair, Cherie Ohlson, talked about how exhibits in general are created and how each one differs in its journey from concept to debut.



Our newest exhibit, "Rusticating in Carmel Valley" saw it's debut at the annual meeting.



Reggie Jones gives an update on the "Tile Project."



An almost full house at the annual meeting.



CVHS Treasurer, Dave Terdy, presents the state of the finances.

## 2017 Financial Report

By Dave Terdy, CVHS Treasurer

Income	
Donations	17,206.50
Fund Raising Income	6,408.14
Grants	4,500.00
Dues	7,975.00
Other Income	22.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>36,111.64</b>
Expense	
Marketing	562.78
Facilities	2,899.44
Fund Raising Expenses	606.97
Events	3,079.15
Museum Collection	8,332.18
Operations Expenses	15,866.01
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>31,346.53</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>4,765.11</b>

## Financial Contributions (February, March, April)

**General Fund:** Dorothy Auerbach, Larry & Harriet Busick, Kerlin & Jane Nogle, Dean Norquist, Bill & Judith King, Melvin & Joy Pritchard, Sidney Slade, Gary & Sheri Tate, Kim & Christine Williams, Warren & Penny Wood

**In Memory of Frank Quilty:** Carmel Valley Kiwanis

**In Memory of Andy Case:** Jon & Linda Madsen

**Tiles:** Patty Armstrong

**Thank you all, for your donations!**

## Donations: Documents, Photos, Artifacts, Library Materials (February, March, April)

**Tom Augustitus,** Framed 14"x 22" sepia-toned water-color artists rendering of the Carmel Valley Fire Department building.

**Anthony Belleci:** Archives of the Carmel Valley Chamber's "Good Egg" Awards from 1953 to 2018.

**Maxine Callinan:** 2 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Directories- 2001 & second one is undated.

**Sally Feistel:** Vintage brochure: "Carmel Valley – Fun in the Sun."

**Chesney Grant** (granddaughter of Alice Piazzoni): Four B&W prints depicting Irene Piazzoni and her sisters Edith Rose and Alice involved in various activities "on the ranch."

**Ann Hess:** Artwork storage rack.

**Marty Huddelson:** Mounted Boar's head, shot in 2015 near the Lambert Ranch. (Owner's story: boar was approximately 300-400 lbs. and after being shot, ran

from him and died next to his truck, then was made into sausage.) On loan.

**Dave Lyon:** Grizzly Bear pelt/rug. Inherited from an uncle who lived in MT, OR & CA. On loan.

**Skip Marquard:** Framed 27.5"x 38.5" map of "Canada Segunda Rancho" surveyed for Kate Hatton in December of 1903.

**MJ Murphy Lumber** (from Mark who mans the lumber counter): Book: "Structures of the Period", a reproduction of original publication of MJ Murphy homes & other buildings.

**Mike & Les Terry--Los Laureles Lodge:** Los Laureles Lodge guest registry book, with dates from 1895 to 1919. On loan.

**Nancy Wilson,** Trifold mailing brochure with guestroom tariff sheet from Carmel Valley Inn/Fox Hill.

**(Wright, from page 1)** and Smith discovered a quicksilver deposit. In 1874 they formed the short-lived Chamisal Quicksilver Mining Company and named a Board of Directors, but nothing more is known about the project. By 1877 the two partners finalized the purchase of the ranchland they had occupied for the previous decade.

It was two years later, in mid-September 1879, that either one or both men (some sources say Wright's children) found and rescued the ailing Robert Louis Stevenson, sick and collapsed by the San Clemente Creek while out on a solo camping trip. The Scottish author spent three weeks in their cabin, recuperating in an upstairs room. There, besides teaching the Wright daughters their ABCs, he began an outline of his travel experiences in America. These were published in the volumes "Across the Plains" (1892) and "The Amateur Emigrant" (1895).

In 1880, the civic-minded Wright was selected as a delegate to the Republican Convention. Although Anson Smith sold out his portion of the goat ranch in 1886, Wright continued to farm and live on the proper-

ty for about twelve more years. By about 1898 he and Lizzie were living in New Monterey on their property at 511 Pine Street.

In retirement, Wright devoted himself to municipal pursuits. With his brother-in-law Thomas Lambert, he helped found Monterey's first Masonic Lodge. The pair also collaborated with other citizens in organizing the funding, construction and stone-laying of the imposing Sloat monument, dedicated to the 1846 capture of Monterey. Completed in 1910, the memorial is located on the Lower Presidio of Monterey property.

As a Mexican War veteran, Wright received a government pension. In 1908 he received further official recognition when the Fremont Memorial Association invited him as guest of honor to attend the annual flag raising at Fremont Peak near San Juan Bautista. As the last survivor of John C. Fremont's Battalion, the 87 year-old Wright was interviewed by the general's grandson, LT John C. Fremont.

Jonathan Wright died October 24, 1909 and is buried at the Monterey City Cemetery alongside his wife Lizzie, who died in 1914.

**Carmel Valley Historical Society**

WEB [carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org)  
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 CALL (831) 659-5715  
 WRITE PO Box 1612  
 Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612  
 VISIT 77 West Carmel Valley Road  
**History Center Hours:**  
**Saturdays: 1-4**  
**Sundays: 11-2**  
 Library: By Appointment

**Board of Directors**

Kim Williams	President
Gary Tate	Vice President
Dave Terdy	Treasurer
Cherie Ohlson	Secretary
Maxine Callinan	Member
Jeff Ohlson	Member
Ellsworth Gregory	Member Emeritus

Newsletter Production: Kim Williams

**What's New in the Museum**

Our latest attraction is a 5-foot diameter wagon wheel that came from an early 20<sup>th</sup> century pear wagon of Carmel Valley.

Come in to see it in person and learn about this fascinating aspect Carmel Valley history.



CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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**(Recap from page 2)**

**Our Wish List for 2018 More!**

- **More...Members**
- Docents (3 hour commitment, once per month; training provided)
- **More...Committee members** (Board, Exhibits, Collections). A commitment that benefits the Society, community and yourself; a learning experience; and, very interesting work. No experience necessary.
- **More...Artifacts & Memorabilia** relevant to CV & its environs—Clean out your garage, attic, basement, office, shed, or storage facility! Items can be given as unconditional donations or as loans. CVHS is a great next home for your historical items!
- **More...Visits to our website:**  
[carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Volunteers in Action**



Board Member Cherie Ohlson talks with visitors at our booth at the recent Carmel Valley Garden Club's Flower Show. Look for us at the Carmel Valley Fiesta, August 4-5!

**By the Numbers...**

**2,500** ...Visitors to the History Center in 2017