



The Monterey **MANIFEST**

The official newsletter of the Monterey State Historic Park Association



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President's Update by Lee Henderson

The First Theatre is getting the finishing touches with supply chain issues holding up a couple of items. MSHPA members may have received the notice of an invitation-only grand opening event at the First Theatre on November 2 from 5-7 pm to be held in conjunction with the Point Lobos Foundation. Limited tickets are available so be sure to get yours today! We will have refreshments, live entertainment and you can tour the grounds. There will be a short presentation about the project and plans for First Theater going forward.

Volunteers are always needed at the Custom House Store so please sign up or contact Stuart Thornton at stuart.thornton.iii@parks.ca.gov to volunteer. We are coming up on CITA and have great Adobe participation this year; we are expecting the tickets to sell out quickly so buy early. We have to place a limit in ticket sales at approximately 2,000 in order to make it feasible for everyone to enjoy the event.

Hope to see you all soon in the Monterey State Park or at CITA.

MSHPA has Board Member Openings!
Please apply to info@mspha.org

An Evening at the First Theatre- Thursday, Nov. 2, 5:00-7:00 pm

MSHPA and CA State Parks have been working together to restore California's First Theatre as a resource to the community that will enable performances, education, interpretation, and special events that meet our shared vision to preserve and sustain Monterey's distinctive history.

The historical landmark building was built about 1844 as a sailor's lodging house by Jack Swan. In 1848 it was commandeered by a group of mustered-out soldiers of Colonel Stevenson's regiment of New Yorkers looking for a place to put on plays and comedies. The theatre afterward served many different operations, including a whaling station, a curio shop, and eventually a theater again. The doors to the First Theatre have been shuttered since 1999, after an extensive restoration, it is with great pleasure that we celebrate the reopening of this important landmark.

MSHPA along with our friends at The Point Lobos Foundation invite you to an event celebrating the reopening of the First Theatre. Be among the first to experience the restored space, and enjoy an evening touring the theatre and grounds, live entertainment, and refreshments. Limited tickets will be available so be sure to get yours today!

Purchase tickets here: www.bit.ly/firsttheatre

Christmas in the Adobes 2023

Close your eyes and listen for just a moment. Do you hear sleigh bells jingling?? Believe it or not, Christmas in the Adobes planning is in full swing! Currently we are up to 20 participating buildings! This year will see the return of Casa Amesti (the Old Monterey Club) after a brief hiatus. We will also see the house of Gov. Alvarado returning after their structural damage last year. I would like to welcome Casa de la Torre to the event as a new partner!

The other big news related to CITA buildings is that for the first time in quite a while, California's First Theater will be completely open after extensive restoration! Visitors to the event will have access to both the saloon and the theater portion of the building!

Tickets for CITA will be going on sale online Monday October 16, and in person at the Custom House and Pacific House stores Tuesday October 17. Make sure to swing by the newly refreshed Custom House exhibit when you come down to purchase a ticket! Remember, tickets are discounted for the entire month of October so feel free to wait until November to purchase your tickets!

If you would like to volunteer during this event, please reach out to Richard Fletcher (richard.fletcher@parks.ca.gov).

**CITA ticket sales begin October 16 online at www.mshpa.org
& in person at Custom House and Pacific House stores October 18**

Christmas in the Adobes Partner Buildings by Mimi Sheridan

Much of the attention during Christmas at the Adobes (CITA) focuses on the well-known buildings that are part of Monterey State Historic Park such as the Custom House and the Stevenson House. However, just as important are the partner buildings. Several of these are owned by private clubs that have taken on the great challenge of restoration and perpetual stewardship of these historic properties. Most are rarely open to the public, giving CITA visitors a rare opportunity to enjoy them.



House of the Four Winds

The Monterey Civic Club has had the House of the Four Winds as its home since 1914. They built a compatible addition in 1953 and carefully preserve important interior features and furnishings. The group began in 1906 as the Women's Civic Club, stating its objectives as "To improve, beautify, and promote the welfare of Monterey and to help preserve its history." They now welcome male members and continue to be involved in local affairs. Thomas Larkin constructed the building about 1835 for use as a store. It acquired its name because of its prominent weathervane, Monterey's first. Its early uses included serving as a store, a residence and as the first county Hall of Records.



Pacheco Adobe

Shortly after the Pacheco Club began in 1957, it purchased the Pacheco Adobe, saving it from demolition. This building has perhaps the most varied history of any Monterey adobe. It was built in 1848 for Don Francisco Pacheco, one of the county's wealthiest landowners. In 1908, it was remodeled into a rooming house and, later, in 1922, into El Adobe Hospital. The private men's club provides both social and athletic facilities and its renovations have included a gym and a pool.



Casa Amesti

Casa Amesti is significant for its more recent history as well as its origins. It was built by Jose Amesti from a prominent landowning family. Construction on the original one-story adobe began in 1833, with enlargements and improvements until 1855. In 1918, Frances Adler Elkins, one of the country's most important interior designers, purchased the dilapidated casa, restored it, and decorated the interior in her trademark style. The walled garden was designed by Mrs. Elkins' brother, David Atkins, a prominent Chicago architect. He took inspiration from the gardens at the Alhambra in Grenada, Spain. Mrs. Elkins left the house to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1953. Casa Amesti was purchased from the National Trust by The Old Capital Club which is the club that was set up to preserve the building and garden. The Old Capital Club still maintains the building today.

The Monterey History and Art Association owns two CITA buildings—Casa Serrano and the Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library. Both are regularly open to the public. MHAA was founded in 1931 specifically to preserve the buildings and artifacts of Monterey history. The organization has been directly involved in saving many local adobes and pioneered both the original adobe tours and the popular Path of History.



Casa Serrano

building deteriorated in the 1940s-50 before being purchased by MHAA in 1959.

Casa Serrano, the club's headquarters since 1959, was built in 1845 and soon occupied by Florencio Serrano and his family. Florencio was highly regarded and held several local offices, including alcalde, or mayor, in 1846. He had been a college student in Mexico City and established the first school of the American era, sponsored by Thomas Larkin. Family members lived in the house until the 1930s when it gained fame as Cadematori's, a popular Italian restaurant. The

The Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library is not in an adobe, but in the former St. James Episcopal Church, a California Gothic structure from 1876. MHAA purchased the building from the Urban Renewal Agency in 1969, saving it from demolition by moving it from Pacific Street to the north end of Van Buren Street. The library opened in 1970, with the collection of local historian Mayo Hayes O'Donnell. It has since grown into a collection with more than 2,500 books, extensive photographs, newspaper columns and documents and letters of local families and businesses--an invaluable historical resource.



Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library

News from the Stores

Happy Fall to all! As the days become shorter and the nights grow longer, this is a wonderful season to curl up with a good book and a hot beverage, especially in honor of National Native American Heritage Month in November. Both Pacific House and Custom House Museum Stores have a wide array of books relating to Indigenous Peoples of California. Here are some of our favorites, beginning with two beloved children's books: *A Is for Acorn: A California Indian ABC* by Analisa Tripp; *Coyote at the Big Time: A California Indian 123* by Lin Risling; *Adopted by Indians: A True Story* by Thomas Jefferson Mayfield; *Becoming Story: A Journey Among Seasons, Places, Trees, and Ancestors* by Greg Sarris; *Know We Are Here: Voices of Native California Resistance* by Terria Smith; *Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources* by M. Kat Anderson; *The Inland Whale: Nine Stories Retold from California Indian Legends* by Theodora Kroeber; *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area* by Malcolm Margolin; *The Way We Lived: California Indian Stories, Songs, and Reminiscences* by Malcolm Margolin; *We Are the Land: A History of Native California* by Damon B Atkins and William J. Bauer Jr.

And as for that hot beverage, we'd like to suggest our proprietary blend of Mexican Hot Chocolate, a traditional beverage of Old California, sipped from one of a variety of mugs for purchase at The Custom House Museum Store. Enjoy!

The Sanchez Family by Lindy Perez

It was Robert Louis Stevenson who first introduced the reading public to his nephew and namesake, Louis Sanchez, born in Monterey to his sister-in-law Nellie Van de Grift and the popular musician and bartender, Adulfo Sanchez. In the first and last stanzas of the next to the last poem in **A Child's Garden of Verses**, Stevenson wrote:

<p><i>Some day soon this rhyming volume, If you learn with proper speed, Little Louis Sanchez Will be given you to read. Then shall you discover, That your name was printed down By the English printers, Long before, in London town.</i></p>	<p><i>And remember in your playing, As the sea-fog rolls to you, Long ere you could read it, How I told you what to do; And that while you thought of no one, Nearly half the world away Some one thought of Louis On the beach of Monterey!</i></p>
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The family of Louis Sanchez (1884-1962) is fascinating not only because of its association with Stevenson, but also because it illustrates how the Californio and American cultures merged in the 19th and 20th centuries, as new enterprises blended with old traditions. Here is their story.

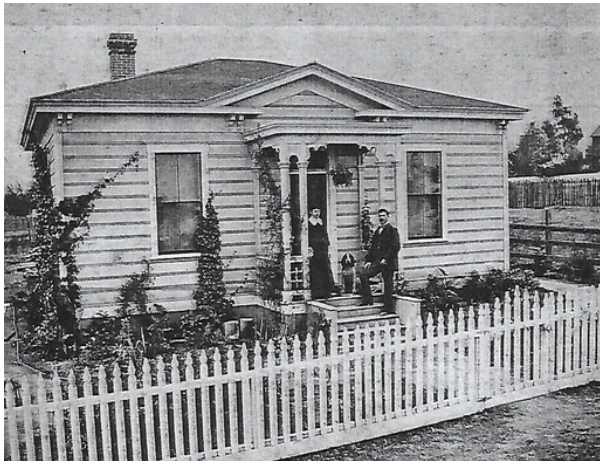
Adulfo Sanchez was the 11th of 14 children born to Gil Sanchez and Concepcion Pinto. Gil Sanchez had traveled to Alta California from Guadalajara, Mexico in the 1820s with Franciscan padres to help establish a college at the Santa Cruz Mission where he taught mathematics. On the maternal side, Juan Maria Pinto immigrated from Sinaloa, Mexico in 1776 with the De Anza expedition. The Sanchez family lived in Santa Cruz and Monterey as Gil served in official capacities for the Mexican government. Eventually, he built a home on the corner of Alvarado and Franklin Streets.

Some of the Sanchez boys ran a cattle ranch near the Carmel Mission and for leisure joined the Monterey Band. Adulfo played the guitar and sang Spanish love songs with a rich baritone voice. When the Monterey-Salinas Narrow Gauge Railroad was completed in 1874, their father opened the Railroad Exchange Saloon on Alvarado Street (where Starbucks is today). Later, Adulfo and brother Alec took over the business, changing the name to "Bohemia Saloon" when French painter Jules Tavernier opened a studio nearby and encouraged other artists to discover the Barbizon-like paradise on the Monterey Peninsula. The Sanchez brothers' saloon became the gathering place for San Francisco bohemians who famously decorated the interior walls with their paintings.

In the spring of 1879, Fanny Osbourne, back in California after studying art in Paris, brought her sister Nellie and children Belle and Lloyd to Monterey for a respite stay. They lodged at Casa Bonifacio on Alvarado Street midway between the French restaurant of Jules Simoneau and the Sanchez saloon. Fanny and Nellie had grown up in Indianapolis, which was still somewhat of a frontier town, next door to the church of Reverend Henry Ward Beecher, later to become a leader in the abolitionist movement. Their parents, Jacob and Esther Van de Grift, were descended from early Dutch and Swedish settlers whose offspring fought in the American Revolution. Both parents grew up in Philadelphia and moved westward like many others prior to the Civil War. They had seven children, Fanny the oldest and Nellie the youngest.

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Three romances blossomed in Monterey that year: Fanny and Robert Louis Stevenson, Belle and artist Joe Strong, and Nellie and Adolfo Sanchez. Fanny and Louis were married in San Francisco, honeymooned near Calistoga, and returned to Scotland; Belle and Joe married in Pacific Grove and spent a few years in San Francisco among the artists before moving to Hawaii; Nellie and Adolfo married and remained in Monterey. They built a house on Jackson Street, which looks remarkably the same today, and had their one son Louis in 1884.



Adolfo and Nellie on porch



House today on Jackson St

Unfortunately, Adolfo died of tuberculosis in 1891 when Louis was just seven years old. Nellie remained in Monterey, supported by her husband's large extended family, and became fluent in Spanish and familiar with the culture and customs of the Californios. She learned to dance with great dexterity and ride a horse with amazing skill. She believed that "no better-hearted, more charitable people ever lived...." Nellie and her son were planning to visit the Stevensons in Samoa when news arrived that RLS had died suddenly in December 1894.

Academics had always been Nellie's strength; in Indianapolis, she was encouraged in her studies by her high school teacher, David Starr Jordan, later to become the first president of Stanford University. Once Louis graduated from high school and was accepted at UC Berkeley in 1902, Nellie and Louis moved to the East Bay where they lived for the rest of their lives. In 1906, when the earthquake and fire nearly destroyed San Francisco, Fanny Stevenson was away from home. Louis at Berkeley put on his ROTC uniform and rushed to San Francisco where he helped save her stately home on Hyde and Lombard from fire and demolition.

While Louis studied engineering at the University, he shared a cottage with his mother which became a social and studying center for many students. Nellie took classes herself and completed a full four-year course of study. At the same time, she was working at the Bancroft Library as a documentary researcher and Spanish translator. As one of the first women regularly engaged as a reporter, she wrote under the pen name "Helena" for San Francisco newspapers. It was not until age 55 that she wrote her first book, *Spanish and Indian Place Names of California*. Eventually, she published seven books, including *Spanish Arcadia* and *Life of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson*. The sisters stayed close throughout their lives; Fanny helped Nellie financially at times, such as paying Louis' tuition at Berkeley. RLS and Nellie had been quite fond of one another; they exchanged letters, and he dedicated some of his writing to her.

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After graduation, Louis worked as a mining engineer for four years in the Sierra Nevada, Baja California, and Oaxaca, Mexico. He traveled in Mexico with his Aunt Fanny and Belle. Later, he worked for the City of San Francisco and Pacific Gas and Electric. In 1918, he joined the Corps of Engineers to help with the war effort. In 1923, Louis married Zoe Lambert, and they had three children. All lived together in a craftsman style house Nellie had bought in Oakland and gifted to the young family.



Always busy, Louis Sanchez had broad interests in the classics, photography, gardening, decorative arts, medicine, and travel. He crafted furniture and developed new plants. He won trophies as a tennis player. Over the years, he wrote dozens of magazine articles and hundreds of letters to friends and family members. He stayed connected with Monterey through correspondence and visits. In later years, he researched his family history and shared his knowledge with Monterey historians. In 1960, Louis and the daughter of Jules Simoneau organized a reunion of graduates from Colton Hall School, where students last attended in 1894. Amazingly, 66 attended!. After Louis Sanchez died in 1962, his children and grandchildren inherited the archives he had collected and continued to pass on the history of this remarkable family.

Louis Sanchez at class reunion

Volunteer Coordinator's Corner by Guides Kaitlyn Moreland & Stuart Thornton



Stuart Thornton
Guide 1

On August 20th, we had the pleasure of hosting guest speakers, Professors Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz, the authors of many notable texts in our Custom House Store, including *Lands of Promise and Despair: Chronicles of Early California, 1535-1846* and *Testimonios: Early California Through the Eyes of Women, 1815-1848*.

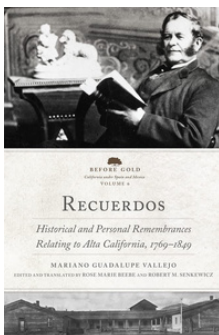


Kaitlyn Moreland
Guide 1

We were enchanted to hear their outstanding lecture on Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, one of the most influential figures of early California. Vallejo was a military officer when California was under Mexican rule and later served in the first session of the California State Senate. Before his death in 1890, Vallejo wrote a five-volume history of California titled *Recuerdos*. The work was translated by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz, who published it just months ago. Beebe and Semlewicz, a married pair, took us on a captivating tour of Vallejo's life in and out of Monterey, and his mission to provide a first-person account of early California history from the perspective of the Mexican Californians who lived it.

Both were kind enough to sign books after the talk, and we offered them a few small park-themed gifts as thanks for presenting. After the event concluded, we were pleased several days later to receive a thoughtful letter thanking us for attending their talk.

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Beebe wrote: [The Custom House magnet that you gifted us] has special significance, since it reminds both of us of Osio [Antonio Osio, Collector of the Port of Monterey at the Custom House under Governor Alvarado], the gentleman whose work brought us together as a professional research team and somehow he worked his magic as a matchmaker from his Heavenly Custom House and brought us together personally, as well. Wow! The power of historical figures, right?

Bob and I had such a blast last Sunday speaking to the group of volunteers. It is always so lovely to speak to an enthusiastic audience. We definitely would enjoy having the opportunity to speak to the volunteers (and other folks, too) about the women's Testimonios as well as the Vallejo Family in Transition (the letters book we are submitting for publication hopefully at the end of October.) As we mentioned to you last week, we really have so much fun sharing what we know about early California history and all of the "movers and shakers!"

We'd love to have them return to speak again, too! With any luck, this won't be the last time we welcome Rose and Robert as guest speakers at the park.

Our next guest speaker will be Scott Gale, speaking on October 22nd at 4:00 p.m. We will be meeting at the Stanton Center, right across the Custom House Plaza from the Pacific House. Come join us for a multi-media presentation about American illustrator and fine artist Donald Teague. Teague was a magazine illustrator for popular publications including the Saturday Evening Post and Collier's. He lived on the Monterey Peninsula from 1949 to 1991 where he did various art pieces and illustrations of the area. One of his paintings is a watercolor of the Casa Soberanes bedroom that currently hangs in the historic building! Scott has a unique story to tell about his connection to Teague and the artist's connection to the Monterey Peninsula. We hope you join us to hear him speak!

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**Donna Gibson &
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**We welcome your stories
and ideas.**

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