

President's Corner

May 2012

So many people come to council hours at the Farmer's Market to tell me why they moved to Danville—for its charm, community pride, and friendly manners. Of course, charm is embodied in the historic face of so many of our buildings—and our citizens!

It is my hope that you as a member will think of friends that want to connect with the memories and history—to really put down roots in the San Ramon Valley. It is such a warm feeling to share funny and memorable moments with our valley pioneers.

Invite them to our meeting and especially to hear stories at our Pioneer Social in the newly renovated Veterans Memorial Building!

Karen Stepper
President

Members' Corner

The Veterans Memorial Building in Danville reopened on April 28, 2012. It was constructed in 1925 to honor WWI veterans. It has undergone a \$9 million renovation. The project was funded with \$5 million from the Town of Danville, \$3 million from veterans groups, and \$1 million from a grant. It is now a nearly 13,000 square foot multi-use facility. Plans are to hold the Sa Ramon Valley Historical Society Summer Social there this August.

Need a Ride To The Society Meeting On May 17th?
Contact Bill Lloyd: 837-9382.

Over 42 Years Looking Back!



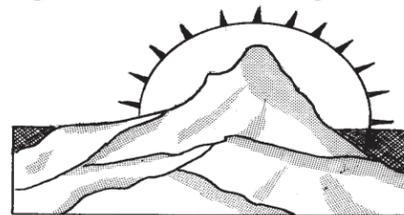
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SAN RAMON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 521 • DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94526

**NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY,
MAY 17TH
49'ers History
"The Gold Rush Days"**

SAN RAMON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



May 2012

ALAMO · BLACKHAWK · DANVILLE · DIABLO · SAN RAMON

Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln, The Civil War Enjoyable Topics At March Dinner Meeting

John J. Fitzpatrick, Jr., spoke at the March 15th dinner meeting. John is an attorney, a military pilot, and Senior Counsel to Chevron. John has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania since 2004. John spoke about Abraham Lincoln and Gettysburg,

John discussed why President Lincoln came to Gettysburg in the middle of the Civil War. Abe was conflicted. He was not the primary speaker. He was number 2. The keynote speaker was Edward Everett, who spoke for two hours. Edward was a former President of Harvard, Ambassador to England, Governor, State Senator, and member of the House of Representatives for Massachusetts.

It is Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (272 words) that is remembered. John discussed many issues impacting Lincoln at this time in his life.

It was about 4.5 months after the most pivotal North American battle ever or since that time. The battle was on July 1-3, 1863. There were 51,000 casualties: 11,000 killed, 30,000 wounded, and 10,000 captured or missing.

A series of artists have specialized in depicting the Civil War. One artist was Dale Galley, For the 145th anniversary (2008), he created a picture of Lincoln arriving the night before the dedication (November 18, 1863).

In the picture is a railroad station. It is still there. The National Parks is in negotiations to acquire the depot depicted. Lincoln is walking up Colorado street (now paved) and making his way to David Little's house. Little was the agent for all eighteen governors of the states that had units in the Union Army of the Potomac that fought at Gettysburg. Little put the whole ceremony together and invited the President to stay in his house along with 37 other guests. That house is now owned by the National Park Service. It is a mini museum.

Others included in the picture are Edward Everett and two of Lincoln's male secretaries. The secretaries wrote a book about Lincoln (ten volumes), released in the 1890's. They nicknamed Abe "the Tycoon".

(Continued on Page 2)

Gold Miners, Life In The Gold Fields, Finding Nuggets — 49'er History Topic Of May 17th Dinner Meeting

Sourdough Steve Johnson, just returned from the Sierra gold mines, will regale us with tall tales and true tales of life in the gold diggings on Thursday, May 17th at 7 pm. Sourdough Steve makes 49'er history come alive. You will hear how miners came to California, learn about life in gold camps, and meet more than a few interesting characters. Some won and some lost in the gamble to find riches. In his real life he taught students gold panning and led their exploration of gold mines and gold country museums. This will be a joint meeting of the San Ramon Valley Historical Society and the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Do not miss this rich opportunity!

The meeting will be held at the San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane, San Ramon. We will gather at 6:30 pm, eat at 7:00 pm, and enjoy our speaker. We hope to see you there.

Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln (Continued)

Lincoln wore a mourning band on his arm. Abe and Mary were still in mourning for their second son who died a year before at the White House. Their first son had died in 1850 before they left Springfield. Their third son was sick. Yet Abe and Mary came to this Gettysburg event even though Abe was the second speaker. Mary was beside herself. Abe was just as worried about their son as was Mary. Abe and Mary were faithful to each other and they doted on their children.

In the picture is Jack Hopkins, an African American, a janitor at Pennsylvania College, today called Gettysburg College, whom the students called the "vice president". In the picture is William Johnson, Abe's African American valet. Jack and William were incubating small pox. Abe was sick. Abe was bed ridden for three weeks when he returned to Washington DC. One of the two African American men died.

John pointed to a railroad station in the picture. Before battle, it was an observation post. During the battle, it was a hospital. During the first day of the battle, the Confederates won and took over the town. After the battle, it became a prison. Many buildings in Gettysburg had that same usage.

Abe did not make close personal friends. One person who knew Abe well was William Herndon, Abe's law partner from 1844 to 1861.

In December 21, 1860, Herndon wrote a letter to Henry Wilson, who at that time, was a member of Congress. In the letter, Herndon describes Abe. Abe has a heart as gentle as a woman that is tender, but a will as strong as iron. He loves all man kind and hates slavery and every form of despotism. On a very few issues, Abe's friends can rule him. But when the issues involve justice, liberty, individual rights, the government, the Constitution, or the Union, Abe will rule them.

John showed a photograph of Union troops killed on the Gettysburg battlefield on the second day, the most horrific of the three days. Photographers arrived from Washington on about July 6, 1863. Some of the bodies may have been buried before the picture.

A photograph of Confederate soldiers clad in a blue shirt and red pants was taken in the Rose (family who owned the farm) woods. They were in a V pattern..

Day 1 of the battle was a Confederate victory. Day 2 was a draw. Day 3 was a Union victory (Pickett's charge). On Day 4 there was a thunderstorm and the Confederate soldiers began their retreat. The Union Soldiers didn't know that they had gone until Day 5.

The Civil war started in April, 1861. This Union victory on July 3, 1863, was their first victory in the eastern theater of war. That is why the battle at Gettysburg was so pivotal.

John showed a picture of a barn with a big hole in the wall made by a cannon ball. The barn was owned by the Troussle family, who were neighbors of the Rose family. The cannon ball was recently given to the Park by the Troussle family members who still live in the area.

President Lincoln had come to make sense of this with a few appropriate remarks.

There are five versions of the Gettysburg Address, all written by Abe. The first two did not have the words "under God" in them. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th copies had the statement in them. The 5th copy was signed by Abe and is in the Lincoln Bedroom in the White House.

What was Abe's religion? John stated that Abe never bought into any particular doctrine, but he did believe in a supreme being. Abe set aside a national day of Thanksgiving.

Abe had some suffering in his life. Abe's mother died when he was 8. An older brother died at age 5, and an older sister died at age 20. Abe's grandfather was killed by Indians. Two of his children died while he was in the White House.

Abe was awkward around women unless they were engaged, betrothed, or married.

His only true love was Mary Todd. Mary was engaged for a year to a man from New York who had changed his name. The police or somebody was chasing him. He went back to New York to straighten out his situation.

(Continued on Page 3)

The Sales Table — Nancy Ramsey

The Alamo Grammar School 1876 notes and envelopes are available. There are Mount Diablo, Front Street, Southern Pacific Depot, Tassajara School, the "Grand Dames" series of three San Ramon older homes, and miscellaneous packages with eight historical scenes for sale. Our price to members is \$3.50 per package. Lots of postcards with historic scenes are available for \$0.20 each. Postcards of the one room school at Tassajara are out of print.

Do stop by the Sales Table.

Need a Ride
To The Society Meeting
On May 17th?
Contact Bill Lloyd: 837-9382.

R E C O R D

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Thursday, May 17, 7 p.m.

San Ramon Royal Vista Golf Clubhouse
9430 Fircrest Lane
(North of Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon)

Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln (Continued)

One involved Indians in the Sioux uprising in Minnesota in 1862. Many people were killed and about 1200 Indians were captured. Some 392 trials were held by the military and there were 303 convictions. Abe stepped in. If an Indian violated a woman or participated in a massacre as compared to a battle, the death conviction stood. The result was 39 executions.

John discussed some of Abe's issues with the military.

After coming into office, there were many military ups and downs. A Union ship was sunk by an electronically controlled mine, a first (wires in the water).

After the Union Army's first victory at Gettysburg, General Meade did not counter attack. Abe was beside himself. Why didn't Meade destroy the Confederate Army and stop Americans from killing themselves? Abe wanted to fire Meade. Abe waited a day, wrote the letter, but never sent it.

John discussed Abe's views on national and international issues.

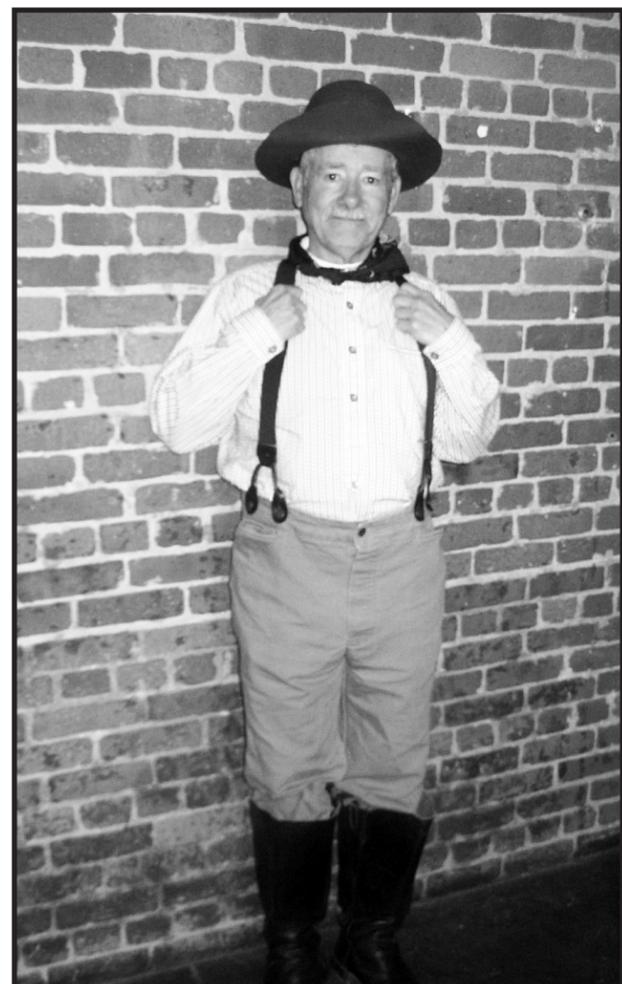
Abe invoked conscription, called a special session of Congress, and blockaded ports. Abe never saw the Confederacy as a valid government. He suspended the Writ of Habeous Corpus. He issued an executive order concerning political prisoners. He ordered the military to take over all telegraph lines. He impacted the Homestead Law, the Department of Agriculture Land Grant College Act, and the Income Tax (the threshold was lowered and the rates raised). He issued the emancipation proclamation, which was ineffective until the Union won the war.

John discussed the three purposes that Abe achieved three times in the Gettysburg Address (272 words).

Abe's first purpose was to honor the veterans.

Second purpose, Abe was committed to end slavery. (Slavery was permitted in the Constitution.)

Third purpose, Abe would never ever waiver from saving the Union.



*To Each Of Our
Society's Moms —
Happy Mother's Day!
Sunday, May 13th!*

**Sourdough Steve Johnson
Will Be Discussing the 49'er Days
At Our Meeting
On Thursday, May 17th**

Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln (Continued)

Abe was a part time postmaster, part time surveyor, part time member of the Illinois State Legislature. Abe is comfortable with Mary because she is engaged. Time went by and Abe and Mary decided to become engaged. If the other fellow ever came back, Mary wanted to tell him she had fallen in love with Abe.

Abe was also studying for the bar. Abe hated farming and splitting wood. Abe educated himself. He had only one year at a formal school.

There was some storminess in Mary and Abe's relationship. They broke the engagement for about fifteen months, then got back together and married.

In 1858 Abe was debating for office with a United States Senator, . He served four terms in a State Legislature, one term in the US House of Representatives, and now was a successful lawyer. When Abe decided to seek higher federal office is unsure, but possibly it was in 1854 when the Kansas Nebraska Act was passed. In a speech in Peoria, Abe started talking about slavery and what was going to happen in this country. The Republican Party began existence in the 1856 election, and Abe was separating himself from the Whigs.

In 1858 Abe was in Congress and submitted information for its directory. Born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky; Education, defective; Profession lawyer; Captain in the Black Hawk War; Postmaster in a small office; eight years in the Illinois Legislature; One term in the lower house of Congress; Yours truly, Abraham Lincoln. John viewed this as a missed opportunity by Abe as a politician.

Mary Shipman Andrews, in her 1913 Tribute book about Abe said that Abe wrote the Gettysburg Address on a train on his way to the Park. "Ridiculous!" John cited several reasons why this couldn't have happened.

As a politician and a lawyer, Abe always prepared his speeches in advance. Abe also consulted the Park's landscape architect two weeks ahead of the event because he wanted to know what to expect.

Five versions of the Gettysburg Address were prepared. In Abe's time the White House was called the Executive Mansion. The first page of the first version is on Executive Mansion stationery with a place for the date to be written, which was the case. The second page of the first version is on stationery borrowed from a lawyer guest staying there then.

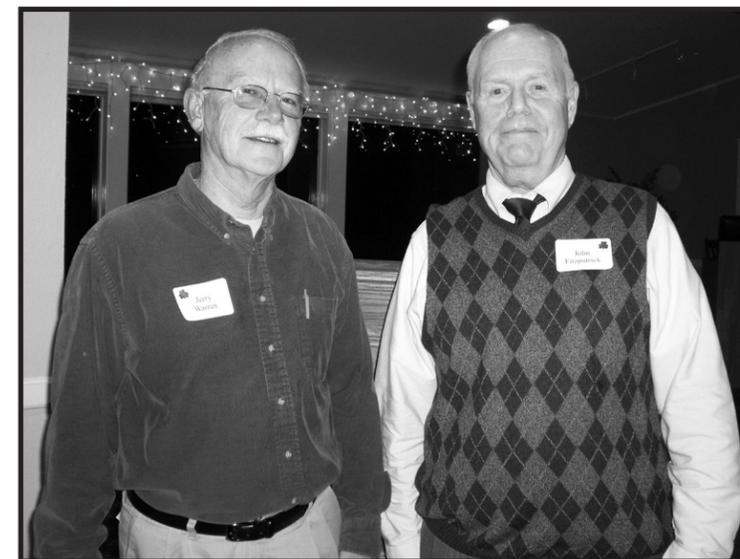
Additional reasons involve 19th Century trains. They shook. Yet, all five versions have clear legible writing.

The train from Washington, DC switched at Camden Yards. Every time the train stopped, schmoozer's and every politician around got on board to have an opportunity to ride with the President. They all tried to talk to Abe. He didn't have time to write.

Abe was also concerned about train safety. Sometimes a train would hit a cow and derail. Abe overrode the decision of his own Secretary of War and took an earlier train to make sure he got to the Park on time.

On the train, Abe and Mary were receiving information about their son, who was ill. The news wasn't good. Abe and Mary were emotionally distraught.

John discussed Abe's tolerance on many issues (while President). The issues included women, Jews, Blacks, Irish people, soldiers, religions, and Indians. For every group that Abe came across, he believed the Declaration of Independence was relative.



**Jerry Warren and John Fitzpatrick at the
March 15th dinner meeting**

(Continued on Page 6)

San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge History — Rebuilding Now Underway — New Bridge Will Open Next Year

Over 80 people gathered at the Village Theater in Danville, on March 27, 2012, at 2 pm to hear a presentation on the rebuilding of the San Francisco Bay Bridge. The speaker was Victor Gauthier II from the Public Information Office of CALTRANS. This event was co-sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Historical Society, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, and the San Ramon Historic Foundation.

The original Bay Bridge was constructed between 1933-1936. The cost of the bridge at that time was \$77 million. Three Hundred men worked on this project and were paid \$7.75 per hour. These workers were not union members. Safety Requirements per today's standards did not exist (harnesses, safety nets, etc.). Workers did not wear hard hats until about a year before the bridge was completed.

The bridge was one of the longest suspension bridges in the world. The upper deck was for two way traffic. Key System trains and commercial trucks used the lower deck.

The Key System was removed in 1958. The lower deck changed to all east bound traffic. The upper deck was for all west bound traffic.

About 280,000 vehicles cross the bridge every day. Bridge retrofits and new bridge construction have been made in the same foot print without shutting down commuter traffic.

On October 17, 1989, at about 4 pm on a World Series baseball day between the Oakland A's and the San Francisco Giants, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck (Loma Prieta). On the eastern span, a section of the upper deck collapsed onto the lower deck causing one fatality. The bridge was closed for a month for repairs. It was decided then that a new bridge design was required to withstand such an earthquake. New projects were initiated on various bridge sections.

Victor talked about the west span between San Francisco and Treasure Island.

The west span suffered little damage, but was retrofitted with new steel plates, cable bands, bearings, and viscous dampers. Over 0.5 million rivets were replaced with a million high strength steel bolts. This project was completed in 2004.

Victor talked about the western approach project into downtown San Francisco. This retrofitting was more difficult because of the six on-off ramps. The upper and lower decks were placed on two separate foundations so that they would react more independently from each other. There were many detours overnight for work so that daytime commuter traffic would not be affected.

This retrofit activity was just a stones throw away from San Francisco residences and businesses. CALTRANS bought a lot of windows during this activity, which was completed in 2009.

Victor talked about the skyway on the eastern span that was begun in 2007. Concrete structures were constructed in Stockton, California and barged to the construction sight. These structures weighed 708 tons.

Steel structure was added. They weighed 1700 tons each and there were two of them: one for the west bound deck and one for the east bound deck. These were the single heaviest loads ever lifted in California.

Victor discussed the Oakland touchdown. About 8700 tons of reinforced steel and 1.5 million cubic feet of concrete was poured on site.

The west bound bridge traffic was shut down this last President's Day weekend so that work in this area could be completed and allow the new bridge to open about six months earlier than scheduled.

The full bridge was closed during the Labor Day weekend 2007. At this time a 315 foot long section of the bridge just east of the Yerba Buena Island tunnel was replaced with a retrofitted bridge piece. These portions were so heavy and big that they had to be moved down the middle of the bridge. If they went to a side of the bridge, the bridge would buckle. C. C. Meyers was the prime contractor. A Dutch Company moved the structures.

The Yerba Buena Island transition structure allows the southbound side roadway of the new bridge to transition into the upper and lower deck section of the existing bridge. This required tearing down a piece of the existing bridge. A detour was required and is known as the S curve. This project was done 150 feet in the air. A 2200 ton deck section was removed and replaced with a 3600 ton deck section. This project was done on a Labor Day Weekend closure in 2009. This project took about 2 years of planning and outreach. Safety was a huge concern because of the height of the activity and the winds.

Victor discussed the Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS). It consists of 28 steel extensions. Four legs make up the main tower, and there is one main cable. Once it is completed, the SAS will be the largest and longest suspension span of its kind anywhere in world (2,047 feet). A box footing shown was fabricated in Corpus Christie, Texas, barged through the Panama Canal.

Victor showed pictures of the west coast lifter that has a 328 foot boom and can lift 6400 metric tons. Whoever wins the contract for the demolition of the Bay Bridge gets the lifter.

Another bridge was built to build the Bay Bridge. On traditional suspension bridges, there is an anchor and a cable. On this bridge, the cable is not anchored into the bridge itself, but is anchored into a newly built false bridge. Once the load is transferred to the cables, the false work will be removed.

The tower stands 525 feet high from the water to the top, which matches the heights of the towers on the west span.

Victor discussed the cable. The SAS's single, nearly 1-mile-long cable is anchored into the east end of the roadway, traveling up and over the single tower to wrap around the west end before traveling back up and over the tower to anchor back into the east end; in other words, the 2.6-foot-diameter cable acts like a giant, unbelievably strong sling; the cable's diameter is also the largest for a self-anchored suspension span. The nearly mile-long cable is also the longest looped suspension cable in any bridge. The cable features 118 miles of 2 1/2-inch steel strands and more than 17,000 5mm wires, each of which can support the weight of a military grade Hummer. The cable weighs 5,291 tons or nearly 10.6 million pounds. Anchoring the main cable in the deck itself puts the span into compression and enables it to remain standing. In a traditional suspension span, tension created in the main cables is resisted by anchorages in the ground.

In late 2011, workers began erecting a temporary footbridge that will travel the path of the SAS cable. Iron-workers will have unfettered, if precarious, access to the cable as it is being placed. Once the SAS is finished, the suspenders connecting the cable to the bridge deck will be tightened and the bridge will be lifted off the temporary support structure, which will be dismantled.

Because the SAS cable will be anchored into the eastern end of the roadways, the cable will naturally pull to the east. In September 2011, to properly balance the main cable during installation, crews pulled the top of the permanent tower 20.4" (518 mm) to the west, using temporary cables anchored into the bedrock of Yerba Buena Island. Once the cable is in place, the tower will be released to stand up straight once again.

As sections are placed, workers attach cross bracings and shear link beams. Shear link beams, which connect the tower's four independent legs, are designed to move independently to absorb seismic energy during an earthquake and to protect the tower from catastrophic damage. If damaged, the beams can be removed and replaced.

As the longest section of the new East Span at 1.2 miles, the Skyway's graceful parallel decks will transform the appearance of the Bay Bridge, as well as the way motorists experience their drive, thanks to sweeping unencumbered views of the Bay. The sleek side-by-side east and westbound decks arc out over the Bay, a distinct change from the gray steel truss box of the original bridge that now carries traffic. Prime contractor Kiewit/FCI/Manson (Joint Venture) completed construction in 2008.

The Skyway's decks, which accommodate five lanes of traffic and include 10-foot-wide shoulders are composed of 452 pre-cast concrete segments (standing three stories high, 90 feet wide and 25 feet long). Combined, the Skyway elements contain approximately 200 million pounds of structural steel, 120 million pounds of reinforcing steel, 200,000 linear feet of piling and about 450,000 cubic yards of concrete, weighing approximately 700 tons each. The surface of the deck is paved with durable and weather resistant high-strength polyester concrete. Fabricated in Stockton, California, the deck sections were transported by barge to the project site. These are the largest segments of their kind ever cast, and they were lifted into place by custom-made winches.

Existing pilings on the eastbound side of the bridge go 70 feet deep into the bay mud. The New pilings go 300 feet into the mud.

The criteria for building a new East Span of the bridge is that following a major earthquake, the bridge will be quickly reopened to traffic. The Bay Bridge is designated as an emergency "lifeline" route to be used in disaster response activities.

When engineers design structures to resist earthquakes, they use "rock motions" to help them calculate the maximum seismic forces that the structure may experience; they then design the structure to resist these forces. Rock motions are the vibrations that travel through the bedrock caused by the slipping of an earthquake fault.

Seismologists develop the rock motions based on the structures location in relation to earthquake faults and historical and geotechnical site data. The "new" East Span has been designed to withstand rare seismic events. Specifically, the span has a 1,500-year return period. This is defined as the largest rock motions expected to occur at the bridge site once every 1,500 years.

The challenge date for opening the new Bay Bridge is Labor Day, 2013.