

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

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*It is our mission to identify, preserve and promote the historic legacy of the Temecula Valley and to educate the public about its historical significance.*

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## Small Pox and Flu in Our Area

# Pandemics of the Past

## Smallpox: A Step Back in Time

By Ellen Sweet

Editor, San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association Newsletter

The current coronavirus pandemic brought to mind the battle with the smallpox virus in Southern California in winter 1862 to spring 1863. Smallpox was particularly virulent among the Native Americans, who had no protective antibodies to this terrible disease.

In January 1863, District Judge Benjamin Hayes wrote to Alex Godey, Indian Superintendent of the Southern District of California: "The undersigned, citizens of the counties of San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino, beg leave respectfully to call your attention to the recent alarming spread of the smallpox, within said counties, and especially among the Indian population, as well those domesticated upon the ranchos and in towns, as those who continue to live in their several rancherias. In the small town or settlement of San Juan Capistrano, about one hundred and thirty Indians have died of this disease, within the last three months, and it is now beginning to affect Temecula, Pala, San Ysabel, and the other principal rancherias of the mountains." [Orange, Riverside and Imperial counties were incorporated later.]

Correspondence and newspapers from that period show that fears and passions ran high. Rancho Montserate (Fallbrook) had at least eight smallpox cases by January 1863 and rancho owner Don Ysidro Alvarado, his wife, and several other family members fell victim. When the Alvarado family and friends tried to bury their dead at Mission San Luis Rey, neighboring rancher W.B. Coutts and a few others tried to stop the proceedings, claiming it would infect their ranches. The ensuing affair resulted in the death of at least one and the wounding of several others.

Cave J. Coutts of Rancho Guajome wrote his brother-in-law Abel Stearns in Los Angeles, April 5, 1863, "Smallpox reported as taking a fresh start at San Pasqual." A week later he wrote Stearns urgently requesting matter to try re-vaccinating his family and crew. It was rodeo time and Coutts was very apprehensive. "Have vaccinated all hands quite a number of times, but am satisfied now that the matter was no count [meaning it was not effective], although it came from both [Dr. John S.] Griffin & [Dr. J.C.] Welsh." [Note that Dr. Griffin is the same one from Kearny's army.]

During this time period, Coutts and others allowed no one from outside to visit their rancho — social distancing in 1863. "We are all badly scared about small pox — keep a sentinel posted to give notice of the approach of any one, and have to know all about them before they can come nearer than the corral." [Coutts to Stearns, January 3, 1863]

*(Another Pandemic Story on Next Page)*

# Pandemics of the Past

## Spanish Flu: 1918 Hits Southern California

*Compiled from Internet Sources*

The 1918 influenza pandemic became known as the Spanish Flu, and was to become a global scourge. The death toll in the U.S. was reported to be 650,000. Due to the war in Europe, in which the United States was engaged, war time correspondents were censored and had to downplay the severity of impact at U.S. military bases. Some historians feel the total was much higher.

Reports of soldiers dying in Army training camps surfaced in the spring, and it was virulent in Europe among both allied and enemy German units. It was reported that American soldiers who overran or captured German units found they were already sick, and then would become sick themselves after taking prisoners. Medical knowledge and intensive care equipment to support influenza victims was almost non-existent compared to what we have today.

The July 18, 1918 edition of the San Bernardino News reported that doctors in England were warning U.S. doctors to be on the outlook for the Spanish Flu. On September 14 the Associated Press described the influenza as a pandemic. Large east coast cities were particularly affected, and in that same AP report the U.S. Surgeon General outlined recommendations to slow the spread. He made strong suggestions to: Isolate, quarantine when practicable, attendants wear gauze masks, and avoid assemblages and crowded trains / streetcars.

In San Bernardino, the Santa Fe Railroad shops were heavily impacted. Workers in the depot and freight yards were being sent home daily, and some dying, thus causing staffing levels to be at a minimum.

On October 8, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a nationwide suggestion that “all schools and places of amusements be closed and public meetings discontinued in all places where the malady becomes prevalent.” That same day, the San Bernardino City Council ordered the closure of all

schools, churches, moving picture houses, and other public gatherings. The Los Angeles Times noted an outbreak in Pasadena that day, but the city declared it “mild” and decided to monitor the spread rather than close public venues.

In late October and early November, many cities began quarantining individuals and households who had the flu. The homes were marked by a placard, and persons breaking the quarantine were subject to fines. San Bernardino’s quarantine required that; “No persons will be permitted to enter or leave the home until 10 days from the beginning of the attack, and all members of the family will be kept away from the influenza patient.”

By mid-December, many of the public gathering bans in Southern California were lifted – just in time for Christmas.



**1918 Flu didn't prevent baseball games. Note masks on players, fans & umpire.**

# TVHS 2020 Scholarship Recipients Announced



The recipients of the Temecula Valley Historical Society Scholarships for 2020 are Victoria Gutierrez, Brody White, Layla Ziani and Anna Stone. Every year the Scholarship Committee faces a challenge in selecting the recipients of our scholarships because we always have excellent applicants to select from. This year was even more of a challenge as the Corona virus closures first shut down school district facilities, and their computers, and then the facilities of the alternate site set up for reading applications. Eventually the committee readers were able to access applications at home. TVHS scholarships are awarded to students who plan to pursue a major in history or a history related field. A GPA of at least 3.5 is required. Student essays, teacher recommendations and a student's community service are also taken into consideration. When applications are read the applicants are only identified by the application number. At this writing we have been given the names of our recipients, but have not been told what application they match up to as the students still have not been notified of their scholarship award.

Still, I can give you an insight into the caliber of our four recipients. Three young ladies and one young man received scholarships and they attended Great Oak and Temecula Valley High Schools. All of our applicants are planning to major in history, social sciences, or international relations. One of our recipients plans to major in history and become a teacher. "I want to help others follow a path in life that will help them achieve their true potential...I value the idea that everyone has the gift of knowledge." Another student wants to major in social sciences and international relations. "I have developed a goal of raising the standard of living for humanity. One of my passions has always been in understanding humanity's multicultural dimensions of relationships and how these interactions have shaped the world today." A third recipient wants to major in social sciences with an emphasis in global studies. This student's mother is

a refugee from Vietnam. With her family, she has done service work in depressed areas of Mexico and the Dominican Republic and is "passionate about wanting to improve the circumstances" of those most in need. In order to better learn how to do that she enrolled the summer of her sophomore year in an international relations program at Oxford University. Another of our recipients plans to be President of the United States and has planned her career path quite carefully. First, she would like to teach college courses in the areas of world religions and international conflict resolution. After teaching she plans to work in Foreign Service and then teach history and government in a public high school. Her plan is then to transition into politics. Her platform will be "to promote the rights of the working class, to fight corruption, to protect our environment and to promote diplomacy and peaceful world solutions."

Our four recipients are amazing young people, and we wish them the best in their college careers and their future endeavors. Just as we could not come together to read scholarship applications, we cannot come together to award our recipients their scholarships in person. Consequently, all scholarship donors were asked to make a one minute presentation video for their scholarship recipients. I asked Shari, as TVHS President, to be the scholarship presenter which she graciously did. She also extended an invitation for a possible future visit. Besides myself, Scholarship Committee members who read applications were Suzanne Dechert, Elaine Culverhouse and John Martland.

Bonnie Martland, Chairman  
TVHS Scholarship Committee



## Research Tools Available Through Historic Group

In early May TVHS received a communication from the American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society. They wrote to share some resources which some of our members may find valuable towards their genealogical research. American Ancestors is available to help our members access their best-in-class family history programs and services online. The online learning resources provide authoritative genealogical support for genealogists and family historians around the world. They offer free live webinars, how-to videos, downloads, online courses, and more!

If any members of Temecula Valley Historical Society are interested, then click the following link for access to their resources. <https://hubs.americanancestors.org/free-genealogy-resources>.

## \* President's Message \*

### To Members and Friends of TVHS

Dear Members and Friends of TVHS:

We hope you are all well. During this historic time, the Society has now held two wonderful presentations – Rebecca Farnbach taking us through the history of the Vail Ranch Headquarters and Mindy Johnson introducing us to E. Hale Curran – on Facebook. You don't have to join Facebook to watch – they are archived under "videos." You can just go on Facebook and search Temecula Valley Historical Society to see our public page. We have also held two board meetings via Zoom, showing even old dogs can learn new tricks.

Our Facebook page has been asking #modernhistory questions like what would your May 2020 self say to your February 2020 self? Marika Matson said, "Enjoy the time off. It goes by fast and everything is going to be ok. You are about to have a once in a lifetime break from work." Of course, toilet paper and haircuts were mentioned too.

Dale Garcia has been packing our Facebook page with then and now pictures and other content drawing many to our Facebook membership. It took 4 years to get to 1000 members, and has now swelled past 1268 members in 2 months time. That's a 25% increase!

Please take care. When caution allows, we will be back together. In the meantime, come see us online!



**Our new Passport Stamp for regional Visitation Program. Project handled by member Toni Benson.**

## Vail HQ Notes

In this season of closure of all non-essential businesses, the restaurants at Vail HQ are still open for takeout food. We encourage you to patronize them during this difficult time. We want them to stay in business. Please call in advance to learn their adjusted hours of operations.

**Cheflavor 951-972-4935**  
**Vail Pizzeria 951-972-4775**  
**Wingman's Wings 951-383-8068**  
**La Isla Ceviche 951-383-8046**  
**Amo Nakatl Asada 951-240-7434**

Also, Farmers Market will be open Tuesdays 9 - 1 unless it rains. Only the farmers will be selling as they are considered grocers. Please be aware of the restrictions of social distancing, wearing of masks, not handling food except items you intend to purchase, do not linger to visit and leave your pets at home.

The History Center, Antique Store and train are closed until bans are lifted.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Monday, June 22** — 6 p.m. Shari Crall will stream a Presentation on our Facebook page: "The Remarkable Life of Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon, the First Woman State Senator in America."

**Sunday, June 28** — 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday Funday at Vail HQ. Come be part of re-opening of activities.

**Stay tuned** for news of any future program, which will depend upon governmental guidelines for gatherings. We will notify you by email if we will have a presentation. As an alternative check for notices on our Facebook page.

## More About June 22 Watch Party

Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon was elected in Utah as the first woman state senator in America. In the historic election of 1896, Utah gained its statehood, and returned the right to vote to Utah women, taken away as the federal government waged war against the practice of polygamy.



Martha Hughes Cannon was a medical doctor, suffragette and polygamist wife who ran for the same state senate seat as her Republican husband.

Democrats carried the day, sweeping her into history. In September, 2020, her statue will be placed to represent Utah in the US Congress Statuary Hall, becoming one of two allowed per state.

## Membership News

*Thank you for renewing your membership:*

*Terri Bracci  
 Janice Bricker  
 Barbara Lamb  
 Pat Louis  
 Bill Veale  
 Lisa Woodward*

***Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city,  
 It might be better to change the locks.***

# 100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – June 1920

## Issue of June 4, 1920

Mr. and Mrs. Shaug of Escondido moved to Temecula last week. Mr. Shaug has taken the position as clerk in George A. Burnham & Son's store.

Miss Mabel Pope who has been stopping at the home of her aunt, Mrs. William T. Barton, for the past month, left for her home in Los Angeles last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Friedemann motored to San Diego last Saturday. They were accompanied by Miss Velma Cochran, who spent the weekend at her home there.

Miss Ethel Burnham went to Fallbrook last Friday to spend the weekend with friends there.

## Issue of June 11, 1920

A fire broke out on Temecula field last Tuesday morning, which destroyed a small amount of barley. Fortunately no serious damage was done.

Relatives from San Bernardino spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Friedemann.

James Nienke spent the weekend at his home here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Nienke.

J. M. Nicolas shipped a number of cattle out of Temecula last Tuesday. The buyer was E. B. Manning.

Ray Carmichael of the Pauba Ranch is recovering from a badly sprained back. He has been in Los Angeles under a physician's care for the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. George Burnham and daughter Ethel, accompanied by Miss Velma Cochran, motored to Riverside last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Friedemann accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Vance B. Sands and son, motored to Elsinore last Thursday evening where Mr. Friedemann and Mr. Sands attending Masonic lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Burnham motored to Oceanside Sunday, where they enjoyed a picnic and swim in the ocean. James E. Crew and bride are living in a bungalow near here.

A large threshing machine was shipped into Temecula last Tuesday for F. Bailey.

## Issue of June 18, 1920

The Temecula School had a picnic at Richard's grove last Friday, everyone having a most enjoyable time. The sack race was won by Mrs. Vance B. Sands and the three-legged race by Mrs. William M. Friedemann and Mrs. Sands.

Last Saturday morning a large party of friends of Miss Velma Cochran motored down to Temecula from Santa Ana. They took Miss Cochran back with them to spend two weeks there with her cousin, Miss Annie Ford.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Clark of Los Angeles were guest at a luncheon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Crew, Monday last. During the afternoon Mrs. Crew and Mrs. Edward Greenfield motored with Mrs. Clark to March Field

where they enjoyed the aerial circus which was being held there. After spending a pleasant afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Clark were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Greenfield, returning home Tuesday.

Mrs. Frank A. Burnham went to Los Angeles last Monday, returning home Tuesday evening.

The Misses Velma Cochran and Grace Greenfield will spend a two weeks vacation in July at Venice.

Mrs. Al Knott is suffering from a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism. Her many friends wish her a speedy recovery.

Ray Wickerd, Jr. has gone to the Pauba Ranch to work for a few weeks.

Mr. Stoner harvested 1200 sacks of barley from 68 acres of land, some of which was raised according to Dry Farm Campbell's instructions.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Water of Redlands are the proud parents of a son born June 5th. Mrs. Water was formerly Miss Maud Southard.

## Issue of June 25, 1920

Alex Escallier took his father, Jacques Escallier to Los Angeles this week for treatment by a practitioner. It is reported that he has already shown some improvement, which his many friends are glad to learn.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Burnham, Miss Ethel Burnham and Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Burnham enjoyed a picnic last Sunday in the San Jacinto Mountains.

Miss Birdie Ellis of Fallbrook arrived in Temecula last Wednesday. She is visiting at the home of Miss Ethel Burnham.

James E. Crew is now shipping his potatoes. A number of carloads were shipped out last Wednesday.

The dance held at Temecula Hall last Saturday evening was very well attended, every one having their usual good time. Music was furnished by the Nuevo orchestra.

## Major events in Temecula during year 1920

- Joe Winkels operates a lucrative "blind pig" (illegal saloon) at the Ramona Inn during Prohibition, attracting numerous Hollywood stars and sports figures. The Inn's second floor is remodeled to create a training area for champion boxers and as an arena for boxing matches. Winkels is called the "Sage of Temecula," a name coined by a Los Angeles Examiner sports editor.

- St. Catherine's Catholic Church is built at Front and 6th streets with money collected at a barbecue fundraiser. Mahlon Vail's gift of a steer triggers a stream of visitors and donations from all over Southern California & insures the events success.