



COUNTY COURIER

Official Publication of the Orange County Historical Society

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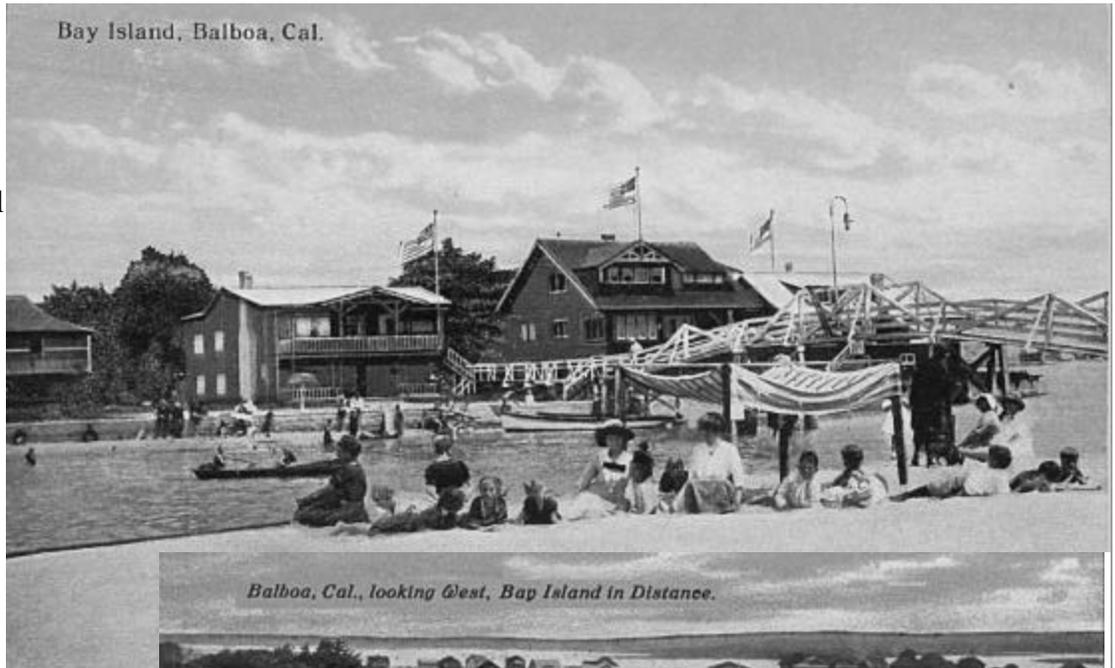
BAY ISLAND

Newport Beach, CA

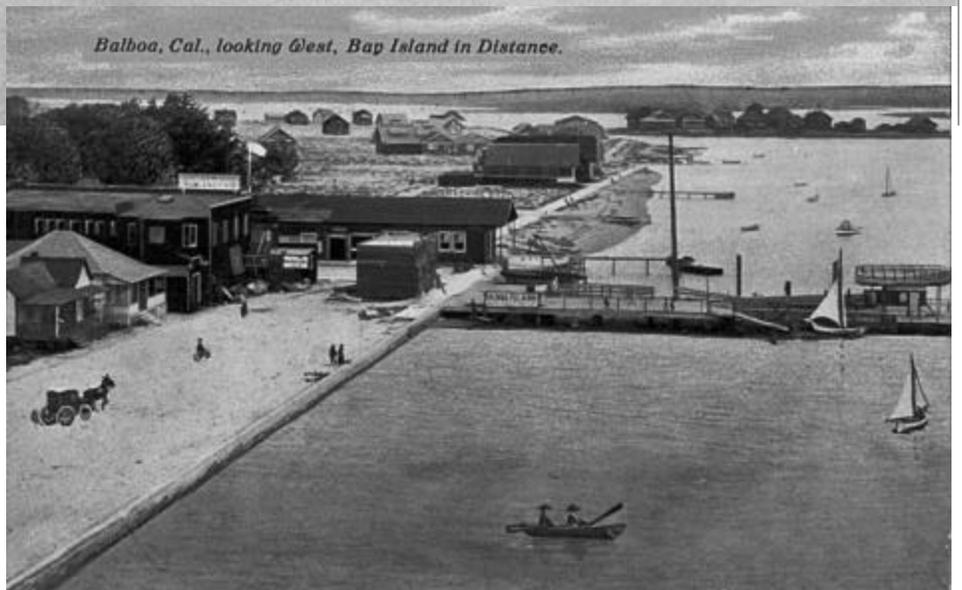
Dr. Joan Seaver Kurze will present a program based on her recent book *Insular Connections on Bay Island* for our September 9, 2004 meeting at Sherman Library and Gardens. (see time and details on page 2)

Not by chance Sherman Library is where the research was done for this book as the library has a wealth of material in depth on coastal history.

Our speaker tells us why she wrote the book in the following:
Neighbors on Bay Island had commented on the lack of information about the Island in the literature of Newport Beach. My offer to remedy this was accepted in 1996, and the Island generously voted funding toward the project. My publication date would be the centennial year (2003) of the Island's incorporation as a duck club. My daughter, Joan Sutherland, became my editor; Tom Grogg, the husband of my husband's secretary, designed and illustrated the book; and the ability of my late husband as a wordsmith was priceless help.



Bay Island, Balboa, Cal.



Balboa, Cal., looking West, Bay Island in Distance.

POSTCARDS FROM TOM PULLEY COLLECTION

Some information about our speaker comes from the back of her book *Insular Connections on Bay Island*.

“A late returnee to Anthropology graduate school at the University of California at Los Angeles, Dr. Kurze first concentrated on the Chumash

Indians of Southern California. Later, she studied the survival of the ancient Polynesian tradition of woodcarving on Easter Island (Rapa Nui) for her Ph.D. thesis.

“Since 1966 she has owned a home on Bay Island and in 1994 became a

permanent resident on the Island with her neurosurgeon husband Ted Kurze. A founding president of the Easter Island Foundation, Joan Kurze has served on the Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History since 1983.”

Her book will be available at the meeting, the price is \$20. If you want it delivered, shipping is \$2.00.

For our potluck dessert meeting on September 9, please bring a dessert for eight, ready to serve. Bring guests for this special event and enjoy.

Sherman Gardens will open at 6:00 p.m. for viewing, dessert around 7:00 p.m. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

DIRECTIONS:

Sherman Library and Gardens is on Pacific Coast Highway, two blocks East of MacArthur Blvd. (pg. 919, E2, Thomas Bros. Guide.) Parking entrance is either from Dahlia Ave. or Fernleaf at the rear of the property.

WITH REGRET

Ken Leavens will temporarily be leaving the board as he recuperates from surgery for a broken hip. Not only the members will miss Ken but all the people who are asking questions and looking for answers on local history and their departed relatives. Ken has done so much research these last couple of years, some he has shared in the *Courier* and the rest in entertaining and informative reports to the board. Ken is leaving a big gap until he returns. We wish him a speedy and pain free recovery.

Lysander Utt and My Census Search

By John Sorenson

Over the summer, we received an article printed in the “The San Diego Union-Tribune” from long time member Keith W. Tantlinger. Mr. Tantlinger delivered the “Register” to Lysander Utt’s son, Charles Edward (C. E.) Utt in the late 1920s and 1930s.

The article was about anthropology students unearthing the remains of Nate Harrison’s cabin on Palomar Mountain. Nate lived in his cabin from the 1850s until his death at 97 in 1920. According to the San Diego Historical Society, Harrison was a slave when he came to California about 1848 with his owner Lysander Utt. In 1850, after California entered the union as a free state, Utt was required to free Harrison. In 1955, the County (San Diego) named the county road on the west flank of Palomar Mountain, Nate Harrison Grade Road. This honored the man and his one room cabin situated near the road. Nate was the first black to homestead on Palomar Mountain.

This article kindled my interest in discovering when or supporting the 1848 date for Lysander Utt entrance into California. I went to Ancestry.com and used the census databases for 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 to see if I could find Lysander Utt.

The 1840 Census only listed heads of households and tabulated family size.

In 1850, we find the family in Jackson Township, Johnson County, Missouri. Johnson County is to the east of Kansas City, Missouri. The family is headed by Lucinda age 38, relationship unknown. It probably is Lysander’s mother or step mother. There are 10 brothers and sisters but no male head of household. Lysander was the oldest at age 25. Other children were age 23, 22, 21, 19, 18, 16, 14, 11, 10. All the children were born in Virginia while Lucinda was born in Tennessee. She was unable to read. Family wealth in real estate was \$800.00.

Brother Daniel and family can be found in Placer County in 1870 and in Lemoore in 1880. No trace of Lysander can be found for 1850 until 1880.

No Utt’s can be found in Tustin in 1880. However, I finally found Mrs. Utt under Arvilla Ult in the 1880 Census for Tustin. The Utt’s were listed in 1880 in Tustin as Lisander Ult, Arvilla, and Charles. They were born in 1824, 1833 and 1865, respectively. Also living with them was Arvilla’s mother – a Eunice Platt born in 1812. In the 1860 Census, Arvilla appears as an unmarried domestic in Northern California.

My conclusion is that Lysander Utt entered California sometime between 1850 and 1860, certainly if he had a slave with him. Missing the Census of 1860 and 1870 maybe attributed to: living in extremely rural areas, to being a traveling merchant, just being on the move, or oversight on the part of Census takers. The reasons are lost to history. *(continued next pg.)*

These Census gaps for the Utt's shows the problems on taking a Census in rural America in those times. So much for Census records and their accuracy!

More About the Utt Family

In October 2003 issue of the *Courier* was a portion of the journal of Horace C. Snow of Tustin. The following is an entry that mentions Utt's store.

"Monday, Jan'y 6, 1890

Cold morning with frost. Mother threatened with headache when she got up but fought it off bravely.

Then went down to Utts and bought "Prize Baking Powder" with crockery

thrown in. Trimmed apricot limbs all day. Frank and Horace clipped lemons all day. Frank, Grace, Horace & Minnie called on Mrs. Tedford, the Bride in the evening."

From Carol H. Jordan's book, *Tustin: A City of Trees* comes more information about Lysander Utt and family.

The L. Utt Pioneer store was built to be a hotel in 1872, but was used as a store when the builder went broke. Utt bought it from H. H. Dickerman. After Utt died in 1891, Andrew Getty owned it, followed by a Mr. Romer. It was a Tustin landmark into the 1940s.

Lysander Utt and his wife brought their son, Charles Edward to Tustin in



The L. Utt Pioneer store was built to be a hotel in 1872, but was used as a store when the builder went broke. Utt bought it from H. H. Dickerman.

Mrs. Lysander Utt, Emily Arvilla Utt, is shown in 1902.
Lysander Utt (date of photo not given)

From *Tustin: A City of Trees* by Carol H. Jordan

1874 and purchased the building.

C. E. Utt was the only son of Lysander Utt, who acquired a two-story building on the southwest corner of Main and D streets (now El Camino Real). The building had been intended to be a hotel, but had been taken over by the lumber company of Langenberger and Brockman of Anaheim and then sold to H.H. Dickerman, who ran a small store on its first floor. Lysander Utt renamed the store "L. Utt Pioneer Store" and the family lived upstairs for the next 14 years. The Utt store, which sold everything from food staples to gingham to work boots, was one of several commercial enterprises established in that first decade, but was the only one to survive.

Charles Edward Utt (1866-1950) was a rancher/developer/business man/civic leader. He owned the Tustin water works, established the Utt Juice Company, was president of the San Joaquin Fruit Company, president of the First National Bank and helped organize the Tustin Union High school District.

James B. Utt (1899-1970), son of C. E. Utt, represented the Tustin area in the State Assembly (1933-36) was Inheritance Tax Appraiser (1936-52), and our representative in Congress (1953-70), reflecting the strong conservatism of his community. He added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance

As a Society that gives the Pledge at the beginning of each meeting, I thought it would be interesting to look up more information about the history of the pledge. I found slightly different versions on the origin which I leave the reader to sort out.

The Editor

The Pledge of Allegiance was written by Reverend Francis Bellamy for use at the dedication of the World's Fair Grounds in Chicago on October 21, 1892. In preparation for the 400th anniversary of Columbus's arrival in the New World, *The Youth's Companion* – a children's magazine based in Boston – published on September 8, 1892 a short recitation to be used for that quadricentennial celebration. Although there is some controversy as to who was the actual author, credit is generally given to Francis Bellamy, a socialist, thirty-seven year old, ex-Baptist Minister who was then working as an assistant to the editor of the magazine. Bellamy was also a member of the National Education Association, and, with the support of President Benjamin Harrison, encouraged schools throughout the nation to use that "pledge" as part of their Columbus Day festivities. The pledge read as follows:

I pledge allegiance to my Flag
and to the Republic for which it
stands: one Nation indivisible,
with Liberty and Justice for all.

This version was utilized unchanged for more than thirty years. However, as increasing numbers of immigrants flowed into the county, "my Flag" became somewhat ambiguous. Thus, in 1923, those two words were replaced by "the flag of the United States," and "of America" was appended a year later. The wording was slightly altered in 1923 and 1924 by the First and Second National Flag Conferences. The next important date in the Pledge's history was June 22, 1942. Spurred by nationalism in the midst of the Second World War, the Pledge, for the first time, received formal official recognition. In an effort "to codify and emphasize existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the

flag of the United States of America," the 77th Congress passed an act comprised of eight separate sections. Section 7 set forth the Pledge and the appropriate manner in which it was to be recited. The version so codified was:

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of
America and to the Republic
for which it stands, one
Nation indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.

With that background, the Pledge was to undergo one more change. The year was 1954. World War II had ended, but the Cold War was entering into its most intense period. The United States was deeply hostile to communism, and the "Red Scare" pervaded society. Senator Joseph McCarthy spearheaded what is now recognized as one of the most shameful epochs of our history. Citizens afraid to speak. Neighbors constantly eyeing one another. Jobs lost based on hearsay. Persons jailed for espousing unpopular views. The Hollywood blacklist. And, behind it all, the abandonment of the First Amendment.

Within this politically-charged environment, Congress simply ignored the commands of the Constitution and focused on what it perceived as one of the darkest aspects of the communist system: atheism. Casting aside its responsibility to protect all religious views in this country, it honed in on that characteristic of Soviet society. At the urging of the Knights of Columbus, a proselytizing Catholic organization, "under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance, with Congress, in its own words, writing:

At this moment of our history the principles underlying our American Government and the American way of life are under attack by a system whose philosophy is at direct odds with our own. Our American Government is founded on the concept of the individuality and the dignity of the human being. Underlying this concept is the belief that the human person is important because he was created by God and endowed by Him with certain inalienable rights which no civil authority may usurp. The inclusion of God in our pledge therefore would

further acknowledge the dependence of our people and our Government upon the moral directions of the Creator. At the same time it would serve to deny the atheistic and materialistic concepts of communism with its attendant subservience of the individual.

H.R. 1693, 83rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1954)

Signed into law by President Eisenhower, the Pledge of this Nation - with its Bill of Rights assuring its citizens that the government will never engage in the purveyance of religious dogma – now had God incorporated into its fabric. The following year, "In God we Trust" would be required for all United States coins and currency, and the year after that, the same phrase would become our National Motto.

It was officially designated as the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by Congress in 1945. The words "under God" were added in 1954 in a law signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

GOOD NEWS

Our newest member of the Board of Directors is Carolyn Schoff, who joins the board as its secretary. Carolyn is a cultural anthropologist employed in the field of human resources. A native Californian herself, Carolyn's family traces its California roots back to the gold rush era, when her great-great grandfather left Kentucky and arrived in Calaveras County in 1850. In a bit of historical irony, Carolyn's research on her family's history revealed that her great-great grandparents eventually settled only a few miles from where she now lives in the South Coast Metro Area (then known as Gospel Swamp). Along with her commitment to the Historical Society, Carolyn volunteers at the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum and the Pio Pico State Historic Park, as well as the Orange County Wine Society, where she is a long-time member and also served on the Board of Directors.

OCHS Calendar

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- Board Meeting
- Thursday Sept. 2, 2004 at **7:00 PM**
at the Kidseum
- **Sept. Meeting**
- Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004
- Opening at 6:00 p.m.
- **Sherman Library and Gardens**
- **in Corona del Mar**
- **Pot Luck Dessert 7:00 p.m.**
- **7: 30 p.m. Program:**

BAY ISLAND

by Dr. Joan Seaver Kurze
Author of *Insular Connections on Bay Island*

▪ **October 14, Meeting**

To be announced



Where will you find books on local history? Your best source is your Orange County Historical Society.

Books listed below in **BOLD** are pictured and described on our website: www.orangecountyhistory.org

Don't see the book you are looking for? **ASK US**. If we don't have it we will help you find it.

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Orange Countiana V Early Businesses soft cover	\$22.00		
In Orange County hard cover SOLD OUT	\$00.00		
Orange County Through Four Centuries By Dr. Leo J. Friis	\$15.95		
The Orange Blossom 50 Years of Growth in Orange County	\$40.00		
ORANGE COUNTY The Golden Promise by Pamela Hallan-Gibson 2002 edition	\$37.00		

Proceedings of the Conference of Orange County History	1988	\$11.00	
	1989	\$11.00	
Fruit Box Labels An Illustrated Guide to Citrus Labels by Gordon McClelland & Jay Last		\$35.00	

All prices include sales tax

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Postage and Handling (\$3.00 first item, \$1 each additional)

Orange Blossoms is **\$5** per book, \$1 each additional

Orange County The Golden Promise is **\$5** per book, \$1 each additional

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Make checks payable to OCHS

~ **MAIL TO:** John Sorenson, 14932 Gainford Circle, Irvine CA 92604
Call him (949) 559-5668 and he will bring your book/s to the next meeting.

