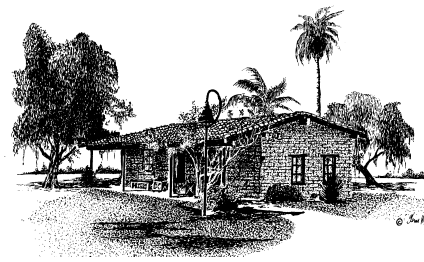


Fairview Register

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MEMBER: CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY



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A VISIT FROM THE MAYOR Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley visits the Historical Society's booth at the 72nd Lions Club Fish Fry. L-R: Pat Tompkins, Julie Foster, Jean Nomura, Alexander Gonzalez, Mayor Katrina Foley, Laura Oatman.

A Tale of Two Thanksgivings

BY ALANATURINGAN

Holiday excitement is in the air. As November arrives we of course recall the famous story of the first Thanksgiving: the 1621 feast of good harvest between the pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe.

But what about the other European explorers who had celebrated their arrival on the Floridian peninsula a century before?

After all, many feasts were held in the 1500s: by Juan Ponce de León in 1528 and 1531; by Pánfilo de Narváez around Tampa Bay and St. Marks in 1528; by Hernando de Soto in 1539 at Shaw's Point; by Father Luis Cáncer de Barbastro in 1549 at Tampa Bay; by Tristán de Luna in 1559 at Pensacola Bay; and even by René Goulaine de Laudonnière of France, who celebrated with the Timucua Indians near present day Jacksonville on June 30, 1564.

Two feasts stand out in particular. After sighting land on August 28, 1565, St. Augustine's feast day, Father Francisco López de Mendoza Grajales

presided over a mass to celebrate safely landing in the new world. Following the service, Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles organized a feast and invited the Timucua tribe. St. Augustine was founded here.

Later, Juan de Oñate led a 50-day exploration through the Chihuahuan Desert. The exploration ended with the discovery of the Rio Grande and a feast of thanks with the Mansos Indians on April 30, 1598 near San Elizario, Texas. They gave thanks not just for surviving the desert. They also had a political motive: staking Spain's claim on La Toma, the Rio Grande.

For the Spaniards and French, thanksgiving was more than a harvest celebration. It was an act of gratitude for finding new land and claiming the territory for their European empires. As we sit down with our families it's important to remember the multiple facets of the first Thanksgiving and appreciate how these narratives weave into the American identity. ■

SPEAKER SERIES

CAPTAIN GARY BARNHILL ON THE VIETNAM WAR'S "ROLLING THUNDER"

Join us for a "from the cockpit" narrative of the war in the skies as highly decorated Captain Barnhill talks about flying a F-105 Thunderchief in the highest threat aerial environment of the Vietnam War. In addition to his harrowing adventures there— which included a first-of-its-kind mission to destroy a SAM missile – the talk will touch on his time flying an accident-prone F-100C in Europe, the responsibility of sitting Nuclear Alert as a 22-year-old, and his colorful postwar life.

When: 2 p.m., Sunday, November 17 **Where:** Historical Society Museum, 1870 Anaheim Ave.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTIONS

The Costa Mesa Historical Society elections will take place at the beginning of the Sunday Speaker Program on November 17th. The slate of candidates will be presented at the meeting. The elections will take place in public and nominations from the floor, which can be made by anyone, will be accepted at that time. Please note that nominations are still open for officers and Board Directors.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Museum	Adobe	Speaker
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Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission

Costa Mesa's Civil War Veterans

After the Civil War, at least a dozen veterans lived in or owned property in what is now Costa Mesa. Of these, nine fought for the Union, and three were Confederates. Most enlisted when they were only teenagers. One joined at 14. Their ranks include a Gettysburg survivor, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and a soldier who is said to have stood beside General Lee at the surrender at Appomattox. Most of the men settled in Greenville/Gospel Swamp, a significant portion of which lies within Costa Mesa's northern limits. Some just passed through. One lived here 67 years. They include some of the county's first pioneers and some of the county's last surviving Civil War veterans.

For the first time, we have collected their stories in one place. The following is a work in progress. If you have corrections, additions, or any other information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

A Union War Hero – From the South

While America was still young, **Martin Baker's** (1843-1930) family settled in North Carolina. Slavery, however, eventually drove the Bakers to the free state of Kansas. As war broke out, the 17-year-old's family had to hold back the passionate Unionist from joining the Union Army immediately. He got his chance to fight a year later, at 18. He served with distinction in the 11th Cavalry Regiment, seeing action at Prairie Grove, Fort Wayne, Caney Hill, and Westport before his discharge after the war three years later. Baker would later farm in Kansas before settling in Orange County in 1887. He lived on his 40-acre farm at Baker Street and the 55 freeway for 30 years, growing grain and alfalfa. The war hero is remembered today in the street bearing his name.

Another familiar name is that of **Henry C. Babb** (1841-1920). In his final years, the corporal of the 8th Iowa Cavalry, who had been wounded at Cassville, boarded with his nephew, William S. Babb — the dairyman, barley farmer, and public education advocate for whom Babb Street is named.

Orange County Pioneers

James Ott (1841-1922) joined the Confederate Army in 1861 at the age of 20, fought with the 14th Cavalry Regiment at least through 1864, and stood, perhaps, with Lee at the surrender at Appomattox. After the war, he became one of Orange County's earliest pioneers. He helped purchase the first lot in Westminster, risked his life bringing cargo ashore at Anaheim Landing in the 1870s, and served as a Los Angeles County Supervisor before this area became Orange County. He farmed in the Greenville district near today's Bear and South Coast Drive before locating to Santa Ana in his twilight years. In all, Ott lived in Orange County for 51 years.

As they were on route to California in 1865, the family of **Alfred T. Cole** (1846-1937) was stopped and forced to sign an Oath of Allegiance. We learn from this episode that Cole had been in Hunter's Regiment of the Texas State Militia. But unlike others, Cole didn't talk much about the war. Instead, he remembered his life as one of the earliest pioneers of Gospel

Swamp. He arrived here in 1870, cleared the overgrowth with a lighted match, planted the land with corn and pumpkins, and built a homestead where he lived with his wife Martha for 67 years, until he passed away in 1937. His property was located near today's Fairview Road and South Coast Drive.

Horace Salter (1823?-1908) was a restless youth of 18 when he set out to explore the frontier. By 1864, he had fought in the Mexican-American War with Morgan's Mounted Volunteers, mined in California and Montana, and trekked twice across the plains. A true Republican, he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. Salter was a member of the G.A.R., the fraternal organization of Union veterans, but it's unclear what part he played in the Civil War. In 1871, he pioneered what is now Costa Mesa, squatting around Harbor and Sunflower until his dispossession 18 years later. He then spent time in El Toro before settling in Newport Beach and, finally, Santa Ana.

A Captain and a Navy Man

Captain **Miles Riggs** (1829-1904) recruited volunteers from Troy, New York, for Anderson Souave's Regiment, 62nd New York Infantry. As part of Peck's Brigade, he would've seen action in Yorktown, Williamsburg, and Fair Oaks before he mustered out in June 1862. In his last years, Riggs shared a home near Paularino and Fairview with his sister, Mary, and his brother-in-law, fellow veteran **Alpheus Blanchard** (1840-1894), Costa Mesa's only Civil War-era U.S. Navy veteran. Blanchard enlisted in 1861 and was promoted to full Acting Master in 1862. He mustered out in 1866.

Heroes Passing Through

John Smithyman (1827-1897) fought with the 1st Minnesota Infantry, was wounded at Gettysburg, and was promoted to Full Sergeant before finishing his 3-year enlistment. He seems to have lived for a time near what is today Whittier Law School on 25 acres of land valued at \$2,000. He later relocated to Newport Beach, but his story remains obscure.

In 1862, 18-year-old **James Gulick** (1844-1924) enlisted in the 122nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He remained in service until the end of the war, fighting in "spirited engagements" at Parkers' Crossing, Tupelo, Nashville, and Fort Blakely. After the war, he launched into the life of a farmer, first in Kansas, then, in 1887, in California. His property near Harbor and Sunflower is listed on the map of the Fairview Railroad. By 1893, he had moved up to the Villa Park area, where he lived for 19 years, before retiring in Santa Ana. Gulick's grandfather Henry was a captain in the Revolutionary War.

Illinoisan **John Purtteman** (1848-1922) enlisted twice with the Union Army before his 17th birthday. He spent most of his later life in the Pacific Northwest before moving to Costa Mesa shortly before his death. His location in Costa Mesa is unknown. His son, however, was later known to be living near 18th and Monrovia.

Civil War Veterans (cont'd)

The End of an Era

At the dawn of the 1940s, two of Orange County's last surviving Civil War veterans passed away within six months of each other. **John McDonald** (1850-1940) was only 14 when he joined the 2nd Missouri Light Artillery in the final year of the war. Later, he spent the last three years of his life with his daughter and son-in-law right here in Costa Mesa on Elden Ave. Shortly before he died at age 90, McDonald, the last member of Sedgwick Post 17, donated the post's charter to the Bowers Museum to be preserved for posterity.

John Manning (1844-1941) was only 17 when he enlisted in the 4th Arkansas Infantry Battalion, and not yet 19 when he deserted. His service made a lifelong impression on him. He lived his final 8 years in Costa Mesa, where he captivated audiences with vivid tales of the horrors of war. His passing at 96 marked the end of not just the city's oldest resident, but also of one of the county's last Civil War veterans. ■



Enjoying box lunches under the shade of the Estancia Adobe's pepper trees are L-R: Helen Vidal Humphreys, Art Goddard, Jan Rovam, Vicki Alcalá-Kelley, Lynn Alcalá, and Sandra Keil. Thank you, Kathy Bequette (not pictured), for coming out of retirement to help.

Historical Society Hosts Successful OC Docents' League Event

Thanks to everyone who made the OC Docents' League meeting on Monday, October 14, a success! Attendees enjoyed a continental breakfast, a talk by Art Goddard on "Being a Community Resource," museum tours by Mary Ellen Goddard, Estelle Hughes, adobe tours by, Kathy Bequette, Helen Humphreys, Vicki and Lynn Alcalá, and a picnic lunch. Over 40 docents attended. As part of the event, docents received goodie bags with treats from our sponsors. THANK YOU to everyone who helped fill them:

California Avocado Assoc.	Costa Mesa Police Dept.	Heroes Hall	Orange County Fair
David Cruz	Costa Mesa Water	I ♥ Costa Mesa	Rex Tompkins
City of Costa Mesa	Estelle Hughes	Nancy Pederson	Tess Bernstein
CM Chamber of Commerce	Friends of the Library	Newport Rib	Thunderking Brewing

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Every time you start your order with Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the Costa Mesa Historical Society – at no cost to you. Visit costamesahistory.org/smile before making your next purchase. You can use your existing Amazon account.

Temporary Parking Instructions

Please note: entry to the historical society parking lot is currently limited to Anaheim Avenue.

Dues Overdue?

Make sure your dues are up to date by looking at your **dues expiration date** on the address label to the right of your name. If your dues are due, renew online at costamesahistory.org/membership, mail in a check, c/o Susan Weeks, Treasurer, or drop it off on a Thursday or Friday from 10am to 3pm. Membership dues are listed on the back page.

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* Or schedule an appointment at 949-631-5918.

I N S I D E

Costa Mesa's Civil War Veterans

Cap. Barnhill on the Air War over Vietnam

Thanksgiving History, Docents League, & More

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Make your checks payable to the Costa Mesa Historical Society.
The Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, operates under the Corporation Laws of the State of California.