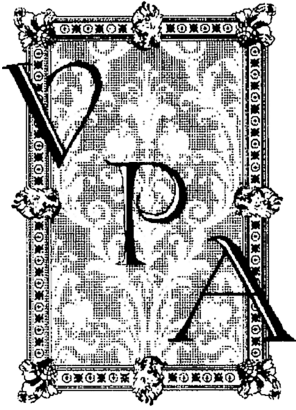


**VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY**



**THE
OLD HOME FOLKS**

VOL. 48 ... AUGUST 2022 ... No. 7



VINTAGE HOME CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

by David Oxley & Hullene Salomon

DATE: Thursday, August 18, 7pm
PLACE: 494 S. Cypress Ave
San Jose, CA 95117

greater, shortcuts were made to produce houses faster and cheaper. Balloon framing was one early

This month’s program will be an interesting and informative talk on electrical wiring and other construction issues for vintage homes presented by long time VPA member and licensed contractor, David Oxley. This program will be held in the lovely home of Krista Van Laan. Krista is a wonderful host, and her house is one of the treasures in San Jose.

invention to make construction of houses easier and faster for unskilled labor.

The houses we live in have changed in multiple ways, structure, and amenities like lighting; indoor plumbing, and climate control have made drastic changes over the 100+ years. Some new houses are referred to as “smart homes.” Most of us do not live in “smart homes” but we need to be smarter to make it safe and comfortable. Our standard of living has lifted over the 100+ years. Most of us would not like the warm milk kept in an ice box back then. Now we can control how cold our milk is and even make ice. All this requires electricity; although, I do not have the statistics, but I would suspect electrical codes and requirements related to electricity have changed more than any other utility for the home in the past one hundred years. Thomas Edison switched on the world’s first public electric supply utility in 1882 and soon homes were wired with electricity for lights. The first common method of wiring our homes was knob and tube wiring. This replaced the gas lights that I am sure were the source of at least a few fires. Along with the changes in utility supply and management in our homes, the structures have changed as well. As the need for housing became

Many of our homes still stand today constructed with these original construction systems, knob and tube wiring and balloon framing to name just two. In the presentation David will address many of the issues related to our old homes. Hopefully, we can all live safer and more comfortable even though our homes are not smart as some new modern ones, but they have more charm!

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed a day of Ice Cream and conversation. So good to see you all and socially catch up. One thing is certain with VPA, we love ice cream and wine. This program has become a very nice annual tradition and rightfully so. We get a chance to eat something cold on a hot day and enjoy each other's company. Long may we continue.

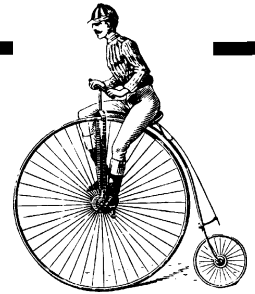
Continuing with the Ice Cream Social/Silent Auction, we raised \$100! Thanks to everyone who donated and those of you who purchased. You help keep us going.

I would like to take a moment to say welcome to our new members. We have had a steady flow of folks joining and I very much look forward to meeting you in person. Of course, the news of our upcoming programs and events gets posted in our monthly newsletter. But I also like to send out email reminders to our entire membership. If you are not receiving these emails from me, please check your spam and if not there you can reach out to me at marcusse21@gmail.com to give me your correct email address.

The Board has been working hard the past few months to set a terrific schedule of programs for the rest of this year. One thing we are trying to do is bring back the "How To/DIY" programs. We did a stained glass repair evening last month and this month our own David Oxley will be talking about the types of framing used in Vintage Homes such as "Balloon Framing". He will also touch on Nob & Tube wiring and answering your questions. David is a licensed contractor specializing in Vintage Homes. As the year continues, we will be having a historic walking tour of a Willow Glen neighborhood focused on the corner of Willow & Glen which will be followed by a potluck. The next month of September will be a house tour in the Shasta/Hanchett neighborhood. Lots of work has gone into this beautiful home over the years and now we get to see all the great projects in completion.

These we hope will bring out the long time members as well as the new. I so look forward to seeing you in the next couple months!

**Have You
Heard
the Latest?**



Your Editor's Silver Anniversary!

While putting together the newsletter this month, I noticed that I've now been the VPA newsletter editor since August 1997—25 years!

That month, VPA visited Ardenwood Historic Farm, including a picnic on the grounds. Two members wrote long articles on their summer vacations, and Matt Knowles described his efforts propagating canna lilies.

Over the years there have been a lot of great articles in the newsletter. Interesting content can (and arguably, should) come from members. So if you've got an interesting story about your summer vacation, a report on your home renovation or garden, your fellow VPA members would love to hear about it. As would your editor, who never thought back in 1997 that he'd still be doing—and enjoying—this job 25 years later.

*Contributing to this Issue:
Sara Bruce, David Oxley, Hullene Salomon, &
Marcus Salomon*

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

AUGUST 30



Vintage Cocktail Corner
by Sara Bruce

The Manhattan

As with most popular classic cocktails, the origin of the Manhattan is murky. One story says it was created in the 1870s at The Manhattan Club by Iain Marshall for a banquet in honor of presidential candidate Samuel J. Tilden. Another says it was invented in the 1860s by a bartender named Black at a bar on Broadway.

Drinks with the name appear in print as early as 1884. These recipes all call for whiskey and vermouth with bitters, but add other ingredients such as Absinth and simple syrup. Often they call for more Vermouth than Whiskey. These days the drink is typically made with Rye, but you can also use Canadian, Tennessee, Bourbon, or similar Whiskies. If you use Scotch it's a Rob Roy.

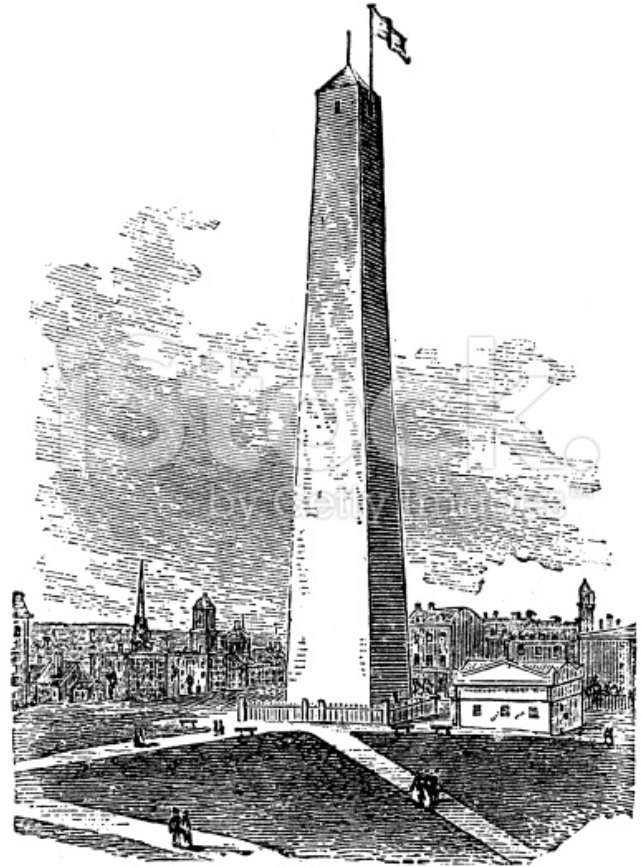
- 2 ounces Rye Whiskey (or a substitute)
- 1 ounce Sweet Red Vermouth
- 2 dashes Angostura Bitters

Stir well with ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a Maraschino cherry.

Cheers!



BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

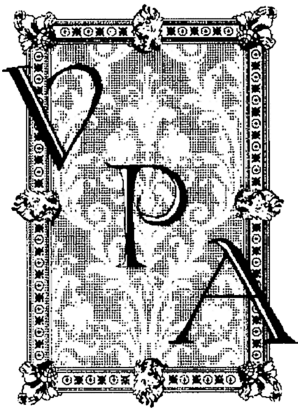


The precursor of the Washington Monument, its cornerstone was laid on 17 June 1825, the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, in Boston, MA.

PAC-SJ SUMMER SALE

Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PAC*SJ) is hosting its end of summer Rummage and Salvage Sale August 26th and 27th at 260 South 13th Street, San Jose. The sale extends over ½ the block displaying vintage and “New in Box” items donated from members, neighbors, and estates. Small furniture, china, old tools, garden art, posters, art, local history books, books, fishing rods, succulents, linens, California pottery, traveling trunks, Hartmann luggage, and a wedding dress! Join us for a Summer Birthday Celebration Friday evening. Friday, August 26th 9am-7pm and Saturday, August 27th 9am -1. To volunteer or donate, contact Patt Curia at pcuria@sbcglobal.net.

Save the date for our Holiday Boutique: Nov. 4th and 5th at 295 Sequoia Ave. San Jose



VICTORIAN
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION
of Santa Clara Valley

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UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

- Aug 13 Spirit of '42 event at History Park
- Aug 18 VPA August Event, see p. 1 for more info.
- Aug. 26-7 PAC-SJ sale, see p. 3 for more details.
- Sept. 17 Antique Autos at History Park

ABOUT THE VPA

Members of the Victorian Preservation Association of Santa Clara Valley, a nonprofit organization, share an interest in the older buildings of our community, especially turn-of-the-century homes. Membership is open to anyone interested in learning about building and conservation techniques, architecture, decoration, and historic preservation. Meetings are usually held in members' historic homes, but being an owner of one of these homes is not required for membership. Membership is \$25 per year per household. To join the club, go to www.vpa.org and click on the "Join the VPA" button.

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Past-President	Keith Shukait

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Social Media	Miranda von Stockhausen
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