Notable Santa Cruz County Women | Prepared by Judy Steen

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Judy Steen originally prepared a list of notable women of Santa Cruz County for a 1995 Researchers Anonymous meeting. The first list was limited to women born in the nineteenth century. Over the years, she revised the list several times, adding many more names and expanding it to include women born after 1900, though no living women are included. Date of arrival in Santa Cruz County is noted for many of the women (Arr. SCC=Arrived Santa Cruz County). Maiden name appears in parentheses, followed by married name in parentheses. This is still a work in progress. Her research files continue to grow, as more information on women is discovered. For corrections or additions to this list, or for permission to reproduce the list in quantity, please contact Joe Michalak, email: joemich1@gmail.com

Akao, Kathleen (Katayama) (Mrs. James I. Akao), 1948–1991. In 1994 she became the first person in Santa Cruz to unseat an incumbent judge in recent memory and the first Asian American attorney in California elected (rather than appointed) as a Superior Court Judge. During World War II her mother was interned in Manzanar, the Japanese Internment Camp, while her father served in Europe with the highly decorated. all-Japanese 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Aldrich, Lucile Marion (Goldsmith) (Mrs. Edward E. Aldrich), 1918–2003. Co-founder of the Aptos Ladies Tuesday Evening Society, and a founder of the Aptos annual Fourth of July Parade. Former president of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce and a leader of various incorporation drives. Publisher of the *Central County News*. "Unofficial Mayor of Aptos" Arr. SCC 1961.

Anderson, Betsy (Miller) (Mrs. John Anderson), 1956–2023. Artist, painter, museum curator. Founder of the Museo Eduardo Carrillo.

Anderson, Seddie Elizabeth, 1855–1935. Teacher, poet, owner of summer resort, Hepsidam, in Scotts Valley. Arr. SCC 1866.

Angell, Nora Caroline (Oliver) (Mrs. Horatio Angell), 1867–1942. Businesswoman, operated Angell Market in Soquel and Capitola. Community organizer who directed efforts to bring electric lights to Capitola and build a library. Founder of the Soquel Pioneers.

Atwood, R.N., Mary Irene (Adams) (Mrs. Albert R. Atwood), 1884–1953. Nurse, owner and manager of Mission Hospital and Sanitarium. Arr. SCC 1916.

Arcan, Abigail (Mrs. John Baptiste Arcan). Arr. SCC 1850. Member of Death Valley Party of 1849.

Beautz, Jan (Janet Kirbert) (Mrs. Michael Beautz), 1946–2017. Lawyer, neighborhood activist, Santa Cruz County Supervisor from 1989–2009, representing the 1st District, Live Oak, Soquel, and the Summit.

Beck, Anna Barbara (Ochsenbein) Aichberg, (Mrs. Christian Aichberg), 1848–1928. Photographer. Mother of Rose Aichberg Rostron, first Santa Cruz County Supervisor. See: Rostron, Rose.

Becker, Dorothy Alden, (Mrs. George Lineer, 1900–1989. Called "The California Mermaid" for her swimming, diving, and surfing skills. In 1915, while in Hawaii, performed the extraordinary feat of surfing while doing a headstand. Renowned for introducing surfing for women in the U.S.

Bell, M.D., Janet (Fischer) (Mrs. Taine Bell), 1922-2021. First pediatric specialist and second woman granted medical privileges at Watsonville Hospital. First female chief of staff,

1975–77. First woman to serve on the hospital board of directors. In 2001, received the Phil Rather Award for leadership in health care. Served numerous terms on the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

Blackburn, Harriet (Mead) (Mrs. William Blackburn), 1831–1920. Arr. SCC 1851.

Blaisdell, Marguerite (Eiskamp) (Mrs. Frank Blaisdell, Jr.), 1899–2002. Arr. SCC (Watsonville) 1930s.

Blanchard, Mary, 1929–2024. Philanthropist.

Borg, Jane, 1931–2018. Pajaro Valley educator and historian.

Boston, Eliza Clarke (Bull) (Mrs. Joseph Boston), 1832–1920. Arr. SCC 1861. Philanthropist, writer, property owner.

Boutelle, Sara (Holmes) (Mrs. William E. Boutelle), 1909–1999. Author, architectural historian, historic preservation advocate. Arr. SCC 1973. Author: Julia Morgan, Architect. Active in historical preservation for Santa Cruz County.

Bowen, Erva, African-American community leader active in Santa Cruz for many years.

Bowen, Gaza (Mrs. Dennis Wheeler), 1944–2005. Artist, teacher, shoemaker, shoe historian.

Brier, Julia (Juliette) (Mrs. James Welsh Brier), 1813–1913. Member of Death Valley Party of 1849.

Brown, Catherine Maria (Hecox) (Mrs. William Peregrine Tilden) (Mrs. Albert Brown), 1841–1934. Pen name: Marie Valhasky. Writer, artist. Arr. SCC 1847.

Brown, Cornelia Maud (Kirby) (Mrs. Charles E. Brown), 1857–1924. Born SC.

Bunnett, Sara Anne (Telfer) (Mrs. Joseph Bunnett), 1919–2006. Civic leader in education, libraries, preservation of historic records and structures. Arr. SCC 1966.

Burch, D.D.S., Maria Angelina, 1861–1888. Doctor of Dental Surgery.

Burke, Ellen (McCarthy) (Mrs. Thomas Burke), 1865–1940. Community volunteer and early leader in local women's clubs. Arr. SCC 1890.

Burman-Hall, Ph.D, Linda, 1945–2023. Ethnomusicologist, Professor of Music, UC Santa Cruz, founder, Santa Cruz Baroque Festival.

Burrell, Clarissa (Wright) (Mrs. Lyman J. Burrell), 1805–1857. Member of a pioneer California family living in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Her letters are considered a primary source detailing her experiences in the rugged mountains of California.

Carpenter, Lulu, 1873-1957. Businesswoman, clothing store owner, Pacific Avenue, SC.

Carpenter, Marjorie (Lukins) (Mrs. Charles Carpenter), c1897–2002. Owner of women's clothing stores in Soquel and Seabright.

Case, Mary (Amney) (Mrs. Benjamin J. Case), 1800-1889. Teacher. Arr. SCC 1847.

Castro, Martina see Lodge.

Cochran, Dewees (Mrs. Paul Helbeck), 1892–1991. Doll designer. American child doll of 1936 commemorated by U.S. Postal Service stamp, 1997.

Cole, Olive A. (Colegrove), 1833-1918. Wife of U.S. Senator from California.

Cooley, Diane Porter, (Mrs. Donald Cooley), 1928–2022. Watsonville rancher, environmentalist, and philanthropist.

Curtis, R.N., Mabel (Rowe), (Mrs. Clifton Curtis) 1885–1980. Nurse. Curator of the William H. Volck Museum, which later became the Pajaro Valley Historical Association.

Cushman, Pauline (Harriet "Hattie" Wood), (Mrs. Charles Dickinson) (Mrs. August Fichtner) (Mrs. Jeremiah "Jere" Fryer, 1833-1893. Civil War Union spy, actress, lecturer. Arr. SCC 1874.

Dakin, Laura Maria (Jameson), (Mrs. Isaac Dakin), 1836–1893. Writer.
Daniels, Caroline Sydney "Carrie" (Anderson), 1858–1945. Artist. Arr. SCC 1866.
Dangzalan, Apolonia, 1896–1992. Filipina business owner and labor contractor in the Pajaro Valley.
De Gavere, Cor (Cornelia), 1877–1955. Artist. Co-founder Santa Cruz Art League. Arr. SCC 1920. Frequently exhibited her work with Margaret Rogers and Leonora Naylor Penniman, known as the "Santa Cruz Three."
DeHart, Margaret Rhea (Wood), (Mrs. Thad James DeHart), 1922–2019. Educator and union activist. Served on Watsonville commissions, committees, and the Board of Library Trustees. Arr. SCC 1963.
Dempsey, Claire Delano (Thompson), 1942–2008. MSW, LCSW. First chair of the the Santa Cruz County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1972.
Dixon, Alice (Culverwell), 1864–1942. Teacher, administrator, businesswoman.
Dizikes, Ann (Morris), (Mrs. John Dizikes), 1935–2024. Artist, textile weaver.
Dormer, Belle. (Mrs. Harrell) (Mrs. John M. Dormer), 1857–1937. Gold prospector in Canada and Alaska. Operated boarding houses and hotels in Arizona, Nevada, Alaska. Founder of the Alaska Independent Reporter. Staff writer for San Francisco newspapers and the *Santa Cruz Sentinel.*
Duffield, Mary (Buell), (Mrs. Ted Duffield), 1916–2015. Educator, social activist, sailor. Co-founded the Redwood Youth Foundation, dedicated to training children how to become ham radio operators while giving them the finer points of sailing on her 36' sloop, Agua Allegre.

Early, Mabel (Dorn), (Mrs. Charles Hirst) (Mrs. James J. Early), 1875–1969. Attorney.
Engle, Hedwig (Buss), (Mrs. Howard M. Engle), 1877–1963. Attorney.
Engstrand, Eleanor (Robinson) (Mrs. Warren Engstrand), 1908–2016. Librarian. Social activist, member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. After the death of her husband in 1967, partnered with Marge Frantz, UC Santa Cruz professor and women's rights advocate.

Fagen, Clare, 1886–1960. Businesswoman, owner of one of first retail flower stores.
Fagen, Mary (Perry) (Mrs. A. P. Jordan) (Mrs. Pierce B. Fagen), 1840–1915. Arr. SCC 1853.
Farnham, Eliza Wood (Burhans) (Mrs. Thomas Farnham) (Mrs. William Fitzpatrick), 1815–1864. Writer, reformer, woman's rights advocate. Arr. SCC 1850.
Fikes, Edith Eleanor, 1881–1967. Educator, Principal of Gault School, Superintendent of Santa Cruz County Schools. Instrumental in establishing the Thornley School for the Deaf.
Fikes, Edith Estelle (Bond), (Mrs. Walter Fikes), 1909–1991, Raised in Santa Cruz. Early woman aviator of open cockpit planes in the era of barnstorming flights. Flew and raced planes from airfields at Capitola and Rio del Mar. With her husband, ran the Soquel Inn (formerly Park House Hotel) in Soquel. Moving to Felton, the couple had a printing business and started the San Lorenzo Valley Reporter newspaper in the early 1950s. Helped establish the Fay G. Belardi Memorial Library, and was librarian for 20 years, retiring in 1977. Interested in historic preservation, active with Friends of the Octagon, compiled scrapbooks on "Historic Santa Cruz Homes," now in the Santa Cruz Public Library collection.
Foster, Eleanor "Ellie" (Speer), 1926–2011. Quaker, peace activist, co-founder, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Frantz, Ph.D., Margaret "Marge" (Gelders), (Mrs. Laurent Frantz), 1922–2015. Award-winning teacher, political activist, founding member of UCSC's Women's Studies Department.

Frary, M.D., Ruth Adelaide (Mrs. Jerome A. Ludden, Jr.)., 1913–1997. Arr. SCC (Watsonville) 1939. General medical practice, Watsonville, 1939-1967. Chief campus physician and administrator of campus health services, UC Santa Cruz, 1965–1980. Leader in community music, art, and history organizations.

Gayton, Ph.D., Anna (Hadwick), (Mrs. Leslie Spier), 1899–1977. Anthropologist. First woman to receive doctorate in anthropology from UC, Berkeley, 1928.

Greene, Mary Jean (Wright), (Mrs. Edward Greene). Prominent in temperance and kindergarten movements. Arr. SCC , c1885.

Greenwell, D.O., Mary Olive (Keagle) (Mrs. George Hunter Greenwell, M.D., D.O.). 1870–1920. Graduate of the California College of Osteopathy in 1904. Established medical practice with husband on Soquel Avenue after moving from Lodi. Divorced in 1918 after husband moved to Los Angeles to establish his own practice in 1915. Arr. SCC 1910.

Gumz, Jondi (Mrs. William Condy), 1951-2025. Journalist, long-time reporter for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel.*

Hamlin, Edith, (Mrs. Albert Barrows) (Mrs. Maynard Dixon) (Mrs. Frank K. Dale), 1902–1992. Artist.

Hammer, Mary (Mehan), (Mrs. Joseph Hammer), 1937–2024. San Lorenzo Valley teacher and environmentalist. Led the effort to create the Neighborhood Survival Network to deal with natural disasters.

Handley, Kate, Milliner, businesswoman. c1857–1940. Arr. SCC 1863. Launched business as a milliner in Santa Cruz in 1874. Retired in 1937 after 63 years. Described on her 80th birthday as the "dean of Santa Cruz business," local paper said she was "identified with the commercial world of Santa Cruz longer continuously than any other citizen. . . ."

Hanly, R.N., Mary Jane, 1870–1937. Nurse, chiropodist.

Haswell, Fannie Samalva, (Mrs. Isreal Johnson) (Mrs. Samue Leask), 1840–1928. Teacher, pioneer Pajaro Valley resident.

Heath, Lillian Josephine (Dake), (Mrs. Frank Heath), 1864–1961. Artist.

Hecox, Laura F. J., 1854 –1919. Lighthouse keeper, naturalist. Born SC.

Hecox, Margaret (Hamer), (Mrs. Adna Andress Hecox), 1815–1908. Pioneer mother. Arr. SCC 1847.

Hollins, Marion, 1892–1944. Golfer, horsewoman, golf course designer. Developer of Pasatiempo. "Her concern for total environmental planning was rare at the time, and she demonstrated that suburban development could be done with great sensitivity. In the end, Pasatiempo proved to be a major influence on the shape of California architecture and lifestyle as we know it today."—Dan Gregory, excerpted from *The Sidewalk Companion to Santa Cruz Architecture, 3rd ed.* by John Chase.

Holmes, Mary Adams, (Mrs. Gerald O'Malley), 1910–2001. Artist, art historian, teacher.

hooks, Ph.D., bell (Gloria Jean Watkins), 1952–2021. While living in Santa Cruz, she received her doctorate in Literature from UC Santa Cruz in 1983. Authored forty books and best known for her writings on race, feminism, social class, sexuality, and history.

Hoover, Mildred Crew (Brooke), (Mrs. Theodore J. Hoover), 1872–1940. Author, Historic Spots in California, Counties of the Coast Range (1937).

Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki, (Mrs. James Houston), 1934–2024. As a child, resided in

Mazanar internment camp for ethnic Japanese during World War II. Co-authored with husband, James Houston, *Farewell to Mazanar*, a best-selling memoir of her experiences.

Howard, Lillian Augusta, 1856–1930. Teacher, artist. Vice Principal of Santa Cruz High School in 1915.

Hummel, Marilyn (Heim), (Mrs. Donald Hummel), 1927–2013. Environmentalist and social justice advocate. Served as president of the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, member of the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission, and Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the County Housing Authority. Played a crucial role in helping to protect the 525-acre Santa Cruz Sand Hills, now known as the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve.

Jarboe, Mary Halsey Thomas, (Mrs. John R. Jarboe), 1842 –1921. Novelist and short story author writing under the name, Thomas H. Brainerd. With husband, built Concha del Mar, now the site of a Ramada Inn on West Cliff Drive.

Jeter, Jennie Fuller (Bliss), (Mrs. William T. Jeter), 1859–1959. A visionary artist, she had a lifelong mission to save the Santa Cruz Mountain redwoods from deforestation. Jennie and her husband, William T. Jeter (Mayor, District Attorney, and Lieutenant Governor), were an activist team instrumental in saving Big Basin and the ancient redwoods that would become Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park.

Kelly, Isabel Truesdell, Ph.D., (1906–1983). Anthropologist.

Kennedy, Barbara, 1927–2010. Historian, preservationist. Owner, The Country Home in Boulder Creek, specializing in American folk art. Author, *Historic Homes in Boulder Creek*.

Kimbro, Edna Emerson (Cleave) (Mrs. Joseph Kimbro), 1948–2005. Historian, authority on the construction and restoration of historic adobe buildings, leader of historic preservation movement.

Kirby, Georgiana (Bruce) (Mrs. Richard C. Kirby), 1818–1887. Writer, teacher, reformer, woman's rights advocate. Arr. SCC 1850.

Kirby, Georgiana Bruce (daughter), 1855–1879. Teacher. Born SC.

Kirby, Ora Bruce, 1853–1895. Pen name: Frances Bruce. Writer, teacher. Born SC.

Koch, Margaret (Rau), (Mrs. Edward Koch), 1918–2011. Fourth generation Santa Cruz resident. author, Sentinel staff writer for more than 20 years.

Leaman, Renie F, (Mrs. Audley B. Leaman), (1930–2014). Restaurant owner and caterer. Best known for her work to restore and preserve Evergreen Cemetery. Initiated the campaign in 1968 to Help Evergreen Live Permanently (HELP), a program to raise awareness and funds to restore the cemetery.

Lewis, Agnes Knox, (Mrs. Elmer L. Lewis), 1914–1979, Referred to as "Mrs. Scotts Valley" for her efforts to get Scotts Valley incorporated in 1966. Served as city treasurer up until her death in 1979.

Lewis, Betty (Bagby), (Mrs. Monte Lewis), 1925–2008. Pajaro Valley historian, author, and journalist.

Lewis, Martha Jane "Patty" (Reed), (Mrs. Francis Lewis), 1838–1923. Donner Party survivor, hotel manager. One of the 26 child survivors of the Donner-Reed tragedy of the winter of 1846–47, and a member of the only family to avoid consumption of human flesh to survive. Married in Santa Cruz on Christmas Day, 1856, resided in San Jose. Returned to Santa Cruz in the 1870s and manager of the Seaside Home on Beach Hill. In 1890, she

took over management of the Capitola Hotel, and later ran the Lewis House in Capitola, known for its hospitality.

Liddicoat, Marilyn (Plone), (Mrs. Leland Davis) (Mrs. Douglas Liddicoat), 1931–2022. Lawyer, professional opera singer, Santa Cruz County Supervisor from the 2nd District.

Lindsay, Clara Belle (George), (Mrs. Clyde Lindsay) 1867–1953. Santa Cruz County Recorder. First woman elected as County Recorder in California (1914).

Lineer, Dorothy Alden (Becker), (Mrs. George F. Lineer), 1900-1989. World-class swimmer, early woman surfer, taught by David Kahanamoku, Duke Kahanamoku's brother.

Locke, Mary (Jameson), (Mrs. David Morrill), d. 1881. Writer. Pen name: Mary Mountain.

Lodge, Martina (Castro), (Mrs. Simon Cota) (Mrs. Michael Lodge) (Mrs. Louis Depeaux), 1807–-1890. Born in Villa de Branciforte, granted the Soquel Augmentation, a 32,702 acre parcel by Governor José Figueroa in 1833.

Lutes, Annette "Nettie" W. (Cronise), (Mrs. Henry H. Tator) (Mrs. Nelson D. Lutes) Attorney, suffragist.

McCann, Lucy Underwood, (Mrs. Ferdinand J. McCann), c. 1839–1915. Woman's rights advocate, attorney. Arr. SCC early 1860s.

McCrackin, Josephine (Wompner), (Mrs. James A. Clifford) (Mrs. Jackson McCrackin), 1838–1920. Writer; conservationist. Arr. SCC c1882.

McCrary, Barbara (Harlamoff), (Mrs. Frank "Lud" McCrary), 1933–2024. Member pioneer Soquel family. With husband, Frank "Lud" and his brother, Homer T. "Bud", owned Big Creek Lumber in Swanton and Davenport.

McCrary, Emma (Walker), (Mrs. Homer "Bud" McCrary), 1931–2011. Environmentalist, helped build miles of trails in Wilder Ranch, and Fall Creek.

McDougal, Marcia, (Mrs. Bruce McDougal), 1931–2024. Artist, potter. With husband Bruce McDougal started Big Creek Pottery in Davenport. Established the New Davenport Cash Store in mid-1970s.

McLean, Hulda (Hoover), (Mrs. Charles Alexander McLean), 1906-2006. Santa Cruz County Supervisor (second woman), writer, artist.

Mahaney, Billie Kathleen (Houlton), (Mrs. John G. Mahaney), 1931–2025. As a nurse, she published a journal chronicling humanitarian efforts in Santa Cruz to recover from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Majors, Maria de Los Angeles (Castro) (Mrs. Joseph Ladd Majors), 1818–1903. Landowner.

Marcus, Zoe Ann Orr, (Mrs. Frank F. Orr) (Mrs. Jerry L. Marcus), 1913–2000. Community organizer, known for volunteer work throughout Santa Cruz County, particularly music and the arts. The Bockius-Orr home on East Beach Street in Watsonville is now the Pajaro Valley Historical Association, which she championed.

Marj von B, (Mrs. Linton von Beroldingen) (Mrs. Lyle Freckleton). 1925–1980. Journalist for the Register-Pajaronian who won awards for her news coverage of three mass-murderers in Santa Cruz County in the 1970s: John Linley Frazier, Herbert Mullin, and Edmund Kemper. Previously worked for news wire services and the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. Served in the WAVES during World War II. Legally changed her name from Marjory von Beroldingen to Marj von B after divorcing her first husband.

Martin, Joan (Gilbert), (Mrs. Hugh D. McKay) (Mrs. Don Martin). 1930–2022. Teacher, editor, co-author with Colleen McInerney-Meagher, *Pogonip: Jewel of Santa Cruz*.

Martin, D.O., Lila (Sweet), (Mrs. Charles Martin)., 1860–1948. Osteopathic physician, architect.

Martin, Mona D., (Mrs. Orin K. Martin), 1922–2004. Owner of Integrand Design, upscale housewares store on Pacific Avenue from 1972–2002.
Martinelli, Hazel (Cockroft), (Mrs Stephen G. Martinelli Jr.), 1891–1962. Businesswomen helped keep Martinelli's cider business operating during the Great Depression and World War II.
Martinelli, Jane Leask, (Mrs. Stephen G. Martinelli), 1854–1932. Businesswoman, helped manage Martinelli's cider plant, Watsonville's oldest surviving company, after the death of her husband in 1918.
Martinelli, Mary Ellen (Struve), (Mrs. Charles Leask Martinelli), 1926–2022. Advocate for Gay rights and alcoholism recovery education.
Melville, Charlotte Gertrude (Webber), (Mrs. Amiel Loccisano) (Mrs. William Melville), 1921–2002. Community activist, served on the Santa Cruz City Council. Arr. SCC 1970.
Merritt, Aline Isabel (Kistler), (Mrs. Warren Chase Merritt), 1901–1965. Art critic and writer.
Monks, Amanda, (Mrs. Charles Gray), d.1905. Civil War Confederate spy.
Morgan, Jennie, 1847–1934. Homeopathic physician who practiced in Seabright. Arr. SCC 1889.
Morrison, Ph.D, Caroline Willard (Baldwin), (Mrs. Charles T. Morrison), 1869–1928. First woman in America to receive a doctorate in a science (Cornell University). Teacher.
Mullin, Enid Jean (Crippen), (Mrs. George H. Mullin), 1890–1981. First woman licensed contractor in California, perhaps as early as 1929. Real estate developer, Aptos/Rio Del Mar.

Nicholson, Lillie May, 1884–1964. Artist, teacher, aircraft mechanic.

Oliphant, Pearl, D.O., 1879–1970. Osteopathic physician. Arr. SCC 1906.
Olsen, Tillie, (1912–2007), Internationally renowned social justice activist, feminist, and writer, chronicled the lives of the working-class. Frequently sojourned in Santa Cruz.
Orlando, Alverda, 1930–2024. Librarian, Davenport historian. Author, Davenport (2020).

Parkhurst, Charley Darkey, 1812–1879. Stagecoach driver.
Pawla, Edith, 1881–1968. Entrepreneur, businesswoman, owner of violet farm, Capitola.
Peck, Cecil Marie (Davis) (Mrs. Hollis Peck), 1886–1940. Graduated from UC Berkeley, 1907 and was principal at Aptos School when she ran for election and won the office of Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools in 1918. She further served on the Board of Directors of the State Council of Education. She left her position at the time of her marriage in 1924.
Pendleton, Gertrude (Sigurdson) (Mrs. Norman Pendleton), 1897–1999. Businesswoman. Gertrude Sigurdson Dental Laboratories (later, Santa Cruz Dental Laboratory). Arr. SCC 1919.
Penniman, Leonora (Naylor) (Mrs. Harry Webb Harris Penniman), 1884–1957. Artist. Co-founder Santa Cruz Art League. . Frequently exhibited her work with Cor (Cornelia) De Gavere and Margaret Rogers, known as the "Santa Cruz Three." Arr. SC 1906.
Pilkington, Maude C. (Mrs. Richard R. Lukens) 1888–1966. Writer.
Pitts, Zasu, 1898-1963. Actress. Arr. SCC 1903.
Porter, Frances "Fanny" (Cummings) (Mrs. John T. Porter). Watsonville teacher, philanthropist, businesswoman.

Rawson, Laura (Mrs. Lincoln Rawson), 1878–1968. Newspaper reporter (Soquel).
Raymond, Isabel (Hammel) (Mrs. Henry Raymond), 1843–1930. Pen name: I. H. Raymond. Newspaper reporter, writer.
Rice, Esther Lucille (Fields) (Mrs. Russell Rice), 1907–2002. With husband Russell, operated the Capitola Airport (1945–1954) and Skypark Airport in Scotts Valley (1951–1967). Newspaper columnist, historical photo researcher.
Rich, Adrienne, (Mrs. Alfred Haskell Conrad), 1929–2012. Poet, essayist, feminist, political activist. Described as, "one of the most widely read and influential poets of the second half of the 20th Century." Settled in Santa Cruz in the 1980s with her longtime partner, Michelle Cliff. Taught at UCSC and Stanford.
Riley, D.O., Nell F., 1895–1969. Osteopathic physician and surgeon. Practiced in Santa Cruz from 1933–1958.
Roache, Edith Zanetta (Ward), (Mrs. Alexander P. Roache), 1853–1928. Teacher, Grange official, Watsonville. Arr. SCC 1877.
Rogers, Margaret Esther, 1872–1961. Artist. Co-founder Santa Cruz Art League. Frequently exhibited her work with Cor (Cornelia) De Gavere and Leonora Penniman, known as the "Santa Cruz Three." Arr. SCC 1902.
Rostron, Rose (Rosa Ochsenbein) (Aichberg, adopted family name) (Mrs. George Henry Rostron) 1874–1970. Arr. SCC 1880's. Photographer, first woman Santa Cruz County Supervisor.
Rouse, Lillian (McPherson) (Mrs. Robert P. Rouse), 1908–2005. Teacher, business owner, driving force behind founding of the Museum of Art & History at the McPherson Center.

Schilling, Elizabeth, (Mrs. Ken Thomas), 1956–2025. Journalist, founder Live Oak Family Resource Center.
Schnacke, June (Borina), (Mrs. Robert H. Schnacke), 1920–2000. Attorney, first woman district attorney in California.
Scott, Celia, (Mrs. Peter Scott), 1935–2025. Santa Cruz Mayor, Attorney, Environmentalist.
Searing, Laura Catherine (Redden), (Mrs. Edward W. Searing), 1840–1923. Pen name: Howard Glyndon. Arr. SCC 1886. Journalist, poet. Deaf.
Sesnon, Mary Porter, (Mrs. William T. Sesnon), 1868–1930. Member of the Benjamin F. Porter family, one of the oldest and wealthiest in Santa Cruz. Supporter of the arts, built "Pino Alto" in 1911, now known as Sesnon House.
Shafter, Finette "Nettie" (Locke), (Mrs. William V. Armstrong) (Mrs. Edwin George Shafter), 1860–1938. Writer. Pen name: Wake Robin. Arr. SCC 1870.
Slatter Matthews, Margaret "Peggy" (Mrs. Leroy Matthews), (1920–1996) Hired by Skip Littlefield to teach aquatics at the Boardwalk Plunge in 1950, professional swimmer Peggy Slatter, made a bigger splash in Capitola in 1954 when she became the city's first woman city council member.
Sly, Lottie Paulina Thompson, (Mrs. Enrico T. Thompson), 1871–1955. Musician.
Soldo, Ann (Matiasevich), (Mrs. Andrew Soldo), 1920–2011, Leader of the Croatian community in Pajaro Valley. First woman mayor of Watsonville in 1983.
Stagnaro, Gilda, 1924–2008. Businesswoman, restaurateur.
Stanley, Ph.D., Audrey, 1927–2022, Professor, Theatre Arts, UC Santa Cruz, founder Santa Cruz Shakespeare
Stemler, Dorothy, 1902–1976. Businesswoman, rose cultivator.
Stevens, Carli Ann (Lewis), (Mrs. Stanley D. Stevens), 1939–2021. Teacher.

Stucki, Lorraine (Everitt) (Mrs. John Stucki), 1931–2017. Known for her commitment to community issues, particularly those affecting seniors and flood control in the Pajaro Valley. Scholarship created in her name Cabrillo College supports local students.
Swain, Cora (King) (Mrs. Mack Swain), 1872–1956. Actress, leading lady of the Mack Swain stock company. Arr. SCC 1907, when Mack Swain Theatre (former Unique Theatre), opened on Pacific Avenue.
Swan, Antoinette Francesca Akoni (Marin), (Mrs. Lyman Swan), 1832–1905. Hawaiian-born, member of King David Kalakaua's household and secretary to Queen Esther Julia Kapiolani. The three Hawaiian princes, David Kawananakoa, Edward Keliiahonui, and Jonah Kalanianaola stayed with the Swans during their frequent visits in the 1880s. With husband, Lyman, operated a bakery on Pacific Ave. Arr. SCC c1857.
Swank, Carrie, E. 1863–1937, Ocean swimmer, named "Aquatic Queen" of Santa Cruz in 1886. General delivery clerk at the Santa Cruz Post Office for thirty-five years.

Tabasa-Estrada, Rosita D. (Mrs. Jesus Torrente Tabasa) (Mrs. Ludovico Estrada) 1923–2002. Lived in Watsonville and Tigayon, Capiz Province, Philippines. Founding member of the Filipino Community in Watsonville. Owner of the Oriental Café and Rosita's Philippine Garden restaurant on Bridge Street in Watsonville, a social and community center for 50 years, from 1938 until the earthquake of 1989. Further active with Filipino fraternal and women's clubs and Project Scout in Santa Cruz.
Thompson, Marie B. (Mrs. Ralph Thompson) c1856–1926. Architect. Designed numerous homes in Seabright and throughout the City of Santa Cruz.
Thurwachter, Ella, 1868–1963. Native of the Pajaro Valley and its earliest female farmers and businesswomen; one of the first farmers to raise lettuce.
Titcomb, M.D., Lillian Emeline (Ray) (Mrs. Edwin Albion Titcomb), 1873–1974. Santa Cruz High School graduate who received her M.D. degree from John Hopkins University in 1908. Started first nursery for visually handicapped children in Los Angeles.
Tunheim, Donalda "Doni" (Holden) (Mrs. Edward Tunheim), 1941–2005. Artist, graphic designer, leader in the historic preservation movement.
Trumpler, Augusta C. (De La Harpe) (Mrs. Robert J. Trumpler), 1888–1989. Symbolic "mother" of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC. Founder SCC Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Political activist. Arr. SCC 1943.

Van Valkenburg, Ellen Rand (Perkins) (Mrs. Henry Van Valkenburg), 1827–1887? Woman's rights advocate. First woman in California to attempt to register to vote, July 1871.
Varcados, Marybeth (Hockel) (Mrs. Peter Varcados) 1940–2009. Began journalism career in 1958 at the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian. Retired as the first woman managing editor of the Santa Cruz Sentinel in 1992. Active with Cabrillo Music Festival and the Capitola Arts Commission, Planning Commission, and Jewel Box Mystery book writers, producing several books.

Wanzer, M.D., Lucy Maria (Field), (Mrs. James O. Wanzer) 1841–1930. Physician. First female graduate of a California medical school (Toland Medical School, now UC San Francisco), 1876. Arr. SCC 1859.
Washburn, Viola M., (Mrs. Henry Washburn), 1906–2008. Teacher, Naturalist, Author of Birds of Monterey Bay. Arr. SCC 1927.
Waterman, Minerva, 1876–1952. Librarian.
Watters, M.D., Ethel, M, 1888–1974. Physician.

Wells, Anna M., 1804-1894. Artist, teacher. Arr. SCC 1856.
Westman, Ray (Clegg) (Mrs. Walter D. Westman), 1921-2010 Founded in 1979 the Doran Center for the Blind in Santa Cruz, known today as the Ray Westman Branch of the Vista Center for the Blind.
White, Arminta "Mintie" (Allison), 1850–1937. Teacher.
Wilder, Alice Earl. Community leader and prominent citizen of the San Lorenzo Valley. Famously known as the "Lady in the Red Hat."
Wilson, Dorothy Sarah (Deming), (Mrs. Deming Wheeler) (Mrs. Edgar Forbes Wilson), 1895–1976. Founder Pogonip Club, founder National Women's Polo League.
Wilson, Emma (Goodspeed). Realtor.
Wilson, Martha (Pilkington). Businesswoman, founder Wilson Bros., real estate company.
Wolbach, Louise "Lulu" Isabelle (Hall), (Mrs. Henry H. Green) (Mrs. David Wolbach) (1868-1936). Teacher, hotel manager, songwriter. Arr. SCC (Capitola) 1868.
Wood, Lorette. (Mrs. Edwin H. Wood), (1915–2010). First woman in ninety-one years elected to the Santa Cruz City Council in 1967. First woman mayor of Santa Cruz.
Work, Geraldine (Graham), 1899–1979, (Mrs. George A. Work), Director, Santa Cruz Public Library System, 1941–1968.
Wormhoudt, Mardi (Rolfs), (Mrs. Kenneth Wormhoudt), 1937–2009. Environmentalist, City of Santa Cruz Councilwoman, Mayor, and County Supervisor. Mayor during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake that devastated Downtown Santa Cruz.
Wyckoff, Florence Walton (Richardson), (Mrs. Hubert Coke Wyckoff) c1906–2000. Watsonville resident championed the welfare of migrant workers. Worked to pass the 1960 Federal Migrant Workers Health Act.

Visitors (Date of Visit)

Anthony, Susan Brownell, 1820–1906. (1871 and 1896) [Anthony relatives in Santa Cruz; friend of Georgiana Bruce Kirby and Eliza Farnham]
Dall, Caroline Wells Healey, 1822–1912. (1881) [Kirby]
Foote, Mary (Hallock), 1847-1938. (1877) Writer, illustrator, artist. [Friend of Kirby]
Hurd, Eliza Ann (Woodard) (Mrs. James K. Hurd) (Mrs. Charles Henry DeWolf). (1861)
Jackson, Helen Maria (Fiske) Hunt, 1830-1885. (1872), Native American Rights Activist and author. [Friend of Georgiana Bruce Kirby]
Roosevelt, Eleanor, (1962) Activist and First Lady of the United States during Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms as President from 1933–1945. Spoke at Cabrillo College lecture series, April 1962.
Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, (1871). [Friend of Kirby and Eliza Farnham]
Wells-Barnett, Ida Bell, 1862–1931. (1890s) African-American advocate for civil rights, women's rights, and economic rights.