

# TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

May 2017  
Volume 17 Issue 5

*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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P.O. Box 157

Temecula, CA 92593

[www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org)



### Remembering Norm Taylor

## J.B. Charbonneau Saga

By Duane Preimsberger

*(Norm Taylor passed away in late March. He was a long-time TVHS member, having also served on the board of directors. Among other activities Norm was a tour docent at the Temecula Valley Museum for 16+ years. As a tribute to Norm this story is being told.)*

Many of the Temecula Valley Museum Docents and hundreds and hundreds of Temecula Valley school kids have explored the, "They Passed This Way," granite monument in Sam Hicks Park. While there, they may have heard Docent Norm Taylor spin a delightful story about Jean Baptiste or J.B. Charbonneau, the son of trapper Touissant Charbonneau and his 16 year old Shoshone wife, Sacagawea. J.B. was born to the couple in the Dakotas in 1805 during the Lewis and Clark Expedition as the Expedition journeyed west across the United States, looking for a North-West passage, at the request of President Jefferson. This 4000 mile + round trip journey, one of the most memorable in American history, helped to open the West to settlers into the next century.

In spite of sickness, several near drownings, freezing weather and other misfortunes, Jean Baptiste managed to survive the long trek. As it went on William Clark, one of the Expedition leaders was taken by the little boy and he gave him a nickname, 'Pomp'. While traversing the Yellowstone River in Montana, Clark found an unusually shaped high point and named it "Pomp Tower," for the child. It overlooked a beautiful area where buffalo, elk, and other wild critters often grazed.

When the trek ended in St. Louis MO. William Clark offered to take Pomp under his wing and raise him. His parents initially refused the offer but after three years of living in an Indian village on the Missouri River they changed their minds and Pomp went to live with Clark. Unfortunately, this parting marked the last time that the boy would ever see his mother. Sacagawea died at the age of 24 shortly after giving birth to a daughter, Lizette.

J.B. became a real part of the Clark family, one that grew to include 5 other children. As a family member, he got a great education



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## Remembering Norm Taylor

# Jean Baptiste Charbonneau . . .

learning classical Latin and Greek and all the other subjects young gentlemen were expected to know in that era. When his education was complete, J.B. decided to go to work for a trading company in which William Clark was part owner.

While employed as a trapper and a guide J.B. or Baptiste as he was now known met 25-year old Paul Wilhelm, a German Prince, who was exploring the United States and soon the two young men, became fast friends. When it came time for Paul to return to Germany he asked Baptiste to accompany him home to Wurttemberg where he lived in a 600 year old castle. Baptiste accepted the offer and once in Europe he quickly found that he had a propensity for learning languages and became a proficient speaker of German, Spanish and Italian.

Prince Paul loved to explore and before long the two friends had visited a good portion of Europe and North Africa. Unfortunately, Paul's vagabond ways cost him his marriage and shortly after the separation he and Baptiste returned to the United States. After a time, Paul decided to go back to Germany and Baptiste bid him a friendly and touching farewell after deciding to remain in the U.S. and to make his way once again as a guide, trapper and mountain man.

Although the life was rough and often dangerous, Baptiste did quite well and soon had a reputation not only as an expert mountain man but as a kind, thoughtful, friendly, brave and generous fellow. In 1846 Baptiste was offered and accepted a position with the United States Army, assisting the Mormon Battalion in blazing a trail from New Mexico to California. The journey that passed through Temecula was a difficult one and Baptiste distinguished himself by finding water sources during the desert march that saved the Battalion from dying of thirst on several occasions.

After being released from his military obligations in 1847, Baptiste became the Alcalde or magistrate of the San Luis Rey Mission in Oceanside. His gentle spirit and sense of fairness rebelled at the poor treatment of the Native Americans he observed and after only 8 months he resigned his position just in time to head north for the Gold Rush.

Baptiste was not successful in his search for the precious metal and he drifted from job to job. By 1866 Baptiste, now 61 years old, was a hotel clerk in Auburn California. There, he had become a respected member of the community; smart, articulate, and a guy who could tell stories of fascinating adventures in exotic places. Wanderlust reached into his soul on the day he learned of a new gold-strike in Montana and before long he was on his way. It too was a difficult trip and along the way Baptiste contracted pneumonia in the dreary, cold and wet weather. He didn't survive and on May 16, 1866 he followed his mother Sacagawea to the grave.

In 2000, the two of them were united in unique and very special way when the United States Treasury minted the Sacagawea dollar. Engraved on the face of the coin is the image of lovely Sacagawea with the infant Pomp riding contentedly on her back; mother and son are together once again.

*(Editor's Note: For many years, Norm Taylor as a docent at the Temecula Valley Museum enjoyed telling this great story about a mom and her son who live on in the history of our Nation. As Norm would tell his story he would usually call upon one of the young girls in the touring class to come up and stand beside him, then he'd reach into his pocket and pull out and display a round, golden colored coin — then tell Sacagawea's story. It was minted as a tribute to those two pioneers, one of whom became part of our local history -- having once visited the Temecula valley. Norm would then give the coin to the girl.)*



Plaque Status Report

# Temecula Valley Historic Plaques

By Bob Kent & Rebecca Farnbach

One of the many efforts of the Temecula Valley Historical Society (TVHS) is to reveal the history of the area. For some thirty years, this has been accomplished by the first historical society that folded in the 1980s and has been continued by TVHS after its formation in 2001. TVHS has installed approximately 30 plaques in the Temecula area. To facilitate visitors, tourists and historians in locating these, the society has prepared a walking tour map and description of 22 sites in Old Town Temecula which notes the location and description of the Old Town plaques. A group of TVHS volunteers replenish supplies of these trifold brochures to merchants, shops and commercial establishments in Old Town to distribute to the public. In addition to the plaques installed by the TVHS, other groups including governmental bodies and private organizations have also placed historical markers or plaques in the Temecula area.

In 2016, TVHS performed a survey to locate both TVHS plaques and those installed by others. In addition to recording the location, the purpose of the survey was to identify those that needed repair, cleaning and in some cases replacement for missing plaques. During the 2016 survey, 42 plaques were located and photographed. The information is detailed in the "Temecula Valley Historical Society Plaque Survey, April 2016. Annually, the TVHS will prepare a status update to the survey.

To facilitate access for the public, the survey results were uploaded to the TVHS website and includes descriptions, photographs and locations of the 42 sites identified in our 2016 survey at [www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org) under the topic "Projects."

The TVHS would welcome any comments on our website especially regarding the location of any additional plaques which we can or should include in our survey and website.

In 2005 funds were acquired to make a large plaque to commemorate the Butterfield Overland Trail that came through Temecula. After a long consideration of where it should be placed, it was decided that it should be along the trail where it transverses the historic Vail Headquarters. While the landscape underwent renovation the plaque was displayed in the Little Temecula History Center near the trail. In March the plaque was finally placed along the trail, opposite the Wolf Store.



## -- MEMBERSHIP NEWS --

\*\*\*\*\*WELCOME NEW MEMBERS\*\*\*\*\*

Sarah Kay Bierle  
Gerry & Andrea Nicholas  
DUVCW Tent 92: Lynette Harmon-Canales

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Thank you for renewing your membership:

Sara Hostetler  
Drs. David Elliott & Anne Miller  
Barbara Mina  
Peg Moore  
Ray & Rosemary Smith

## Come Meet our Scholarship Recipients

TVHS will introduce our scholarship recipients at our **May 22nd** program, please come meet and help recognize these fine young students.

This is the time of year when schools will be graduating their Seniors, and when TVHS members will have an opportunity to meet and congratulate them.



Gazette665's 2017 History Conference

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR  
1862: SEARCHING FOR  
VICTORY

June 3, 2017 ~ Temecula, California

Don't miss this all-day event on Saturday, June 3, 2017, when seven historians and researchers join Gazette665 to present an all-day celebration and commemoration of an important year in American History.

[The American Civil War - 1862: Searching For Victory](#)

You'll learn about battles and campaigns, military commanders, civilians' response to the conflict, the war's impact on California, how a locomotive was stolen, and much more.

**EVENT DETAILS**

WHEN: Saturday, June 3, 2017  
8:30 a.m. 'til 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Temecula Conference Center,  
in Old Town City Hall.

REGISTRATION: \$50.00, catered lunch included.

For more info contact: [sarah.bierle@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.bierle@gmail.com)

— 100 YEARS AGO —

*(From the Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column)*

**Issue of May 4, 1917**

Angel Ledisma and V. Ledisma were taken to Riverside the first of the week. From there they will go to Los Angeles where the brother of Angel Ledisma and a brother of V. Ledisma met with an accident Sunday. Both were run over by an automobile and are not expected to live.

Rev. J. J. Burri of Elsinore is the owner of a new five passenger Chevrolet.

Fertilizer is getting very scarce around Hemet and San Jacinto because there are five haulers of San Jacinto in town, and they are shipping it from here to Riverside and Redlands. They have shipped about five carloads in one week.

Reginald Attache spent Sunday at Elsinore playing ball with the Elsinore team. Mr. Attache is one of the baseball fans of the Temecula team. He is a crack third baseman and there are few third basemen in the country that can come up to his standard in the country teams.

Temecula is surely coming to the front. The streets are lighted at night, the town has a night watchman, and a squad of plain-clothes deputies and so all the residents sleep in peace.

Two trains stop here over night now, the passenger and the freight.

— 100 YEARS AGO —

*(From the Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column)*

**Issue of May 11, 1917**

James O. Freeman has moved his flock of sheep from Kelly's ranch to more pasture.

Saturnino Calac, who is employed at the Indian school at Riverside as assistant disciplinarian, was a visitor at his parents' last week in Wolf Valley.

Hugo Guenther of the Murrieta Mineral Hot Springs was a business visitor at the bank the last of the week.

Paul Fickelsworth, foreman at the Pauba Ranch, left for Los Angeles Saturday by auto stage. Mr. Fickelsworth will be gone for a week's vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Birge of Los Angeles are guests of the Welty girls at the Hotel Temecula. We understand that Mr. Birge is employed by the Santa Fe and will engineer the freight train from and back to Temecula.

Frank L. Fernald has discarded his old gasoline tank and has installed a new one. The new tank is put under ground, which is better than the old one as it will be more convenient for the autos and easier to operate.

Jacques Escallier is building a frame building near his residence and will use it for a wareroom because he has so many odds and ends to store away.

**Issue of May 18, 1917**

John B. Kelly, manager of the Kelly poolroom, says his bees are doing fine. He hopes to have a much better honey crop this year.

At the baseball game last Sunday between Elsinore and Temecula there was a large representation of the loyal rooters from here. Although the Temecula club met defeat at the hands of the Elsinore Stars, nevertheless Temecula played a good game. Two costly errors gave the game to Elsinore.

Albert F. Nienke, lumber dealer, is the happy owner of a new five passenger Chevrolet. Mr. Nienke is building a garage next to his office where he is going to store his auto.

Mrs. Nieves Mouren motored to Elsinore Sunday to spend the day at the mineral baths. Mrs. Mouren has been suffering with rheumatism for some time and the hot baths she takes at the Elsinore are helping her.

**Issue of May 25, 1917**

Marcus E. Barnett had the misfortune of running a nail into his foot, which has been very painful.

The Vail brothers shipped a carload of hogs one day last week to San Bernardino.

Dr. Anderson of Pala was in town Monday calling on some patients. Dr. Anderson is a government physician at the Pala Indian reservation and has been in the Indian service a good many years.

William Collier of Wildomar bought a lot of fine calves of the Vail Bros. and sold to the Vail Bros. a fine lot of hogs.

# President's Message

We have so many good and positive things going on with history in this town. Just today I received an email from an out-of-town author who spoke to us a couple of years ago and she praised us for how well the different history groups work together. She asked how we do it and asked if she can bring a delegation from her coastal town to query us. The obvious answer is that we respect one another and include each other.

The same is true in our historical society. We respect each other and include each other. I looked around at the audience during our last presentation and thought what a great group of people were present and how much I would have enjoyed a chance to visit with each one of them. So we will have a couple of events this Fall when you can visit with some of the cool folks who you don't have time to get to know when we gather each month. Please mark your calendars for the late afternoon and evening of Saturday, November 11 when we will sponsor a very special event at Vail Headquarters. The details will be announced later. Please also mark your calendars for Friday, November 17th for a dinner and music with plenty of time for visiting.

I am looking forward to getting to know each of you better.

Until next time,

*Rebecca Farubach*

## Tour of Murrieta Equestrian Center Planned for May 6

The Murrieta Valley Historical Society has arranged for members of the Temecula Valley Historical Society to tour the Murrieta Equestrian Center on Saturday, May 6th, at 9 a.m. This is a working horse ranch, one of the few remaining in this area. We will be touring five one-story historical buildings on the property. Members of the Murrieta Valley Historical Society will provide refreshments. This tour is free.

Please call Phil Washum ASAP at (951) 201-0020 or by email [pcwashum@verizon.net](mailto:pcwashum@verizon.net) to confirm that you plan to attend. Please leave a message with your name, telephone number, and the number of people attending.

We will meet at the Murrieta Equestrian Center at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6th. Address for center is 42670 Juniper St., Murrieta.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Every Sunday** — Sunday Funday at the Vail Headquarters — Noon to 5 p.m. Rides, demonstrations & activities. Consider volunteering. Don't forget Tuesday's Farmer's Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Saturday, May 6th** — The Murrieta Valley Historical Society will host a tour of the Murrieta Equestrian Center for the members of TVHS. This is a working horse ranch and the tour will include 5 of the historic buildings. Contact Phil Washum at 951-201-0020 to confirm reservation space is open. See story below.

**Wednesday, May 10th** — 1:00 p.m. Bonnie Martland will portray Mary Jane Welty at the Mary Phillips Senior Center. TVHS members are welcome.

**Saturday, May 13th** — Vintage cars will be shown at Vail Headquarters.

**Thursday, May 18th** — 2:00 p.m. Julie Gilbert will Portray Jean Bethell at the Harveston Retirement Center (Chapel), 40024 Harveston Dr., Temecula. TVHS members are welcome to attend.

**Monday, May 22nd** — 6:00 p.m. Paula Sacchi will present a program on how Handwriting Analysis can reveal characteristics of our predecessors by offering information from handwriting samples that we can apply to our genealogical research.

**Also come meet our 2017 scholarship recipients.**

**Wednesday, May 24th** — 1:00 p.m. Pam Grender will portray Helen Hunt Jackson at the Mary Phillips Senior Center. TVHS members are welcome.

## TVHS Meetings

Regular programs of the Temecula Valley Historical Society begin at 6 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the Little Temecula History Center (Red Barn) next to Kohl's on Wolf Store Road.

### -- Meet & Greet --

Prior to every TVHS monthly program, please join us for a "Meet & Greet" time at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments. We'd like to get to know you.

### Help Needed with "Meet & Greet"

If you would like to get involved, please call Lynn at 695-0517 to help "Meet and Greet" guests at our monthly programs.