

TEMECULA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



Wolf Store

January 2021
Volume 21 Issue 1

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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A Publication of the

Temecula Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 157
Temecula, CA 92593



www.temeculahistoricalsociety.org



Jose Gonzalez is standing far left, his wife Grace is far right. Daughter Ysabel and son Ormiston in between. Note adobe in background, still standing today in the Adobe Plaza on Jefferson.

100 Years Ago

Jose Gonzalez, Temecula Pioneer Passes Away in January 1921

(Editor's Note: During preparations for this issue while reviewing and reproducing the "Gossip Column" from January 1921, I discovered in the column a lengthy entry regarding the passing of Jose Gonzalez, so decided to make special note of the 100th anniversary of his demise as this month's feature and share the article below from the TVHS website "Family History" area. Multiple generations of his descendants were born and lived in the area. Malcolm Barnett a recent board member was the great-grandson of Jose Gonzalez. Malcolm's widow Loretta Barnett is currently on the TVHS board. Jose's daughter Ysabel (Aunt Bessie) was Malcolm's grandmother.)

Research material compiled by Malcolm Barnett

Jose Maria Gonzalez was born in Cadiz Spain and studied to become a priest. Instead of taking his vows for the priesthood, he went to Scotland and studied to become an accountant. While in Scotland, he worked for a shipping company.

He arrived in San Francisco in the late 1860's, via Scotland, England, China, and the Philippines. He located in the San Joaquin Valley. There he met Juan Murrieta, who was also from the same Basque region in Spain. He joined in partnership with Juan Murrieta. At about that same time, Murrieta and his partners bought the Temecula and Pauba Ranchos consisting of 52,000 acres.

When Jose came to the Temecula Rancho with Juan Murrieta in 1874, he kept the books and helped Murrieta manage the Temecula and Pauba Ranchos.

(Continued on next page)

100 Years Ago

Jose Gonzalez, Temecula Pioneer Passes Away in January 1921

When Charles Sumner brought his family from England and established his home on Rancho Laguna, he brought a governess for his children, to see that they were properly educated. Her name was Grace Street. When Sumner drove to Temecula, to learn from Jose Gonzalez, how to build a fireplace. The two men must have developed a friendship, and Gonzalez must have made numerous trips to the Sumner's. His interest was more in the governess, Grace Street. The Sumner's soon tired of life in the country and moved to Los Angeles. But Jose Gonzalez, (whose first wife had died before reaching America) had fallen in love with Grace Street. On March 27, 1876 they were married at Juan Murrieta's Temecula Rancho (in Long Valley) in San Diego County.

At first the Gonzalez's lived with Juan Murrieta (who also got married around the same time).

When Jose came to the Temecula Rancho in 1874 with Juan Murrieta and bought 60 acres, part of the old land grant where he built his adobe home for his wife, Grace Street, and their two children, Ormiston and Ysabel. Their daughter, Ysabel, was always known as the first white girl born (April 25, 1879) and raised in the area. Four months after her birth, the family moved into the Old Adobe Home. Which still stands and is the namesake of Old Adobe Plaza, on Jefferson Street.

Jose Gonzalez became an official citizen on 9-27-1881 in San Bernardino County. The document was stamped by County Clerk A.F.U. Henny. Gonzalez was the son of J.M. and Candelaria (Pery) Gonzalez, both natives of Spain. The father died in Spain, but the mother eventually came to the United States and reside in Nevada, where she died at the age of 92.

Jose Gonzalez was considered one of the most prominent citizens of Temecula. He became the deputy assessor in 1884, when this area was San Diego County. He continued to be appointed to his county post until retirement. He also became Riverside County's first Tax Collector. Jose, also founded the first Temecula School District in 1888. He was one of its first trustees.

In later years, a letter to Horace Parker (local historian), Ysabel recalled Mercedes Pujol made her first and only trip to Temecula in 1884. After Domingo Pujol died, she came here with her father and sister to settle the estate and my father helped her. They stayed with our family most of the time and I was about 5 years old. My mother drove them every day to the hot springs (Murrieta Hot Springs) to take baths.

Note: Mercedes Pujol donated the site that the one room school was built on, known as the Pujol School.

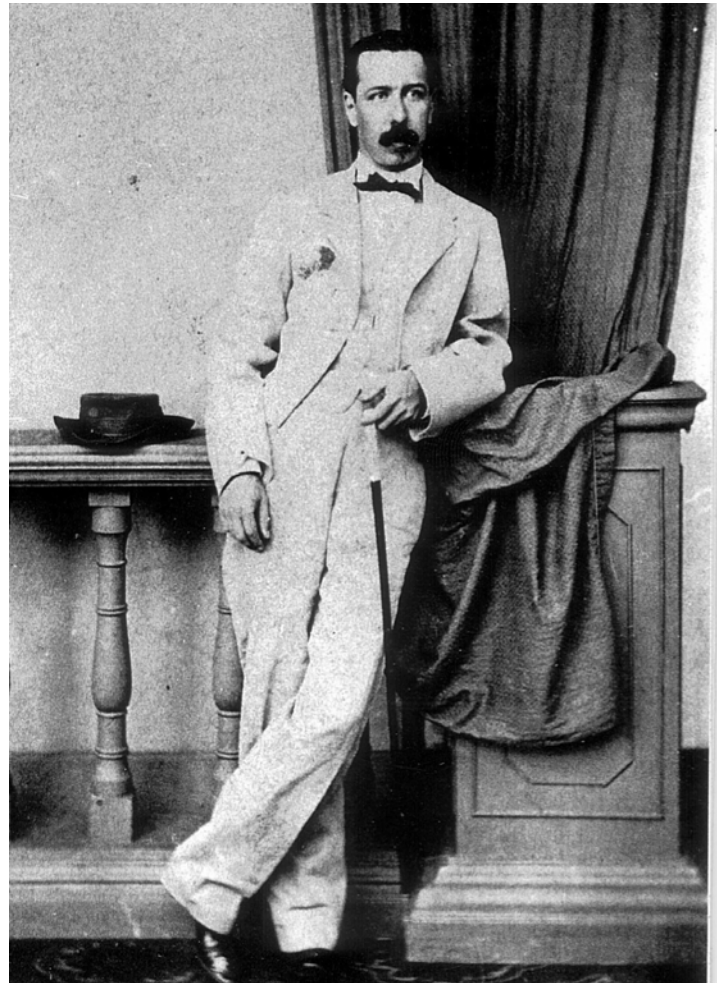
Ysabel said she attended that school, which was on the

site of the Union School, which was built in 1915. (Now the location of the Temecula Museum). Before the 1888 school was built, Ysabel and others attended school in a room of the Temecula Hotel and also in a shoe-makers shop on front Street.

Jose & Grace Gonzalez's daughter, Ysabel, later became Ysabel Barnett, affectionately called Aunt Bessie, was a real-life example of the perfect pioneer, maiden, wife, mother and community matriarch. Ysabel died on March 19, 1969.

She was honored by the TVUSD by having a school named after her, called the Ysabel Barnett Elementary School. Dedicated on September 21, 2001.

Jose, Grace, Ormiston, and Ysabel are buried in the Temecula Cemetery.



A young, well dressed Jose Gonzalez. Date and occasion for picture are unknown. A dapper looking young man indeed, with walking stick.

Society VP for 2021

John A. Randall III

(Editor's Note: John Randall III is new to the Society's Executive Committee, and has agreed to step up to be President in 2022 when Shari Crall is termed out, it seemed appropriate to introduce John to all. John was asked to provide some personal background information, he provided this biography along with photo.)

December 2, 1951, Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Illinois), three sets of twins were born. The Base Paper headlines read, LCDR John Randall Jr. has set the record for the largest set of twins born – topping the scales with a combined weight of 16 pounds. My mother, Barbara Coen Randall, I believe was mentioned somewhere in the article!

With two older sisters, my brother and I, and five more to follow in the next 9 years, I grew up in a lively family setting.

Grade School began in Edmonds, Washington, a suburb of Seattle. We later moved to Lompoc, California, Oxnard, Ontario and Upland, eventually settling in Montclair, where in 1970, I graduated from Montclair High School.

Extracurricular activities during this time included: School Band (French Horn), Track, Cross-Country, Member of DeMolay International, Boy Scouts of America (Eagle Scout with Palms, Order of the Arrow, God and Country).

In 1974, I graduated from Loma Linda University, La Sierra Campus with a Bachelor of Arts/ Psychology. California Polytechnic University, Pomona was next, where I earned a Multi-Subject Teaching Credential. During this same time, I returned to my heritage, joining the Department of the Navy, not as a Naval Officer, but rather as a United States Marine Corps Officer. Active duty commenced in January 1978, Quantico, Virginia. After a year of training with Officer Candidate School, The Basic School and Supply School, a year in Okinawa and Japan, I found myself being transferred to Camp Pendleton.

Before leaving active duty (1981), I earned a Master of Business Administration (National University) – Yes, I changed life goals. Matching education with Marine Corps experiences, my first civilian job was with Bechtel Power Corporation, expediting material for the construction of power plants – including San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1.

Having begun my Master of Arts/Education with California Polytechnic University, Pomona prior to joining the Marine Corps, I graduated with my second Postgraduate Degree, Master of Arts/Education in 1982.

August 10, 1985, I married Jerri Lynn Nesmith. The following year our son, John Albert Randall IV, was born on June 19, 1986.

Upon leaving Bechtel Power Corporation/Southern California Edison, I was employed by Central Power Engineering Corporation. This brought us to Temecula in December 1986. As with most industries that tend to ebb and tide with the economy, CPEC relocated to Alabama and in 1988, I resurrected my teaching background, earned a Single Subject Teaching Credential and was hired by Perris Union High School District as a History teacher. Twenty-eight years later, in 2016, I retired from teaching, having taught primarily United States History and United States Government.

While teaching, I never really left the Marine Corps, maintaining active status with the Marine Corps Reserve. In 1990, I participated in Operation Desert Shield/Storm and again in 2002, Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom. During my years of service, I received, amongst others, the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and was twice awarded the Military Outstanding Voluntary Service Medal for service within the civilian community. After twenty-eight years, in 2006, I retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 2010, I returned to my Alma Mater La Sierra University to attain a Doctor of Education.

Today, I am an Adjunct Faculty staff member with University of Phoenix, supervising Student Teachers. I continue to play the French Horn with Temecula Valley Winds and dabble in LEGOs and Woodworking. I support both Temecula Valley Historical Society and am a Commissioner on the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District Historical Commission – Third District – Supervisor Washington.

Our son is married with a darling 3-year-old daughter. My wife and I enjoy working around the house (same house for 34 years), visiting our granddaughter and traveling/sightseeing (before COVID-19).





State of the Society — 2020 —

Text of report presented by Shari Crall at annual meeting, November 2020

Welcome to the annual meeting of the Temecula Valley Historical Society. We expected our 20th year during the year 2020 to be remarkable, but we did not imagine it would be a year long remembered in history. It has made for cute memes from the year such as, “Who would have thought I wouldn’t touch you with a 6 foot pole would become a thing,” or “Back in my day there was so much toilet paper people literally used to string it up in the trees of their enemies.” We are grateful you could join us tonight by Zoom and for the activities and efforts of so many pressing forward and accomplishing much.

As we met in January and February, having just completed the merger of TVHS with the Vail Ranch Restoration Association, we looked forward to our Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Event, set for Friday, March 20th. Catering was arranged, invitations sent out, programs planned, dignitaries set to appear, and a new brochure completed. Even that Monday, we were in full preparation. By Wednesday we were in full discussion and then Thursday, the Governor made it official – California was shut-down.

As I wrote in a recent newsletter, with no frame of reference, I thought we would reschedule for April, after a two week quarantine period when this would all blow over. Still, we continue to grow and move forward.

Our Facebook page has exploded thanks to content provided by Dale Garcia and Diane LaTulippe. Begun 11 years ago, we were very excited at the beginning of 2020 when we hit 1000 followers. In less than a year, that has increased by 50% and we now have 1500 followers!

Rebecca Farnbach, after a month to figure things out, moved our monthly presentations to Zoom where we are all learning new tricks and when successful, even play them live on Facebook.

Under Bonnie Martland’s leadership, the Society awarded four \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the Temecula Valley who are interested in studying history. This is an important part of the Society’s mission.

Dick Fox publishes our newsletter. It is a highlight for our members, always with a headline article of historical significance and packed with information on activities. The 100 years ago in Temecula feature is always fun. Dick would love to mentor someone in this project if you are interested.

The Vail Ranch headquarters have been spruced and cleaned up during this down time. There is a new ban-

ner on the Little Temecula History Center and new decals on the doors. We want to recognize those who offer their time and dedication to the activities there: Darell and Rebecca Farnbach, Loretta Barnett, Toni Benson, Bill Veale, Terry Craig, Wendy Lesovsky, Jim Sappington, Lori and Bill Catlett and Steve Fitzgerald. They have created lovely and interactive, as well as profitable businesses and exhibits. Treasurer, Roger Cude’, notes these enterprises contribute to a robust financial statement for the Society.

Our antique store and kiddie train are open on Tuesdays and Sundays and we have noticed quite the demand for safe, family fun. The Little Temecula History Center is also open either fully or outside on Sunday afternoons.

We aren’t the only ones recognizing Darell and Rebecca Farnbach this year. The Temecula Chamber of Commerce named them the 2019 Citizens of the Year for their dedication and significant contributions to Temecula.

Other programs remain up and running. The Notable Women and Notable Men of Temecula, under the direction of Lynn Cude’ have given several presentations for the Society and others this year. Recordings are found on our Facebook page under videos.

The Wolf Tomb, the Society’s original project, continues in good maintenance. New projects this year include a regional museum passport where patrons can gather stamps from area museums, receiving a prize after visiting each location.

Another is a project led by Bill Veale called Did you Know? We envision QR codes, those funny square patterns you see at restaurants to pull up the menu, all over town. But this time, when you scan the code with your smart phone camera, fun facts about Temecula history will pop up.

The Society remains committed to the Vail Ranch Headquarters area, Old Town, and historic sites and people of our Valley. John Randall keeps an eye on the Old Town Review Board.

We want to recognize and thank board members whose service has come to an end: Julie Gilbert, Carol Strode, and Mike McNeff. Also, past board members Bob Kent and Elaine Eshom have moved out of the area. We want to thank them for their hours of volunteer work and contributions.

We know we will gather together again when the

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State of the Society

Annual Report – 2020

time is right. Board member Dave Wilson has taken on the project of the annual dinner.

The vibrancy of the society is due to committed and active members of our Board of Directors. It continues to be interesting and engaging to be involved with the Temecula Valley Historical Society. I am delighted to serve a final year as your president.

I would like to introduce your 2021 Board of Directors:

Immediate Past President	Rebecca Farnbach
President	Shari Crall
Vice President	John Randall III
Treasurer	Roger Cude
Secretary	Richard Fox
	Loretta Barnett
	Toni Benson
	Suzanne Dechert
	Darell Farnbach
	Wendy Lesovsky
	Bonnie Martland
	Bonnie Reed
	Jim Sappington
	James “Stew” Stewart
	Bill Veale
	Dave Wilson

Please stay well and safe. Have a meaningful holiday season. We will see you again on the fourth Monday in January, January 25th.

Thank you. *Shari*

Other board actions . . .

In other board actions, it was unanimously approved by the board to purchase gift cards for a couple of our steady and consistent volunteers.

Also the board approved the content and expense of a special plaque to place at the History Center by the remnants of an Ox Cart which is on display. The plaque will be outside so will be of a special material known as Acryla-stone.

These actions were handled via group e-mail notification and approval.

Thank You for Your Donation:

*Vernette Mackley
George & Mary Ziegler
Anthony & Myra Masiel Zamora*

EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 5 — Every Tuesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmer’s Market at Vail HQ. Come get fresh veggies. Antique Store open, train operating & special events

Monday, January 11 — 6 p.m. TVHS Board meeting via Zoom. Annual planning meeting.

Monday, January 25 — 6 p.m. TVHS invites all to watch a Zoom presentation of “The Shooting and Death of Asa C. Davis.” Dick Fox will present this story about the shooting of Mr. Davis, the telegraph operator at the Temecula Train Depot, along with some recently acquired new information.

November Happenings at HQ

In November the TVHS Antique Store and Kid-die Train brought in a record amount of \$4,885! Kudos to the hard-working volunteers who maintain and drive the train and those who staff the store. A huge thanks to the many TVHS members who donate books and other quality items to sell. As customers observe our careful adherence to COVID disinfection standards, riding the train and shopping in the open store assures them of the safety of shopping with us.

Also in November, a room in the back of the Foreman's House was appropriated as our art gallery at Vail HQ. We have for sale frame-able prints of Ralph Love's work, donated by Dick & Evelyn Love Norris, as well as other framed limited edition prints from other artists. The gallery can be visited any time the store is open and by special appointment.

Like to read history?

If you like to read about the history of our area, consider subscribing to The Riverside County Chronicles. Our member Steve Lech edits this history journal. In the most recent issue well-researched articles by our members Rebecca Farnbach and Bob Kent are featured along with another article about Lake Elsinore History. To subscribe and receive two issues a year for \$18 go to www.riversidecountyheritageassociation.org.

Membership News

Welcome New Member:

David Mariott

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Arlie Bergman

Kathleen Casas

Walter & Mary Campbell

Gary & Judy Giles

Mike & Leslee McNeff

Jim Sappington

George & Mary Ziegler

Anthony & Myra Masiel Zamora

100 Years Ago in Temecula

Selected items from Lake Elsinore Valley Press, Temecula Gossip Column – January 1921

Issue of January 7, 1921

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

The Whist Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands last Wednesday evening. Mrs. Leslie Burnham and the Misses Alma Wilson and Francis Powell were guests of the club. The highest scores were made by Mrs. W.T. Barton and Joe Cantarini. Refreshments were served late in the evening. George Morruffo was a Riverside visitor Friday.

Miss Frances Powell returned to her home in Riverside Saturday after a delightful visit at the home of Mrs. W.M. Friedemann.

The library is open again and everyone is urged to take advantage of this opportunity the teachers have given the community this year.

Mrs. F. H. Hall had as her guest last week her brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, of San Francisco. On Wednesday their sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. White of Los Angeles motored out and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson returned to Los Angeles with them that evening.

W. M. Friedemann and family and Miss Alma Wilson motored to Holtville last Saturday to spend the weekend at the home of Miss Wilson. Mr. Friedemann and family returned Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Barnett and Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands attended the Order of the Eastern Star installation last Tuesday evening.

Miss Elizabeth Nienke entertained at dinner last Friday evening. Covers were laid for the Misses Alma Wilson, Francis Powell, Ethel Burnham, Dorothy Putman and Mabel Nienke, Mr. and Mrs. Nienke and hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Burnham entertained at dinner Christmas, Mrs. Leslie Burnham and children of Los Angeles and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burnham.

The Lepidolite mine is closed until the first of the year. Kenneth Cunningham of Perris and Mr. W.M. Noel of Loveland, Colorado, were the guests of V.B. Sands Monday. Mr. Noel was very much pleased with this valley and may locate here.

Issue of January 14, 1921

By Mrs. V. B. Sands

The pupils of the Union School who were neither absent nor tardy last month are as follows: Albert Escallier, Ralph Barnett, Philip Freeman, Richard Barnett, Bruce Clogston, James Freeman, Leo Roripaugh, Edward Sands, James Arviso, Albert Ceas, Aileen Duncan, Emilie Ceas, Chester Barnett, Pilar Marruffo, Margaret Roripaugh, Robert Duncan, Albert Barcello, Harvey Freeman, Petra Marruffo, Nathalie Crouch, Pauline Smith and Mabel Nienke.

Messrs. Escallier, Gray, Friedemann, and Sands, attended the Masonic lodge at Elsinore last Thursday eve.

Miss Grace Greenfield and Dan Cantarini motored to Elsinore last Tuesday evening to see "In His Own Law."

Parts of the picture were taken in Temecula.

A.F. Nienke and family motored to Aguanga Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Friedemann had as their guests Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. John Cantarini, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Swanguen of Riverside and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Swanguen. Miss Ethel Burnham is spending the week in Fallbrook with her cousin, Mrs. Mark Shipley.

Mrs. W.T. Barton was called to Los Angeles last Friday returning Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. V.B. Sands had as their guests Sunday, Mrs. Grace Reed and Harvey Mann of Perris.

E.B. Manning of Whittier was here a few days last week buying cattle. \

Issue of January 21, 1921

By Mrs. V.B. Sands

Tuesday morning, January 11th, Jose M. Gonzalez, one of our oldest and most esteemed citizens, passed away, at the age of 86 years. Mr. Gonzalez came to the United States from Spain in 1868 settling in this valley in 1873. During all these years, or rather until health prevented him from participating in active work, he has taken a leading part in the development of this part of the valley, having organized the first school district and taking a great interest in all work pertaining to the betterment of our schools. He also was deputy county assessor for twenty years, conducting the duties of this office in the most efficient manner. He leaves a wife, daughter, Mrs. A. B. Barnett, and son, O. Gonzalez, of this valley and a brother in Mexico. All this county was one big grant owned by Mrs. Pujol, and Mr. Gonzalez was manager and agent for many years. His ranch is part of the Temecula division of the big grant. He and Mr. Murrieta were partners. The Summers grant and the Pujol grant join. Mrs. Gonzalez, whose maiden name was Street, came from England with the Summer brothers. Mr. Gonzalez and Miss Street were married in Elsinore. Mr. Gonzalez was highly educated and spoke seven or eight languages. He was very active in all the early improvements in this valley.

The Santa Fe at this station had an increase of revenue on freight business for the year ending December 31st 1920, of \$122,861.19 over any year since establishing this station. The shipments consisted of the following car-load commodities: Potatoes 96; Lepidolite ore, 226; live stock, 261; and the balance of 234 cars consisted of beets, grain, hay, honey, rock, etc. a total of 817 cars. These figures were furnished by Mr. Sands, our local agent, and while doing so he stated that he wished to thank everyone for their cooperation during the busy season.

Mrs. H.R. Price went to Los Angeles Tuesday. She expects to bring her two grandsons back with her the last of the week.

George Street of Los Angeles, who was here to attend the funeral of Mr. Gonzales, returned Wednesday.

Miss Ethel Burnham returned from Fallbrook Sunday.