

Soquel Pioneers

Newsletter

July 2024

Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association

2024 PIONEER PICNIC Saturday, July 27!



Summer is nearly here and the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association is busily making preparations for the annual Pioneer Picnic. As always it will be held on the last Saturday in July at the lovely Pringle Grove picnic ground. There will be displays of historical photos and artifacts to view plus opportunities to meet old and new residents of Soquel and

hear their stories.

This year marks our 86th picnic and we are thrilled that retired California State Parks archaeologist Mark Hylkema will be our featured speaker. He will enlighten us on the history of the Aptos and Uypi tribes who inhabited the area and how their contact with early European expeditions transpired. As Covid has yet to be history, the picnic is once again a “bring your own” event. Free coffee and water will be available. Anyone who feels more comfortable wearing a mask and observing social distancing is welcome to do so. We urge all attendees to be considerate of others.

Deborah Maddock, Board Member Remains Dedicated to Soquel

Deborah Maddock, long-time Board member has relocated to Kingsburg, CA in the Central Valley. She remains an active board member. Deborah continues to provide valuable ideas and expertise in planning and coordination of SPHA business and events. Email and ZOOM make it possible for her to continue doing so.

MARK HYLKEMA, Featured Speaker Discussing the 1769 interactions of the Aptos and Uypi tribes with the Portola Expedition

We are pleased to have archaeologist Mark Hylkema as our featured speaker at the 2024 picnic. He will be talking about the interactions in 1769 of the Aptos and Uypi tribes with the Portola Expedition and a few of the subsequent explorations that occurred within the Soquel region.



Mark recently retired as Supervisor of the Cultural Resources Program for the Santa Cruz District of California State Parks. He has over forty years of experience in California archaeology, with an emphasis on Indigenous culture. He has a MA in anthropology from San Jose State and has taught anthropology classes at Foothill College, Santa Clara University, UCSC, De Anza College, Ohlone College, and Cabrillo College. He currently serves on the board of the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.

Soquel Pioneer & Historical Association

Information: 831.818.8109 www.soquelpioneers.com

Emmy Mitchell-Lynn

Welcome the Soquel Pioneer & Historical Association Board!

By Jim Hobbs

Our newest Board member, Emmy Mitchell-Lynn, is a most welcome addition to Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association. She grew up on a historic Soquel property and attended local schools. Her interest in history led her to achieve degrees in History and Anthropology from Cabrillo College as well as a Bachelor's Degree in History and Native American Studies from UC Berkeley.

She is currently employed as an archaeologist with Pat Paramoure Archaeological Consulting. She also serves on the Capitola Historical Museum Board, the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District, and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History Publications Committee.

She also enjoys time with her husband, golden retriever and 3 cats doing creative projects, socializing with friends and traveling, especially to Catalina Island. We very much appreciate the expertise and enthusiasm she brings to our mission of preserving Soquel history.



Soquel Pioneers & Temple Beth El Join Forces to Revitalize Historic Soquel Cemetary



By Emmy Mitchell-Lynn



In a heartwarming display of community spirit, the Soquel Pioneers have joined forces with Temple Beth El to undertake a long-term project aimed at restoring and maintaining the Historic Soquel Cemetery. Temple Beth El unexpectedly adopted the property in the summer of 2016, but due to budget constraints, ideal care for the cemetery has been challenging to maintain.

In the fall of 2023, the Soquel Pioneers were invited to collaborate on this project with TBE. The groups formed a dedicated subcommittee tasked with creating and executing a comprehensive plan for the cemetery's upkeep. Their ultimate goal is to transform the site into a beautiful neighborhood space that not only serves as a cemetery but also hosts educational activities and community events. Inspired by the successful Evergreen Cemetery project in Santa Cruz, the groups envision a nature-scaped, park-like setting.

The community has already begun to rally around this noble cause. Three community workdays have been hosted, during which volunteers cleared weeds, cleaned headstones, and beautified the property. Notably, the Cabrillo College Dig It! Archaeology Club participated in one of these workdays, helping to clean graves and identify the plots of historic community members.



In addition to community workdays, TBE and the Pioneers are planning to seek grants to fund larger restoration efforts. Long-term ideas include employing goats to manage overgrowth, bringing in historians and archaeologists to identify and restore plots, and engaging students and school groups in learning about native horticultural practices through community gardening.

The vision for the Historic Soquel Cemetery is to create an inviting, environmentally friendly space where community members can explore, indulge their senses, gather to learn about and celebrate history, and participate in communal activities that contribute to a better world for all. The Soquel Pioneers and Temple Beth El invite everyone to get involved in this meaningful project and help turn this vision into reality. If you'd like to contribute your time, please contact TBE liaison Holly Blue Hawkins at roschck@tbeaptos.org, or Soquel Pioneers Secretary, Lynda Lewit at lynlewi@comcast.net.



A COMPANION TO SOQUEL

Look for it in 2025-26

By Frank Perry

Work has begun on a new book about Soquel history, modeled after *A Companion to Capitola*, published several years ago by the Capitola Historical Museum. Like the Capitola book, it will be a mini-encyclopedia of people, places, and events—arranged alphabetically—with emphasis on local history. Want to know when the first bridge was constructed over Soquel Creek? When Soquel got its first telephone? Or when the murals at Soquel School were painted? This book will have the answers. The book will also feature many previously unpublished photographs and illustrations. Each entry will be sourced and double checked for accuracy. No hokey history allowed! If all goes well, it will be out sometime in 2025 or 2026. As with the picture book on Soquel published in 2011, sales will benefit the Pioneers.

So far we have a list of about 150 potential entries. The list includes natural features, public art, schools, parks, churches, movies shot in Soquel, books written about Soquel, etc. Ideas for entries are welcome. With regard to people, only people of the past will be included. Existing businesses can be included, but must have started the 1970s or earlier. We hope this celebration of our heritage will acquaint both newcomers and longtime residents with some interesting history they did not know and make people more aware of how our town came to be the way it is.

Here is a draft of one of the entries:

Rawson, Laura. (c1872-1968) Soquel resident Laura Rawson (born Laura Francis Hill) was a correspondent and later society editor for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* from 1925 to 1949. A native of Chicago, she came to California in 1912 and to Santa Cruz County in 1918. She and her husband, farmer Lincoln H. Rawson (1865-1942), lived on the Rawson family farm bordering Soquel Creek between Porter and Robertson Streets. Rawson was very active in the community, serving on the board of the American Red Cross, Santa Cruz County Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Santa Cruz Soroptimist Club. She also belonged to the Civic Music Club and the Santa Cruz Art League. She was a charter member of the Soquel Pioneers and sometimes wrote about local history in the newspaper. She was a life member of the Soquel PTA, even though she had no children. Rawson "retired" in 1949 but continued to submit articles to the *Sentinel* on Art League, Church, and various club activities through the 1950s and into the early 1960s. She was around 90 when she submitted her last article in 1963. (*Sentinel*, July 13, 1942, p. 6, and April 19, 1968, p. 1)



2024 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HISTORY FAIR



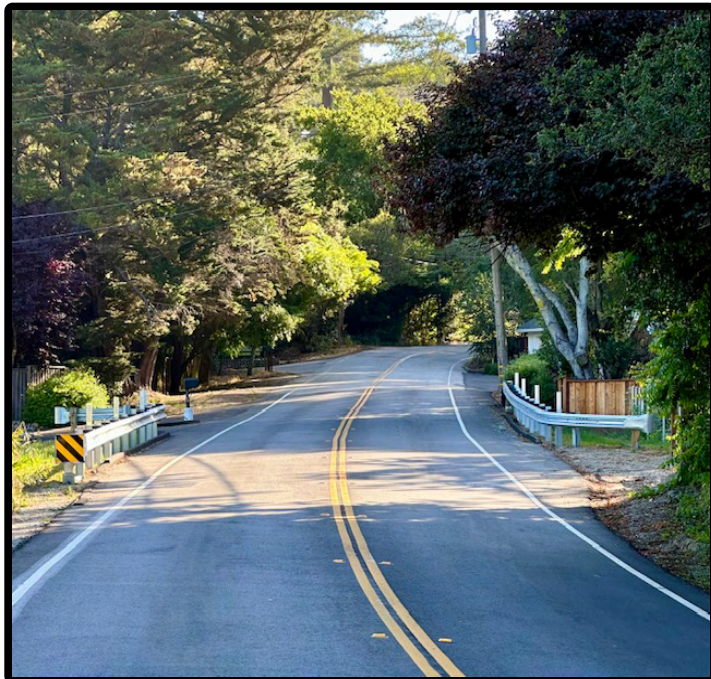
THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HISTORY FAIR was a big success! It was a lovely outdoor setting, and there was a steady stream of visitors anxious to learn more about local history. Many thanks to Lisa, David, and Jim for helping educate visitors about Soquel's fascinating past. A big thanks to Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park for hosting! Lisa Nelson curated an interesting display of Soquel historical artifacts.

Soquel's Bates Creek Bridge REBUILT!



Bates Creek Bridge Rebuilt!
The Main Street bridge over Bates Creek was washed out on December 31, 2022. A temporary one-lane bridge was constructed within 36 hours so those living above Bates Creek could have access into

Soquel. The new bridge was completed in February, 2024 after 7 months of construction. Many of the workers labored 6 days a week from 8 am till 5 pm during that time. A temporary traffic light and traffic monitors had to manage the cars going over the bridge so the construction could continue. We heard that one reason the construction took so long was because it was discovered that steelhead trout needed a special tunnel built so that they can swim up the creek.



2023-2024 Donations Thank You for Your Support!

Steve & Denise Agosti
Julia Mae Burgess
Joe and Karen Calcagno
Lynne McCall Caldwell
Nancy Campeau
Gail Carhart-Scotfield
Annie Chapin & David Emanuel
Bill Cummings
Suzanne Dowling
Carolyn Folmar
Sylvia Prescott Forsyth
Carolyn & Arthur Gerrans
Duncan and Bonnie Gillies
Ben Greg
Marc and Laura Grossman
Laura Hamby
Scott and Lynette Hamby
Kitty Hansen
Ted Holman
Jim Hobbs
Richard Hyman
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Chris Poulos
Patricia Poulos
Willa Dean Reynolds
Phillip and Janet Rupp
Priscilla (Sim) Strauhal
Raeberta & Daniel Spurl
Dave and Becky Steinbruner
Jean Tarr
Richard Thomsen
Greg and Cathy Walls
Carolyn Walker
Jerry & Robynn Walters

How You Can Help! Your Donations Fund SPHA

Donations: Your contribution is greatly appreciated and it allows us to continue our important work in preserving Soquel history. We continue to have expenses like the maintenance of the Pringle Grove, Porter Library/Museum partnership contribution, and other expenses. There is a PayPal link on our website: [SoquelPioneers.com](https://www.soquelepioneers.com). You can also send a check in the attached envelope. Thank you for your donations.

Soquel Legacy Circle: You may want to consider becoming a Soquel Legacy Circle Donor. By including The Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association in your estate plans, you will help ensure that the Historical Association will continue its mission to preserve and promote Soquel History. We encourage you to consult your advisors regarding your financial, legal, or tax needs to make certain that your gift fits well into your overall circumstances and planning. The **Soquel Legacy Circle** recognizes donors who make the decision to leave a legacy through their estate and gift planning. We hope you will consider being among the inaugural members of the **Soquel Legacy Circle**. For more information or to let us know that you've included The Soquel Pioneers and Historical Association in your estate plans, please contact David Lewit, Board Treasurer, at David@DavidLewit.com or 831-818-2277.

Matching Fund Donor: Consider becoming a matching fund donor. In the past we had a donor offer to match any donation of \$100 or more up to \$1,000. Contact your Treasurer for more information.

Hot off the Press! SOQUEL Caps • Stickers • Mugs

The SPHA Board is pleased to offer new caps, cups, stickers, and magnets. They feature an all new Soquel logo (copyrighted). The artwork of Lee Blair continues to welcome everyone to Soquel and Ted Maddock's iconic logo is the centerpiece of the newsletter masthead and the website.



Pictured above: the sticker, the magnet (identical to the sticker, printed on thin, plastic, magnetic material), coffee mug, and caps (colors may vary). Merch will be available at the picnic!

Suggested Donations:

Cap and a sticker	\$25.00
Cup & a sticker	\$10.00
Stickers	\$ 3.00 or 2 for \$5.00
Magnets	\$ 4.00

One more note: There has been a lot of interest regarding where to purchase Soquel merch after the picnic and having merch sent by mail. We will notify you as these options become available.

Accomplishments and Projects 2023-2024

Benches and tables repaired: Every year we repair and clean the benches and tables in Pringle Grove. They usually need sanding and some planks replaced.

Historical Collections Committee: Historical Collections Committee The Board formed a Committee to inventory the Soquel collection, books, and files. We are looking into updating the Porter Library storage. The Committee is considering expanding the storage to another location.

Porter Memorial Public Library: Thanks to your donations, we continue to provide financial support to Soquel's Porter Memorial



Library, which houses our historical displays. It is a popular local library that still uses cards to check out books.

The Johnstown Flood 1926 Movie Shown in Soquel



The Johnstown Flood: The Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association partnered with the Congregational Church of Soquel for a well attended showing of *The Johnstown Flood*, November 26, 2023. The silent movie was filmed in 1926 with Soquel standing in for

Johnstown, PA. The engaging story has been beautifully restored with impressive special effects depicting the destruction of the town of Soquel and the church.

We all thought it was amazing that they had the technology to make that scene in 1926! Ross Gibson gave the introduction about how the film was made and later fully restored. There were more than 50 people in attendance. To see the full article about the movie, go to *The Movie that Destroyed Soquel* article that was published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel July 31, 2023. <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/07/30/the-movie-that-destroyed-soquel-ross-eric-gibson-local-history/>

Soquel Pioneer & Historical Society Board of Directors

Jim Hobbs, President, JHobbs352@gmail.com
 Frank Perry, Vice President, not available
 Lynda Lewit, Secretary, Lynlewi@comcast.net
 David Lewit, Treasurer, David@DavidLewit.com
 Laura Hamby, laurajhamby@gmail.com
 Deborah Maddock, Dlmadd@sbcglobal.net
 Emmy Mitchell-Lynn, Emmythehistorian@gmail.com
 Lisa Nelson, Lisanelson242@gmail.com
 Carolyn Walker, walkercarolyn13@gmail.com

Communication with the Pioneers email Request

We are collecting email addresses so that we can update you quickly on anything that is happening with the Pioneers. Please send your email address to Deborah Maddock: Dlmadd@sbcglobal.net, and we will add you to our list. We hope that you take a look at our Soquel Pioneers Facebook page. You can join the group and add entries. We would love to hear your stories about Soquel History and your personal experiences in our community.

We also have a web page at www.soquelpioneers.com, which includes current picnic information, the Soquel Timeline, and a lot of Soquel history. There are also videos, stories, historical pictures, resources etc.

Picnic 2024

Saturday • July 27 • Music Starts @ 11:30am

The picnic will once again be a REAL PICNIC! Each family or group attending the picnic will bring their own picnic lunch. There will **NOT BE A POTLUCK TABLE**, so, bring family and friends, whatever food and drink makes a good picnic for you and be prepared to enjoy and share history and fellowship at the **86th Soquel Pioneer Picnic!** **Plan to participate in the Soquel Famous Raffle!**

**Pringle Grove Picnic Grounds:
5270 Pringle Lane**

Take North Main Street .6 miles to Pringle Lane
(Just beyond Bargetto Winery on the right.)

- Music by Poi Rogers
(Pending at press time)
- Browse historical photos
- Greet longtime friends
- Meet new friends

Soquel Pioneer &
Historical Association
5270 Pringle Lane
Soquel, CA 95073

