

MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THIRTY SIXTH ANNUAL HISTORY WALK

**CASCADE CANYON
PIONEER FAMILIES**

GUIDEBOOK

With Corrections

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2013

Co-hosted with the Outdoor Art Club

TO THE GUIDES:

This is the 36th year that the Mill Valley Historical Society has organized a History Walk thanks to the efforts of many volunteers working throughout the year as well as on the day of the Walk.

Guides are special volunteers with a responsibility to provide a group of walkers with an interesting, informative, enjoyable and safe experience.

Several guides have been leading these walks for many years. The fact that they continue to volunteer to be guides is an indication of their enjoyment and commitment.

If this is your first year as a guide, we welcome you and hope you will find as much pleasure in learning and sharing the history of Mill Valley as the old timers do.

History Walk Chair: Clifford Waldeck

Guidebook Editor: Chuck Oldenburg

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TIPS FOR GUIDES

Thank you for being a History Walk guide. Your success and satisfaction requires a commitment of time, energy and preparation. The objective is to provide good leadership and well-presented historical information. The following instructions can make your job easier:

1. Read the guidebook several times to familiarize yourself with its contents.
2. Practice the walk several times. Each guide is required to go on two practice walks that are conducted by a guide trainer. You should also do one or more practice walks with a friend who can give you feedback on your presentation.
3. Keep your group together. At each stop, face the group with your back to what you are describing. Make eye contact.
4. Cover as much guidebook information as you can, focusing on what you believe to be particularly interesting at each stop. Describe the history in your own words—use the guidebook for reference. Strive for the group's participation at each stop. Make this a fun experience.
5. Assign one of the participants to manage the photo album, showing the photos when you call for them.
6. Try to avoid groups ahead and behind your group. Speed up or slow down.

Guides have enjoyed leading the annual History Walk for over three decades. Good luck, have fun and enjoy the experience of leading a group of participants interested in the history of Mill Valley.

2013 HISTORY WALK

OUTLINE

Registration is at the Outdoor Art Club. A bus will take each group to Burlwood, originally the estate of Joseph Eastland, founder of the town of Mill Valley. The bus will go through downtown Mill Valley to Old Mill Park where the first 200 lots were sold at auction in 1890. The bus will then go up through Cascade Canyon to Throckmorton and then back to Burlwood, where the walk begins and ends. At the end of the walk the bus will return to the Outdoor Art Club from Burlwood via Throckmorton, Corte Madera, Gardner and Blithedale.

Length of route is 0.9 miles: Burlwood, Cornwall, Cascade, Laurel, Throckmorton, Burlwood. Only Throckmorton has sidewalks, sometimes concrete, sometimes gravel or dirt.

Most stops are seen from the street or the sidewalk

Stop Number and Location

1. On the bus before departure: Introduction, Safety and Overview
2. Inside the gate of 565 Throckmorton, "Burlwood"
3. Tour the outside of the mansion
4. At the driveway to 25 Cornwall — view 10 Cornwall and 20 Cornwall
5. At the garage of 25 Cornwall
6. 209 Cascade, "Hilltop"
7. 175 Cascade "Bleidablik"
8. 146 Cascade, "King's Castle"
9. 130 Cascade
10. 8 Laurel
11. 418 Throckmorton
12. 465 Throckmorton, "Waldruh"
13. 471 Throckmorton
14. 501 Throckmorton
15. 519 Throckmorton — site of "Monte Vista Hotel"

Cascade Canyon Pioneer Families

Joseph Eastland	565 Throckmorton, "Burlwood"
Melvin Klyce	25 Cornwall
Alfred Lundquist	209 Cascade, "Hilltop"
Dr. Fredrick Westerberg	175 Cascade, "Breidablik"
Anton Michaltischke	146 Cascade, "King's Castle"
Jerome Stanford	130 Cascade
Louis Sass	8 Laurel
Vincent Kingwell	418 Throckmorton
Gustav Marcus	465 Throckmorton, "Waldruh"
Arthur Eloesser	471 Throckmorton
Harvey Klyce	501 Throckmorton

Stop #1 Inside the Bus

INTRODUCTION

Lucretia Hanson Little was Mill Valley's Town Clerk and official historian. In 1977, illness forced her to retire and move away. A group of interested people established the Historical Society. Their primary goal was to make available all historical material relating to Mill Valley, including the invaluable collection of books, pictures and documents collected by Mrs. Little. Other goals were:

1. Work for the library in all matters relating to the History Room.
2. Take responsibility for the popular First Wednesday Programs.
3. Continue the Oral History Program.

This year marks the 36th History Walk sponsored by the Mill Valley Historical Society. We will walk in Cascade Canyon. A bus will take us to Burlwood, the estate of Joseph Eastland, founder of the town of Mill Valley. On the way we will pass through downtown Mill Valley to Old Mill Park where the first 200 lots were sold at auction in 1890. The bus will then go up through Cascade Canyon to Throckmorton and go back toward town to Burlwood, where the walk begins and ends. At the end of the walk the bus will return us to the Outdoor Art Club.

The walk is less than a mile. The time required is about 1-1/2 hours.

Introduce yourself. Encourage participants to comment on their familiarity with the area and its history. Strive for participation of the group.

SAFETY

Part of the walk is on narrow streets without sidewalks. Keep the group together and be alert for cars and bicycles.

OVERVIEW

After visiting Burlwood, we will stop at several houses in Cascade Canyon, all more than 100 years old. We will describe the history of each house in terms of when it was built, who lived in it, and the physical aspects of the property.

Advise the bus driver to depart for Burlwood

Stop #2 In the yard at 565 Throckmorton, "Burlwood"

- Joseph Green Eastland was the prime mover and financial backer in the founding of the town of Mill Valley. He was born in Tennessee in 1832, came to California in 1849, and became wealthy after careers in a gas company (now PG&E), president of the North Pacific Coast Railroad, and a director of the San Francisco Savings Union. In 1889 he became president of the Tamalpais Land & Water Co. which owned several thousand acres south of the main creek in Mill Valley. In 1884, the North Pacific Coast Railroad began service from Sausalito along Richardson Bay and through a tunnel to Corte Madera. In 1889, a branch line was constructed to Mill Valley. In 1890, lots were sold in an auction at Old Mill Park.
- Joseph Eastland subsequently acquired 16 lots (seven acres) bounded by Cascade, Throckmorton and Cornwall. In 1893, he built a three-story, 22-room home in the English Tudor-style. He named it Burlwood for the extensive redwood burling in the living room.
- It was one of the first Mill Valley houses to have electricity and telephone service. A dam on Old Mill Creek at Cornwall created a private lake. There were two tennis courts on Throckmorton and a large pool near the mansion.
- Adjacent to the mansion was Blue Bird Cottage, a miniature of the mansion built as a playhouse and schoolroom for the Eastland children. A steam heat-generating building was located below the mansion on Cornwall.
- Joseph Eastland died in 1894, his widow moved away and the house remained in the hands of caretaker John Furey.
- In 1907 Burlwood was sold to J. F. Meyers, a mining magnate. By 1916, the Burlwood Inn was on the property. Several motion pictures were filmed on the grounds. In 1923, Burlwood became a recreational retreat for employees of the Mercantile Trust Company — now Wells Fargo Bank.
- In the late 1930's, the Eastland estate, was subdivided into 20 lots.
- Burlwood today consists of a 35,700 sq.ft lot with a 6300 sq.ft. house.

Enter the Gate between the Mansion and the Pool

Stop #3 Walk Around the Outside of the Mansion

- The mansion is currently under renovation. We will not enter it.
- We will walk around the mansion counter clockwise.
- At the entrance is a poster with information and photos.
- Give the group enough time to look at the poster.
- Walk past the pool and the front of the mansion
- Turn left and walk past the south side of the mansion.
- Go up on the porch and follow it around the east side of the mansion.
- Note Blue Bird Cottage southeast of the mansion.
- Turn left and walk past the north side of the mansion.
- Return to the starting point of the walk around the mansion.

Exit the property to Throckmorton

Stop #4 In the driveway of #25 Cornwall

- Across the street at #10 Cornwall is a tiny house in the English half-timbered style.
- It was originally the steam heat-generating building for the Eastland estate..
- When the land was subdivided in the late 1930's, it was sold to a Mrs. Grayson who coincidentally came from Cornwall in England. The property consists of 3000 square feet. The house has 750 square feet of living area.
- Next door at #20 Cornwall is Blue Bird Cottage, a miniature of the mansion, half timbered in the English Tudor style. It was built to be the playhouse and school for the Eastland children.
- Bluebird Cottage has been greatly expanded and is now a house with 3610 square feet of living area.

**Walk up the driveway of #25 Cornwall
to the garage the Melvin Klyce house**

Stop #5 In front of the garage at #25 Cornwall

- This house was originally constructed in 1903 by Melvin Klyce, son of Harvey Klyce the famous builder. It is now situated in a private, restful setting surrounded by meandering paths leading to lovely gardens with mature oaks, redwoods, Japanese maples, hydrangeas and roses. But it was originally just part of Harvey Klyce's property. We will visit his house on Throckmorton later.
- This lot now extends all the way to Eugene and consists of 41,300 square feet. The house has 5750 square feet of living area.
- Between this house and the Harvey Klyce house is the former Klyce barn. Unfortunately it cannot be seen from here owing to the vegetation. During the 1930's much of this land was a working/storage area for Klyce's Construction Company which made doors and windows.
- The barn was purchased after World War II by Sam Newsom who turned it into a home. He and his wife did landscape gardening and owned The Greenwood Tree, an oriental art store featuring bonsai trees was located first on Sunnyside and then next to Egger's Nursery (now Sloat's) in the Locust business district. During the 1950's the barn was the gathering place of artists and their models for a "Friday Night Painters Group" that included many Mill Valley artists.

The house is accessed from Eugene St.

Return to Cornwall turn left

Pause on the bridge to see the remnants of the dam

Stop #6 In front of 209 Cascade

- Common Name: “Hilltop”
- Property originally included several adjacent lots.
- Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lundquist were born in Sweden and emigrated in the 1880s. The family with four children lived in Alameda and frequently camped in Mill Valley—hiking in from the Alto station.
- Alfred was a cartographer for insurance companies. In 1902, he bought several lots between Cascade and Marion where the family camped.
- In 1904, a cottage was built at 16 Marion for a permanent residence.
- In 1906 just before the earthquake their house at 209 Cascade was built.
- They had horses and a cow. Hay and grain were stored in the loft of their barn located at the end of Renz Road. All these buildings are up high on the south side of Cascade Canyon.
- In 1919, the Lundquists’ daughter, Karin, was married in the redwood grove above the house. The couple moved into the cottage. Karin Lundquist Connelly lived in the main house until 1984 when she moved to the Redwoods.
- Across the street is a garage that Melvyn Klyce built in 1929 for the Lundquists. Their first car was a Model A Ford..
- The house was remodeled in 1933 and again extensively in 1986.
- Carol Connelly Budds, daughter of Karin Lundquist Connelly, is the author of several History Walk guidebooks. She was an active member of the Mill Valley Historical Society for many years.
- The property today consists of 41,300 square feet. The house has 5,750 square feet of living area.
- The Lundquists’ good friends and fellow countrymen, the Westerbergs, lived at 175 Cascade, “Breidablik”—our next stop.

Continue down Cascade

Stop #7 In front of 175 Cascade, “Breidablik”

- Common Name: “Bleidablik” (pronounced bray duh bleak)
- The original lot owner Harry Wainwright sold it to Alfred Lundquist who owned several lots in Cascade Canyon. Our last stop was the Lundquist residence.
- Lundquist sold this property to his Swedish friends the Westerbergs who undertook its development in the early 1900s.
- Dr. Frederick Westerberg was a physician with a practice in San Francisco; he also served as Sweden’s vice-consul in San Francisco. His wife was a former Swedish opera singer. They named the property “Bleidablik”. [It is the name of a wonderful home in heaven in Old Norse mythology, similar to Valhalla. A Rejjavik soccer team is named Bleidavik.]
- In 1935, Fred Westerberg, son of Dr. and Mrs. Westerberg, was a Hollywood photographer for Cecil B. DeMille. He also worked for Mill Valley photographer Laurence C. Beringer who incidentally was in the first class to graduate from Tamalpais High School—he died in 1984 at age 93.
- In 1941, the Westerbergs sold the property to Dr. Henry and Elsie Kellers who had been early residents on Lovell Ave. Elsie recalled seeing Bleidablik as a child. Forty years later she and her husband bought it..
- Dr. Kellers was a Navy physician at Yerba Buena Island. In 1943, they began to use the house for weekends. They moved in permanently after the war. The Kellers kept the property much as it had been while the Westerbergs owned it.
- In 1981, local film maker, Bob Zagone, shot a scene of a PBS film here. The film was part of a PBS series titled "Were you There?"
- The property today consists of 17,600 square feet. The house, rebuilt in 1999 has 4050 square feet of living area.
- Note the steps to Marion, SLP #34, on the right side of the property.

Continue down Cascade

Stop #8 In front of 146 Cascade

- Common Name: “King’s Castle”
- Property purchased in 1890 auction by speculator Millard Hudson.
- Property sold in 1892 to Anton Michalitschke, a San Francisco wine merchant.
- A 3000-square foot, eastern Shingle Style house was built from plans ordered through a Sears Roebuck catalog. It was identified as a summer cottage although it had a wine cellar for 5000 bottles.
- In 1902 the property was sold to Adolph Liebmann
- In 1906 Harvey Klyce enlarged the house.
- The small building on the property was Helen Liebmann’s playhouse (1902-1906); it is now a studio cottage.
- The property has over 140 redwood trees including probably the largest privately owned redwood ring in Marin —over 80 trees in the ring.
- Generations of Mill Valley children played “King of the Mountain” on spiral steps cut into burls on some of the 80 redwoods in the ring. It was those children who dubbed the house “King’s Castle.”
- The property was sold three times between 1917 and 1948.
- James and Sharron Shelton purchased the property in 1984.
- In 1986, the Sheltons were foiled in their attempt to subdivide the property into three parcels. They sold the property and were divorced.
- The property today consists of 52,400 square feet. The house has 4410 square feet of living area. Also on the property are a tennis court and a swimming pool.

Continue down Cascade

**Pause at the corner of Josephine to see the redwood ring
Also point out the steps to Marion, SLP #33**

Stop #9 In front of 130 Cascade

- This property was purchased in the 1890 auction by speculator Millard Hudson and later sold to Jerome Stanford, nephew of Leland Stanford. In 1892, he built the house and also a cottage next door which he named “The Nest” .
- In about 1900, Stanford sold the house to Carl Mayer who lived one block away opposite the upper end of Josephine St. at 440 Throckmorton which was called “The Orchard”. The Mayer family lived at 130 Cascade in the summer where it was cooler and at “The Orchard” in the winter.
- In 1922 David and Ella Bork purchased 130 Cascade from the Mayers. In 1914, they had purchased “The Nest” from the heirs of Jerome Stanford.
- The Borks cultivated a large dahlia garden called “Sans Souci”. Mr. Bork worked for the Southern Pacific Company. In conjunction with his commute to San Francisco, he often delivered armloads of dahlias to the flower mart.
- Dr. Hale Shirley’s family lived here for several years including the years of World War II. They built a garage on Josephine—it became the entrance to the house.
- The property was later sold and subdivided. A house replaced the dahlia garden.
- After this house was sold in the mid-1980s, apartments were added on the ground floor and the front entrance to the house was changed.
- In the 1970’s, motion picture director and producer Francis Ford Coppola bought “The Nest”. His friend George Lucas lived there while writing “American Graffiti.” “The Nest” was torn down in 1984.
- Francis Ford Coppola who lived at the time at 8 Laurel, attempted to purchase all seven properties bounded by Laurel, Throckmorton, Josephine and Cascade. The Kydd family which owned 130 Cascade and the Massey family which owned 431 Throckmorton refused to accept his generous offers. Both border on Josephine.
- The Stanford property today consists of 15,300 square feet. The house has 3490 square feet of living area. The Nest property at #116 consists of 17,700 square feet. The house has 4660 square feet of living area.

Continue down Cascade, turn left onto Laurel

Stop #10 In front of the gate at 8 Laurel

- This house was built in 1902.
- The Louis Sass family lived here in 1907.
- During the 1930's it was rental property.
- During World War II, it was turned into a residence with many rental rooms to house shipyard workers for Marinship in Sausalito.
- In the 1970's Francis Ford Coppola owned and lived in this house.
- He did his creative work in the small house next door on Throckmorton.
- He purchased five of the seven properties in the block bounded by Laurel, Throckmorton, Josephine and Cascade.
- The dormers are a recent addition.
- There are three buildings on this property:
 - The house has 3150 square feet of living area—6 bedrooms and 2-1/2 bathrooms.
 - The three car garage has a one-bedroom apartment above it.
 - A separate guest cottage has a fireplace.
- The property consists of 12,300 square feet with redwoods, fruit trees and a level garden area.

Turn left onto Throckmorton

Stop #11 Across the street from 418 Throckmorton

- In 1890, Vincent Kingwell bought this property from speculator Millard Hudson.
- The house was built in 1891.
- Vincent Kingwell was the owner of California Brass and Foundry, which made some of early Mill Valley's most important bells such as the one that hung in Summit School and the town fire bell.
- A Kingwell son, Reginald, at one time had a small building on the property where he made candy. He then operated a candy shop in the building later occupied by Esposti's and now La Ginestra on Throckmorton.
- A Kingwell daughter, Mrs. Spillane, raised her three daughters here in the 1920's and early 1930's.
- The house was rented in the late 1930's. During World War II it housed shipyard workers.
- The house was later divided into five apartments, but the original interior staircase survived the remodeling. The exterior was preserved except for the staircase which was an addition.
- A few years ago, the house was renovated to its original configuration and restored in the classical revival style, retaining much of the original exterior character while completely updating the interior with all the modern conveniences.
- The house now has 2800 square feet of living area including 4 bedrooms, 4-1/2 bathrooms and a separate au pair suite.
- The property consists of 9800 square feet.

Continue up Throckmorton

Note the house at 425 where Coppola worked

Stop #12 In front of 465 Throckmorton

- Common Name: “Waldruh” (Forest Repose)
- The house was built in 1893 for a wealthy German immigrant, Gustav Marcus, president of the California Diamond and Jewelry Company, wholesale diamond merchants in San Francisco. It was designed by Willis Polk and built by Harvey Klyce. At that time, the property extended through to Cascade where the entrance, stable and hay barn were located.
- Mrs. Johanna Marcus died in 1923, and Gustav died in 1926. The Marcus heirs sold the property in 1933 to Agnes and Walter Schoening who wanted it for a summer home and future retirement home. Walter was an engineer working in the Philippines. His parents and brother lived here during the 1930’s.
- In 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Schoening moved in. In November 1941 they returned to Manila on a business trip. In December they were interned by the Japanese.
- The house was taken over by the Office of Price Administration to house shipyard workers. Walter Schoening’s father lived in the gardener’s cottage in the rear of the property on Cascade.
- The Schoenings returned to Waldruh in 1945, finding a great deal of damage to their home from its wartime “occupation”. They resided here for the next year restoring the residence to its former condition, and then returned to the Philippines.
- Their daughter lived here and her parents vacationed here every three years.
- In 1959 when Mr. Schoening died overseas, Mrs. Schoening sold the home to contractor John Kihn who subdivided the property and sold the gardener’s cottage.
- In 1965 the Kihns sold Waldruh to Dr. Albert White and his wife Maxine. At that time, Dr. White, a physician at Kaiser, was the mayor of Mill Valley.
- In 1968, the Whites sold Waldruh to the present owners.
- The property today consists of 18,300 square feet. The house has 4670 square feet of living area.

Continue up Throckmorton

Stop #13 In front of 471 Throckmorton

- The Eloesser family purchased this property at the 1890 auction.
- Arthur Eloesser, a German immigrant, was the inventor and manufacturer of “Can’t Bust ‘Em” overalls, a competitor of Levi Strauss. He and his wife summered at the Monte Vista Hotel while Harvey Klyce built the house in 1895.
- The Eloesser property was bounded by Cascade, Eugene and Throckmorton. The house was set well back with a carriage drive curving around the house to an imposing entrance on Eugene.
- * There were beautiful gardens with stone paths and walls, a gardener’s cottage in the rear and stables facing Eugene.
- * An adjacent cottage was built for the Eloesser daughter upon her marriage in 1918. Much later it became the home of Otto and Camille Weissich at 21 Eugene.
- The stables were torn down for still another residence at 11 Eugene.
- An Eloesser son Leo became a noted surgeon and humanitarian. He had received his MD at the University of Heidelberg. He was clinical professor of surgery at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco and chief of surgery at Stanford Medical School.
- He practiced his skills all over the world, treating both German and American soldiers during World War I, acting as a combat surgeon on the Loyalist side during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930’s, and training doctors for both Chiang and Mao in war torn China. He died at age 96.
- The Eloesser family owned the property for many years.
- In the early 1930s, the Stewart Bostwicks rented it with an option to buy.
- In 1938, Joseph Mayer bought the property from the Eloessers.
- In 1945 he sold it to Thomas Macey.
- The present owner bought it from the Macey family in 1955.
- The property today consists of 27,600 square feet. The house has 2280 square feet.

Continue up Throckmorton

Stop #14 In front of 501 Throckmorton

- Harvey Klyce built this home for himself and family in 1900. He was born in Tennessee where his father had a carriage-making and general construction business.

- The Shingle Style house, popularized by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White of New York influenced Harvey Klyce not only in his own home, but also in many of the houses he built in Mill Valley early in the 20th century.

The large covered porch, the slightly overhanging second floor and the completely shingled exterior are all characteristic of the Shingle Style. The room above the porte cochère was Harvey Klyce's office with many built-in cabinets. On the left of the house is a later addition which caused considerable controversy during the permitting process.

- Harvey Klyce had a successful contracting business that did work in Mill Valley, throughout Marin County and many other parts of California as well. His construction projects in Mill Valley include Summit School and perhaps as many as 35 houses. His first house was at 110 Summit, his second was the Eloesser house, our previous stop.

- The property was originally much larger. It contained a caretaker's cottage, a barn, and a variety of lumber sheds that sprang up as they were needed to accommodate family needs and the construction business headquartered behind the house. The caretaker's cottage became 25 Cornwall which we saw in stop #5. First, their daughter, Marian, lived there. Their son, Melvin, then moved there with his wife Mabel, sometime after their marriage in 1919. Melvin, a contractor following in his father's footsteps, made major additions and lived there until his death in 1976.

- The property today consists of 13,000 square feet. The house has 4610 square feet of living area.

Continue up Throckmorton

Stop #15 In front of 519 Throckmorton

- This is the site of the Monte Vista Hotel which was built in the early 1890's. It later became the Kenilworth Inn which had a glass enclosed dining room seating 100. Guests were met at the train depot and taken to the Inn in a horse drawn carriage.
- William Steele, the real estate super salesman and board member of the Tamalpais Land & Water Co. turned the Inn into a health spa. There were mud baths in the basement, an elevator and rooms for 25 guests. It burned to the ground in 1913 when the building was empty except for a caretaker.
- The present house was built by Harvey Klyce in 1925 for Carl and Katherine Symonds. The property consists of 20,000 square feet. The house has 4510 square feet of living area.

Continue up Throckmorton to Burlwood

Board the bus to return to OAC