



# Pinole **Historical** Society

## E-News

### FEBRUARY 2 MEETING

## FIND THE LOST CITIES OF THE EAST BAY

**A**uthor John Robinson will explore the history of the long-gone cities of Tormey, Selby, Oleum, Valona, Eckley, Port Costa, and Vallejo Junction, among others, in his February 2, 2018, program, **“The Lost Cities of the East Bay.”**

The public is invited to this FREE event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. Refreshments will be served

“The title of my talk is ‘Lost Cities of the East Bay,’ but the focus is the south side of the Carquinez Strait from the Port Costa Brick Works in the east to Point Pinole in the west,” Robinson says.

“I use the word ‘cities’ for brevity; these places were never cities, or even towns. At best they were villages, a collection of ferry and train stops, hotels, stores, company houses, and, mostly, saloons, that sprang up around the factories and plants of the early twentieth century.”



*Tormey, foreground, and the tall smokestack of the Selby smelter. Photo courtesy Chris Treadway/East Bay Times.*

Robinson's talk will include photos and comments about:

- The Port Costa Brick Works;
- Waterfront Port Costa during the age of the ferries;
- Eckley as a brick works, a fishing resort, and now a regional park;
- Vallejo

Junction, a ferry terminal west of Crockett that brought people to

South Vallejo and was mentioned in a Robert Louis Stevenson story;

- The Selby Smelting Plant;
- Tormey;
- Oleum, a tiny community that sprang up around the Standard Oil Refinery near Rodeo;
- The Hercules Powder Works; and
- The Atlas Powder Works at Giant.

“Most of these places are long gone, or were absorbed into larger communities,” Robinson says.

“But, they all are interesting footnotes to our local history.”

# Pinole Historical Society



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564  
[www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)  
[info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)  
(510) 724-9507

## Board of Directors

Jeff Rubin, President  
George Vincent, Vice President  
Mary McMains, Treasurer  
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Norma Martínez-Rubin  
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## Directors Emeritus

Marcia Kalapus  
Jack Meehan

## MUSEUM UPDATE AND 2018 PROGRAMS

By Jeff Rubin  
President, Pinole Historical Society

The society has sought to broaden its program offerings to include talks not only on Pinole's history, but also on the history of neighboring communities, and the Bay Area in general.

The response to John Robinson's program, "Finding the Bay Bridge Troll," last September was so well-received that we invited John to return February 2 with an intriguing program, "**Finding the Lost Cities of the East Bay.**" There's a synopsis on the front page of this newsletter. I hope you are able to attend; John is very knowledgeable and a lot of fun to hear.

Returning to local history, George Vincent, our vice-president, society co-founder, and historian, is scheduled to present "**What's in a Name?**" on Friday, May 4.

This program will explore the people — and inanimate objects — behind Pinole's street names. George grew up with many of these people, so expect some very funny, never-before-heard stories.

Future programs will be announced soon.

## MUSEUM UPDATE

There was significant progress in the last quarter of 2017, most significantly the receipt of the Pinole History Museum's 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

This designation will enable the museum to solicit tax-deductible donations, which will begin soon.

The Pinole History Museum Board of Directors (separate from the society's board of directors) is planning for the restoration of the interior of the Faria House and turning it into "a contemporary museum in a classic home."

The City of Pinole, the museum's partner in this project, has presented markups of the Faria house floor plans to several architectural firms in the Bay Area.

We are waiting for proposals from the architects so we'll know how much the project will cost, how much money the museum will have to raise, and how long it will take before the museum opens.

These are exciting times for the Pinole Historical Society and the Pinole History Museum. I hope you share in our excitement and anticipation.

Pinole has such an interesting history. The society has enjoyed sharing it with you through programs, library exhibits, history walks, interviews with notable citizens, and other events.

We are looking forward to sharing it with you in the Pinole History Museum.

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# Pinole Historical Society

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(510) 724-9507

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations made  
“In Memory Of” or  
“In Honor Of”  
a special someone  
may be sent to:  
Pinole Historical Society  
P.O. Box 285  
Pinole, CA 94564

## ARTIFACTS DONATIONS

If you have any items of  
historical interest about  
Pinole to donate,  
please contact the  
Pinole Historical Society  
at:  
[info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org)  
or (510) 724-9507

## TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit  
corporation, all donations to  
the Pinole Historical Society  
are deductible as per the  
limits of the law.  
Thank you for considering  
donating to the  
Pinole Historical Society.



## WELLS FARGO PINOLE MURAL VIDEO ON OUR WEBSITE

Click this link: [www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org/PinoleMural.mov](http://www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org/PinoleMural.mov)



## Taking the winter off at farmers' market

**T**he Pinole Historical Society is taking its annual winter sabbatical from the Pinole Farmers' Market.

We will be back at our booth in April to sell books, note cards, postcards, magnets featuring historical Pinole sites, and American flags and flag poles, and to share the history of Pinole with everyone who stops to say hello

Thanks for your many years of support. We'll see you in April.

*The Pinole Historical Society promotes awareness and appreciation of history through preservation and education, and chronicles the city's heritage for current and future generations.*

# JOIN THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Support the activities of the PHS by becoming a member in 2018.

Please send your \$30 membership check to PHS, PO Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564.

Join — or renew your membership — the Pinole Historical Society and help promote and preserve the history of our city.

For only \$30, you can help the PHS accomplish its mission of bringing the history of Pinole to our residents.

**Please fill out the membership form on the next page and mail it to us today with your check.**

Thank you.

## PHS SELLING NEW BOOK ABOUT EAST BAY HILLS

The Pinole Historical Society has a limited number of copies of the new book, *East Bay Hills: A Brief History*, published by Arcadia Publishing.

Author Amelia Sue Marshall lives on Peralta Creek in Oakland. She developed a passionate interest in the history of the East Bay redwoods while riding her mare there as a trail safety patrol volunteer for the East Bay Regional Park District.

Her previous careers as a journalist, space science engineer, planetarium lecturer, and real estate broker have been cast aside in favor of writing about local history.

She is a board member of the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association and the Oakland Heritage Alliance.

Here's a description of the book, provided by Arcadia Publishing:

*Like the mist rising from San Francisco Bay encircles the towering redwoods, the little-known legends of the East Bay Hills enrich a glorious history.*

*Follow the trails of Saclan and Jalquin-Yrgin people over the hills and through the valleys. Ride with the mounted rangers through the Flood of '62. Break*

*into a sealed railroad tunnel with a pack of junior high school boys. Learn how university professors, civil servants and wealthy businessmen planned for years to create a chain of parks twenty miles along the hilltops.*

*Author Amelia Sue Marshall explores the heritage of these storied parklands with the naturalists who continue to preserve them and the old-timers who remember wilder days.*

**You will find this book listed on the book-ordering form in this newsletter.**



# EAST BAY HILLS

• A BRIEF HISTORY •

AMELIA SUE MARSHALL





## SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PHS BY BECOMING A MEMBER IN 2018

For only \$30, you can help the PHS accomplish its mission of bringing the history of Pinole to our residents through exhibits at the Pinole Library, quarterly membership programs, history programs in schools, Pinole Community TV programs, Walking tours of downtown Pinole, the Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony in Fernandez Park — and you'll have the satisfaction promoting and preserving Pinole's history for future generations.

**JOIN THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP)  
AND HELP PROMOTE AND PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OUR CITY.**

**Please mail the membership application today!**

# Pinole **Historical** Society

## 2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR THE 2018 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

**PLEASE SEND CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO  
PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 285, PINOLE, CA 94564**

NAME: (each member): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL (please!): \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE ONE: Annual-new (\$30)    Annual-renewal (\$30)    Business (\$50)    Life (\$150)

METHOD OF PAYMENT:  Cash     Check (Payable to Pinole Historical Society

Credit Card: ( Visa     MasterCard     American Express     Discover)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

# GEORGE VINCENT'S BOOK ABOUT THE EARLY SCHOOLS OF PINOLE HAS ARRIVED

ORDER *School Bells and Ink Wells* TODAY!

**P**inole Historical Society co-founder and historian George Vincent's long-awaited book, "*School Bells and Ink Wells: a History of the Early Schools of Pinole, 1865-1968*," has been published and is for sale.

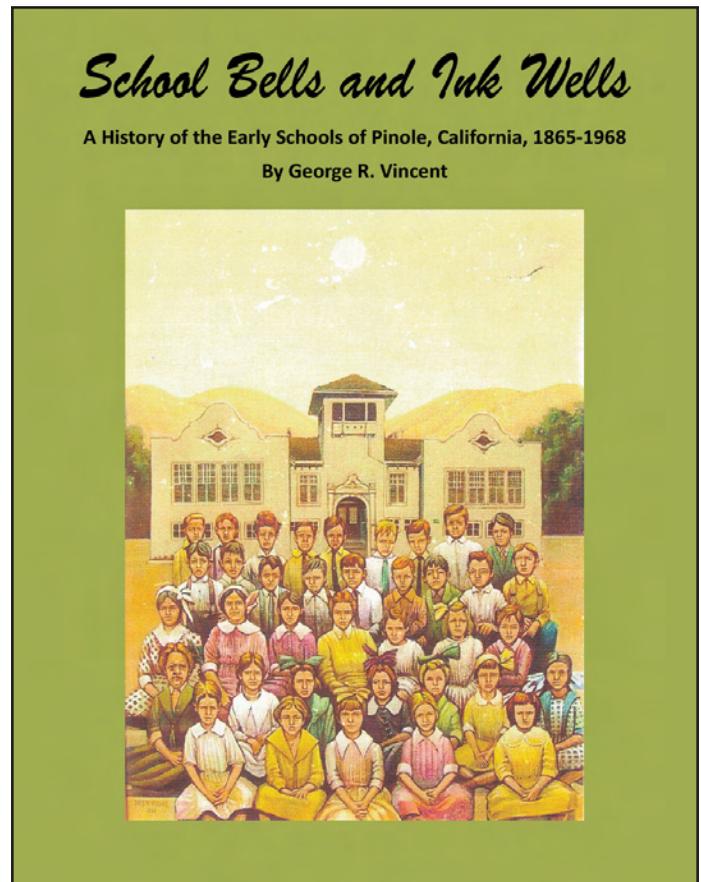
The 124-page book, featuring more than 150 photos, some never-before seen, chronicles the history of the Fitzgerald Ranch School (1865-1886), Plaza School (1886-1906), and Pinole-Hercules School #1 (1906-1966).

The book is filled with stories and amusing anecdotes, and anyone who went to school in Pinole will treasure this fond memory of their early education.

The book brings to light the workings and people that made the Pinole-Hercules Union School District the envy of surrounding townships.

Hill School alumni are fiercely loyal to their "green school" that stood atop Samuel Street in Pinole until 1968. There is a shared pride of camaraderie understood only by those who bore the trials of the daily uphill climb to the creaking stairs and dark halls haunted by the strict stares of lurking teachers.

If you are interested in purchasing the book (\$30, including sales tax and postage), please fill out the order form below and mail it to George Vincent. He will mail the book to you.



## *School Bells and Ink Wells*

MAIL TO: GEORGE VINCENT, 1209 HERCULES AVE., HERCULES, CA 94547

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

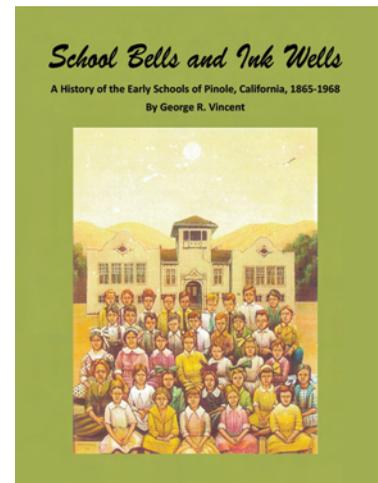
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# of books (\$30 per book, includes sales tax and postage) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to **George Vincent**



# PINOLE LIBRARY'S HISTORY EXHIBITS

The Pinole Historical Society has two exhibits at the Pinole Library.

“Pinole ... Then and Now” features photos from the society’s archives of buildings that existed at the turn of the

20th century and recent photos of buildings on those sites today.

This joins our permanent exhibit featuring artifacts, photos, and memorabilia from Pinole’s history. The library also has copies of our two books: *Images of America: Pinole* (2009), and *Pinole Through Time* (2015).

Visit [www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org) for information on Pinole Historical Society activities and the history of Pinole.



## 2018 PHS MEETING SCHEDULE

The Pinole Historical Society meeting dates for 2018 will be:

**Friday, February 2**

**Friday, May 4**

**Friday, September 7**

**Friday, November 2**

All of these meetings will be held in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

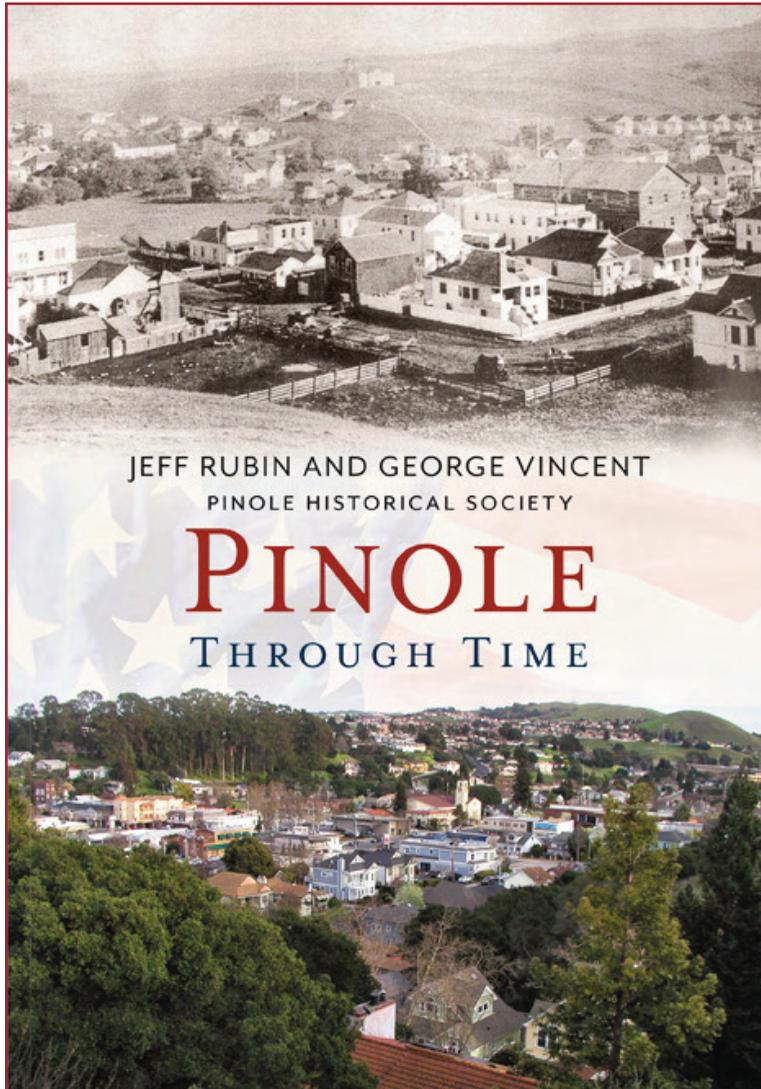


The Pinole Historical Society is now on Facebook! Search for us at <https://www.facebook.com/PinoleHistoricalSociety/>

**Like us, Friend us, Follow us,** Tell your friends and family about us.

We look forward to sharing Pinole's history with you.





**PLENTY OF BOOKS IN STOCK**  
**Order your book(s) today!**

## **PINOLE THROUGH TIME**

**MAIL TO: PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 285, PINOLE, CA 94564**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

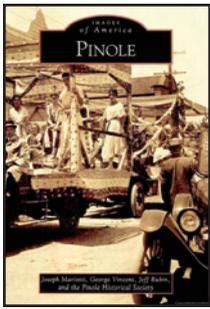
**# of books (\$30 per book, includes sales tax and postage) \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### **METHOD OF PAYMENT**

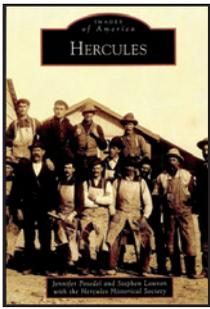
Check: Payable to Pinole Historical Society       Cash

Credit card: ( Visa     MasterCard     American Express     Discover)

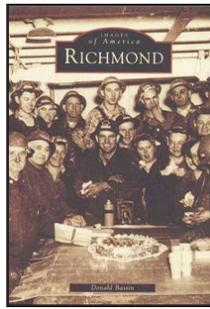
Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_



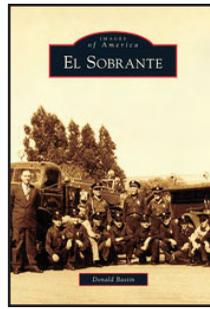
Pinole



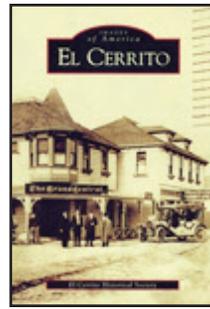
Hercules



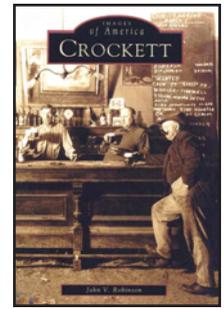
Richmond



El Sobrante



El Cerrito



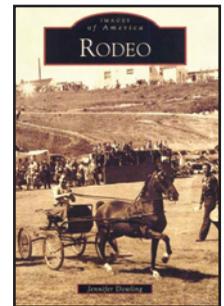
Crockett

# LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

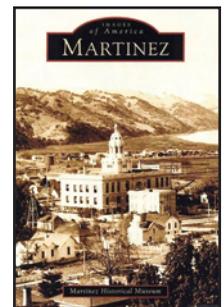
**T**he Pinole Historical Society sells Arcadia books about Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, Port Costa, Maritime Contra Costa County, and the East Bay Hills at the Pinole Farmers' Market every other Saturday through December.

The Pinole, Hercules, Richmond,

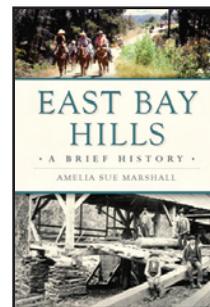
El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Maritime Contra Costa County, and East Bay Hills books are \$24, including sales tax. The Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa books are \$22, including sales tax. Or, you may order by mail by using the form below. Mail order prices include shipping. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Amex, and Discover credit cards.



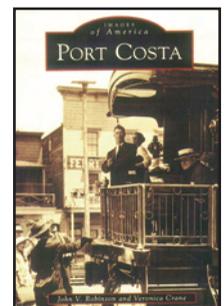
Rodeo



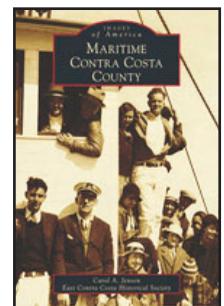
Martinez



East Bay Hills



Port Costa



Maritime

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

**Check:** Payable to Pinole Historical Society       **Cash**  
 **Credit card** ( Visa    MasterCard    Amex    Discover)  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

# of Pinole books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Hercules books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Richmond books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of El Sobrante books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of El Cerrito books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Maritime Contra Costa County books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of East Bay Hills books @ \$27 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Crockett books @ \$25 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Rodeo books @ \$25 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Martinez books @ \$25 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Port Costa books @ \$25 (book, sales tax, postage) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your order to  
PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 285, PINOLE, CA 94564**

# Flag Holidays

**E**very year we see more American flags being displayed for community and special events.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution which stated: "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Francis Hopkinson, of New Jersey, a naval flag designer and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, designed the 1777 flag.

The original flag has been modified 26 times and was unchanged with its 48 stars for 47 years, beginning with Arizona's and New Mexico's admittance to the Union on July 4, 1912. On January 3, 1959, when Alaska was admitted to the Union, the number of stars increased to 49. On August 21, 1959, when Hawaii was admitted to the Union, the flag showed 50 stars.

Flag holidays include:

- New Year's Day (Jan. 1)
- Inauguration Day (Jan. 20)
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (Third Monday in January)
- Lincoln's Birthday (Feb. 12)
- Presidents Day (Third Monday in February)
- Washington's Birthday (February 22)
- Easter Sunday
- Army Day (April 6)
- National Day of Prayer (First Thursday in May)
- V-E Day (May 8)
- Mother's Day (Second Sunday in May)
- Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15; half-staff all day)
- Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday in May)
- Memorial Day (Last Monday in May; half-staff until noon)
- D-Day (June 6)
- Flag Day (June 14)
- Father's Day (Third Sunday in June)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Korean War Veterans Day (July 27)
- V-J Day (September 2)
- Labor Day (First Monday in September)
- Patriot Day (September 11; half staff all day)
- Constitution Day (September 17)
- Gold Star Mothers Day (September 27)
- Columbus Day (Oct. 12)
- Navy Day (October 27)
- Election Day (First Tuesday in November)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Thursday in November)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7; half staff all day)
- Christmas Day (Dec. 25)

Other flag holidays include Inauguration Day (every four years), election days, state and local holidays, Admission Day, and others proclaimed by the President of the United States.

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## Pinole Historical Society

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[www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org) (510) 724-9507 [info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org)

# WANTED

by the  
Pinole **Historical** Society

**ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE  
SIGNIFICANT IN PINOLE'S HISTORY**

**PHOTOS:** People, family, events, buildings  
(particularly buildings no longer standing)

**MOVIES:** VHS, Beta, camcorder, DV tape, 8mm,  
Super 8mm, 16mm, 35mm film of parades  
and events, floods, fires, etc.

**ALL PHOTOS AND MOVIES WILL BE RETURNED.**

**MEMORABILIA/ARTIFACTS:** Documents, programs,  
pins & ribbons (events, sports, political), sports,  
trophies, Fiesta del Pinole/Holy Ghost gowns, etc.

We are collecting, digitizing, cataloging, and preserving  
these items to exhibit, educate, and entertain.

**Contact the Pinole Historical Society**

**(510) 724-9507**

**[info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org)**