



Pinole **Historical** Society

E-News

TWO PROGRAMS AT NEXT PHS MEETING

KAISER TO HOST FEBRUARY 16 EVENT

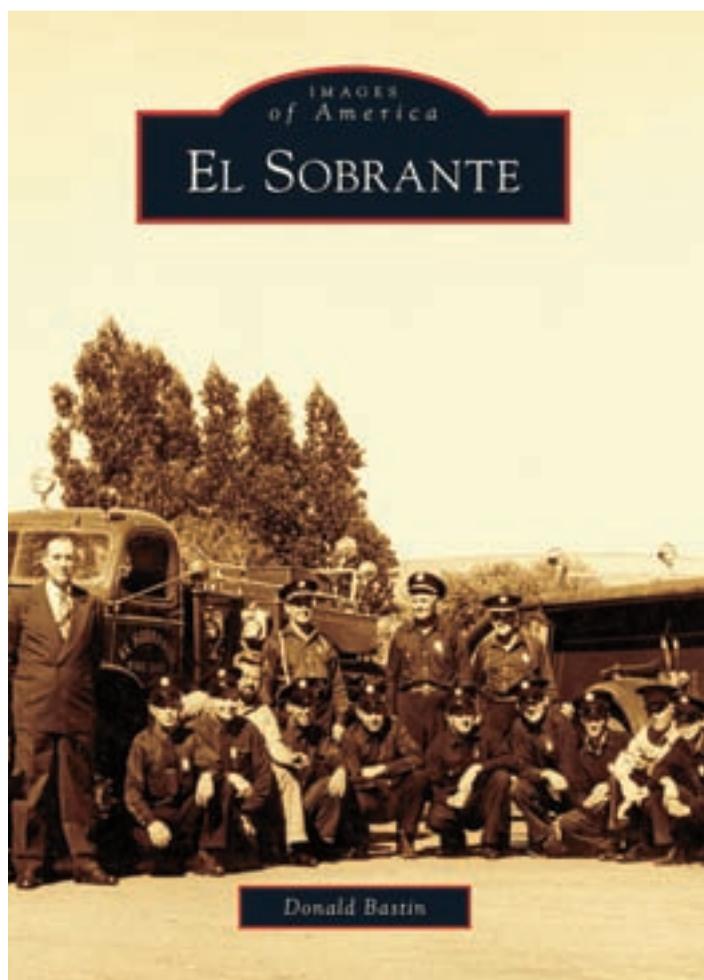
The Pinole Historical Society's February 16 quarterly membership meeting will feature two interesting presentations, including a book signing featuring a well-known local author.

Commander Matt Messier of the Pinole Police Department will present *The History of Law Enforcement in Pinole*, and author Donald Bastin will do a short presentation and a book signing for his just-published Arcadia book, *Images of America: El Sobrante*.

Donald is also the author of *Images of America: Richmond*, published in 2000.

We have a new location for this meeting: Conference Rooms 2A and 2B in the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

Our meeting will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Please join us. Members are non-members are welcome to attend.



NEW LOCATION FOR PHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The February 16 meeting will be held in the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building on Pinole Valley Road in Conference Rooms 2A and 2B (first floor).

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.



PINOLE . . . THEN AND NOW NEW LIBRARY EXHIBIT

Photographs from Pinole's past and present highlight the new Pinole Historical Society exhibit at the Pinole Library. This exhibit joins our permanent exhibit featuring artifacts, photos, and memorabilia from our city's history. The PHS thanks the Pinole Library for the exhibit space.

Pinole**Historical**Society

P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

(510) 724-9507



Pinole Historical Society Director Emeritus **Jack Meehan** donated the funds to enable the society to purchase this handsome greeting-card and postcard display rack for our farmers' market booth and other events.

Lawrence Radcliffe, DDS, 2000 Appian Way, Suite 203, donated a copy of *Ignacio Martinez and the Rancho El Pinole 1823-1868*, the master's thesis written by former Pinole Mayor Egdar Vovsi in December of 1970. Vovsi submitted it to the College of Holy Names, Graduate History Division.

Doris McPherson-Salmi, whose late father, John McPherson, was a member of the Pinole Historical Society in the 1970s, and served as secretary, donated a file of her father's papers, notes, and articles.

"My father was not an 'old-time' Pinole person like so many I know from years past," says Doris, who lives in Rodeo. "We moved to Pinole in 1955, but he was very committed to his city and loved every square inch of it!"

"When I catch George Vincent on TV with his walking tours I am taken back to a time I remember so fondly. The names are familiar; it brings me such pleasure watching and knowing that someone has taken the time to document this information and has shared it!"

Lyn and Ted Keller, of El Sobrante, donated a 1906 Punnett Brothers cloth map of the Bay Area counties, featuring all of the ranchos of that era.

Chris Treadway, of the *West County Times*, donated numerous newspaper articles and photos from the paper's archives, including information about the Pinole Spring Festival, Oktoberfest celebrations, home construction in Pinole Valley, a 1991 oil spill, and events and programs at the Pinole library.



The PHS sells greeting cards for \$2 and postcards for \$1. Each card features an historic Pinole site. We also have Fernandez Mansion and Pinole-Hercules School #1 (the Old School) magnets. We'll be back at the Pinole Farmers' Market in April.

PINOLE POLICE COMMANDER MATT MESSIER IS LOOKING FOR PHOTOS OF THE CITY'S CONSTABLES FROM THE LATE 1800S AND EARLY 1900S. PLEASE CONTACT HIM AT 724-8946 IF YOU CAN HELP.

History events

Wednesday, February 1, 7 p.m., El Sobrante Library meeting room, 4191 Appian Way: *Small Town, Big Changes: The Remarkable History of El Sobrante and San Pablo Creek*. Talk by Donald Bastin, author of *Images of America: El Sobrante*, a local history book published by Arcadia Publishing. Sponsored by SPAWNERS (San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society). Books available for sale! Refreshments provided.

- Historic El Sobrante photos are on display in an exhibit, "Best Little Town By A Dam Site: Highlights of El Sobrante History," at the El Sobrante office of Mechanics Bank, 3884 San Pablo Dam Road.

- For an on-line tour of El Sobrante's history, visit the El Sobrante Historical Society website at www.eshist.org/.

PHS INTERVIEWS ON CITY OF PINOLE WEBSITE

Miss one of our programs on Pinole Community TV?

Not a problem. The city's website now has a dedicated section devoted to PINOLE HISTORY on its "Videos Online" page.

You can view the numerous PHS programs right on your computer. Go to the city's

website www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html and scroll down to PINOLE HISTORY.

You'll find our interviews, Veterans Day programs, George Vincent's two walking tours of historic downtown Pinole, and the very fine PCTV-produced, 12-part series based on the Historic Walking Tour brochure. It's great TV!

PHS SEEKING FAMILY FILMS FOR HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

Got film?

The Pinole Historical Society is embarking on a major project to archive the city's history—family by family and event by event. Our objective is to establish a permanent, digitized collection of Pinole's history.

Do you have film of past Holy Ghost parades, Pinole Valley High School Homecoming parades, Memorial Day or July 4 parades?

How about important athletic events, such as a high-school football, basketball, baseball, softball, or volleyball game?

Perhaps you have film of an important event that took place in Fernandez Park, or a ribbon cutting or an event that has a place in Pinole's history—such as the 1958 flood?

We're looking for any video or film you have—VHS, Beta, camcorder, DV tape, 8mm, Super 8mm,



16mm, 35mm, motion picture.

Nearly everyone has taken home movies. That makes everyone who has taken film a historian.

We want to collect, digitize, catalog, and preserve old movies on DVD (and whatever formats are to come) to exhibit, educate, and entertain.

The PHS will share these videos on a film archive that we will establish, similar to the The Pioneers Film Archive on YouTube created by the California Pioneers of Santa Clara (www.youtube.com/sccpioneers).

Film connects with the past in a unique way. It's immersive,

educational, and entertaining. It's a way to get young people interested in history.

Got film? Please contact us at info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org. We'll return your film; we just want to borrow and digitize it.

BE A MEMBER OF THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We'll be sending out membership renewal letters soon. Please take advantage of the 2012 membership form on the last page of this newsletter and either renew your membership—or join for the first time!

It's only \$30 per year, and you'll have the satisfaction of helping fund these PHS activities:

- Exhibits at the Pinole Library
- PHS *Newsbriefs* newsletter

- PHS *E-News* newsletter
- PHS website
- Quarterly programs
- Walking tours of historic Old Town Pinole
 - Historical interviews broadcast on Pinole Community TV
 - Pinole history presentations to 4th-graders in Pinole schools
 - Presentations to community and civic groups
 - Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony

- History essay contests in Pinole schools
 - Donation of photos displayed on Pinole Library walls
 - Sponsorship of Pinole Valley High School football-game telecasts
 - Publication of *Images of America: Pinole* in 2009 (746 sold, plus 43 about other cities [Hercules, Richmond, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa]).
- Thanks for your support.

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT AT HERCULES LIBRARY

The Hercules Library will host a lecture by Dr. Linda Ivey, a specialist in environmental, cultural, ethnic and labor history, as part of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Teaching American History Project on Saturday, January 28, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This is a free event.

Professor Ivey is a specialist in environmental, cultural, ethnic and labor history. She is the

coordinator of the Public History program at Cal State University-East Bay, where she also teaches courses in the history of California and the West, as well as in the environment, and immigration.

Professor Ivey is working on a book that explores the links among the changing environment, immigration, and class conflict in California in the early 20th century.



Please join us for a lecture with **Professor Linda Ivey**, a specialist in environmental, cultural, ethnic and labor history. She is the coordinator of the Public History program at CSU East Bay, where she also teaches courses in the history of California and the West, as well as in environmental, and immigration. Professor Ivey is currently working on a book that explores the links among the changing environment, immigration, and class conflict in California in the early 20th century.

WCCUSD Teaching American History Project Lecture/Workshop Series Presents:

A morning with Dr. Linda Ivey

Saturday, January 28, 9:30-11:30

Hercules Public Library,
Large Conference Room,
109 Civic Dr., Hercules, CA 94547

This event is **FREE** to all interested community members.

Sponsored by:
West Contra Costa Unified School District
Teaching American History Project

Hercules Public Library
510.245.2420

For questions, 510.231.1429 x25207
wccusdtah@gmail.com

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER: **WCCUSD TAH**



The Book Nook

SHADOWS ON THE HILLS Place Names of Contra Costa County, CA

By William Mero

Have you ever wondered about the origins of your own street name—perhaps those of your neighborhood or town?

Contra Costa is small in area but once played a huge role in settling the West. The Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers along with the wild and dangerous delta made this county the crossroads of California.

The heritage of many peoples and events are echoed in Contra Costa names. As new settlers and adventurers invaded the land of the first Americans, place names also changed. Old place names disappear or become historical “ghosts” recalling people and events that have faded from our popular memories.

Indian wars, Spanish conquistadors, scalp collectors, and grizzly hunters are in this book. Bloody range wars, infamous brothels—even a drunken pig are—remembered as names on dusty maps.

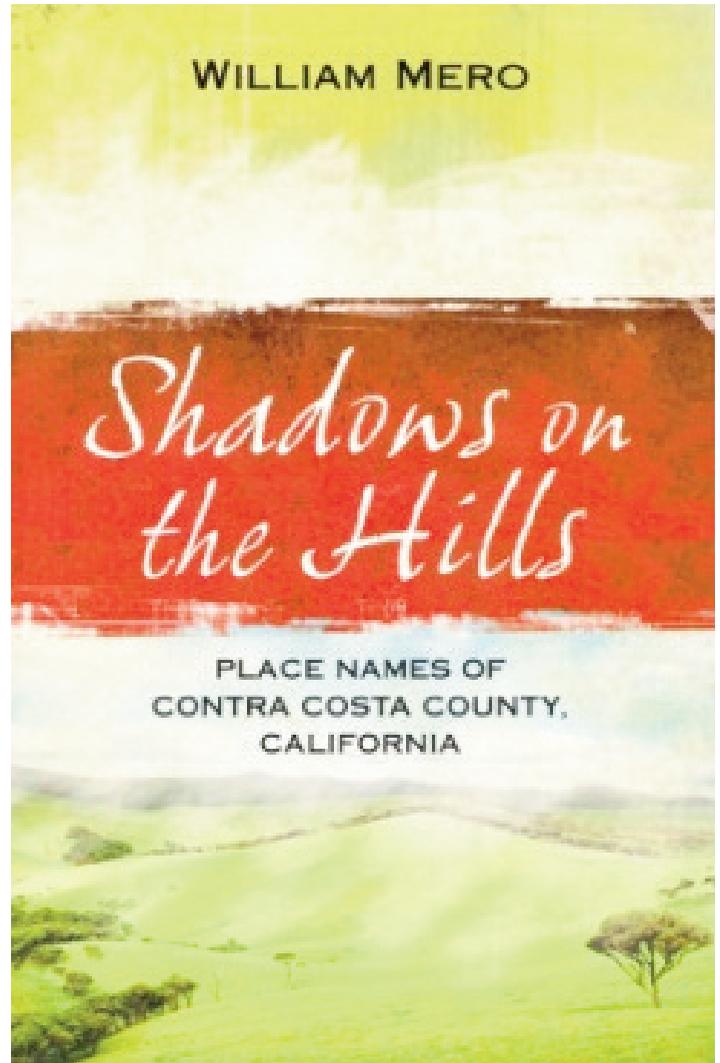
You live where Spanish dons, outlaws, swindlers, mining barons, cattle and wheat kings have risen and fallen. All have become part of the many stories behind our local place names, past and present.

Before the discovery of the oil and gas in the Central Valley, Contra Costa was the energy capital of California. A time remembered today only by the names of its coal kings and scattered ghost towns. This county’s silver and copper rush and its redwood logging boom are long past but for those who know our history, their presence still lives on in the names of hills and now silent canyons. After both scoundrels and heroes are gone, only their names remain on the land, fading and fleeting like shadows on the hills.

This is one of many books available from the Contra Costa Historical Society (www.cocohistory.org/frm-publish.html).

The book is priced at \$19.95. California residents add \$1.65 (8.25%) per book. Please add \$5 shipping/handling for the first book and \$1 for each additional book to cover USPS 2-3 day Priority Service.

Books may be picked up at the CCHS History



Center during regular hours or shipped. Mail check or money order (made payable to Contra Costa County Historical Society) to:

Contra Costa County Historical Society, 610 Main Street, Martinez, CA 94553-1129

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We have an array of local history books for sale, including the new El Sobrante book, published on January 11, 2012.

There's an order form on the next page for your convenience.

ROSIE THE RIVETER/WWII HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IN RICHMOND SEEKS DOCENTS

Rosie the Riveter WWII/Home Front
National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Volunteer

to be a National Park

Docent

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park Service in Richmond, CA, seeks volunteer docents to assist with operations at our new Visitor Education Center, scheduled to open in May 2012. We are looking for people 18 years old or older, with a passion for history, education, and public service (or a willingness to learn!), who can make an ongoing minimum commitment to volunteer at least 8 hours per month.

Each volunteer docent will be required to complete a series of training sessions led by NPS staff, prior to commencement of responsibilities. Volunteers must be available to attend one date of each training unit listed below:

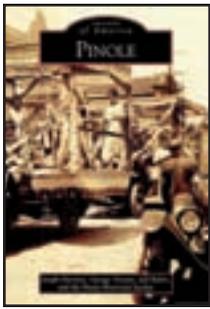


- ★ Training Unit #1 *Introduction to the National Park Service and our park:*
Saturday, March 31, 2012, or Friday, April 6, 2012, 9 AM-1 PM
- ★ Training Unit #2 *Tour-giving tips:*
Saturday, April 14, 2012, or Friday, April 20, 2012, 9 AM- 1 PM
- ★ Training Unit #3 *Visitor Center operations and customer service:*
Saturday, April 28, 2012, or Friday, May 4, 2012, 9 AM-1 PM

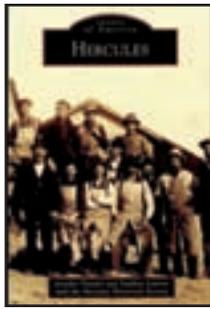
To reserve your spot in our training program, or for more information, please contact Lucien Sonder at lucien_sonder@nps.gov, or 510 232 5050 x. 6622. If you cannot attend any of the above dates, but are interested in future training opportunities, please let us know.



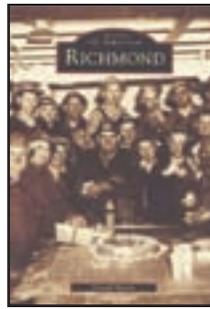
ROSIE THE RIVETER
World War II Home Front
National Historical Park Visitor Center



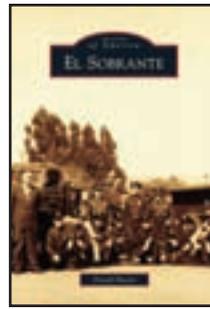
Pinole



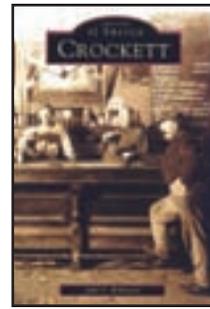
Hercules



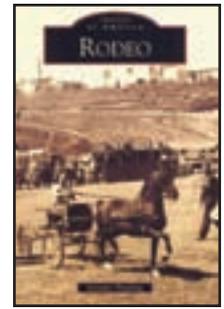
Richmond



El Sobrante



Crockett



Rodeo

LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pinole Historical Society has Arcadia Publishing books about our surrounding communities of Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa. And, of course, we have plenty of Pinole books in stock.

You may purchase one or more of these books from us at the Pinole Farmers' Market—we'll be there every other Saturday through the end of December.

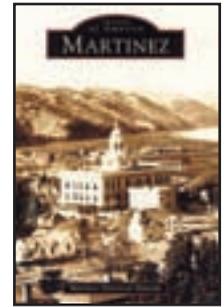
The Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, and El Sobrante books retail for **\$24**, including 8.75% sales tax. The Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa books are **\$22**, including 8.75% sales tax.

Or, you may order one or more by mail and

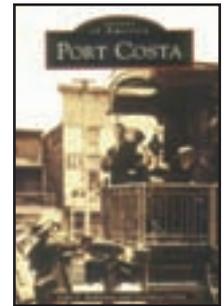
we'll ship them to you. Send your order to **Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**.

The prices, including 8.75% sales tax and postage are:

- Pinole:** \$27
- Hercules:** \$27
- Richmond:** \$27
- El Sobrante:** \$27 (shipping late January)
- Crockett:** \$25
- Rodeo:** \$25
- Martinez:** \$25
- Port Costa:** \$25



Martinez



Port Costa

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

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 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 check for the total amount due, payable to Pinole Historical Society, to:

PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 285, PINOLE, CA 94564



Pinole **Historical** Society

Help us preserve Pinole's history through:

- Exhibits at the Pinole Library
- Pinole history programs in schools
- Pinole Community TV programs
- Walking tours of downtown Pinole
- Veterans' Day event in Fernandez Park
- A proposed municipal museum

Annual memberships are only \$30

Please mail the membership application today!

Pinole **Historical** Society

2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP)

**PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, AND SEND CASH OR YOUR CHECK,
TO PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 285, PINOLE, CA 94564**

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR THE 2012 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME (each person): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL (please!): _____

CIRCLE ONE: Annual (\$30) Life (\$150) Business (\$50) Sustaining \$(500)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: [] Cash \$ _____ [] Check # _____ \$ _____

DATE PAID: _____