

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 2020 MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

TIME: XX PM

These notes summarize information that was planned to be presented at the September 17, 2020 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of September 25, 2020. The meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the novel coronavirus and resulting state and local restrictions on gatherings.

The next meeting scheduled for **THURSDAY October 15, 2020 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR**. Although we will not be able to resume our public meetings this year, we are still providing information virtually to all who contact us with questions about North Park history.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

We hope all our members and friends are staying safe and healthy.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletters will be circulated for viewing at the next possible meeting. The September 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News was Part 5 of a series about historic street names in San Diego (see the last pages of this summary).

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting summary from the canceled August 20, 2020 meeting has been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for the period of August 22 to September 17, 2020 were sent to Board Members on September 17, 2020. During this period, five members renewed (thank you Sharon, Charlie & Juliet, Marcella, North Park Main Street and George!). Three renewing members gave additional donations (thank you, Sharon, Charlie & Juliet and Marcella!). Total income in this period was \$280. Expenses in this time period were zero.

Steve reported that the check NPHS wrote to the County of San Diego for \$1,250.00 has been processed by the County. This check returned the grant funds dedicated to the Water Tower Art Project that could not be completed due to the art site (the fence at the water tower) becoming unavailable. Also, Steve prepared the final report on the use of 2018-2019 grant funds and submitted the report to the County before the deadline of July 31, 2020. NPHS did not request grant funds from the County for 2019-2020.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. UPDATE ON PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER

Coordination with City Public Utilities Department staff regarding the feasibility of placing the plaque in a boulder or some kind of low wall next to the two-story building at the Water Tower site is pending return to some kind of normalcy.

6. PLANNING FOR PAULY'S ADDITION WALKING TOUR

The team has developed a route, photo notebook and draft guide notes focusing on the southern part of Pauly's Addition from Dwight to Upas and Alabama to Texas streets. George has expanded the tour notes for guides, and Paul has provided additional interior photographs. All walking tours are pending return to some kind of normalcy, but the team is using this time to get ready.

7. EVALUATIONS OF HISTORIC HOMES AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

In September, we responded to several requests for information as summarized below.

1. Circulate San Diego completed the self-tour bike ride that tells the story of black/indigenous/people of color (BIPOC) in San Diego. Historical information from NPHS about various topics, including the KKK meeting hall in North Park, the Goodwin family and Ted Williams was used. The link to the interesting and informative online tour is: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6b5d53031c1a40548591057bbe7c0990>

The self-guided tour was a collaborative effort led by Circulate San Diego, San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, BikeSD, and Pedal for Justice SD. They thanked the following contributors: *"California Office of Traffic Safety, Chicano Park Steering Committee, City Heights CDC, Environmental Health Coalition, Japanese Historical Society, Latino Outdoors, Michael Yee, North Park Historical Society, Omar Passons, Pueblo Planning, San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, Save Our Heritage Organization, Susan Hasegawa, and World Beat Cultural Center. A special thank you to Benjamin Mumford-Zisk for providing audio editing for our interviews."*

2. Rachel asked: I own a historical/Mills act home in Burlingame and I need to get a new front door ... I am curious if the front door is a piece of the home that I will need to have approved in a matter that is fitting with the historical board and if so do you know who I would reach out to in order to get the ball rolling on this process? I also wanted to look into getting the historical plaque for the house as well and was wondering if you knew who I needed to reach out for that as well. I feel like owning a historic home should come with a guidebook! Any advice you can offer would be greatly appreciated.
3. Cheryl asked: "I love reading the history you write about the North Park neighborhood in the San Diego Downtown News. It has made me curious about where I live: west of 15, north of 94 on the east rim of the 32nd Street Canyon, at the deadend of Bancroft and Ash Streets. As far as I can tell, South Park originally ended on the west side of the 32nd Street canyon, across from where I live (on the east rim). I was told the area between the east rim and I-15 was not built up until after World War 2. My area was referred to as Golden Hill when I bought my house in 1978. I have a map that shows Ash Street used to be called Harvard street; 32nd Street used to be called Scott Street; and 33rd Street used to be called Dwinelle Street...so maybe Bancroft Street used to have a different name as well."
4. Kim asked for historic information about her home in Blair's Highlands on 28th Street.

8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION

The September 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News presented Part 5 of a series about San Diego street names. This installment discussed the pioneers behind the original names of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas streets between University Avenue and Upas Street in North Park. See the last pages of these notes for that article.

9. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Information regarding future events in 2020 is summarized below.

- Table in Lobby at San Diego History Center: Maybe next year!
- Presentations for the Community: Maybe next year!

The next meeting scheduled for **THURSDAY October 15, 2020 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR**. Due to the public health virus crisis we will not be able to resume our public meetings this year. However, we will continue to provide monthly summaries of information we would have shared.

Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Lost pioneers in North Park

San Diego street names: Part five of the series

PastMatters

KATHERINE HON

As discussed in earlier PastMatters columns, approximately 340 street names in San Diego were changed by two ordinances adopted in 1899 and 1900. The ordinances eliminated duplication and achieved some continuity where street names changed from tract to tract.

Three historic tracts mapped during the 1870s extend from present-day Alabama to Boundary streets between University Avenue and Upas Street. These are Pauly's Addition formed by Aaron Pauly, Park Villas formed by Joseph Nash, and West End formed by William Jefferson Gatewood.

Most of the north-south streets in this area were renamed for states in 1899 to achieve continuity with the historic tract of University Heights to the north. Pauly's Addition lies between present-day Alabama and Arizona streets. In this tract, the original street names of Briant, Landes, Skinner, Pauly and Choate became Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Arizona streets, respectively. The original names represented pioneers of 1870s San Diego. (Original north-south Landes Street should not be

confused with present-day east-west Landis Street, which was named for a different person.)

Tract founder Aaron Pauly (1812-1890) was born in Ohio, established his own family in Illinois and came to Coloma, California, as the gold rush began. He traveled across the plains in an oxen-pulled wagon in 1849 and sent for his family in 1852. He was a miner, rancher, hotel-keeper and merchant around Sacramento for 20 years and then moved his family to New Town San Diego in 1869. He set up a successful general store with his sons Fred and Charles at the foot of Fifth Street. The store became an important supply and assay center for Julian gold miners.

Aaron Pauly was the first president of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce from 1870 to 1871 and the County tax collector from 1875 to 1884. He was president of the company that built the San Diego-Fort Yuma wagon road between California and Arizona. The San Diego Union's December 12, 1890 issue called Aaron Pauly "one of the old merchants of San Diego, and for many years one of the most prominent and public spirited citizens" in his obituary. He is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Most of the other original north-south street names in Pauly's tract reflected his fellow investors. According to the City of San Diego Lot Book for 1873, Pauly owned 30 acres of the 80-acre tract. D.W. Briant owned

MISCELLANEOUS.

New Stock

DRY GOODS.

CONSISTING IN PART OF
Ladies' Dress Goods, Waterproofs,
Furniture Cloth, Shawls, Corsets,
Hosiery, High Neck Collars, &c.

CLOTHING.

GENTS' SUITS OF BEAVER,
Cashmere, Cheviot, &c.; Pants
and Vests, Gents' White Shirts,
Under-clothing; also Boys' Shirts,
Socks, Collars, Under-clothing.

HATS.

MEN'S, YOUTHS' and BOYS',
latest styles and lowest prices.

BOOTS & SHOES.

MEN'S, BOYS', LADIES' AND
INFANTS', of various materials
&c.

ALSO, A FULL STOCK OF
GROCERIES & PROVISIONS
All of which we offer at lowest cash rates.
CALL AND SEE OUR GOODS.

A. PAULY & SONS,

NORTH-WEST CORNER
Horton House Plaza.

Aaron Pauly was a merchant and real estate investor who frequently advertised his store. This ad is from the Daily Union's December 24, 1875 issue. (Courtesy of the San Diego Union and Newsbank Inc.)

five acres, David Landes owned 20 acres, Lewis Skinner owned 10 acres, and Morgan L. Skinner owned 15 acres.

David Ward Briant (1821-1889) was born in Ohio and became a merchant. By 1857, he had come to California. He was a successful farmer in Calaveras County, where he was appointed a U.S. Postmaster for Double Springs, a gold rush town southeast of Sacramento.

About 10 years later, Briant had become a leading citizen of San Diego. The San Diego Union's October 13, 1869 issue noted he was "putting up a residence" between Eighth and Ninth streets in New Town. His feed store at the corner of Ninth and I streets was advertised in the 1874 San Diego City Directory. He was on the City Board of Trustees through much of the 1870s and served on the County Board of Supervisors during the 1880s, retiring as president in January 1889.

The San Diego Union's October 1, 1889 issue announced Briant's death under the caption, "The Reaper Calls for One of San Diego's Oldest and Best Citizens." In the San Diego Union's October 10, 1889 issue, the Society of Pioneers of San Diego issued a "Resolution of Respect" that noted in Briant's death "this society has lost a most respected member and the

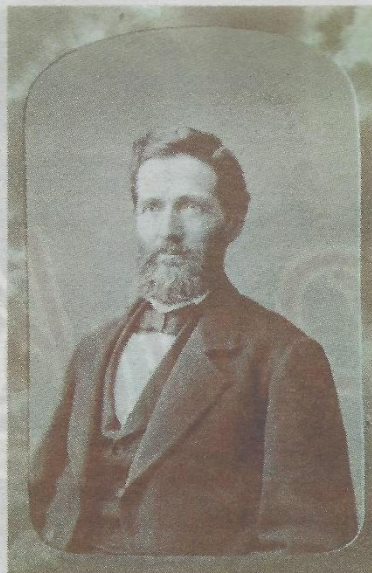
community an excellent citizen and a man worthy in every respect." He is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

David Shirk Landes (1809-1874) was born in Pennsylvania. He married his first wife, Margaret Morrow, in 1841, and they lived in Missouri until about 1854. The 1850 federal census for St. Louis, Missouri, listed him as a farmer with his wife, a daughter and two sons. By 1854, the couple and their three children had moved to Sacramento, where two more sons were born. During the Civil War, Landes fought in the Union Army with the 14th Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry, 159th Volunteers, where he was promoted to Corporal. At war's end, Landes returned to northern California. He was listed in the 1867 Pacific Coast Directory as a "Retail Dealer" specializing in "hardware, furniture and paper hangings" in Moores Flat, a gold rush town northeast of Sacramento.

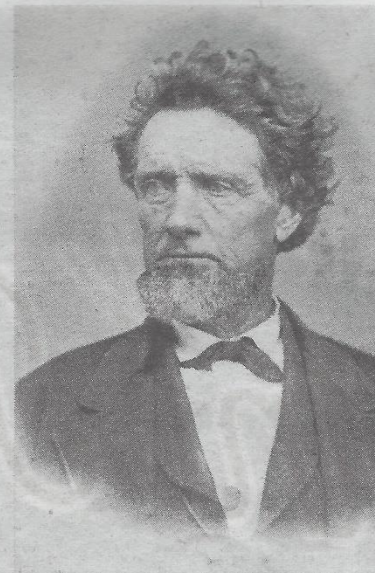
Landes had arrived in San Diego by April 1870 and was listed as a "Merchant" in the 1871 Great Register for San Diego County. However, it appears he was separated from his family. In the 1870 federal census, Margaret was listed as living with their sons



Lewis Newton Skinner owned 10 acres in Pauly's Addition when the tract map was filed in 1873 but did not move to San Diego until 1888. Louisiana Street south of University Avenue to Upas Street was originally named Skinner Street. (Courtesy of Skinner family descendants via Ancestry.com)



Morgan Skinner, Lewis Skinner's father, owned 15 acres in Pauly's Addition, although he never moved to San Diego from Milwaukee. (Courtesy of Skinner family descendants via Ancestry.com)



Henry Skinner, Morgan Skinner's eldest brother, moved to San Diego in 1868 and was elected as Justice of the Peace in 1869. (Courtesy of Skinner family descendants via Ancestry.com)

Street names

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Franklin, Henry and George in Sacramento and married to John H. Wolfe, a farmer.

In addition to buying 20 acres in Pauly's Addition, Landes purchased lots in other areas, including Horton's Addition and National City. He died on December 6, 1874. The Daily Union's December 8, 1874 issue noted he was "an old and very highly respected citizen of San Diego." He is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Lewis Newton Skinner (1847-1926) was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was a furniture dealer for most of his adult life. He wintered in San Diego starting in 1880 and moved to the city permanently in 1888. The 1893 San Diego City Directory listed his business as "Skinner & Long (L.N. Skinner, E.E. Long) new and second hand goods, 721 Sixth." The

1900 federal census listed Lewis Skinner at 2306 C Street with his wife Ellagene, son Eugene and daughter Sarah. In 1926, the family moved the L.N. Skinner furniture store from 640 Sixth Avenue to 1255 University Avenue in Hillcrest. Lewis Skinner died on September 9, 1926. His obituary called him a San Diego pioneer. He is interred at Cypress View Mausoleum.

After Lewis' death, Ellagene and Eugene continued to operate the furniture store. In 1933, Eugene moved the store to 2525 University Avenue in North Park, where he operated it for decades — just two blocks from the street that once had his family name.

Morgan Lewis Skinner (1821-1881) was Lewis Skinner's father. Morgan was born in New York and lived in Milwaukee most of his life. He was a school teacher in 1850 and an insurance agent during the 1860s before becoming a merchant by 1871. He never lived in San Diego, but he wrote

a letter to the editor of the San Diego Union in 1877, noting he had been reading the paper for seven years and hoped to move permanently to San Diego in the future.

Why Lewis and Morgan invested in Pauly's Addition when they were living in Milwaukee may be explained by the fact that Henry Chapman Skinner (1805-1877) — Morgan's eldest brother — had been living in San Diego since 1868. Henry Skinner served several years as Justice of the Peace. He owned multiple properties in San Diego and apparently convinced his brother and nephew that the new town was a good investment.

The next PastMatters column will examine original street names from Arizona Street to Pershing Avenue.

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