

NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2020

TIME: XX PM

These notes summarize information that was planned to be presented at the November 19, 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 November 23, 2020. The meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the novel coronavirus and resulting state and local restrictions on gatherings.

NPHS does not meet in December. Future meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR in 2021** until the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Although we will not be able to resume our public meetings until then, we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history and documenting those communications in monthly summaries.

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 November 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News was Part 7 of a series about historic street names in San Diego (see the last page of this summary).

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting summary from the canceled October 15, 2020 meeting has been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for the period of October 16 to November 19, 2020 were sent to Board Members on November 19, 2020. During this period, two members renewed and provided additional donations (thank you Ed and Tom & Claudia!). Arcadia Publishing Company paid NPHS a royalty of \$94.89 for our *Images of America: San Diego's North Park* books sold from January to June 2020. Total income in this period was \$184.89. Expenses in this time period were zero.

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 continues to refine the route, photo notebook and draft guide notes for the southern part of Pauly's Addition. The current tour starts at Upas and Texas, heads west on Upas, north on Mississippi to Landis, east on Landis to Texas, and south on Texas back to the park. This route is approximately one mile and includes six designated houses and a wide range of ages

and architectural styles. 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 November, we evaluated two houses for their potential to be individually designated and responded to several requests for information as summarized below.

1. Alex received our personalized flyer for his house on Arnold Avenue and replied: "Thanks for reaching out regarding if our house is applicable for the Mills Act!" We found his Spanish Colonial Revival house was built in 1926, and the first owner was Frank Seifert, who was on the City Council from 1927 to 1929. Paul and his team evaluated the house and concluded it should qualify for designation as an Individually Significant historical resource.
2. Brian wondered if his early Craftsman home on Mississippi Street would qualify for individual designation. We found his house was built in 1922 by Master Builder Alexander Schreiber and should qualify for designation as an Individually Significant historical resource.
3. Mel wrote: "I saw an old article about the Toyland Parade in North Park and it brought back memories. I grew up in North Park and lived at 3437 Granada Avenue. I was a resident from 1950 to 1968, when I went away to college. I did return for a short time before I moved to Florida. I have an old picture of me in the parade in 1962 that I wanted to share."



We consulted with one of our Board members to determine where the photo was taken and this is what he said:

"During the 1950s and 60s the parade marched west on University to Arizona or Texas Streets and turned south toward Upas, where it ended and disbanded. These look like the houses on the west side of Arizona, in about

the 3500 block. If it were on Texas Street, the line of march would be wrong and the boy scout would be walking north not south. Because the houses on the east side of Texas are elevated like these and are at street level in the west side, he would be walking north up Texas and not south on Arizona toward the parade's end.”

With a little field reconnaissance, we determined that Board Member Randy was absolutely correct. The houses on Arizona between Myrtle and Dwight streets still look good, although the porch of the house to the north has been rebuilt and the columns have been changed.



4. Robert wrote that his wife is working on a biography of Maureen (“Little Mo”) Connolly — a world-renowned tennis player from the 1950s — authorized by her daughters. He wondered about the tennis courts near Little Mo’s home and if the North Park Historical Society had any files that might contain information about Little Mo. We sent excerpts about her from our two books along with several articles on our website and noted that page 2 of the excerpts mentions the courts were built in 1924. We also forwarded his request for information to the University Heights Historical Society, and they sent Robert several historical newspaper articles about Little Mo.
5. Tom wrote that he and his wife are helping their church — St. Patrick’s Catholic Community Parish — prepare for the parish’s centennial celebratory events (2021 – 2022). We told him we could send jpgs of the historical photos St. Patrick’s provided to us for our 2014 Images of America book if they had any trouble finding them in the church’s archives.
6. Matt wrote: “I have a house on Pershing Ave. in North Park that was built in 1921 and wanted to see what the steps are or who to contact to make it a Dryden historical landmark. Thanks so much! “We replied that his house was built in 1916 and provided Matt with background on the North Park Dryden Historic District, which his house is part of, for him to discuss with City Historical Resources Board staff.

8. COMMUNITY COORDINATION

In the June 2020 meeting summary, we presented these photos of the 1960 Toyland Parade queen and her court and other VIPs we obtained from Gregg Schloss at A&B Sporting Goods. We sent scans of the photos to Ken Kramer, and they were shown on Ken's TV show "About San Diego" on Nov. 5 at 8:00 p.m. on KPBS. Ken credited North Park Historical Society, Gregg and Katherine when he discussed the photos, which was very exciting.



The November 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News presented Part 7 of a series about San Diego street names. This installment discussed the pioneers behind the original names of the streets now named 28th, Utah and 29th streets between University Avenue and Upas Street in North Park. See the last page of these notes for that article.

9. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Future events will have to wait until a return to some kind of normalcy.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

NPBS does not meet in December. Future meetings scheduled for the third **THURSDAYS of the month starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR in 2021** until the public health crisis due to COVID-19 has passed. Although we will not be able to resume our public meetings until then, we are still providing information to all who contact us with questions about North Park history.

Prepared by

Katherine Hon

Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Military connections in West End

San Diego street names: Part seven of the series

PastMatters KATHERINE HON

As discussed in earlier PastMatters columns, many 1870s San Diego pioneers lost their street name honors in North Park in 1899 and 1900. The original street names from present-day Alabama Street to Pershing Avenue were discussed in previous columns. This time the focus is on original names of north-south streets in the West End tract, which extends from present-day 28th to Ray streets and was formed in 1873 by William Jefferson Gatewood (1830-1888).

Gatewood was born in Illinois and came to California by 1850, when the federal census recorded him as a miner living in Sacramento. Two years later, the California state census recorded him as a miner in Calaveras County. By 1860, he was living in San Andreas, Calaveras County and working as a lawyer. Starting in 1867, he edited and published a newspaper there, called the San Andreas Register. He moved to San Diego in 1868 at the urging of Philip Crosthwaite — a San Diego resident since the 1840s and Gatewood's brother-in-law. Crosthwaite wanted Gatewood to bring his newspaper to San Diego. Gatewood published the first issue of the San Diego Union on October 10, 1868. Less than a year later, Gatewood sold his interest in the newspaper and focused on his career as an attorney who also dealt in real estate. The newspaper

continues to this day as the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Gatewood was actively involved in efforts to bring the railroad to San Diego, serving as president of the San Diego and Gila Southern Pacific and Atlantic Rail Road Company in 1869, and president of the San Diego and Fort Yuma Railroad Company in 1870. He became editor of another newspaper — the San Diego Daily World — in July 1872. Businesses advertising in the early issues included "J. Nash, general merchandise," and "A.E. Horton, real estate."

Gatewood died on March 26, 1888. The San Diego Union's March 27, 1888 issue announced his passing under the headline "Colonel Gatewood Dead: One of the Early Pioneers of San Diego Closes an Eventful Life." The article noted, "He filled many positions of public trust, and it may be said was always faithful to his constituents, regardless of party affiliations." Gatewood and his wife, Mary Crosthwaite — who died in 1881 — are buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Gatewood named his north-south streets after people he knew. From present-day 28th Street eastward, the original street names were Pemberton, Winder, Johnson, Gatewood, Brunson and Robinson. In the ordinances of 1899 and 1900, Pemberton became Idaho (later 28th), Winder became Utah, Johnson became Sherman (later Granada), Gatewood became Kansas (later 29th), Brunson became Nebraska (later 30th), and Robinson became Ray. Joseph Nash's Park Villas

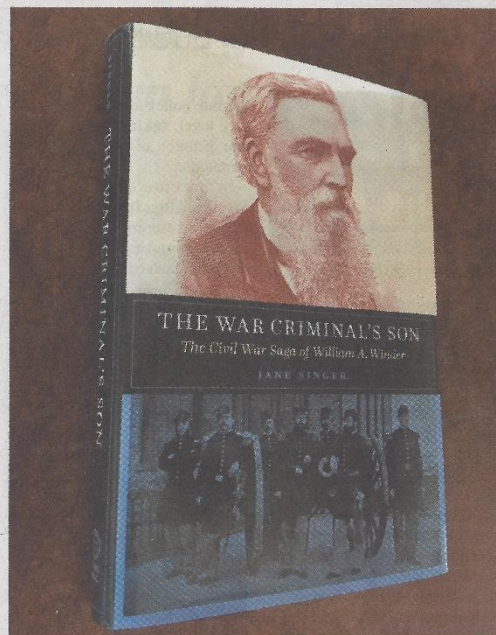
tract is on either side of West End; the shared streets now called 28th and Ray may have been named by Nash in 1870.

Historical records do not reveal a San Diego pioneer with the last name of Pemberton. If Gatewood provided the name, perhaps he wanted to recognize First Lieutenant (later Major) John Clifford Pemberton (1814-1881), who fought valiantly with the U.S. Army 4th Artillery in the Mexican-American War during the late 1840s. Gatewood served in the 3rd Regiment of Illinois Volunteers during this war, and may have fought in some of the same battles.

An argument against Gatewood honoring John C. Pemberton with a street name is that Gatewood was an ardent Unionist, while Pemberton fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Lieutenant General Pemberton surrendered Vicksburg to Major General Ulysses S. Grant in 1863. However, Gatewood wrote in the first issue of his San Diego Union newspaper in 1868 that his "influence shall be used in urging the people to lay aside the animosities engendered within the last few years." Maybe that also applied to Gatewood's own opinions about the Civil War.

If prominent merchant Nash provided the name, he may have wanted to recognize Mark Pemberton, who was born in Ireland in 1833 and came to the U.S. in 1868. In 1870, Mark Pemberton was living in Los Angeles. He became involved in contacting businesses and residents to subscribe to that growing city's first directory. The San Diego Daily Union's December 16, 1871 issue mentioned under "Los Angeles Items" that "M. Pemberton, who has commenced canvassing for a Directory, is meeting with encouraging success. We understand that the Directory will embrace... Anaheim...and other places in the county and will be a most valuable publication for all business men."

While the actual person behind the Pemberton street name is conjecture, there is no doubt Gatewood named Winder Street for his Old Town compatriot William Andrew Winder (1823-1903). Born into a prominent Maryland family, Winder stayed loyal to the Union while his father became an infamous Confederate general during the Civil War. Winder's interesting life story is told in "The War Criminal's Son: The Civil War Saga of William A. Winder" by Jane Singer. He spent much of the Civil War commanding a post at Alcatraz, then a military prison and a fortress guarding the Bay of San Francisco. In 1869, Winder arrived in



Utah Street was originally named Winder Street for William Andrew Winder, a San Diego pioneer and the fascinating subject of this 2019 book by Civil War author, researcher and lecturer Jane Singer. (Book photo by Katherine Hon)

San Diego's Old Town, where Gatewood had set up shop for his San Diego Union newspaper.

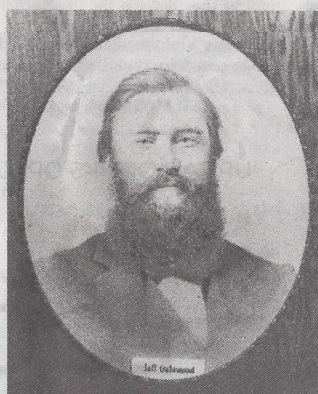
Fail to See Winder Tract, situated within five minutes' walk of the Motor Line soon to be completed to Old Town."

Winder played a role in establishing important infrastructure by participating with others — including Gatewood — in the San Diego Bay Shore Railroad Company to build a rail line from Old Town to Horton's Addition. Winder also helped develop the San Diego Water Works, which brought well water from Mission Valley to the growing town. He had the most success practicing medicine in early San Diego. Although Winder never attended medical school and did not have an official license when he began, he was referred to as "Dr. Winder" by 1872 and established an office in New Town in 1873. He attended to Gatewood's wife when she fell from a fishing boat and nearly drowned in 1875 and treated many other prominent San Diego residents.

Winder left San Diego in 1894 for a special government appointment in Round Valley near Sacramento, followed by other assignments in South Dakota. He died of cancer on March 6, 1903 in Omaha, Nebraska. Although he lost his North Park street name in 1899, a Winder Street survives in Middletown, extending east of India Street for a few blocks not far from the Winder Tract.

The next PastMatters column will examine the original names of more North Park streets in the West End tract.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990.



William Jefferson Gatewood came from San Andreas in Calaveras County to San Diego in 1868 and established the San Diego Union newspaper. He named what is now 29th Street in his West End tract Gatewood Street for himself. (Courtesy of Calaveras County Historical Society)



This sidewalk stamp on 28th Street at Landis Street reflects the state name 28th Street had between 1899 and 1914. The original name was Pemberton Street. (Photo by Katherine Hon)

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