

ABOUT THE HOUSE



From the Foundation President

As the 2024-2025 fiscal year draws to a close, it also marks the conclusion of my tenure as President of the McHenry Mansion Foundation. Reflecting on this past year, I am reminded that the success of any foundation comes not from one individual but from the collective efforts of its members. I am deeply grateful to the Board for their unwavering service, dedication, and support throughout my term.

Additionally, the Mansion could not function without the steadfast commitment of the Docent Council and the many Docents who contribute countless hours of volunteer time. Your tireless efforts are appreciated not only by the Board and our many visitors but also by the Citizens of Modesto, who recognize and value your service to our community. Thank you for all you do to preserve and share the legacy of the McHenry Mansion.

Looking ahead, the Foundation is in capable hands. The new slate of officers will soon take their places, and I extend my best wishes to Steve Hampton as he assumes leadership of the 2025-2026 Foundation Board. I am confident Steve, along with First Vice President Barbara Wesley, will guide the Foundation toward continued success.



*Carole Dovichi & Jessica Flores
July 4th 2024 Foundation Food Booth*

You will have the opportunity to meet Steve and Barbara at our Foundation Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, in the Mansion basement. A social hour will begin at 5:30 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:00 pm. Please, also remember to return your completed ballot by **June 10, 2025** to elect Officers as well as several Candidates for Trustee.

It has been an honor to serve as President, and I look forward to seeing the Foundation continue to prosper in the years to come. Thank you all for your dedication and for making my time as President so rewarding.

Carole Dovichi

President, McHenry Mansion Foundation

Hello Fellow Mansion Foundation Members,

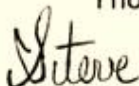
As most of you know, June marks the end of our fiscal year. It also means it's time for our annual meeting! This year, we're holding this event in the Mansion basement on June 17. The social time begins at 5:30PM with the meeting starting at 6:00. At this annual meeting, we'll receive reports from the committee chairs and have updates on the current projects. As a foundation member, you should have received your voting ballot containing the new and returning board members and officers. Please return your ballot via USPS or by hand to the visitors' center by June 6. You will also be able to vote at the meeting if needed. This vote formalizes the process spelled out in our by-laws for seating the foundation board and officers. As incoming president, I chaired the nominating committee this year. It was such a pleasure working with this dedicated team of volunteers to nominate next year's slate of incoming trustees.

My term as foundation president has arrived much faster than I anticipated. Fortunately, I've had several years on the board to experience and observe how the organization operates. While that's not the same as holding the gavel, I'm relieved that many of the people who have presided or served on the board previously are still involved. The wealth of knowledge and experience they hold regarding foundation processes is invaluable. I'm confident they won't let me lead us astray!

The dedicated volunteers involved with this foundation are its most valuable asset. Most of our committees are very active. With a board of almost 30 trustees, much of the heavy work is done at the committee level so that by the time a topic reaches the board, our options have already been identified. Please reach out to a board member or committee chair if you have an interest in serving on these important committees. While committee chairpersons are usually board members, committee members need only to be foundation members.

Our website is an excellent resource to stay aware of foundation activities. It has recently been upgraded to a new format. We also send out periodic communications such as this newsletter. As always, the gift store is open on Friday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday afternoons. Please stop by to say hello and see what new and exciting merchandise is available.

I hope to see you around the house soon,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve".

Steve Hampton

McHenry Mansion Foundation President 2025/2026

Tales of the McHenry Mansion

By Wayne Mathes

Over the last forty-plus years there have been a number of unique situations regarding the acquisition of objects, the acquisition of property and the restoration of the Mansion itself. Now is the time to share tales that you may find humorous, or shocking or just “What were you thinking?” type of events. I hope to make this a regular column in the Foundation’s newsletter.

The Acquisition of the Hall Tree in the Main Hall

I have told of its acquisition many times in docent training but I don’t think I have ever written it down or shared it with the Foundation’s membership. The hall tree was one of the very first acquisitions for the Mansion and was acquired in 1977 or 1978.

Kathy Menghetti was a member of the first group of volunteers that was organized shortly after the Mansion was purchased in April 1976. One or two people were assigned to research various aspects of the furnishing of the Mansion. Areas included, wallpaper, floor coverings, furniture, fireplaces, mirrors, silver, light fixtures, etc. A complete listing is on page 115 of Colleen Bare’s book: *The McHenry Mansion, Modesto’s Heritage*. Kathy was on the kitchen committee.

One day Kathy called me up and said that there was an auction on 7th street and that there were some things that the Mansion might be interested in acquiring. I went to the auction house (long since gone) and indeed there was. The walnut hall tree definitely caught my eye. It was the right period and was in excellent condition and had been acquired locally. Kathy said that if I bought it, she would pay for it. I bought it. It was \$1,800. She wrote out the check.

Shortly after that I learned that she had called up 18 of her friends and asked them each for \$100 and she would contribute the sales tax. 18 of her friends chipped in the \$100 and it was paid for.

Kathy and her friends are listed as the donors on the acquisition form.

As an aside, after I bought the hall tree, Mary Grogan, the Director of Parks and Recreation, called me into her office. She said there was no money in the city’s budget for the purchase of furniture for the McHenry Mansion. Therefore, I would have to pay for the hall tree out of my own pocket. Fortunately, I could fill her in on the generosity of Kathy Menghetti and her 18 friends.



The Mansion was not near-ready to receive furniture. Thanks to the generosity of Terry McGrath of McGrath Moving and Storage, that piece as well as other furniture that was acquired early on in the process was stored at their warehouse at no charge until such time as it could be installed in the Mansion.

The hall tree is made of walnut primarily in the

Renaissance Revival style with some hints of the curves of the Louis XV style. The brass hooks for hanging coats and hats feature the head of a griffin. Umbrellas and canes were held by wooden curved arms with circular cast iron pans below for cane points and to catch any rainwater from umbrellas. In the center is a large mirror so that one could check one’s appearance before entering the parlors. A small drawer below the mirror could be used for holding gloves. It is topped with a section of white Carrara marble

which could hold a vase or maybe a calling card tray. Hall trees were an essential piece of furniture near any exterior door and served in the same function as a hall coat closet does today.

Future topics will include the acquisition of the front parlor set (Did you really walk in someone's house and check it out when no one was home?),

the trophy in the back parlor (Don't come back from the antiques show without buying something with the retiring City Manager's donations.) and the large painting in the dining room (What do you mean the city car broke down on the way to the San Francisco Antique Show, you had it towed and abandoned it at the San Leandro BART station?).



The Wedding Anniversary Parties of Oramil and Myrtie McHenry By Wayne A. Mathes

Oramil McHenry and Myrtie Conneau were married on Thursday, May 15, 1902, in Tucson, Arizona. This marriage was reported in the local newspaper, but formal announcements were sent out by Myrtie's mother. The announcement noted when they would be "at home" in Modesto. Because the marriage took place out-of-state and due to the circumstances of the situation (the divorce), there seems to have been no special celebration or reception for the newlyweds at that time. Instead, the McHenry's celebrated with lavish anniversary parties.

The First Anniversary - The following account was published in the *Modesto Bee* on Sat. May 16, 1903.

At O. McHenry's Bald Eagle Ranch, a Delightful Affair.

"About two hundred guests assembled at the Bald Eagle ranch on Friday evening, in answer to the invitations to the "Bal Papiere," by which the first wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. McHenry was celebrated, and a most gorgeous affair it proved to be.

"The ball was held in the building which Mr. McHenry is putting up for his employees, and there was plenty of floor space for a great number of dancers. The room was most beautifully decorated with strips of crepe paper of every conceivable color, festooned from the roof to the side of the room, and by many electric light globes inside of Chinese lanterns. In one corner of the room was a raised platform from which an orchestra of twelve pieces discoursed the dance music.

"The ladies who danced all appeared in paper dresses, and the scene of unusual beauty made by the bright and handsome costumes may better be imagined than described. Suffice it to say that every gown in the room was handsome, and displayed taste and art upon the part of the makers. There were paper dresses of every hue, many of them decorated with roses and other flowers, which heightened the charming effect of the whole room. When the dancing started the floor was a maze of color and grace. Each lady brought a paper necktie, which matched her gown, and these were collected and distributed among the gentlemen, who found their partners for the grand march by finding the lady who wore the corresponding dress. The grand march was led by about a dozen handsomely arrayed young ladies and gentlemen and all of the dancers participated. This was followed by the German and several of the intricate figures were enjoyed. Then followed the waltz and the two-step in rapid succession, and everyone found pleasure in dancing to the strains of good music.

"About twelve o'clock the guests were invited to ascend to the second floor, where long tables had been prepared with refreshments, which were eaten with a relish and enjoyed to the utmost. When the music started again everyone danced to his or her heart's content, and it was one o'clock before the guests began to depart.

"Mrs. McHenry had been ill for some time prior to the party, but she was able to be about and enjoy the manifest pleasure of the others. By two o'clock nearly everyone had gone home, after an evening of rare pleasure, which will long be remembered."

Continued

Comments: The attendance of two hundred people suggests that probably anyone who was even remotely part of the Modesto social scene was invited. It was a brilliant move on the part of Oramil and Myrtie to have it in the new building at the Bald Eagle ranch since it could accommodate such a large group but it would not have any associations with any past events. Then too, the ranch had the necessary help to take care of the many horses and carriages that would have been necessary to transport all of the guests from Modesto to the ranch. Family recollections, namely Merle McHenry, remembered that a "French Seamstress" who regularly addressed the clothing needs of Myrtie, made the paper dresses for Myrtie and her sisters.

The Second Anniversary - The following account was in the *Stanislaus County Weekly News* Fri. May 20, 1904:

"Celebrated Second Anniversary of Wedding.

"The home of Mr. and Mrs. O. McHenry was the scene of a pleasant social affair on Monday evening, when about thirty friends of Mr. and Mrs. McHenry were invited to assist them in the celebration of their second wedding anniversary. A very delightful informal evening was enjoyed by all present, in music and cards, hearts being the game of the evening

"Mrs. D. C. Wood won the ladies prize and Judge Fulkerth captured the trophy for the gentlemen. The booby prize went to Mrs. J. J. McMahon.

"Late in the evening delicious refreshments were served and greatly enjoyed, and the guests departed with wishes for many more anniversaries and as happy ones."

The Third Anniversary - The *Stanislaus County Weekly News*, Fri. May 19, 1905 reported the following:

"Third Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. O. McHenry Delightfully Entertain at Euchre

"The third anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. O. McHenry was splendidly observed at their beautiful home on Monday evening when about fifty guests were entertained at cards. Eight o'clock was the hour set and most of the guests arrived at that time and were received by Mr. and Mrs. McHenry assisted by Misses Lena and Lettie Conneau, Bertha Toombs and Jessie Jacobset.

"An air of hospitality pervaded the beautifully decorated rooms. The decorations were most attractive in their simplicity, the color scheme of red being carried out by large bunches of scarlet carnations, red rambler roses and red poppies, here and there, forming a contrast with the bits of smilax entwined on the chandeliers.

"Progressive Euchre, the game of the evening, started about half past eight and continued until eleven, when the score cards were collected and while the guests were seated about the tables enjoying the conversation incident to such pleasant affairs, the prize winners were determined.

"While the guests were enjoying the delicious refreshments which were served at the small tables the prizes were distributed.

"Mrs. Sylvester Tillson and Mrs. P.J. Griffin had tied scores and had to cut for the prize. Mrs. Griffin cut the deuce of clubs and Mrs. Tillson, the trey of the same suit. The prize, an exceedingly handsome cut glass bon bon dish, went to Mrs. Griffin by one point.

"Thomas Downey was the gentleman who showed superior skill in the game by winning the greatest number and was rewarded with two handsomely decorated tumblers of green glass, embellished with German epigrams. The consolation prize was earned by Herman Rice. It was a small metallic representation of 'Maud'.

"After expressing their delight at the evening's entertainment and their thanks to the hospitable people whose third marriage anniversary was so pleasantly observed, the guests departed about midnight."

Comments: The article then goes on to list all of the guests that had been invited which totaled some eighty people. Not all attended. It is interesting to note who was not invited such as the W.H. Hatton's or J. E. Ward,

cashier at the bank who had been Oramil's best man at his first wedding. New wife, different friends? Also, no gifts were listed for any of the anniversaries. This might have been the wish of the McHenry's. When the J. J. McMahon's celebrated their anniversaries, books, pictures and stationary were listed as gifts for their paper anniversary and leather goods were listed for their third anniversary. The red flowers for the third anniversary were appropriate since red was Oramil McHenry's favorite color.

Sadly, this was the last of the McHenry wedding anniversaries. Oramil McHenry died on February 21, 1906.



Unforgettable moments deserve unforgettable gifts!
Find them at the McHenry Mansion Gift Store



**Open 12 to 4 PM
Friday, Sunday,
Monday & Tuesday**

**209.549.0428
924 15th Street
Modesto, CA**

McClure Country Place

Submitted By Steve Hampton

Unbeknownst to most Modesto residents, there is another historic residence that is of similar age and construction to the house we know and love in downtown. This is the McClure Country Place on the East side of town, by Creekside Golf Course. The house and property lie between a MID irrigation canal and Dry Creek Regional Park. My daily treks by foot and bicycle take me on trails that border this once majestic structure. This is another location where we can connect with and honor the pioneers that built our city. Unfortunately, it has become a forgotten property, while our attention has been focused on the now restored elegant city house downtown.



The original structure on this property was built in 1870 by a confederate veteran named Bailey Peyton Hogin. Bailey Hogin farmed the 60 surrounding acres, including the adjacent rich Dry Creek floodplain. Unfortunately, his original house was lost to fire in 1875, and he replaced it with this house in 1882. A Modesto Bee article in 2015 dated the house to 1881. In either case, it appears to be a year or two older than the McHenry Mansion! It was built in the Victorian Italianate style, which I'm sure we've heard somewhere before.

The house was the birthplace of Grafton Madoux Hogin, who became the Stanislaus County Sheriff from 1922-1949. In 1904, the house and farm were sold to an enterprising young man from Los Angeles, Ernest McClure. Mr. McClure farmed 320 acres south of the house, mostly in alfalfa, to support his active dairy. He added a peach orchard in 1925.

The City of Modesto purchased the house and 16 acres from Lawrence and Ida McClure in 1973. An additional 6 acres were purchased in 1975, to enable access from Claus Road through the peach orchard. At the time of the purchase, plans were to make the house into a museum. The idea of a living history agriculture museum was discussed using the barn and outbuildings to honor the area's past. Suddenly, in 1976, we all know what transpired due to the efforts

of the Gallo Family foundation on 15th street in Modesto. Faced with two Victorian mansions to preserve, it still makes sense that funding and efforts were dedicated to the one downtown and not the one East of town that has limited access.

The city had caretakers living in the house from 1992-2001 including one city official. Charged little rent, they were tasked with maintaining the house and grounds. With no resident caretakers after that time, little maintenance has been done to preserve the house. During this period, students from Downey High built a caretaker's cottage on the South side of the property. The City declared the property excess in 2015 and attempted to sell it to the dismay of McClure descendants. A claim was filed claiming breach of contract, and the sale was stopped.



Currently, the house sits abandoned, surrounded by chain link and concertina wire in a feeble attempt to keep vandals and vagrants out. This once proud house that hosted many social events in the 1940s-1950s is slowly rotting away and hidden in encroaching shrubs, trees and vines. Despite its current sorry state, one can visualize as you pass by on the trail, and peek through the chain link fence, how life used to be in what used to be the rural East side of town.

MEMORIALS

Joyce Campbell

Kathy Thompkins
Diane Keller
The MoneyTree Investment Fund
L. & M. Conkey
Paul Baxter

Steve Collins

Mansion Docent Council
Carletta Steele

Patricia McDaniel

Gary McDaniel
Crystal Mansey
Kelly McCarthy
Mare Shouse
Mr. & Mrs. M. Williams
Diane Keller
Jennifer Ruijsenaars
Barbara Atkins
Jerry Dowd
Mr. & Mrs. Radanovich

To make a memorial or honorarium contribution, make checks payable, and send to:
McHenry Mansion Foundation, 924 15th Street, Modesto, CA 95354.

Include the name and address of the person or persons to receive a contribution acknowledgement.

McHenry/Langdon Neighbors—The House Across the Street

By Wayne A. Mathes

For many years the land across the street from the McHenry home was empty and undeveloped. Matilda McHenry, from her front porch, had an unobstructed view of the First Presbyterian Church at 14th and I Streets. She had been instrumental in its formation and the construction of the building and could easily walk the short block every Sunday morning to services.

P. Latz and His New House

Then in 1889, three twenty-five-foot-wide parcels at the corner of 15th and I streets were purchased by Phillip Latz. The lot, 75 feet wide and 140 feet long, would be the site of his new house.

P. Latz (in those days men went by the initials of the first or first and middle names) had moved to Modesto from his native San Francisco in 1884. He and his partner, Alexander Meyer, established a dry goods business. It was first located on the H street side at the corner of 10th and H streets, later moved to the 10th street side and then subsequently moved across 10th street to 840 Tenth street which he initially rented, then purchased and then enlarged for his growing business. The business was known as Meyer & Latz. In 1899, Latz bought out Meyer and it was then known as Latz Department Store. It specialized in women's and children's clothing and household goods such as bedding. (The 10th and H corner saw the construction of the Tynan Hotel in 1890. Many of the displaced businesses on that site later occupied the ground-floor retail spaces of the hotel.)



P. Latz

House Construction

Construction of the house did not begin on the 15th and I street site until 1891.

An article in the *Stanislaus County Weekly News*, Friday, Aug. 28, 1891 pg. 3 states "The foundation for the handsome cottage residence of P. Latz is being dug." The term "cottage" is appropriate. It was not nearly the size of the McHenry house. According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Nov. 1894, the house was a single-story structure made of wood and with a wood shingle roof. One of the outstanding features on the front of the house (which faced 15th street) were two large bay windows on either side of a small front stoop. The house was of sufficient size so that it could easily accommodate himself, his wife and their two sons. The contractor and builder of the house was C. Hansen.

Moving the Latz House

Then in 1919, the *Modesto Evening News*, March 3, 1919 pg. 10 reported "LATZ HOME SOLD AND TO BE MOVED" "C. T. Jackson, manager of the Stanislaus Lumber company, has bought the Latz house at the northwest corner of Fifteenth and I streets and will move it to a site on the northeast corner of Fourteenth and G streets where he already owns a dwelling house and several vacant lots. Mr. Latz, with his wife, contemplate traveling through the east and possibly in Europe. Contractor S. H. Clark will move the house for Mr. Jackson as soon as Mr. Latz vacates."

One can only surmise why Phillip Latz decided to sell his house but keep the lot. There were probably many factors. One factor could have been the changes in the neighborhood. The First Presbyterian Church's wooden building was replaced in 1912 with a much larger stucco edifice in the Mission Revival style. The McHenry Library was built at the corner of 14th and I streets in 1911-1912. The James Apartments, which was across from him on I street, also began to be constructed in 1911. The residence next door on Fifteenth Street was turned into flats and next to it was a bungalow court with "ideal rooms for young men". Both were advertised

for sale in 1916. It is not known when the residence became flats or when the bungalow court was built. Then too, by 1919 the McHenry Mansion was no longer the residence of William and Myrtie (McHenry) Langdon. It had been turned into a commercial establishment—Elmwood Sanitarium. Latz's 15th and I street property was of a size that easily could have accommodated an apartment house like the James Apartments. It would have fit right in with all of the other apartments in the area.

The reference to travelling possibly in Europe might have been triggered by the fact that his former partner, Alexander Meyer, and his family had spent an entire year doing the "Grand Tour" of Europe in 1908. Also, by this time his two sons were of an age that they could manage the store. (His son, Sylvain, had married in 1914.) Another factor was that Latz, who had been born in San Francisco, had many friends and relatives in the City. It was probably his intention to eventually retire to San Francisco. And indeed, one finds Phillip Latz listed in the San Francisco City Directories as owning a residence there in 1922 until his death in 1930. (His official retirement from the Modesto store did not occur until 1927.)

Latz House Relocation to Semple Street

Now, back to moving the house. Colleen Stanley Bare, in one of her *Modesto Bee* columns suggested that the house was moved by teams of horses and rolled on logs. By 1919, this seems a little out-of-date. Mechanized equipment could have easily handled the job. Also, since the March newspaper announcement, the relocation site had changed. The house was moved to 215 Semple Street. Another factor was that C. J. Jackson unexpectedly died on Oct. 24, 1919. What is known is that the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Nov. 1919 shows the 15th and I Street site as having no structures except for two small out-buildings and the 215 Semple street site has a house with two large window bays and a small stoop in between. The other change at the Semple Street site is that the back of the house is noted as having two stories. This suggests that the unfinished attic space of the house had been modified to accommodate extra living area. This was accomplished by adding extended dormers. This can be seen today.

Yes, the Latz house is still in existence at 215 Semple Street!

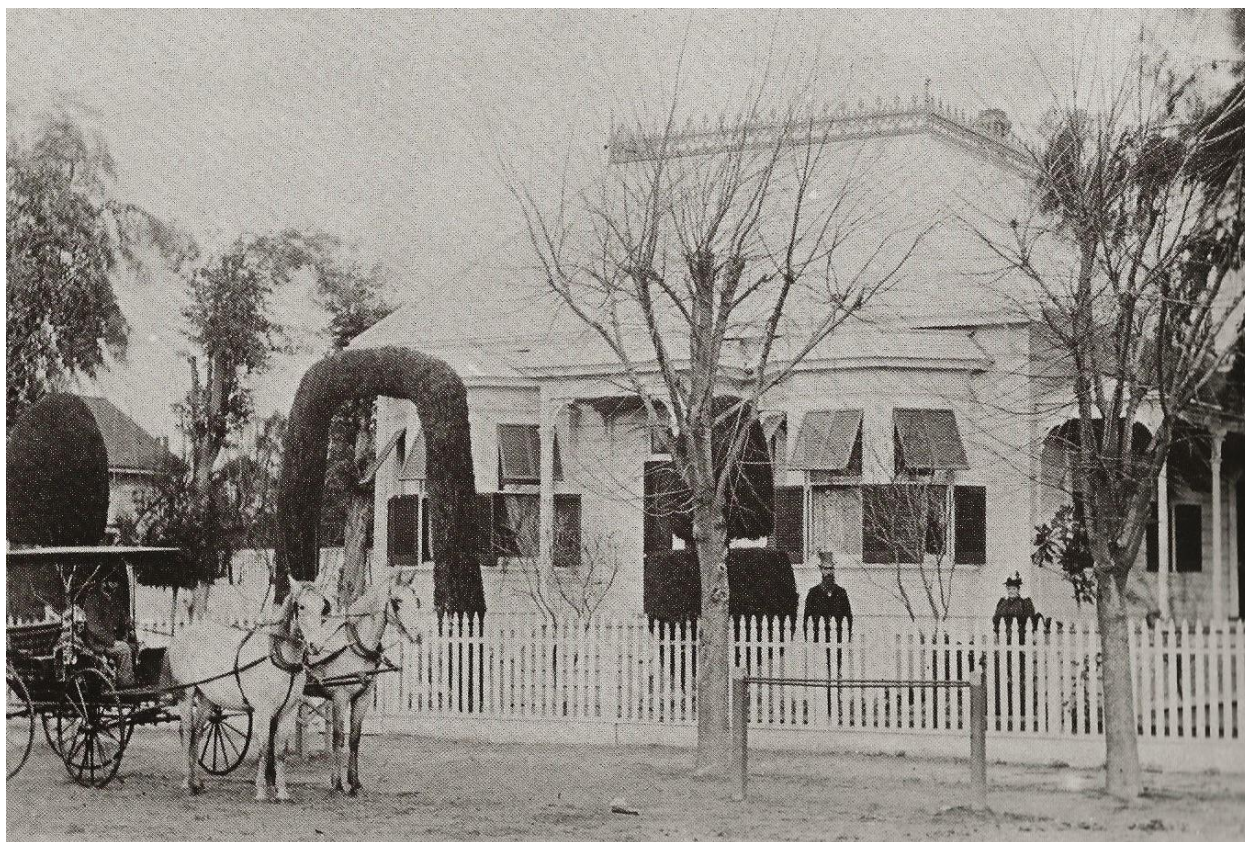


Do drive by. It is situated on a fifty-foot-wide lot and so is a little cramped. In the 1920's, "apartment for rent" was listed at this address. In 1929, E.L. Bates was listed as the owner. His wife was very active socially with her church circle and with the WCTU and so made the newspaper quite often. Today it is listed as a five-unit apartment house. The front of the house is in remarkably original condition. There are the two large window bays and the front stoop. It all looks as it would have in 1891, albeit for a little wear and a bright blue paint job. The front roofline also is original. The cheap-looking dormers are obviously a later addition. The front steps would have had more decorative handrails or maybe no handrails at all.

Since this picture was taken, the house has received a new paint job in front. It is now bright blue with white trim around the windows, white stoop and white steps.

Photograph of a Twin House?

An early photograph of another house in Modesto, the James Johnson house at 814 7th Street, is remarkably like the Latz house. The only difference seems to be a side porch on the right-hand side. This photograph has been dated to the early 1890s. The *Modesto Bee* Fri. Aug 22, 1890 pg.1 states: "The new eight room residence of James Johnson is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy in two weeks. H. M. Coleman is the contractor." Note how the two bays come right up to the eaves of the roof. And, of course, there is the decorative ironwork at the top of the roof. It is entirely possible that the same set of plans were used since both houses were built within one year of each other.



The James Johnson House with Mr. & Mrs. Johnson out front.

The Empty Lot at 15th and I Streets

Now, back to the empty lot at 15th and I streets. Whatever plans P. Latz had for the site never came to fruition. The Modesto City Directories for the 1920s don't even list the address. With no structure on the lot, the term "vacant" could not be used. It was just empty. In 1930 an announcement in the *Modesto Bee* notes the construction of a new Hughes Super Service Station at Fifteenth and I Streets. In 1968, Norman Lampson took over the site, remodeled the building and operated Lampson Tire and Automotive until 1978. At that time the

Modesto Bee purchased the site for conversion into a service facility for newspaper route delivery trucks. The need for a larger service facility, which was constructed on G Street, freed up the 15th & I Street site. In 1995 the property was donated to the City of Modesto, and it became McClatchy Square. (It was named after the McClatchy family who owned the Modesto Bee.) It features a rose garden dedicated to Aileen and Julio Gallo and a statue of a Modesto Bee paper boy by sculptress, Bette Saletta.

Next time you are on the front porch of the McHenry Mansion, use your imagination and picture the Latz cottage across the street.

Addenda: Alexander Meyer House

The City of Modesto directory of 1893 lists the residence of Alexander Meyer as 15th Street between I and J Streets. Further research shows that Alexander Meyer bought four lots in block 112 from Mrs. Margaret E. Byrum on Nov. 1, 1890 for \$1,000. Block 112 is the same block that P. Latz bought his lots. Then in the *Stanislaus County Weekly News* Fri. May 27, 1892, it is noted that "A. Meyer's new house is nearing completion." The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Nov. 1894 shows the outline of a house with one large bay and a porch located more or less across the street from what is now the McHenry Mansion Visitor's Center and Gift Store.

James Johnson, Pioneer Businessman

James Johnson, although not a neighbor of Robert McHenry, certainly knew each other. Johnson was very much involved in real estate and local politics. An advertisement in the *Modesto Bee* Thu. Jul. 12, 1888 promoting the sale of subdivided lands known as the Brichman Addition lists as agents: Robert McHenry, James Johnson and John B. Brichman. Obviously, they were business partners in this project.



JAMES JOHNSON (1848-1923) was a native of Denmark and was a shoemaker by trade. In 1868 he immigrated to the United States settling in Illinois. In February 1870 he arrived in Paradise City where he was a shoemaker. When Modesto was founded in October of 1870, he moved to the new town of Modesto. He ran a shoe shop which evolved into a shoe store. He was successful at this but in 1884 he branched off into real estate and insurance. He was one of the first developers. He continued to expand his holdings including creating the Johnson Block on I Street, other business properties and a ranch on the Tuolumne River.

He was very active in politics. He lobbied for the removal of the County Seat to Modesto. He was a member of the first Board of Trustees of Modesto when it was incorporated in 1883 and was city treasurer for twelve years. He supported the creation of the irrigation systems of Modesto and Turlock. In 1905, he retired from his businesses and devoted his time to tending his buildings and property.

H. M. Coleman, Contractor

H. M. COLEMAN (1854-1896) was the contractor that built the James Johnson house, A native of the state of Georgia, he arrived in Modesto in about 1880 and engaged in the carpentry business. Some of the notable houses that he constructed included those of Theodore Turner, J. H. Hayes, W. H. Hatton, Dr. C. W. Evans, C. M. Clarey as well as the Johnson residence. He also remodeled the old Brooklyn Hotel in 1893 for Oramil McHenry.

Unfortunately, H. M. Coleman died at the age of 42 due to Consumption (Tuberculosis). Consumption can be a disease that can kill very quickly, or it can be a chronic ailment. He lasted about one year. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge.

Independence Day Celebration

Join us as we celebrate the 4th of July with patriotic pride. The McHenry Mansion will be adorned in red, white, and blue, offering a perfect backdrop for this festive day. The Mansion will be open for self-guided tours before and after the parade.

Mansion volunteers will be selling donuts, coffee, hot dogs, chips, sodas, water, and our **delicious root beer floats** from our well-known booth. Please visit us in front of the mansion to enjoy our treats and the wonderful parade. The booth will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 12:30.

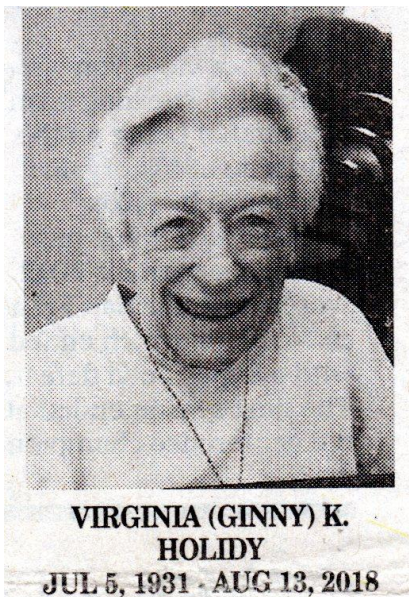
We hope to see you there! -Sandra Nerland, Guild Chair



**AND, Shop the
Visitors Center Gift Store
for fun items with patriotic flare!**



CORRECTION: In our last issue, Virginia Holiday's name was regrettably misspelled. We honor our generous benefactor with the following reprint from the Modesto Bee.



**VIRGINIA (GINNY) K.
HOLIDY**

JUL 5, 1931 - AUG 13, 2018

Ginny, age 87, passed away peacefully at Stratford Assisted Living on August 13, 2018

She was born on July 5, 1931 to Edward and Emma Klopf of Elizabeth, IL.

After graduating from Elizabeth High School, Ginny attended Dubuque School of Beauty. In 1951, she moved to Modesto, where she worked and eventually owned and operated her own beauty salons.

Ginny married Clyde (Hap) Holiday in 1960. They enjoyed fishing, camping, water skiing

and riding their Gold Wing motorcycle. Later they purchased a small parcel of land and raised almonds.

During retirement, they split their time between Modesto, Pismo Beach and Port Townsend, Wa. After Hap's death, Ginny took time to travel. She enjoyed the diversity of other countries.

Preceded in death were her parents, husband and brother.

Ginny is survived by nephew Gregory Klopf (Daphne) and her close friend of many years, Joan Fischer.

Significant Dates of the McHenry Family

APRIL

- 4 Robert McHenry re-elected to MID Board from District 3 - 1888
- 6 Robert McHenry purchased 4 lots in Stockton - 1868 (Robert & Matilda McHenry lived in Stockton for 4 years at the corner of Beaver St. [now Madison] and Flores St.)
- 12 Death of Ned Marr - 1953 (He was the husband of Lois Langdon, Merl's half-sister and the daughter of Wm. Langdon and Myrtie McHenry Langdon)
- 15 Birth of Lawton William Landon - 1913 (Merl's half-brother.)
- 18 Death of Edna Carson - 1966: (Third wife of Robert Albert McHenry, the grandson)
- 20 Marriage of William Langdon to Myrtie *Conneau* McHenry. - 1908
- 27 Robert McHenry filed a Preemption Claim on a parcel of land on the Stanislaus River not to exceed 160 acres. - 1853
- 27 Robert McHenry and James F. Rutherford buy lot and building in Jacksonville for their butcher business. - 1863
- 29 Dedication of McHenry Library. - 1912

MAY

- ? Matilda McHenry, Oramil & Louise McHenry visit the Chicago World's Fair. 1893.(Traveling by train, they were at the Fair on the 11th. Exact departure date unknown.
- 11 Birth of Louise *Bilicke* McHenry Babcock. - 1867. (Oramil McHenry's first wife.)
- 11 Death of Lois Ann *Langdon* Marr. - 1973.
- 13 Death of Annie Conneau. - 1910. (Myrtie's mother. She died in the Mansion of influenza at age 63.
- 14 Funeral for Annie Conneau - 1910. (Funeral was held at the Mansion.)
- 15 Marriage of Oramil McHenry and Myrtie Conneau in Tucson, Arizona. - 1902
- 15 Oramil appointed executor of his mother's estate by the Superior Court. - 1896
- 26 Birth of Russell McHenry, son of Oramil and Louise McHenry. - 1895
- 26 Robert McHenry bought 5 lots at 15th and I Street, the future site of the McHenry Mansion. - 1880

JUNE

- 1 Robert McHenry begins construction of the house at 15th & I Streets. - 1882
- 2 Birth of Edna *Carson* McHenry, 3rd wife of Robert A. McHenry, the grandson. - 1900
- 9 Modesto Irrigation District formed. - 1887
- 24 Death of Robert McHenry. - 1890
- 25 Grave site purchased by Oramil McHenry for \$40 in gold coin.
- 26 Funeral of Robert McHenry, 2 p.m. at the Mansion. Burial in Acacia Cemetery. - 1890
- 30 Death of Ora Louise McHenry, only daughter of Oramil McHenry, due to burns sustained from using an alcohol burning curling iron. - 1901

Compiled by Wayne A. Mathes