

ABOUT THE HOUSE



*Joyce Townsend & Freda Motto
ready for July 4th at the Gift Store.*

From the Foundation President

Hello Everyone,

The completion of the 2025/2026 term is arriving at the end of the month. It's fitting to share the month with graduations, because that's like what the mansion board is doing. Many are graduating (terming out), while new folks are beginning their terms. At the June 16 annual meeting, we'll recognize both the graduating (retiring) and incoming individuals. We're fortunate to have active engaged committees, where most of the hard work gets done. Committee chairpersons will be giving updates to the membership.

The most recent project undertaken by this year's board is the regilding of 3 picture frames. I wasn't quite sure what gilding entailed and assumed the "gold" was just sprayed on. Incorrect! This project

pushed me to do a little research and now I have the fresh material I've been looking for to use during my tours. My apologies to those who already know this, please bear with me.

Gilding is the decorative art of applying a microscopically thin coating of metal leaf—such as gold, silver, copper, or palladium—onto a solid surface to add brilliance and luxury. Tracing back to ancient Egypt, it is heavily used to beautify picture frames, furniture, architectural domes, and fine art. (I copied this from Wikipedia)

Application: Ultra-thin metal leaf is delicately pressed onto the tacky adhesive. Because the leaf is a fraction of a hair's breadth thick, artisans use specialized brushes and static electricity to handle it.

We used a portion of Virgil Farquahar's bequest to fund this. I like to think Virgil would be proud to have these physical things to show for his generosity. Look for them on your next visit.

Our next big event will be the 4th of July booth in front of the mansion. Come visit for a place in the shade under the magnificent elm trees to observe our patriotic parade, while patronizing our refreshment booth.

As this is my last communication as president, I

wish to thank everyone on the board for their time and all foundation members for their support. Next year is sure to present more challenges, including how we use the upstairs visitor center space at 924 15th St. I'm sure the new board is up to the task of making these tough decisions.

See you around the house,

Steve

President
McHenry Mansion Foundation





WEDDINGS, are one of our favorite seasons at the McHenry Mansion and that translates into some of our **FAVORITE GIFTS!** Our wonderful gift store volunteers will guide you to the perfect gift or splurge for yourself.

In addition; there's a tremendous sale, **50% off** on beautiful bar ware, another unique and thoughtful wedding or anniversary gift. June is dairy month too and we have some fun ice cream themed decor and gifts. And for the Patriotic, don't miss our seriously cute red, white and blue items.

WEDDING GIFT SELECTION





UNIQUE & AFFORDABLE



McHenry Mansion Foundation
Gift Store & Visitors Center

Remember Foundation members **ALWAYS** receive 10% off your total purchase at the gift store!

We can't wait to see you!!

Hello everyone,

I begin my leadership role in July and would like to start my year as president by expressing my appreciation of the people who care and who help us to fulfill our mission to 'Preserve, Restore, Interpret and Support the McHenry Mansion'.

I'd like to give a great big THANK YOU to all our members. You don't realize how important you are to the ongoing mission of the organization! Whenever you drive down I Street, please just take a look at the lovely building on the corner of 15th and remember that you play a part in keeping it open and lovely!

A huge Thank You goes to the Foundation Board and the Mansion Docents. The Board oversees with care and consideration the many activities at the Mansion.

Our Docents fulfill the "Interpret" part of our mission statement. Your knowledgeable, informative tours bring our historic building to life. Your participation in every facet of our mission is much appreciated! Without you well, we just couldn't do without you! This year's Visitor count as of March 31st was 12,296. That is impressive!

And another huge Thank you to the City of Modesto for a productive and cooperative collaboration! Jessica, you are so helpful and so full of creative, exciting ideas. And Laura, thank you for all your loyalty, dedication and hard work. You create beauty at the Mansion, you are always there for us and I don't have words to express how much we appreciate you!

That's all for now!

Barbara Wesley

McHenry/Langdon Neighbors—L. W. Fulkerth

By Wayne A. Mathes

Another 1890s new house in the neighborhood, such as the Latz's and Hatton's, was the residence of Loren William Fulkerth. It was located just three blocks away at the corner of K and 14th Streets. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of August 1891 shows its footprint with the notation "being built".



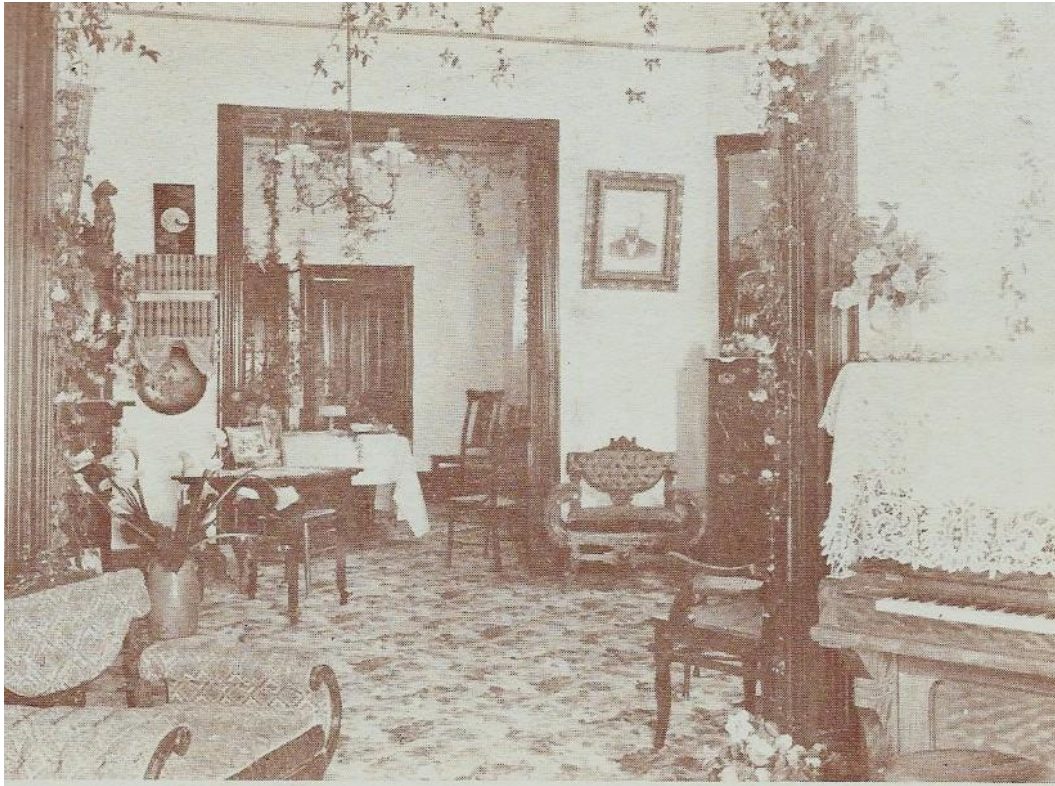
LOREN W. FULKERTH was not just a neighbor but also a family friend of Oramil and Myrtie McHenry. It was he who remarried Oramil and Myrtie on January 11, 1906 in case their Arizona marriage might be contested after Oramil's death which occurred the following February. He was a member of the first Board of Trustees of the library that was to be built as a bequest of Oramil McHenry.

L. W. Fulkerth was born in Iowa in 1860; but, the family moved to California the following year. They moved to Stanislaus County in 1868. In 1880 he received a B.S. degree from University Mound College and then went to the Hastings School of Law where he graduated in 1883. He formed a law partnership with W. H. Hatton which was dissolved when he won the election to be District Attorney for Stanislaus County. He served two terms. After that time, he set up his own practice. In 1902 he was elected Superior Court judge and held that position until his death in 1934. He was married to Lena Morton in 1887. He also was a proponent of irrigation.



The Fulkerth house in about 1896. It was demolished in November 1969.

The Fulkerth house was quite stylish with lots of embellishments. Although noted on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps as being only one story, the windows in the gables would suggest that the attic space could have been finished and used for some purpose. The bay window jutting out diagonally from the corner of the house with its pointed roof would have been an expensive design element. The front porch is most attractive with its unique railing and the pierced boards of the crawl space below—not just your typical lattice—add to its charm. The bracketed eaves, the roof decorations and the exterior shade shutters all create a most pleasant dwelling.



Interior View of the L. W. Fulkerth House

This photograph of the interior of the L. W. Fulkerth house shows the parlors and dining room decorated before a party in 1893. The view is from the front parlor looking through the back parlor and into the dining room. Flowers and vines drape the openings between the rooms with fresh bouquets of flowers on the piano and on probably a table near the piano. A large vase filled with calla lilies is on the left in the back parlor in front of what could be a fireplace. The dining room table also seems to be draped with vines or possibly smilax from the central light fixture to the four corners of the table. This was the style at that time.

The upright piano, placed at an angle and near the doorway, is in its rightful place to function for both the front parlor and the back parlor. The piano is draped with a cloth of what appears to be made up of Battenberg lace. Opposite of the piano is an armchair also in the doorway and similar to the chair to the right of the doorway to the dining room. These chairs are probably from the 1880s. The portrait above the far chair is that of Asa Fulkerth, L. W.'s father. On the other side of the opening is a clock and two rows of books which appear to be a set since they are identical. The lower shelf is draped with a "tidy". Peeking out from behind the "tidy" is a circular framed piece which quite possibly might be an arrangement of hair as flowers. It also appears that the dining room chairs have been placed around the back parlor since they are not needed at the dining room table. The dining room table is set for the refreshments for the evening with a cake on a footed stand along with other delights.

The central light fixture in the back parlor looks like a three-arm gas fixture. Did the Fulkerth's have their house plumbed for gas?



OPEN before, during, & after the parade!

FOOD BOOTH

15th & I Street



McHenry Mansion
Foundation

**SEE YOU
THERE!**



While supplies last!

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MCGRATH FAMILY

Kathryn Burns-Jepson

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.