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Sourisseau Academy

Smith-Layton Archive presents:

Marching to a Different Beat

Visionaries, Innovators, Eccentrics, and one Religious Zealot!

by Thomas Layton

*Les Amis (The Friends)
November 2017*

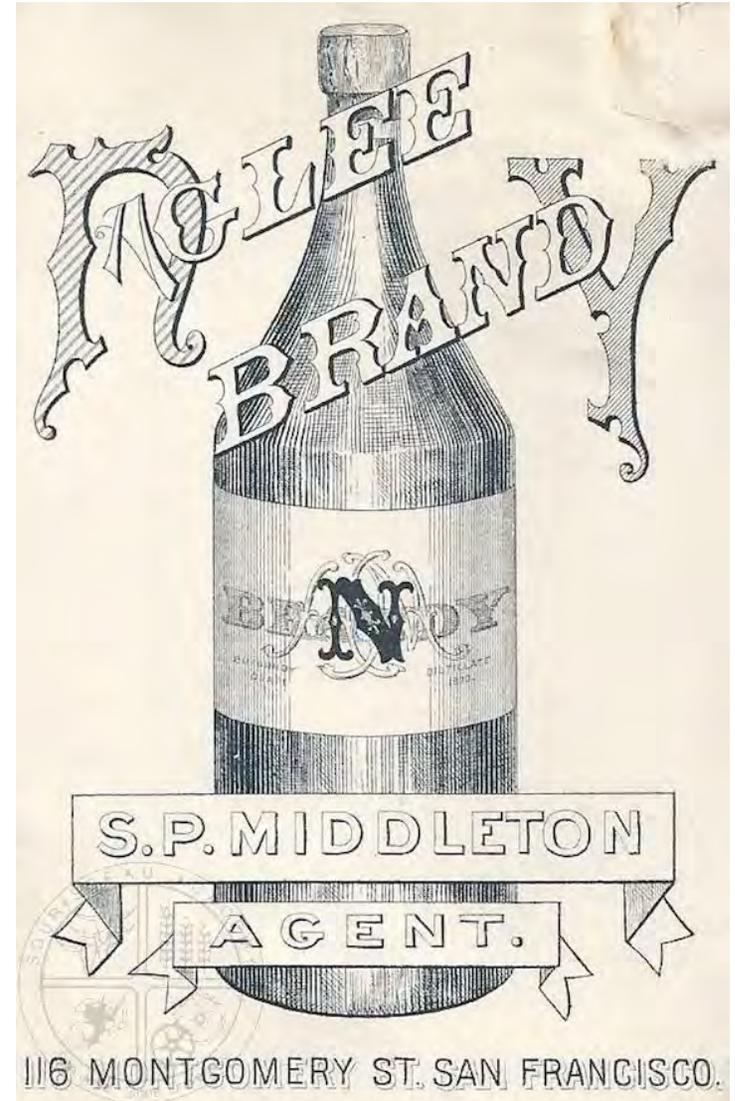
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[128] **Sarah Knox-Goodrich (Women's Rights Activist) 1825-1903.** Although the 1889 Knox-Goodrich building at 34-36 South First Street immortalizes the names of her two deceased husbands, Sarah Knox-Goodrich left a unique legacy of her own. Beginning in 1868, she undertook a lifelong campaign for the political and social emancipation of women. She convinced her first husband, California State Senator William Knox, to secure passage of a bill that gave women the right to dispose of their own separate property by will. Then, in 1876, when the men of the San Jose Parade Committee refused to allow the San Jose Suffrage Association to march in the United States Centennial Parade, Sarah wrapped her house, which fronted on the parade route, in massive banners with quotes from the Founding Fathers, such as *Taxation without representation is tyranny* and *We are governed without our consent*.



[129] **Henry Morris Naglee (General and Entrepreneur) 1815-1886.** General Henry M. Naglee (seated center-right) an 1835 graduate of West Point, served honorably in the Mexican War (1846-1848) and the Civil War (1861-1865). However, his name is most associated with San Jose's 602-lot Naglee Park Subdivision, where his estate once consisted of a large home, a vineyard, and a brandy distillery. But historians now credit Naglee with establishing the first bank in California that was to make Montgomery Street the heart of the San Francisco business district, while the California Wine Institute credits him as the father of our brandy industry. It is also now recognized that it was Naglee, trained as an Army Engineer, who developed the workable flood control plan for the City of Stockton that led to the reclamation of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. (Caption information supplied by April Halberstadt.)



[130] **Carrie F. Young, MD (Editor, Doctor, Lecturer) 1828-1911.** Separated from her husband and supporting a teenage son, Carrie Young was on her own in 1870 when she arrived in San Jose to become Corresponding Editor of the *California Agriculturist*. She had always been a free spirit, campaigning at first for John Fremont and then for Abe Lincoln in the 1860 Presidential election, after which she lectured widely in favor of temperance and women's rights. While editing the *California Agriculturist* in San Jose, Carrie founded the *Women's Pacific Coast Journal* and had it printed by the Women's Co-operative Printing Union. Re-titling it as the *Pacific Journal of Health*, she published it with two more name changes before 1882, when she entered medical school. After graduating at age 56, she specialized in women's health and proceeded to lecture on medicine, women's rights and temperance for the rest of her career.



[131] **Judge Boston (Vagrant) c.1824-1900.** There was once a time, before the homeless became a public health conundrum, that a mentally unbalanced alcoholic vagrant could achieve a gentle tolerance, a modicum of affection, and even local fame. You are probably thinking of Emperor Norton in San Francisco, but we refer to Judge Boston of San Jose! On April 8, 1888, the *San Jose Evening News* reported that Judge Boston (aka Michael McLaughlin) *was seen sleeping gently on the soft side of a box in front of Willard's Cigar Store on Santa Clara Street.* The Judge, *one of the best known characters about the streets of San Jose . . . was dreaming of legal conquests at the bar in Boston . . . His daily toil of late has been holding down chairs in suburban wine parlors.* Sourisseau Historian Charlene Duval has discovered the back-story — that Judge Boston, despite his delusions of grandeur, was the recipient of a small sailor's pension from his service aboard the U.S.S. Ohio in 1846 during the Mexican War. (Caption information supplied by Charlene Duval.)



[132] **Astley David Middleton Cooper (Artist) 1856-1924.** Although classically trained, by all measures (productivity, income, fame) Astley David Middleton Cooper may rank as the Santa Clara Valley's most successful commercial artist. A chance assignment by Leslie's Magazine to visit the Sioux Indians provided Cooper (then in his early 20s) with a recurrent theme that lasted throughout his career. Today we tell the story of two locally-produced paintings wherein Cooper transmuted a Roman theme, based on a Greek legend, into an American Indian fantasy in his Egyptian-styled studio at the corner of San Antonio and South 21st Streets.



[133] **More Cooper!** In 1905, Henryk Sienkiewicz won the Nobel Prize for Literature, largely for *Quo Vadis*, his best-selling novel about early Christian Rome. George Ferguson, the owner of the New Louvre Art Cafe, commissioned Cooper to paint a scene from that book as a centerpiece for his drinking establishment. Cooper's masterpiece revealed a beautiful, nude Christian hostage, tied to the back of a raging bull in the center of a torch-lit arena, with her handsome Roman savior twisting the bull's head by its horns into bloody submission. But wait, there is an alternative story: that both Cooper and the author of *Quo Vadis* were each also inspired by the Rape of Europa by Zeus, who in Greek mythology, transformed himself into a bull and carried off Europa to the island of Crete!



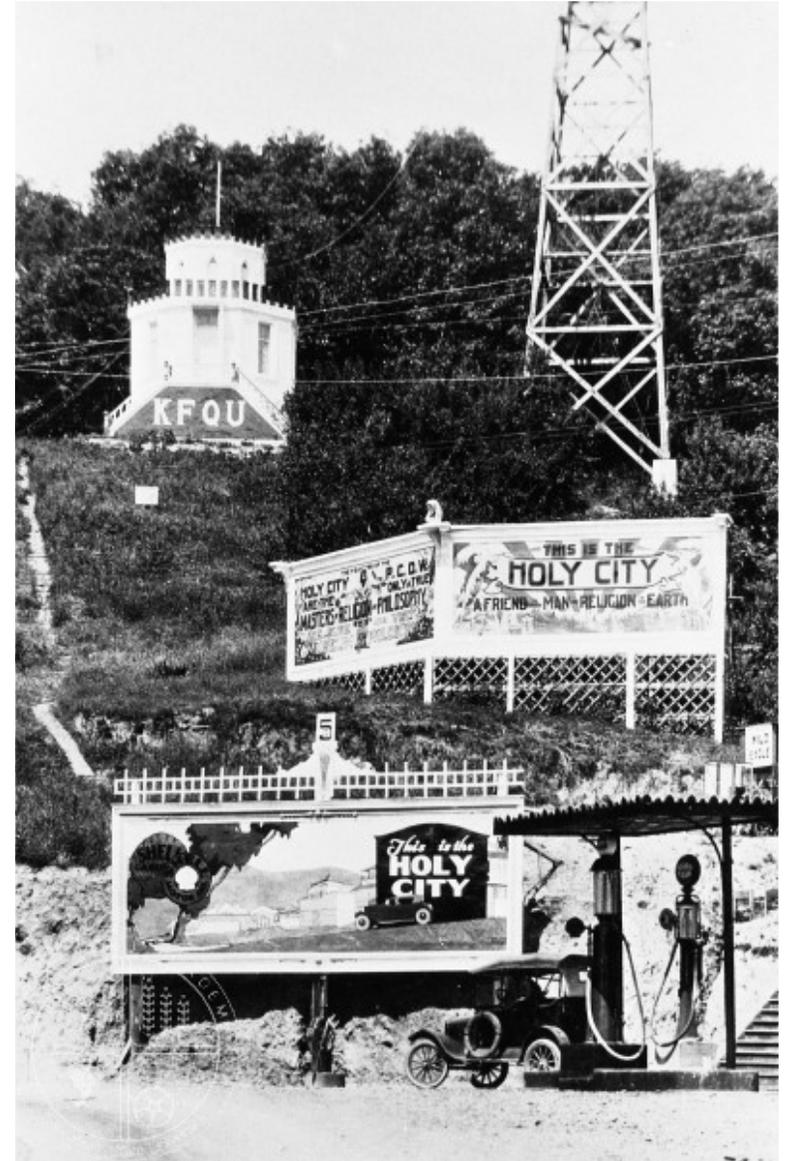
[134] **Cooper: Redux, with a twist!** But, the co-mingling did not stop there! Cooper received so much attention for his alluring Quo Vadis/ Europa-inspired image, that he milked that acclaim for another bankroll, by painting a slightly different version, now owned by our Sourisseau buddy, Jim Salata. This image featured an almost identically posed nude maiden, tied to the back of an identically posed American bison and being rescued by a handsome, identically posed Native American warrior!



[135] **Henry L. McDuffee (Inventor) 1913.** For over a century before it became known as Silicon Valley, the Santa Clara Valley served as an unabashed incubator of innovation. Exactly 103 years ago, with the same confidence as a dot.com adolescent courting a venture capitalist, Henry R. McDuffee of Gilroy proudly touted his own inventions — solid, puncture-proof rawhide tires and unbreakable springs — for both of which there may still be an unexploited market!



[136] **Sarah Winchester (Philanthropist) c1840-1922.** Sometimes known for the never-ending construction at the heavily marketed Winchester Mystery House, Sarah's wealth financed her projects. Modern historians focus on her steadfast record of philanthropy. She established the William Wirt Winchester Hospital in New Haven, CT to honor her husband. The hospital specializes in pulmonary diseases.



[137] **William E. Riker (Religious Zealot) 1873-1969.** In 1918, "Father" William Riker, acting on messages from God, founded Holy City as a religious commune just south of Los Gatos on Old Santa Cruz Highway. Holy City was a popular roadside tourist attraction replete with gas station and restaurant. In 1925, Riker established the KFQU radio station, apparently the real Federally-assigned designation and not an obscene acronym. Riker, a four-time but unsuccessful candidate for Governor of California on a White Supremacist platform, was arrested for sedition in 1942 because of his support of Adolf Hitler. His attorney, Melvin Belli, won an acquittal by convincing the jury that Riker was a "crackpot." Riker then sued Belli for defamation, but lost.



[138] **Dudley "Dud" Degroot (Football Coach) 1899-1970.** A quarter of a century before Bill Walsh completed his Bachelor and Master degrees at San Jose State College and then went on to achieve acclaim for his coaching genius, San Jose State fostered the career of another coaching icon, Dudley "Dud" Degroot. Degroot, who was a 1924 graduate of Stanford University, was no "dud" as an athlete (he lettered in five sports) or as an academic (Phi Beta Kappa), but he achieved lasting fame for his coaching record at San Jose State College. In 1931, the year prior to Dud's arrival as Head Coach, the San Jose State football team had achieved the "almost perfect" record of seven losses and one win. One year later in 1932, Degroot achieved a legendary turnaround: seven wins and two ties. Then in 1939, Dud's San Jose team went undefeated! Less known facts are that Degroot later completed a doctorate and in his spare time became a recognized ornithologist, specializing in the study of eggs — of which he had collected almost 10,000 by 1935.



[139] **Krazy George Henderson (Cheerleader) b. 1944.** We end our photo album with Krazy George Henderson, a San Jose original. George got his start as a San Jose State University cheerleader in 1968, where he was also a member of the Judo team, which won the National Championship. Following graduation, George became a high school teacher, but he missed the roar of the crowd and returned again and again to lead cheers in Spartan Stadium. It was then that George, armed with only a gravelly voice and a hand drum, first turned a passive stadium crowd into a dynamic work of performance art! Initially, his specialty was to get opposite sides of the stadium to shout and answer in increasingly rapid succession. Word of George's unique skill soon spread; and in 1975, the San Jose Earthquakes hired him to be their official cheerleader. For the next three decades, George plied his trade for a long list of professional teams. He claims credit for having been the inventor of the Wave, in which each segment of a stadium crowd stands and sits in rapid succession, thus giving the impression of a giant wave rolling around the stadium. Talk about Marching to a Different Beat!