

Finding Aid to the Pleasant Hill Historical Society Collection

Descriptive Summary

Title: Pleasant Hill Historical Society Collection

Date Range: 1973-2019

Collection number: Accession 2019.39

Extent: 44 boxes of various sizes

Repository: County History Center, Contra Costa County Historical Society, 724 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, 925-229-1042

Abstract: The Pleasant Hill Historical Society began with a meeting on September 19, 1973, under the auspices of the Pleasant Hill City Development Committee. It was held at City Hall to "Launch the Historical Society Project" as recommended by an April 1973 Pleasant Hill Citizens' Forum, of which Sarah C. Young was chairman. Others at the meeting were Justice A.F. Bray, Ruth Galindo, and other invited guests. The first meeting of the newly formed Pleasant Hill Historical Society (PHHS) was held on November 12, 1973. Ruth Galindo was the first speaker. She spoke on The History of William Welch's Rancho Las Juntas, which Pleasant Hill occupies almost one half of its area. Their quarterly newsletter was established on September 17, 1975. The Society's collection came to CCCHS in 2019.

Physical location: Special Collections and as noted in arrangement of materials.

Legal status: public

Information for Researchers

Access: Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights: Contact the Contra Costa County Historical Society for publication permission.

Preferred Citation: Suggested citation of these records is: [Identification of item], Pleasant Hill Historical Society Collection, Contra Costa County Historical Society.

Scope and Content: Pleasant Hill Historical Society was founded in 1973. The collection include records of the organization (minutes, president's binders, archives records), photographs, maps, biographies, subject clipping files, society newsletters, school photos, school clippings, school records, and scrapbooks.

Arrangement of Materials:

Organizational Business Records

Society Business Records (7 boxes)

Business records include minutes of board of director's meetings, president's notebooks, correspondence, society bylaws, records of the archives and accessions, programs and flyers, and preservation projects.

Box 1 (files 1-8) Records of the archives, accessions journal, expenses, library.

Box 2 (files 1-9) Historical & Cultural Center. Records include bylaws, minutes & records 1979-1997, archivist log, photo processing procedures, miscellaneous materials on running archives.

- Box 3** (files 1-7) Business records include school children contests, pioneer awards, membership, programs by Ted Fuller, program flyers, correspondence, and City of Pleasant Hill Cultural Resource Management.
- Box 4** (files 1-10) Business records include research notes, history of society, Pleasant Hill Histories, H. Greenfield historic survey, Friends of Rodgers Ranch, Geary House, president notebooks for Darlene Appell (1975-77), Margie Alkire (1981-82), and Karen Gibbin (1982-84), and president agenda & minutes 1884-87.
- Box 5** (files 1-5) Business records include president notebooks: 1989-90, Ted Fuller (1990-91), Vallie Jo Whitfield (1991-92).
- Box 6** (files 1- 6) Business records include president notebooks: 1992-93 (Vallie Jo Whitfield), 1993-94 (Vallie Jo Whitfield)
- Box 7** (files 1-4) Business records include present notebook 1995-97 (Vallie Jo Whitfield), misc. minutes 1988-2013.
- Box 8** (files 1-5) Society newsletters 1975-2004, subject index, rubber sign with president's names, bound volume with index 1978-1994; Membership list no. 3.
- Box 9** Thumbnail histories A-Z, plus clipping files, obits.
- Box 10** Information cards

Special Collections

Vallie Jo Whitfield Collection (4 boxes)

- Box 1:** (files 1-4): typeset copy manuscript of her book "History of Pleasant Hill"; early drafts of "History of Pleasant Hill" by chapters, and some early notes.
- Box 2** (files 1-16): early manuscripts "History of Pleasant Hill"; correspondence about "History of Pleasant Hill"; ledger about events surrounding book; Whitfield books mailing list; news articles about her books; research notes; draft of speech "Medical Matters at Pleasant Hill 1852-1975;" "Geary House;" "Diary" handwritten notes; "Diary" letters; "Vallie Jo Memories;" "Out and About" show on Televents transcript; financial records & mailing list concerning books.
- Box 3** (files 1-9): accounting ledgers; "Virginia History & Whitfield Biographies;" Heritage Tree program notes; Contra Costa Commission on the Status of Women;" "Life of Vallie Jo Whitfield," "Life of Robert E Whitfield;" poetry; correspondence-family; correspondence-general; correspondence-personal.
- Box 4** (file 1-13): awards, certificates, correspondence re death of son Robert Whitfield Jr; Whitfield family scrapbook stuff; photos; Whitfield family history; "Land Titles Whitfield;" Robert E Whitfield 1948-1971; poems by Robert E Whitfield; school work Robert E Whitfield; Spanish/Mexican family research; obituary and funeral announcements; historic sites to visit; twenty years of Pleasant Hill research at city hall; index A-L & M-Z.

Family Files Collection (2 boxes)

- Box 1** (files 1-19): Rodgers; Ben Hartinger oral history; Madeline Filomeo oral history; early settlers of Pleasant Hill; biographical sketches of Pacheco, Galindo, Boss, Clark, Fish, Hamilton, Hazeltine, Halloway, Hook, Larkey, & Morgan; Brackett/Hook; descendants of Jose Francisco Juarez; farms & farm houses; early Contra Costa families: Bernal, Martinez & Higuers, Moraga; Geary family; Welch family; San Miguel neighbors; Las Juntas owners.
- Box 2** (files 1-12): Dukes family; Arundel Keane; bios from PHHS newsletters.

Pleasant Hill Woman's Club Collection (2 boxes)

- Box 1**
 Folders 1-4: Scrapbook, items from 1970s-1990s
 Folders 6-7: Scrapbook, items from 1959-2001
- Box 2**
 Folders 1-3: Records from 1989-2002

Folder 4: Newsletters 2000-2002

Folder 5: Procedure manual and other documents of national organization

Pleasant Hill Arts Council Collection

Box 1 (files 1-5): pages from two photo album/scrapbooks of the Pleasant Hill Arts Council from 1955-1987. See also scrapbook in Scrapbook Collection, box 4.

School Collection (12 boxes)

The school collection includes class photographs, school photographs, histories, news articles, reunions, lists of teachers and students, school newspapers, school PTA newsletters and minutes, and school district information. Most of the material pertains to the early grammar schools and the closed Pleasant Hill High School. These are housed in the County Room on the school shelves.

The schools included are the three original grammar schools in Pleasant Hill, schools of the Pleasant Hill School District, current and former schools of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District (Gregory Gardens, Pleasant Hill Elementary, Strandwood Elementary, Valhalla Elementary, Oak Park Elementary, Sequoia Elementary, Sequoia Middle School, Pleasant Hill Intermediate, Pleasant Hill Middle School, Pleasant Hill High School, Mt. Diablo High School, and College Park High School). Also included are some private schools. Colleges include Diablo Valley College (DVC), Cal State Hayward Satellite campus, and John F Kennedy University.

Box 1 (files 1-17): original deeds, land patent, first grammar school, second grammar school, third grammar school, might include photos, teacher & student lists, history, treasurer journal, PTA; 1941 ed. of The Beacon, plaque.

Box 2 (files 1-11): lists of children and families 1860-1940s of the Pleasant Hill School District

Box 3 (files 1-12): Pleasant Hill School District, Pleasant Valley Unified School District, school districts in the county, Vallie Jo Whitfield notes about Pleasant Hill schools.

Box 4 (files 1-15): preschools, Pleasant Hill Junior Academy, Pleasant Hill Intermediate, Pleasant Hill Middle School, Sequoia Middle School, Valley View Middle School, College Park High School, Mt. Diablo High School, Contra Costa Community College District, Diablo Valley College, Cal State University Hayward/East Bay, JFK University

Box 5 (files 1-12): Some elementary schools—Christ the King, Fair Oaks, Gregory Gardens, Oak Park, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Hill PTA, Sequoia, Strandwood, Valhalla—some folders include photo.

Box 6 (files 1-6): Class photos, Oak Park School, 1952-57. Some class photos are labeled.

Box 7 (files 1-6): Class photos, Oak Park School, 1958-63. Some class photos are labeled.

Box 8 (files 1-7): Class photos, Oak Park School, 1964-70. Some class photos are labeled.

Box 9 (files 1-8): Class photos, Oak Park School, 1970-75. Gregory Gardens School, 1962 & 1980. Class photos are labeled.

Box 10 (files 1-16): Pleasant Hill High School Parents Club minutes 1953-73.

Box 11 (files 1-6): Pleasant Hill HS Rampage 1953-1980, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, other educational items; Rambler 1978

Box 12 (files 1-14): Pleasant Hill High School. Memories, teachers, closure, course of study, reunions, parent's club Ram Horn, fight song & school hymn

Subject Files Collection These are housed within the society's city clipping files.

Boxes 1 & 2: Subjects A–Z (3 boxes)

Box 3: Real Estate & Subdivisions (1 box). Housed within the society's city clipping files. This includes land, real estate, subdivisions, and surveys.

Scrapbooks

Box 1 (files 1-6): East Bay History Museum. This is a collection of brochures and photos of museums in the East Bay that house historical materials.

- Folder 1: general materials and Rodgers Ranch
- Folder 2: Antioch, Pittsburg, Martinez, and Concord
- Folder 3: Morago, Concord, Museum of San Ramon Valley
- Folder 4: Tassajara, Forest Homes Farm Park
- Folder 5: Lafayette, Clayton
- Folder 6: Hank Greenfield Scrapbook (1977-78), news items about events in Pleasant Hill

Box 2 (files 1-5)

- Folders 1 & 2: 1920 Grammar School Scrapbook, 1928-1948.
- Folder 3: Pleasant Hill Parent-Teacher Association Ledger.
- Folder 4. Scrapbook pages from Mr. Moise's Scrapbook 1946-1948. He was principal of Pleasant Hill Grammar School.
- Folder 5: Framed certificate to Lucy Hutchenson, dated 1869.

Box 3: Pleasant Hill Grammar School photo and scrapbook, 1920-1946.

Box 4: Pleasant Hill Arts Association scrapbook; Scrapbook kept by Hank Greenfield; Scrapbook of Pleasant Hill Historical Society membership

Box 5: Scrapbook of clippings about the Geary House and the efforts to save it.

Artifacts These are stored in Special Collections.

Box 1: commemorative plate celebrating the centennial of city of Antioch, weaving tools, Seal of the County Recorder, cocktail napkins depicting Pleasant Hill City Hall dedication, cocktail napkins "Pleasant Hill 1961-1991."

Box 2: framed graduation certificate from the Department of Public Instruction to Alonzo Larkey, in 1881 from Pleasant Hill school. Matted photo of Arundel "Kokie" Keane, 1976 citizen of the year. Framed proclamation from the County Board of Supervisors in recognition of the 1920 schoolhouse, dated June 26, 1982. Schoolhouse honor roll, dated June 26, 1982 containing three pages of signatures. Framed certificate from California Association of Secondary School Administrators, certificate of accreditation to Pleasant Hill High School, expires June 30, 1964. Framed certificate of appreciation from the City of Pleasant Hill to Pleasant Hill High School, 12 Oct 1964.

Box 3: VHS tape "The Inside Story of DVC's Emeritus College" by Ruth Mary Whalen at the Pleasant Hill Historical Society on February 17, 2002. Movie film of Oak Park School Spring Festival, 2nd Annual, 1954, silent speed 16 fps.

Photo Collection Stored in the Photo Collections.

The photo collection consists of six boxes of prints, negatives, slides, and photo albums. The collection has several binders of indexes to the numbered photos.

Indexing Terms: school history, schoolteachers, school newspaper, PTA minutes, PTA newsletters, reunions, student lists

Personal Names: Vallie Jo Whitfield, Darlene Appell, Margie Alkire, Karen Gibbin, Robert E. Whitfield, Arundel Keane