

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

(818) 882-5614

chatsworthhistory@gmail.com

www.chatsworthhistory.com



Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

April 2018, Issue #2

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

This past weekend Earth Day was held in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. It was a great day. The weather was perfect not too hot not too cold. The event started with a Native American Blessing. What could be better? I am not good at numbers but I would guess that there were perhaps 2,000 visitors. I heard from many that they wish that the Preserve would be open more than once a year. I think that what makes the day so special is because we only go in once a year and it remains undamaged from having visitors all the time. As we all know sometimes there is little respect for the surrounding area that people visit.

Everyone at the acre is busy getting ready for our Garden Festival. The gardens look great and the extra rain has helped. Martina Turner is busy getting the tea ready and I feel from all the questions about the tea it is going to be a great success. Ann Vincent who is our event chair has been overseeing all the details for the event. She makes it look easy but it is quite a time consuming task.

I hope everyone can make it to the Garden Festival. It is not only one of our two fundraisers but it is a fun day for everyone. I will say thank you in advance to all the volunteers who are helping to make this a great day.

Happy Spring, Linda and Andre



Chatsworth Historical Society
Board of Directors 2017-2018

Co-Presidents	Linda & André van der Valk
Treasurer.....	Jim Van Gundy
Secretary.....	Donna Nachtrab
Hospitality.....	Jelena Csanyi
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Director-at-Large.....	Connie Ager
Honorary Member.....	Bea Berman
Honorary Member.....	Elaine Campbell

Upcoming Events

April 17, 2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM

General Meeting

**Monarch Butterflies at the
ACRE**



As we prepare for Garden Festival, we are enjoying our amazing gardens. Come join us to hear about our Butterfly Garden at the Acre created by Nadia Harding. She will share what she has done to create ours, explain the life cycle of the butterfly, and let you know what to do to create your own butterfly garden.

April 29, 2018 Sunday 11-3:00 PM

CHS Fundraiser

**A GARDEN FESTIVAL
& Duchess Tea**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend. The event is open from 11-3pm. The Tea will be served from 11:30 -1:30 or until we run out.

May 15, 2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM

General Meeting & Installation of Officers

The Chatsworth Timeline

Join us for a trip through the timeline of our own Chatsworth history. Learn about the first settlers, their challenges and accomplishments, and see how Chatsworth has grown over 130 years...

DOCENT DOINGS at the ACRE:

Our docents keep busy with projects throughout the year. We meet every Wednesday morning 9-noon.

OUT IN THE GARDEN:

If you need some outdoor fresh air therapy, come join our gardening team on Wednesday mornings 9-noon.

IN THE MUSEUM: We are preparing a new display of photos and information to represent Chatsworth's 130th Anniversary. Be sure to check it out at one of our general meetings or at Garden Festival. We will continue to have open house scheduled for the first Sunday of each month from 1-4pm.

IN THE COTTAGE: An inventory project is still underway to confirm and learn more about the items on display and their history so we can provide more information on our tours.

DOCENTS ARE NEEDED: Help guide guests through the museum and cottage during our Open Houses and Special Events. If you would like to learn the history of our community and help share it with others, then contact us for more information at chatsworthhistory@gmail.com.

Chatsworth Historical Society - Memorial Brick Project

At the request of members of the Chatsworth Historical Society, we have decided to establish a Memorial Brick plaza adjacent to the Time Capsule at the Homestead Acre. It will be an ongoing project to honor family and friends. Bricks are laser engraved up to 3 lines of 18 characters, and are available for a donation of \$100.

Click the link below for the Memorial Brick Order Form

<http://www.chatsworthhistory.com/CHS-BrickOrderForm.pdf>

For more information send an email to chatsworthhistory@gmail.com or call 818-882-5614.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH GENERAL PROGRAM RECAPS

Ann Vincent

At our February 20th general meeting, we had a great turn out for the 1917 Jack and The Beanstalk Movie program. We had a large number of State Historic Park volunteers in attendance. They will be sharing the movie history of the park as they continue to give tours.

On March 10th Saturday night at the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala, the Historical Society was represented by Bea Berman as she cut the "Chatsworth 130 Years" Birthday cake.

On March 12th the Historical Society provided a presentation on the History of Chatsworth Park Elementary School to the students at the school. Three general assemblies were held in the 1937 Auditorium covering all grade levels. We concluded each assembly by playing the Chatsworth Song in celebration of Chatsworth's 130th birthday, which the children loved.

On March 19th the Historical Society provided a presentation "Ancient Peoples of the Channel Islands - West of the West" for the SSMPA general meeting. It was held at the Chatsworth Branch Library multipurpose room, and it was a full house, standing room only event.

Our March 20th general meeting featured a presentation titled "The Minnie Hill Palmer Story", a recap of that presentation is included in this newsletter.





Enjoy our
Duchess
Tea in the
Garden

Chatsworth Historical Society Presents...

A GARDEN FESTIVAL SUNDAY, APRIL 29th 2018

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
HOMESTEAD ACRE

Located just inside Chatsworth Park South
(West End of Devonshire Street)
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Make plans to attend a beautiful day in the garden. Admission is \$5 per adult, Children \$1 and those under 5 years are free. All proceeds go the preservation of the Homestead Acre and Museum.

Highlights of the day include our Duchess Tea served from 11:30-1:30 pm. You can purchase your \$12 ticket for the Tea in the Garden. Bring your children or grandchildren and join us. If you have a group of 10 or more please make reservations by emailing chatsworthhistory@gmail.com.

Vendors and Artists will be on hand to share their displays and creative talents. A variety of Craft demonstrations will be provided.

Garden Clubs and Community Groups will also be providing information. We will have the wonderful Veteran's Quilt Display. A homemade bake sale, live plant sale and Arts & Crafts are all part of the event. Free Craft activities for children and adults.

Tours of the Minnie Hill-Palmer Cottage and the Virginia Watson Chatsworth Museum will be available.

Parking is limited at Chatsworth Park South. Park your car at the Chatsworth Train Depot (10038 Old Depot Plaza Rd) and use our free shuttle service, every 15 minutes from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

ENJOY THE ROSES!

For more information contact
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com

Or visit our website at
www.chatsworthhistory.com



Drought
tolerant
and Native
Plants will
be
available



A large
selection of
vendors
with
outstanding
handmade
and
specialty
items



Group seating reservations for 10 or more

THE MINNIE HILL PALMER STORY

This program was a fun event that documents the Hill Palmer Family story for future generations of our members and docents. We were fortunate to have personal interviews from Minnie Hill Palmer and her family members that were the basis of the program. We enjoyed exploring the details that make this pioneer family stand out in our Chatsworth History.

So let's start at the beginning....



James David Hill (1842-1923) and **Rhoda Jane Enlow** (1846-1935) were married in Arkansas in May 1865, one month after the end of the Civil War. James was born in Indiana, and at the age of 19 he enlisted in the Iowa Infantry, as a Union Soldier. Rhoda was born in Arkansas, and her older brother Francis was a Confederate Soldier in the Arkansas artillery. Her father was blind so he did not serve in the war.

After the war, the Enlow family sold their plantation and came out to California in a wagon train. The Sierras were covered in snow, so they camped in Nevada for the winter, then crossed over to Visalia, Ca., where there were already other Enlows and relations settled. James and Rhoda followed the Enlows; their first daughter Ruth was born in Iowa in 1867, and they joined the Enlow families in Visalia by 1869.

Quote from Minnie Hill Palmer, "My father James came to Los Angeles from Visalia about 1870 to find work. My mother, Rhoda Jane Enlow Hill, brought my two older sisters to Los Angeles in 1871 to join my father, riding the **Old Stage Coach Road through the Santa Susana Pass from San Francisco.**"

1886 - James and Rhoda Hill moved to Chatsworth with their 6 children and take up squatter's rights on their homestead. (Minnie, their 7th child, was born on the property in 1886). To homestead, they built a wood-frame house, an

adjacent barn, well and fencing, and cultivated 10-12 acres.

I will briefly introduce the children of Rhoda and James in order of their birth....

Ruth Hill, (1867-1947) the oldest child of Rhoda and James, married a sea captain named Hunter who died at sea. She then married Frank Ackerman, and they homesteaded 42 acres south of the family homestead. It is said that Ruth at the age of 19 when they first arrived in Chatsworth, would drive the horses and supply wagon into Los Angeles, a two day journey so the men could continue farming.



Rim Rock Ranch homesteaded by Ruth and Frank Ackerman



Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hill, their second daughter, married John Lawrence Glinn at the age of 16, in 1886 three months after the family arrived in Chatsworth. They had two children John (b. 1887) and Clarence (b. 1890). Glinn's

property adjoined the Hills, and in the 1892 Chatsworth City Directory, of the sixteen people listed, John's entry is "**Glenn John L, rock and quarry**". In 1893, John and Lizzie were divorced, and both of the Glinn boys lived at the Homestead house for a time. By 1910, while the Glinn boys are at the Hill Homestead, Elizabeth was living in Missouri with James Farner and his two children from a previous wife.

James David Jr. (1872- 1957) the third child, married Ollie Duke in 1894 at the age of 22. In 1901 they lived in Simi Valley with their daughter Elsie and son James Robert. That marriage failed and son James Robert lived at the Hill Ranch with his grandparents. In 1902

James Jr married Eva Gibson. They raised a large family in Los Angeles and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1952.

Lovell Hill, (1876-1952) the fourth child of Rhoda and James, was 10 years old when the family homesteaded. He lived in the house with his parents most of his life as a bachelor. He married Laura Straw Hindman abt. 1935 at the age of 59, and adopted her two daughters from her previous marriage.

The Graves & Hill General Store was operating on Topanga at Lassen from 1906 to 1915. Fred Graves and Lovell Hill bought the store after the death of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, the previous owners. Lovell Hill was postmaster from 1912 to 1915. From 1923 to 1952, Lovell and Alfred Palmer worked for the Trojan Powder Company, delivering dynamite to San Diego, San Bernardino and Oakland.

Rhoda S. Hill (1880- 1969) the fifth child of Rhoda and James, married Arthur Smith in 1910 at the age of 30, it was her second marriage. They had one daughter, Fay Smith. Rhoda was blinded due to the use of improper medication when she was a young girl. Rhoda and Arthur took care of James Sr. at their home in his last years. Arthur enclosed the

front porch of the homestead cottage with Minnie's son Leroy.



Mary Edna Francis Hill (1882-?) the sixth child of Rhoda and James, was born in Wilmington, Los Angeles. We do not have any information about her except that in 1900 at the age of 18 she married William P. Taylor.

Minnie Alice Hill (1886-1981) the seventh child of Rhoda and James David, was born at the Chatsworth homestead in 1886.



Minnie attended the 1890 Santa Susana School located at Devonshire and Santa Susana (Topanga). The School was renamed Chatsworth Park Elementary

in 1902 after the Simi Valley Santa Susana School was built.

Calla Lily Hill (1891-1982) 6th daughter, 8th and last child of Rhoda and James David Hill.



Calla Lily married Floyd Hardacre in 1910 when she was 18. Floyd died 9 years later at the age of 33. In the 1920 census, Calla Lily is living at the

Homestead with her two children, Lillian and Charles. Her future husband Ernest Nelson is listed as a boarder at the Homestead in the 1920 census, they would be married in August of that year.

More stories about Minnie and how the cottage became a Historic-Cultural Landmark are available at the links below.

We continue to stay in touch with Hill Family descendants that have been helpful in sharing information, stories and photos about what it was like growing up on the ranch. And we were very fortunate to have Virginia Watson interview Minnie and capture some wonderful stories.

The Minnie Hill Palmer Story is at chatsworthhistory.com under Presentations. Select [The Minnie Hill Palmer Story](#). Or go to slideshare.net/chatsworthhistory, the [Minnie Hill Palmer Story](#)

Chatsworth Historical Society Virginia Watson Museum & Gift Shop

The following items are available for sale during Open Houses on the first Sunday of the month. To arrange to purchase items at other times, email chatsworthhistory@gmail.com to make arrangements for payment and shipping, if necessary.

CHATSWORTH HISTORY by Virginia Watson	\$10.00
CHATSWORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL The First 100 Years by Ioline Cleveland	\$10.00
WINDOW INTO THE PAST by William Schepler	\$10.00
QUIET ON THE SET by Robert Sherman	\$25.00
OUR PIONEER MOTHER As told to Lenora Johnson MacDonald	\$10.00



DIGITAL RECORDS online at
<http://www.chatsworthhistory.com>

facebook CHS FACEBOOK PAGE
www.facebook.com/HomesteadAcre

SLIDESHARE.NET
<https://www.slideshare.net/ChatsworthHistory/presentations>
Slideshare has a listing of our CHS presentations that can easily be watched online. Enjoy!

Can we Email our newsletter to you?
Please email us to provide your email address.
Thanks! chatsworthhistory@gmail.com

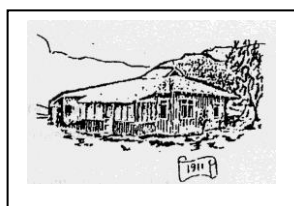
Wondering if your Dues are Due?
Your dues are due one year after the last time you paid your dues.

For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you by email when your dues are due.

For snail mail, if you have an asterisk at the end of your name on the mailing label, your dues are due.

Please use the form below to renew your Membership. And if your neighbor is not a member yet, pass this newsletter on to them and invite them to join.

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Form



Your membership helps support our Homestead Acre and the educational and historical programs we provide for our community. Members receive our quarterly newsletters, and receive invitation reminders regarding our monthly programs and annual events – Rose Pruning, the Garden Festival, Membership Roundup, and Pioneer Day. Please mail this form with your annual membership dues and/or contribution made payable to:

Chatsworth Historical Society, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com 818-882-5614 www.chatsworthhistory.com

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | |
| Yearly: | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$20.00 |
| Life Membership: | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 125.00 | | |

NAME _____ **Phone:** _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ **Email:** _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

Special Interest / Expertise: _____

Reminder: If you got this mailed to you, an asterisk on your label means your dues are due!

The Chatsworth Historical Society Presents



A GARDEN FESTIVAL

Featuring Roses, Crafts, Plant Sales
Celebrating 130 years of Chatsworth History

Vendors and Garden Clubs
Arts, Crafts, Demonstrations

The Duchess Tea

- \$12 per person
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Served in the Rose Garden

1911 Homestead
Cottage Tours
Rose Garden Tours

Museum Exhibits

Featuring Chatsworth Pioneer
Families and Historic
Community Photos

Bake Sale
Hot Dogs and Soda



For information and tea reservations (+10 persons), please email chatsworthhistory@gmail.com

**Note: Parking is
limited at
Chatsworth Park
South**

Park your car at the north
end of the Chatsworth
Train Depot
10038 Old Depot Plaza Road
and use our free shuttle
service, every 15 minutes
from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 29, 2018

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$5 Admission Donation – Children \$1

Kids under 5 Free

THE HOMESTEAD ACRE

At the First Stop Sign in **Chatsworth Park South**

(West End of Devonshire Street)

10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311

chatsworthhistory@gmail.com 818-882-5614 www.chatsworthhistory.com

*All Proceeds go to the Chatsworth Historical Society for the preservation of the
Minnie Hill Palmer Homestead Acre and the Virginia Watson Chatsworth Museum*