

Appendix C

Compiled by Stanley D. Stevens

Newspaper Items Regarding the 1890 Election Precincts and Election {as distinct from the Official Legal Notices}

Source: Santa Cruz Sentinel 1872 Mar 30 4:1

Mrs. Ellen R. Van Valkenberg, who applied prior to the last election to the County Clerk of Santa Cruz County to inscribe her name on the Great Register as a legal voter, on refusal, appealed the case to the Supreme Court. The Court has given the case an exhaustive review, and concludes that her claim by the first section of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution is not based upon fact. This amendment only took away the authority of a State to discriminate against citizens of the United States on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, but the power of a State of exclusion upon all other grounds, including that of sex, remains intact. This settles the question of the right of suffrage being extended to the women, in the State of California, for the present. As they cannot vote directly themselves, let all single ones exercise their privileges this year, get married and vote by proxy.

Source: Santa Cruz Surf 1890 May 7 3:3

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

A Quiet Meeting at Which Considerable Business Was Done.

The second day's session of the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors was a busy one, with all the members present.

...

Ordinance No. 74, changing the boundaries of the election precincts of Ben Lomond, No. 1, and Davenport, was passed unanimously. This takes a part of Ben Lomond, No. 1, and puts it on to Davenport precinct.

...

Source: Watsonville Pajaronian 1890 Aug 7 3:5

The Supervisors have ordered a re-precincting of this county. The only changes to be made in this township will be in Watsonville, where an additional precinct will be formed. Main and Fourth streets are to be dividing lines. From Fourth street north, and bounded by the corporation lines will be one precinct; from Main street south and to Fourth street will be another precinct; and north of Main street to Fourth street will be another precinct. This change is made under the law which requires precincts to be formed so as not to contain over 200 votes each.

[Transcriber's Note: The current California Election Code provides for Precincts to contain not more than 1,000 registered voters: Section "12223.

(a) Whenever a jurisdiction is divided into election precincts or whenever the boundary of an established precinct is

The Great Register shows that our voting population in this county has increased nearly 22 per cent since 1888, and that it has doubled since 1880. If Santa Cruz county should take a notion to let the world know about its glorious climate and marvelous resources we should have ten thousand voters at the polls here in the year 1900.

THE NEW PRECINCTS.

Boundaries of the Santa Cruz and Branciforte Precincts.

BRANCIFORTE NO. 1.

Beginning on the easterly boundary of the City of Santa Cruz, in the middle of Santa Cruz and Watsonville road or Soquel avenue, so-called; thence northerly along the easterly boundary of said city to the northeast corner thereof; thence westerly along the northerly boundary of said city to the east side of the Santa Cruz and San Jose road; thence northerly along the easterly side of said road to the south boundary of the lands of William Kerr; thence easterly along the south boundary of said Kerr's land to the middle of the west branch of the Branciforte creek; thence northerly along the middle of said creek to the south boundary of the San Augustine Rancho; thence easterly along the said south boundary to the southeast corner thereof; thence northerly along the easterly boundary of said rancho to its intersection with the north line of Section 30, T10S, R1W; thence due east to the quarter section stake on the north boundary of Section 29, T10S, R1W; thence due north half a mile to the center of Section 20, T10S, R1W; thence due east one-quarter of a mile; thence due north half a mile to the north line of said Section 20; thence due east one-quarter of a mile to the northeast corner of said Section 20; thence due north half a mile to the quarter section stake on the west boundary of Section 16, T10S, R1W; thence due east half a mile to the center of said Section 16; thence due north one mile to the center of Section 9; thence due east three-quarters of a mile to the east boundary of Branciforte Township; thence along said boundary south one-half mile; thence west one-quarter of a mile to the northeast corner of Section 16; thence south two miles to the northeast corner of Section 28; thence east one quarter of a mile; thence south two miles to the lines separating Townships 10 and 11 S, R1W; thence west to the east side of the Rodeo Gulch road; thence southerly along the east side of said road to the north side of the aforesaid Santa Cruz and Watsonville road; thence westerly to the middle of said Rodeo Gulch; thence southerly 30 feet to the middle of Santa Cruz and Watsonville road; thence westerly along said road to the place of beginning.

BRANCIFORTE NO. 2.

Beginning on the Bay of Monterey, on the easterly boundary of the City of Santa Cruz; thence northerly along the easterly boundary of said city to the middle of the road that leads from Santa Cruz to Watsonville; thence easterly along the middle of said road to the Rodeo Gulch; thence southerly along the middle of said Rodeo Gulch to the Bay of Monterey, and thence westerly along said Bay of Monterey to the place of beginning.

SANTA CRUZ NO. 1.

Beginning at the Bay of Monterey at the middle of Pacific Avenue; thence northerly along the middle of said Pacific Avenue to its intersection with the middle of Bridge street or Minnesota avenue, so-called; thence along the middle of said last named street or avenue to the easterly boundary of said city to the Bay of Monterey; and thence westerly along the Bay of Monterey to the place of beginning.

[Transcriber's Note: Bridge street or Minnesota avenue, so-called = Soquel avenue, between Pacific Avenue and South River Street]

SANTA CRUZ NO. 2.

Beginning in the middle of Pacific Avenue at its intersection with the middle line of Walnut avenue to its intersection with the middle line of Mission street; thence northeasterly and easterly along the middle line of Mission street to its intersection with the middle line of Pacific avenue; and thence southerly along the middle line of Pacific avenue to the place of beginning.

SANTA CRUZ NO. 3.

Begins in the middle of Pacific Avenue at its intersection with the middle of Water street, in the City of Santa Cruz, and runs thence easterly along the middle of Water street to the middle of the San Lorenzo river; thence northerly up the middle of the San Lorenzo river to the northerly boundary of the City of Santa Cruz; thence westerly along the northerly boundary of the City of Santa Cruz to the northwest corner of said city; thence south along the west boundary of said city to the easterly side of the continuation of the Empire Grade, known as the Peterson road; thence southerly along the easterly side of said Peterson road to its intersection with High street in the city of Santa Cruz; thence easterly along the middle of High street to its intersection with the westerly boundary of the Rancho [sic] Tres Ojos de Agua; thence southerly along the westerly boundary of the Rancho Tres Ojos de Agua and along the middle of Mill street to the middle of Mission street; thence northeasterly along the middle of Mission street to the middle of Pacific avenue, the place of beginning.

SANTA CRUZ NO. 4.

Beginning in the middle of Pacific avenue at its intersection with the middle line of Bay street; thence northerly along the middle line of Pacific avenue to its intersection with the middle line of Walnut avenue; thence westerly along the middle line of Walnut avenue to and across Mission street to Mill street; thence along Mill street to King street; thence southwesterly along King street; thence southwesterly along King street to El Casco street; thence southeasterly along El Casco street to Mission street; thence southwesterly along the middle line of Mission street to its intersection with the middle line of Laurel street; thence southeasterly along the middle line of Laurel street to California street; thence southwesterly along California street to Bay street; and thence southeasterly along Bay street to the place of beginning.

SANTA CRUZ NO. 5.

Beginning in the middle of Pacific avenue at the intersection with Bridge street or Minnesota avenue, so-called; thence along the middle of said Pacific avenue northerly to its intersection with the middle line of Water street; thence along the middle line of said last-named street easterly to the middle of the San Lorenzo river; thence northerly to the middle of said San Lorenzo river to the north boundary of the city of Santa Cruz; thence easterly along said boundary to the northeast corner of said city; and thence along the easterly boundary of said city southerly to the middle of the aforesaid Bridge street or Minnesota avenue, so-called; and thence along the middle of said last-named street or avenue to the place of beginning.

SANTA CRUZ NO. 6.

Beginning at the intersection of the middle line of Pacific avenue and Bay street; thence northwesterly along the middle line of California street; thence northeasterly along the middle line of California street to its intersection with the middle line of Laurel street; thence northwesterly along the middle line of Laurel street to Mission street; thence northeasterly along Mission street to El Casco street; thence along El Casco street northwesterly to King street; thence along King street northeasterly to Mill street; thence northwesterly along Mill street to and continuing northwesterly along the boundary of the Rancho Tres Ojos de Agua to the middle of High street; thence continuing northwesterly and westerly along the middle of High street to the west boundary of the city of Santa Cruz; thence south along said west boundary to the Bay of Monterey; thence easterly along the Bay of Monterey to the end of Pacific avenue; and thence northerly along the middle of Pacific avenue to the place of beginning.

Source: Santa Cruz Surf 1890 Nov 4 3:2

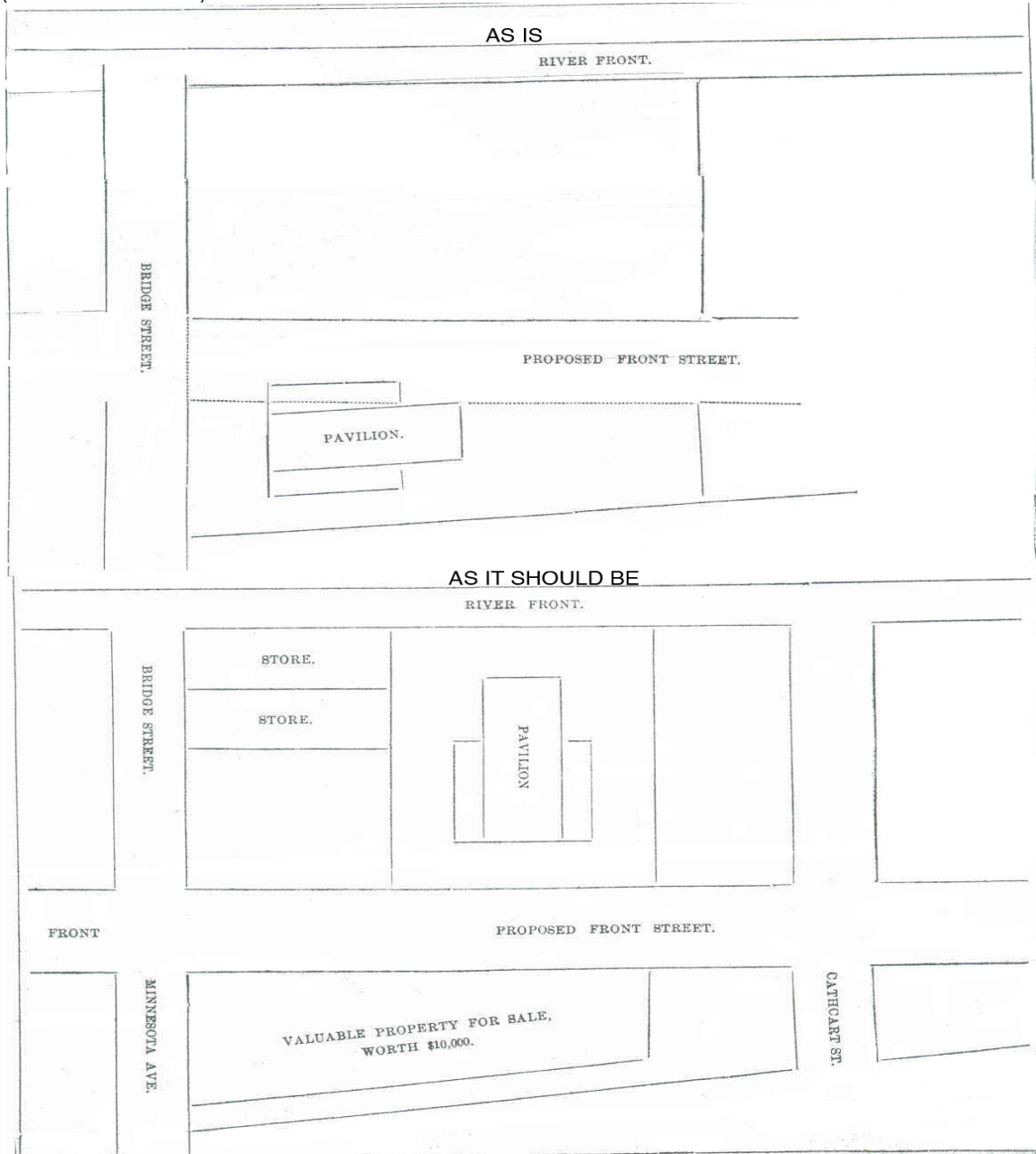
Polling Places.

The polling places for Branciforte precinct No. 1 is at Doyle's office, Branciforte No. 2 in Buckley's building. Santa Cruz precinct No. 1, at the Fair Pavilion, on Minnesota avenue; No. 2, Davenport's office on Locust street; No. 3, in Anthony's block, Water street; No. 4, in Logan's building on Pacific avenue just below the Wilkins House; No. 5, Justice Curtis' office, on Front street; No. 6, at Bay View school house.

[Transcriber's Note: Doyle's office = Dr. Charles William Doyle; Buckley's building = M. A. Buckley (in book and stationery business. Came to S.C. 1886; director of City Bank.); Fair Pavilion = (*see below* a sketch map of 1891 when a proposal to move the Pavilion building was considered.)

(continued)

(North is to the left)



Source: Santa Cruz Surf 1890 Nov 4 3:4

THE GREAT REGISTER.

Where Are the Nine Hundred New Voters?

The Great Register contains the names of 5,278 citizens entitled to exercise the franchise in this county at the present election. This is an increase of 915 names over the register of 1888, and shows that the result of the voting today may be a surprise to the best informed politicians. ###

Source: Santa Cruz Surf 1902 Sep 24 4:4 **Voters, Attention!**

The last Great Register of this county has been cancelled. Registration for the General Election will close September 24th.

Harvey H. Miller,
County Clerk.

California's Great Registers

Contributed by J. Carlyle Parker, Turlock CA 12/30/96

Some of the following is summarized from my seventeen page published paper presented for the World Conference on Records and Genealogical Seminar, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1969, "Sources of Californiana: From Padron to Voter Registration" (available through most Family History Centers on microfiche 6039417, 1 fiche and microfilm 0897217 Item 31):

California's Registry Act of 1866 established the Great Register. All voters (only males over 21 years of age) were required to register providing their full name, age, state or country of birth, occupation, and address. The registers are by the initial letter of the surname and entered chronologically as the voters registered, similar to the ledger book indexes to land and probate records.

The voters precinct's name or number was added to the ledger and, in the registers that I have used, when the voter moved clerks drew a red pencil line through his name and the above mentioned data and wrote in the county to which he moved or the date of his death, if they moved to boot hill, or the date when some were declared insane or infirm. Notes also included moving to another precinct within the county and naturalization dates and the name of the granting court. I refer to these early registers as manuscript great registers. These manuscript ledgers were permitted to be discontinued by the amended Political Code in 1909. They are still usually housed in the county court house, archive, library, or museum. Their availability and location before 1919 is provided in the California Historical Survey Commission's Guide to the County Archives of California (Sacramento: California State Printing Office, 1919) and for a few counties for which a survey was completed and reported in Historical Records Survey, California, Inventory of the County Archives of California (San Francisco: 1937-1943).

California's 1872 Political Code included the mandate for counties to print alphabetical lists of voters every other year, thus creating a printed index to the manuscript great register. However, seventy-one per cent of California counties started printing indexes in 1867, and eighty-two per cent were printing indexes before 1872. The Code also included instructions to provide the California State Library with a bound printed copy of each alphabetical list.

In 1895 a revision added the voter's description, including height, complexion, color of eyes and hair, location of visible marks or scars, and ability to read the English language and to write. For most of the years of this century the printed list of registered voters contain only the name, address, and party affiliation.

The recommendations of my paper included a suggestion that an inventory of county court house collections be made to locate copies of the indexes missing from or never sent to the State Library and not available at the Bancroft Library, University of

California, Berkeley. I also suggested that the indexes and the manuscript great registers be microfilmed.

Some of the manuscript great registers had been microfilmed before 1969 and a few since. The State Library collection of bound indexes, generally for the years from 1867 to 1898 for most counties was microfilmed in 1975 by the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah and generally for the years from 1900 to 1944 for most counties by Custom Microfilm Systems, Inc. of Riverside, California in 1986. The microfilm of both filmings has been added to the State Library's collection. After microfilming the bound indexes, because of an acute shortage of shelf space, the bound indexes were offered to the counties. Those not wanted by county agencies, archives, or libraries were destroyed. The Family History Library has also microfilmed some registers from county court house holdings.

Microfilm copies of those microfilmed and owned by the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, may also be borrowed through the services of the Family History Centers (branches) of the Family History Library. Details of what is held for each county may be ascertained by consulting the Family History Library Catalog, Locality Catalog either on microfiche or on the CD-ROM program, FamilySearch. This catalog is not available online or on the Internet. The indexes and what few microfilm copies of the manuscript great registers exist may be found under the subject heading "CALIFORNIA - (name of county) - VOTING REGISTERS." Under the subject heading "CALIFORNIA - VOTING REGISTERS" there is a collection of microfilm for several indexes that were microfilmed at the Los Angeles Public Library: Miscellaneous County Voting Register, 1867-1890, FHL# 1434237-1434238.

The California State Genealogical Alliance's 1890 Great Register Project was proposed to assist genealogists in part to bridge the gap caused by the loss of the 1890 census schedules, by creating a statewide index to the bound volume indexes deposited with the California State Library and microfilmed by the Family History Library. Volunteers inputting the data in these records were encouraged to check the great register indexes with the manuscript great register to check the accuracy of the indexes and to add the moving and other notes added to the manuscript great registers.
