

Bouquet of Roses: The Stories Behind San Diego Places Named for Louis Rose

Donald H. Harrison

Louis Rose, a pioneering San Diego businessman, understood the importance of geography; in fact, it fueled his entrepreneurial instincts. It is not surprising, then, that his name is associated with a variety of place names in San Diego County.

Rose was forty-three years old when he arrived in San Diego in 1850. He was a man who, in his lifetime, had traveled extensively both by land and by sea. His life's journey had begun March 24, 1807, in Neuhaus-an-der-Oste, which lies near the confluence of the Oste and Elbe Rivers, near the North Sea. Neuhaus' principal revenues were derived from shipping and other businesses related to these two rivers. In particular, the Elbe, which connects Germany's major river port city of Hamburg to the North Sea, bustled with commerce.

Having learned the jeweler's trade, Rose immigrated in 1840 to New Orleans, another busy river port.¹ Some people are surprised that New Orleans, rather than New York, was the port of entry for large numbers of German immigrants; the reason for this lies in the worldwide importance of the cotton that was then grown along the Mississippi River. Small boats and barges would freight cotton downriver to New Orleans, where it would be transferred to ships for transportation to European mills. Rather than make the return trip from Europe empty, these ships would offer inexpensive fares to New Orleans to immigrants. Even today, there is a swath of German settlements in Louisiana.

From New Orleans, Rose went to Texas to sell real estate, and eventually decided to strike out for California.² In a wagon train crossing Texas, Rose passed through two places that have San Diego interest: Castroville and Cherry Springs.



Louis Rose, ca. 1870. Although known as an amiable, outgoing man, Louis Rose scowled during this portrait session because the time exposure of the photograph was long. The result: a genial man looked quite severe. ©SDHS #2795.

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The first was a town laid out by a Jewish entrepreneur, Henri Castro.³ Many years later, Rose, another Jewish entrepreneur, would lay out the Roseville town site in San Diego. There were no cherries growing in Cherry Springs; it was named after a traveler who first discovered the springs. Similarly, roses do not grow naturally in San Diego's Rose Canyon, or along the associated Rose Creek—two locations named after Louis Rose, who established a ranch and tannery there.

A modest man, Rose probably would not have minded that people confused his family name for that of the flower. It was after the flower that his father named his family in 1811, when Louis, then known as Leffman, was but a four-year-old playing near the banks of the river.⁴ The change in nomenclature came in response to an offer by Jerome Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, to the Jews of the former Kingdom of Hanover, which the Bonapartes had transformed into the Kingdom of Westphalia. If the Jews would adopt surnames, making it easier for them to be counted in the census and to be called up for military services, the Jews could become fully emancipated citizens of the French Empire with all the rights that up to then had been reserved to Christians.⁵

Prior to that edict, family members had followed the biblical custom of identifying themselves by attaching their fathers' names to their own, as in "Isaac, son of Abraham," or 'Jacob son of Isaac.' In response to the Bonapartes' offer, Jews chose a variety of surnames. Some, like the Roses, named themselves for plants, animals or other elements in nature. Others chose to name themselves after the cities where they lived, such as "Frankfurter." Professions were another source of surnames—such as "Schneider," which means "tailor." Patronymics such as "son of Jacob"—"Jacobson"—also were popular.⁶

When Rose arrived in San Diego on May 30, 1850, he found the city to be far less concerned than either New Orleans or Neuhaus with commerce. Whereas those two cities embraced their respective rivers, the main part of San Diego was set back several miles from its bay. Rose and a wagon-train friend, James W. Robinson, once acting provisional governor of Texas, understood that the city needed to move to the bay to better develop its economy.⁷

Rose and Robinson were not the first to appreciate the bay's commercial potential; the seagoing William Heath Davis—who had married into San Diego's landowning aristocracy—had laid out "New Town" along the eastern shore of San Diego Bay. But, lacking fresh water, the settlement did not take hold. Nor did another settlement founded by other San Diego families, lying between Old Town and New Town, and appropriately called Middletown.⁸

Rose saw the contrast between the way disembarking passengers could step onto a wharf and then walk into the center of either Neuhaus or New Orleans versus the way they arrived in San Diego. A contemporary of Rose's, Ephraim Morse, recalled that in 1850, the year California became the thirty-first state of the United States:

The regular landing place in the harbor was at La Playa near where the United States quarantine station is now located. There were no wharves, and both passengers and freight were taken ashore in ship's boats and landed on the beach by the sailors. The freight, destined for Old Town, five miles away, was hauled up in Mexican carts, drawn by oxen.⁹

Along with James and Sarah Robinson, Rose immediately purchased some land at a point along the bay between Old Town and La Playa, marking the beginning of their aggregation of sufficient land to lay out a new town site. They did not have the means to accomplish their objective overnight. They needed first to develop steady sources of income. Robinson pursued his old profession as an attorney. Rose's sense of geography became immediately apparent when he chose the Casa de Reyes Ybañez, at the corner of Washington (now Wallace) and Juan Streets, as the site for



Casa de Doña Maria Reyes Ybañez, 1874. Louis Rose rented this building in Old Town in 1850 for his first business, the Commercial House Hotel and Saloon. He would own a great variety of businesses thereafter. ©SDHS #17725.

his Commercial House hotel and saloon complex. It was one of the first hotels that travelers from the north or the east encountered as they arrived at Old Town.¹⁰

Rose acquired a butcher shop in August 1852, figuring he could expand its customer base beyond San Diego residents. He appealed to the masters of coastal ships to become customers by promising them provisions that were both fresher and less expensive than those that found a few days' sailing away in San Francisco. In his advertisement, once again, we can see how geographic considerations helped form Rose's business judgments:

Attention. Captains and owners of vessels will take particular notice that the subscriber has purchased the interest of Messrs. Leamy and Sexton in the butchering establishment at Old Town and that his arrangements are now complete for supplying at a few hours notice fresh beef, pork, mutton, veal, poultry and vegetables of every description, and all kinds of livestock at the lowest rates and in quantities. The advantage afforded to Panama Steamers by this arrangement whereby they can get fresh provisions and vegetables here in any quantity and at short notice, will be apparent to anyone when it is known that such supplies can be had here at much less price than in San Francisco. Masters and owners of vessels, will, if they consult their best interests, make arrangements for the subscriber for a regular supply. Louis Rose.¹¹

Rose, who had deposited \$6,650 with the City of San Diego in 1850, drew down that account two years later by purchasing bayside land at an auction that he, Robinson and William Ferrell, as newly elected members of the city Board of Trustees, had scheduled to pay off debts with which the Common Councils of 1850 and 1851 had bankrupted the city. As a result of the bankruptcy, the State Legislature had revoked San Diego's City Charter and directed that a Board of

Trustees be elected with the principal responsibility of paying off those debts. Rose, Robinson and Ferrell, elected to the second such Board of Trustees, were all members of the recently formed San Diego Lodge 35 of the Free and Accepted Masons. Because land was the city's only asset, the auction was arranged as a step towards discharging the debts.¹²

Rose Canyon/Rose Creek

Like most bidders Rose purchased at that 1852 auction some lots in Old Town, but at the same time he also bid for bayside acreage. In June 1853, he further drew down his city land account by purchasing 800 acres of land lying to the north of Old Town in *La Cañada de las Lleguas* (the Canyon of the Mares). His bayside landholdings would someday become Roseville, but first he set about building a ranch and tannery in *La Cañada*

de las Lleguas. The area became known as Rose's Ranch, later as Rose's Canyon, and today it is Rose Canyon. On today's maps it follows the area along Interstate 5 approximately from the Balboa Avenue exit to the Gilman Avenue exit; then turns west toward the sea through the UCSD campus.¹³

Rose's butchering and tannery businesses obviously utilized the same cows. But whereas, with his butchering business Rose had sought to accommodate the shipping industry, his tannery business was built upon the idea of diverting some



Rose Canyon, ca. 1890. Originally known as La Cañada de las Lleguas (the canyon of the mares), this canyon lying along present-day Interstate 5 between Balboa Avenue and Gilman Drive became known in the 1850s as Rose's Ranch, then as Rose's Canyon, and eventually as Rose Canyon. Today, its name also is attached to the Rose Canyon Fault. ©SDHS #88:16544.

revenues from the shippers. Up until that point, the cowhides were shipped north to San Francisco or south and around Cape Horn to the East Coast of the United States to be made into leather goods. Saddles, shoes, belts, and harnesses would then return to San Diego costing far more than if they had been produced locally. Rose recognized that by eliminating these transportation costs, he could sell finished products locally at considerably lower prices, yet still make a profit.

The site Rose selected further



Rose Canyon, Richert Family Farm, 1910. Fifty years after Louis Rose sold the canyon that bore his name to satisfy creditors, it still remained a rustic part of the San Diego landscape. ©SDHS #94:19140.

exemplified his business savvy and appreciation for geography. The tannery was built near a creek—which would be called Rose Creek—well known to ranchers who brought their cattle from the northern portions of San Diego County to the hide houses at La Playa. With his tannery located on such a route, Rose knew that he could easily obtain more and more stock—on the hoof! Rose didn't know, however, that the land he purchased lay along an area of seismic activity—the area that latter-day geologists would name the Rose Canyon Fault. He knew nothing about it; it simply wasn't his fault!



Rose Creek, 2007. Today the site of a hiking and bicycling trail, Rose Creek during the 1850s provided the water necessary for Louis Rose's tannery, the first built in San Diego County. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.

Rose brought his nephew, Nisan Alexander, out to San Diego from New Orleans to run the tannery and, in January 1854, editor J. Judson Ames of the *San Diego Herald* took note of the enterprise.

We inspected a specimen of home manufacture a day or two since from the tanning and leather manufactory of Lewis [sic] Rose, esq., which is situated (as everyone knows, or ought to know, and pay it a visit too) about five miles from town, on the road to Los Angeles. This leather is tanned and finished in the most thorough and complete manner and equals the best articles in the markets of Philadelphia and Boston. The establishment is now being increased in its capacity for production by the enterprise of its proprietor, and when fully expanded, will give employment to a large number of men who, with their families, cannot fail to create a large settlement at the place now known as Rose's Ranch, but destined to bear the title Roseville whenever it shall reach the dignity of townhood.¹⁴

Ames' crystal ball was clouded; Rose's Ranch would become known as Rose Canyon. Roseville would be developed at another part in the city, along San Diego Bay.

A month after Ames' glowing report appeared, Rose ran an advertisement under the headline: "Leather! Leather!" As his name was spelled "Lewis," rather than "Louis"—the actual way he signed his name—the notice apparently was written by Ames or another member of the *Herald* staff:



The subscriber having at great pains and expense perfected one of the most extensive tanneries in California, is now prepared to furnish the people of the southern counties with sole, harness and saddle leathers in the best description and at reasonable

This plaque identifying Rose Creek is one of several in the city on which the "Rose" name is recalled, 2007. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.

prices. These leathers are tanned in the best manner (without use of hot liquids) and will be sold, for the present, for the following prices for cash only. Saddle and harness leather, according to thickness, from 60 to 65 cents. Sole leather 50 cents—Lewis Rose. Particular attention will be paid to the filling of orders, as it is determined if possible to give perfect satisfaction—L.R.¹⁵

In 1855, Rose opened a general store in Old Town with partner Eugene Pendleton, who traveled to San Francisco to purchase such items as “dry goods, fancy goods, clothing, furnishing tools, hosiery, groceries, tobacco, hardware.”¹⁶ Trade was not one-way; Rose sent his leather up to San Francisco for sale in that city’s stores. In 1856, Alexander unexpectedly died—a major blow to Rose. That same year, Benjamin Hayes, a sightseeing judge who made detailed notes on all the places he visited while riding the judicial circuit, wrote that other than at Rose’s Ranch, “there is no other tannery in the county.” He added:

There are 20 bark vats, six lime and water vats, two capable of containing 500 gallons each; a new bark mill, an adobe house, for curing the leather. Each vat will contain from 80 to 100 sides. There are force pumps and everything else complete. He now makes 3,000 sides per annum and 1,000 skins of deer, goat, sheep, seal and sea lion. Many goats have been brought to him from Guadalupe Island (where goats abound)...off the coast of Lower California. Seals are abundant off our own coast. Last year, he sold \$8,000 worth of leather at San Francisco. It was much praised there.

Oak bark is obtained 10 miles from the tannery, in abundance, at from \$12 to \$15 per ton-delivered. He employs head tanner, at \$100 per month; two assistants at \$25 each per month; three laborers,

each at \$10 per month; boarding them. Indian laborers command \$8 per month; Mexicans at \$10, both classes are easily got here. Hides are readily obtained to keep the tannery always in operation. He trades for them a good deal with shoes, saddles and botas which are made of his own leather. Deer skins, goat & bear the standing price of \$3 a piece. Today I found him busy, cutting out soles and uppers, because he had little else to do; the uppers were



Rose Creek Cottage, 2007. This building was originally built in the 1920s as a dining room attached to a mansion owned by Frederick Tudor Scripps and Emma Jessop Scripps at a Pacific Beach site now occupied by the Catamaran Hotel. Moved to Rose Creek in 1986 thanks to the efforts of preservationists, it is today a venue for weddings and other receptions. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.

of deer skin. These are manufactured by a Mexican shoemaker, according to Mexican style. They will do well in dry weather.¹⁷

Hayes, ever curious, looked around the ranch, recording that Rose had built “a frame house, in good order; a garden of four acres, with a stone fence five feet high.” Hayes estimated that board and wages for the laborers brought the cost of the fence to \$1,000. Rose also had “grape vines growing freely, but they have been neglected. He has raised excellent tobacco. ...” Hayes also said:

Digging eight feet, water is plenty; but on most parts of the rancho, sufficient water is obtained at the depth of three feet or less. Live creeks flow through it during the rainy seasons, and four months after, many springs make large ponds from two to three feet deep. And there is ample pasturage. At present, he has only 20 head of cattle and 100 horses and mules. There is enough of sycamore and willow to fence ten miles square and very little oak.¹⁸

In another interesting note, Hayes said, “just as you emerge from the Cañada, toward False Bay, Mr. Louis Rose has bored 170 feet for an artesian well. The work is now suspended. In boring, they passed through four different strata of stone coal: too thin to pay for the workings.¹⁹

If Rose only had taken that failure as an omen that he was not destined to become a mining mogul, his life would have been considerably happier. But Rose caught the mining bug, and when he heard of a copper mine in the Vista area, he decided to dig deep—not only into the earth but into his personal savings. The mine was promising...and promising....and promising. Although some ore was extracted, it did not assay at a sufficient percentage to make shipping and smelting it financially feasible. Rose deluded himself into believing that if he dug just a little farther, a little deeper, he would hit the rich vein that would repay him for all his trouble. He literally bet the mortgage on it—putting up as collateral much of his land holdings, including Rose Canyon.²⁰

He also had an idea that if he could mine the land, why not the sea? He saw the vast kelp beds off the coast of San Diego as rich with possibilities. Years later companies like Kelco would extract from the kelp materials used in pharmaceuticals, ice creams and gelatins, but Rose saw another use for the giant seaweed. *The San Diego Herald* reported Jan. 29, 1859:



This entrance to Rose Canyon is located across Genesee Avenue from University City High School. Besides excellent hiking, the canyon offers a wide variety of native flora and fauna. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.

Our public-spirited fellow citizen, Louis Rose, Esq., has commenced the manufacture of mattresses. They are made of seaweed in an exceedingly soft and pliable texture. The weed is subjected to a simple and winnowing process, by which it is divested of its offensive

impurities and at once rendered fit for use. The floating whale lair, thus cleansed, is superior to wool, straw or moss, and is nearly as soft and durable as hair. The introduction of manufactures of every description in our state is what is now required to render us prosperous and independent as a people.”²¹

A seaweed-stuffed mattress was an idea before its time. It still is.

As he chased dreams of copper and kelp, Rose’s debts mounted, and finally, in 1860, Rose had to forfeit his canyon to Lorenzo Soto, the mortgage holder. The name Rose Canyon, however, had taken hold, leading some people to believe mistakenly that Rose had something to do with later developments in Rose Canyon, including the brick-making operation that Thomas Hill began there in 1888—the year of Rose’s death. This misconception was carved into a plaque honoring Rose’s memory on May 30, 1934—eighty years after his arrival in San Diego. Originally located on the median divider of Highway 101, the monument now is located on a lawn in front of UCSD’s Applied Physics



This monument memorializing Louis Rose originally was built on a portion of Highway 101 at Rose Canyon. Portions of the highway were incorporated into the campus of UCSD, to which the monument was relocated. It sits on the lawn in front of the Applied Physics and Mathematics Building, 2007. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.



La Playa, now Rosecrans Ave., undated. This well-traveled road was named “Main Street” by Louis Rose when he laid out Roseville in 1869. Its name subsequently was changed to Rosecrans Ave. in honor of Union General William Rosecrans who advocated for making San Diego the Pacific terminus of a transcontinental railroad.
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and Mathematics Building. The 14-line plaque reads: “Honoring/Louis Rose/1807-1888/ Founder of Roseville/ Pioneer of Rose Canyon/ Brickmaker-Tanner/ Outstanding Citizen/ Congregations/ Beth Israel/ And/ Tifereth Israel/ And/ San Diego Lodge F.& A.M./ May 30, 1934.”²²

Roseville

In 1863, Rose provided five acres of land near the future Roseville for the area’s first Jewish cemetery. Even though California was on the sidelines of the U.S. Civil War, its economy remained stagnant until after the Confederates surrendered at the Appomattox courthouse. With the help of Ludwig Rose, a nephew who emigrated from Germany and created a brokerage firm in San Francisco, as well as from profits from his own butcher shop and hotel—Rose once again aggregated sufficient capital to pursue his dream of a town site on the bay.²³

In 1867, the widow and son of Rose’s old friend, James W. Robinson, decided to sell off holdings in the western portion of San Diego County and move to Jamul.²⁴ Rose paid \$10,000 to Mrs. Robinson and her son William for various land holdings, thereby aggregating enough acreage to lay out a bayside town that stretched 30 blocks long and, depending on the curvature of San Diego Bay, approximately eight blocks wide.²⁵

Rose gave the prosaic name of Main Street to the 100-foot-wide street that today is named Rosecrans—after William Rosecrans, a Civil War general who became a San Diego railroad promoter. Seventy-five-foot-wide cross streets, starting at a point corresponding with today’s Avenida de Portugal and culminating at today’s Dumas Street, were also numbered unimaginatively from First Street through Thirtieth Street. The streets paralleling Main Street were named with a little more flair. On the bayside, they were called Water Street, Front Street, Tide Street and Short Street. As Roseville climbed into the hills above Main Street, the streets were called Locust, Elm, Willow, Pine and Chestnut.²⁶

The developer had grown up in Neuhaus-an-der-Oste with an appreciation for parks, especially the Graf Bremer Park in nearby Cadenberge.²⁷ He set aside in Roseville two full blocks for park use. Block 150—bound by Locust, Elm, 19th and 20th Streets—he named Buena Vista Square for the beautiful views it afforded. Another park site was at Block 175 bounded by Pine, Chestnut, 21st and 22nd Streets. This Rose named Washington Square.²⁸

By the time that Rose had aggregated and surveyed all the lots, a far larger bayside development was being promoted aggressively in today’s downtown by Alonzo



Locust Street, one of the streets in the Roseville section of Point Loma still bearing the name given by Louis Rose. The skyline of downtown San Diego can be seen in the distance, 2007. Author's collection.



Roseville, June 10, 1888. This view of Roseville was taken a few months after the death of Louis Rose, who had constructed a wharf and hotel in the area. ©SDHS #80:6618.

Horton, with whom Rose would rival unsuccessfully. On January 9, 1869, *San Diego Union* editor W. Jeff Gatewood put in a plug for his fellow Mason's development, which he gave the grandiose name of Rose City. Describing a ride he and his wife took with Ephraim and Mary Chase Morse down La Playa Trail "where the green hillside slopes gently down to the waters of the bay," he reported that "innumerable stakes denote the streets and blocks of an embryo city."

The horses cantered gaily over the greensward along the water's verge and our friend took particular pains to inform us that we were passing through the principal street of Rose City, while the lady passengers amused themselves by building airy castles upon innumerable blocks and filling the streets with industrious citizens. A few minutes more and we among the ruins of the Playa...²⁹

In April of that year, the *San Diego Union* took another look at the development, reporting:

Roseville—The lovely spot of land is beginning to assume an importance and attention worthy of the citizens of San Diego. Over two hundred and thirty thousand feet of lumber have been landed there; fences have been built and are being built; the streets will soon be cleared of the brush, and houses will be started in a few days. The vessel discharging the lumber, anchored but a short distance from the beach, and during the low tide, had over fifteen feet of water beneath her. Mr. Rose, the proprietor of the place, has found water of a good

quality, and in sufficient quantity, a short distance from the bay, to justify the belief that no fears need to be entertained for the success of the place on account of good water. The site is one of the finest on the bay and though nothing like so extensive a plateau as at New Town and Horton's Addition, it is beautiful in the extreme, and when built upon will make a more imposing appearance from the bay than any other point upon it. It is situated upon the northern curve of the bay, about half way between Old Town and Ballast Point, or the entrance of the Bay. We predict that within one year from this date it will be as large a place as New Town is today.³⁰

Rose optimistically began to develop Roseville. He engaged the firm of D. B. Kurtz to construct a "good size building" in the La Playa area—which he would operate as the Roseville Hotel. Next he made arrangements to build a wharf with maximum dimensions of 350 feet in length and 75 feet in width "for the purpose of loading and unloading ships." Successfully petitioning the San Diego Board of Supervisors for the right to construct the wharf, he said that the "public good will be greatly promoted and it will be of especial benefit to the people of said city."³¹

Between March and June 1869, Rose made more than a score of sales at varying prices, mostly to people who held the land for speculation.³² These, however, were not the only people who acquired land in Rose's development. A gregarious bachelor and a man of great civic involvements—including service on the Board of Trustees, the first County Board of Supervisors, the school board and the grand jury—Rose had built up a large network of social acquaintances. It is reasonable to assume that many of these families invited Rose to share dinner with them, and, ever the gentleman, Rose found a way to thank those hostesses who had been so kind to him over many years.

To one-time school teacher Mary Chase Morse, Rose gave an outright gift of two 50-by-100 foot lots as tokens of his "esteem and regard" for her, as well as for her "better maintenance and support."³³ In Rose's day, property generally was held in a husband's name, so by specifically deeding the property to her and not to her husband Ephraim, Rose was making what may be considered one of the first expressions of support by a San Diego man for women's rights. The gift to Mrs. Morse was the first of quite a few such outright gifts, or sale of land at token prices, to the women of San Diego. Other early recipients of the gallant Rose's generosity included Bertha Bernard, Sarah Jane Burr, Mary Gatewood, Henrietta Hueck, Pauline Mannasse, Polly Ann Nottage, Nellie Pascoe, Henrietta Schiller, Emma Solomon, and Mary Taggart.³⁴

In the midst of his sales and gift spree, sixty-two year-old Rose became engaged to marry Mathilde Newman, widow of merchant Jacob Newman.³⁵ Like Rose who was twenty-nine years her senior, Mathilde was a German Jew. It was so rare for two single Jewish adults of opposite genders to be in San Diego that mutual friends immediately began pairing them off notwithstanding the age difference.

This was Rose's second marriage; Rose having been divorced from his first wife, Caroline Marks of New Orleans, for nearly 15 years and separated from her for two decades. If he didn't want to end up divorced again, Rose realized he had to negotiate a ticklish problem. Here he had been bestowing one and two lots on various women in town to express his "esteem and regard" for

them and to provide “for their better maintenance.” Under such circumstances, what gift should he give to the woman who had consented to be his wife? Surely not just one lot or two lots! Rose decided to give to Mathilde the deed for three full blocks—or 36 lots—of Roseville land.³⁶

Robinson-Rose House/Rose’s Garden

Furthermore, Rose established a home with Mathilde in a house on the Plaza in Old Town that he had purchased from Sarah Robinson two years earlier. The two-story structure, which in modern times has served as the park’s headquarters, today is known as the “Robinson-Rose House.” Today, it is the only building in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park to have on one of its doors a mezuzah—a casing that includes a parchment bearing Hebrew-language instructions from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 to “love the Lord, Your God, with all your



Robinson-Rose House, far right, undated. Louis Rose came to San Diego on the same wagon train as Judge James W. Robinson, a former acting provisional governor of Texas. The two served together on the 1852 San Diego City Board of Trustees and the first County Board of Supervisors in 1853. Rose purchased the home from Robinson’s widow, Sarah, and later moved into it with his wife Mathilde. ©SDHS #80:2851.



Robinson-Rose House, 1874. Today site of the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Visitors Center, the Robinson-Rose building at various times housed offices of the San Diego Herald, the San Diego Masonic Lodge, the San Diego & Gila Railroad, and hosted various special events including Jewish High Holiday services in 1871. ©SDHS #3882:2.

heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.”

Historic interpreters at Old Town San Diego State Park display the mezuzah as a demonstration that people of different faiths resided and contributed to San Diego in its early American period. The Casa de Estudillo, in which one room is reserved as a Roman Catholic chapel, is located directly across the Plaza from the Robinson-Rose House. At Fort Stockton, located above Old Town on Presidio Hill, there is a monument to the Mormon Battalion, which marched 2,000 miles to San Diego from Kansas during the Mexican-American War, helping after arrival here to build the city’s first brick structures.

In addition to representing different religions, the two homes across from each other on the Plaza also symbolize some of the differences between the ways of life in San Diego’s Mexican period and that of the American period. The Casa de Estudillo is a one-story hacienda, built in U-shape around the private courtyard where numerous family activities occurred. For the sake of privacy, the building’s back is turned to the Plaza. In contrast, a prominent feature of the Robinson-Rose House is the second-floor balcony affording residents a view of people in the Plaza and vice versa. The Roses, like the Robinsons before them, lived upstairs, renting the Plaza-level store to a variety of stores and businesses. At various times, the two families had as tenants the *San Diego Herald*; San Diego Lodge 35, F & A.M.; the offices of the proposed San Diego and Gila Railroad, as well as a general store operated by Hyman Mannasse. The house also was the site of the community’s Jewish High Holiday services in 1871 and where a dormant Hebrew Benevolent Society was reorganized. Here two daughters were born to the Roses. Helene, born October 1, 1870, died of scarlet fever on March 13, 1873. Henrietta, born May 22, 1872, lived to age eighty four, but never married. When she died so did Rose’s line.³⁷

The Robinson-Rose property is across a walkway from the Casa de Wrightington. Many years after her family lived there, Henrietta remembered the pleasure of playing in the garden as a young girl. “There was a patio behind the house,” she recalled to an interviewer more than a half century later. “I remember old roses, acacia, old century plant. Twilight in that old garden—a rambling garden, it almost touched the Wrightington place....Mrs. Wrightington made the best tortillas.” When Mathilde Rose was recuperating from Henrietta’s birth, Mrs. Wrightington looked after both mother and infant.³⁸

A few blocks from the house, where the Presidio Golf Course is located today, was the Pear Garden, which Rose purchased for \$2,000 from D. A. Hollister as



Mathilde Rose, undated. When the wife of a fellow Jewish merchant, Jacob Newman, became a widow, it was not long until San Diego’s small Jewish community encouraged her marriage in 1869 to Louis Rose, notwithstanding the fact he was nearly three decades her senior. The couple had two children, Helene, who died in infancy, and Henrietta, a spinster school teacher who lived into her 80s. ©SDHS UT People, Mathilde Rose, Union-Tribune Collection.



Roseville, 1889. Louis Rose died a year before this photograph of Roseville's first factory, San Diego Nail and Iron Works, was taken. ©SDHS #80:8337.

another wedding present for Mathilde. It was planted in 1806 by Captain Francisco María Ruiz, one-time commandant of the Presidio. As well as for its pear trees, the garden was renowned as the scene of the romantic elopement of Josefa Carrillo and Henry Delano Fitch in 1829, exactly 40 years before Rose purchased it for his own bride.³⁹ The Pear Garden became known as Rose's Garden, and even sometimes was called "the Rose Garden," leading to the same kind of confusion that arises about what grows in Rose Canyon. Henrietta many years later would recall her walks with her father to that garden. "I remember the pomegranates from the Rose Garden place and the figs and the pears," she said.⁴⁰

On August 6, 1875, after only six years and four months of marriage, Mathilde Rose died of meningitis, and on June 22, 1876, the heart-broken Rose sold the garden for \$500, just one-fourth the price he paid. The purchaser was Norman H. Conklin, who later became an investor in a nail factory that was one of Roseville's first industries.⁴¹

Roseville-Part II

During the time of Rose's courtship, sales at Roseville lagged far behind those enjoyed by Alonzo Horton at New Town, causing some speculators to waver and to ask to sell back their land. In 1870, Rose refunded the money of three investors, and later that year resold these properties for a profit. Rose was a long-term player, believing San Diego's deepwater port coupled with its position at the southwest corner of the United States, eventually would assure economic success. "Just wait awhile and you will see," was a favorite Rose saying.⁴²

Promoting the city in an article intended for mailed distribution outside of the area, the *San Diego Union* lauded Horton's Addition. On the other hand, the newspaper was far less enthusiastic about Old Town, which, it reported,

...has a population of perhaps 1,000. The county buildings are at present located there, and several mercantile houses carry on a profitable business, supplying the farmers of the interior with provisions, etc. There are two good hotels, which are well supported. The people have faith that this will yet be a place of importance, their belief based upon the fact that the deepest water is found off 'La Playa' on the peninsula which divides the true harbor from the ocean and False Bay, and at the base of which the town is situated. It is contended that upon the completion of the railroad to this port heavy freights will be shipped from wharves running out from La Playa and Roseville, on the same peninsula.⁴³

The *San Diego Union* became decidedly less dubious about Roseville's future, reporting on September 15, 1870, that "the wharf at Roseville will be completed Saturday next."

It is built in the most substantial manner and is one of the permanent improvements of our growing town. Mr. Rose is entitled to a great credit for his efforts in this behalf, and we trust the day is not far distant when he may reap a rich reward. Soon as the times will warrant he intends constructing a regular wharf front some sixty or eighty feet in width by about three hundred in length. The deepest sea going steamers can here anchor in safety. We hail the work for the good times coming.⁴⁴

Lydia Horton, Alonzo's fifth wife, wrote one of the first descriptions of the wharf many years after her arrival in San Diego with her first husband, tidal gauge keeper William Knapp. At that point, Rose's wharf reportedly was 472 feet long but only 30 feet wide.



California Southern Railroad train at National City Depot, ca. 1885. The Kimball Brothers, developers of National City, were primarily responsible for the creation of the California Southern Railroad. The Kimballs, Louis Rose, and Alonzo Horton competed to bring the railroad to their developments. ©SDHS #21137.

When we landed here, we had to walk up the long and rather narrow wharf. My husband taking the baby in his arms, left me to follow slowly with our small boy. As we neared the middle of the wharf, we met a formidable looking man of great size, roughly dressed with dark skin and long black hair. I was quite sure he must be one of the wild natives of this unknown region and trembled with fear as he approached as there was no one else near. But he passed by without even training his eye toward us. When I reached the shore, I met Mr. W.W. Stewart who laughingly told me that the man was a quite civilized Gay Head Indian from Cape Cod, Mass., who belonged to the whaling camp at Ballast Point.⁴⁵

Before long, the Knapps would hunger for company—the Roseville Hotel sitting nearly alone. But Rose—like Horton—was not depending on local residents to fill his town site; rather, he was banking on Congress designating San Diego and its harbor as the terminus of a new transcontinental railroad. He realized, and so did many speculators, that if a transcontinental railroad were connected to San Diego's deepwater port, the city would be a depot for trade and would attract numerous settlers.

In furtherance of this goal, Rose pledged to donate 153 blocks of Roseville to entice the railroad to this area, compared to 20 blocks pledged by Horton. Land prices rose and fell upon the progress reported from Congress concerning San Diego's quest to be the railroad terminus. When at last a bill establishing San Diego as a western terminus for a new transcontinental railroad began making substantial headway in Congress, the *San Diego Union* suggested that "Horton and Rose are the happiest men in San Diego as well they might be." On March 3, 1871, Congress finally passed a bill authorizing the Texas and Pacific Railroad to build a line from Marshall, Texas, "by the most direct and eligible route to San Diego."⁴⁶ There were great celebrations in San Diego.

While Horton saw an immediate increase in land sales, Rose was disappointed. Some suggested the difference was because Horton had gotten people not only to buy the land but also to erect buildings on it. In a letter to business associates, Morse reported:

Horton has sold about \$80,000. He is erecting several buildings near his hotel. Buildings are going up all over town, but business is not as brisk as we all had expected, and I think I was very moderate in my expectations too....Old Rose is being cursed by Old Town folks for not showing a little of Horton's energy in building up Roseville and La Playa. Old Town is nearly deserted.⁴⁷

Perhaps stung by the criticism, Rose and other landholders in the La Playa area decided that they should follow the example set in New Town by Horton of providing incentives to people who would actually *build* on the land—such construction likely to spur other construction. Accordingly, he became president of the San Diego Mutual Lands Association, earmarking 221 lots in Roseville for promotional purposes. Similarly, Thomas Whaley, the association's secretary,



View of the Boat Channel from the area at Liberty Station, which was named "Louis Rose Point" by the City of San Diego in 2004 to honor the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States. Author's collection.

pledged 15 lots; James McCoy designated an unspecified number of lots, described as a quarter of his La Playa property, and O. S. Witherby donated 100 acres near Roseville. The Association appointed N. H. Dodson as its agent.⁴⁸ The group's plans were announced in a *San Diego Union* advertisement bearing the eye-catching headline of "Free Lands! Free Lands!"

The San Diego Mutual Land Association having fully organized with over 300 lots at Roseville and La Playa, are now prepared to give land away to settlers who will improve the same. With a first-class wharf almost completed, the advantages of this part of the Bay as a shipping point cannot be overestimated. Good fresh water is readily obtained, while the climate far exceeds that of any other point on the Bay, and is especially inviting to invalids. A lot of 50 x 100 feet in size will be given to any person erecting a house thereon, worth at least \$250, while extra inducements will be held out to those wishing to start an extensive business or make more valuable improvements. Titles perfect to all lands of the association. For further particulars, apply to N. H. Dodson, Esq., Old San Diego, agent of the association, Louis Rose, Thomas Whaley, James McCoy, trustees. Thos. P. Slade, Esq., attorney for the association.⁴⁹

Tidal gauge keeper William Knapp was the first to take up the offer, Rose deeding a lot to him for \$1 on April 3, 1871.⁵⁰ The *San Diego Union* subsequently

reported that the house was expected

to be a credit to that part of the bay. The main house is 34 by 32 feet in size, one story high, and the cupola roof now going on will soon give it a finished appearance. The outside is to be covered with rustic, while the inside will be hard finished throughout. We hope to chronicle the erection of many more residences in that delightful part of the pueblo.⁵¹

Within a short time, four others also took up Rose's offer.⁵² When there were only two confirmed transactions, the *San Diego Union* trumpeted success prematurely:

The San Diego Mutual Land Association are meeting with success in their efforts to develop the interests of La Playa. We feel sure that the delightful slopes of Roseville and Mannasse's Addition between Roseville and Old Town will at no distant day be dotted over with dwellings.⁵³

Other stories in the *San Diego Union*, however, may have given readers the idea that moving to Roseville was like moving to the wilds. It reported that "Mr. John Eccles at La Playa on Tuesday shot a large bald eagle measuring eight feet from tip to tip of his wings..."⁵⁴ Not long afterwards it reported that three large turtles, together weighing 550 pounds, were captured in the area. Other stories reported that an Old Town resident had fished up a bottle covered with oysters, that Spanish Bayonets were abloom on the hills overlooking La Playa and Roseville, and that ice three-inches thick had formed overnight in Roseville.⁵⁵

On April 21, 1873, Alonzo Horton was given the honor of breaking ground



Home of Peace Cemetery, 2007. Louis Rose originally was buried at the old Hebrew Cemetery in the Loma Portal area on land where Sharp Cabrillo Hospital now stands. His body and those of other Jewish pioneers were re-interred at the Home of Peace Cemetery in the Mt. Hope area. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.

for the Texas and Pacific Railroad at a site in Mannasse's Addition.⁵⁶ The euphoria occasioned by this development did not last long. Just five months later, Jay Cooke and Company, a banking house that handled railroad securities, announced its bankruptcy, setting off what became known as the "Panic of 1873."

Thereafter, Tom Scott, president of the Texas and Pacific Railroad, became less and less interested in a terminus in San Diego, and increasingly interested in reaching an accommodation with the Central Pacific Railroad's new subsidiary, the Southern Pacific. In 1876, Collis P. Huntington of the Southern Pacific agreed to stop opposing a subsidy from Congress for the Texas and Pacific east of California, while Scott agreed to cede the Texas and Pacific's rights in California to the Southern Pacific.⁵⁷ As the Central Pacific already had established a western terminus in San Francisco, this eliminated San Diego, causing land speculators' interest in San Diego land to plummet.

Rose, nearly seventy, a widower, and having a small child to raise, became increasingly passive about developing Roseville. He worked as a postmaster in Old Town from 1877 through 1883. Near blind and suffering from a bad hernia, he retired from that position and moved in 1884 from his beloved Old Town to New Town, where he spent the last four years of his life. In 1888, developers Frank Jennings and George Crippen began promoting land adjacent to his town site under the name of "Roseville Heights."

An advertisement extolling Roseville's fine geography—had it been read to the



Louis Rose headstone, 2007. A headstone memorializing Louis Rose now sits in the Home of Peace Cemetery, but records fail to indicate exactly where his body and those of his wife Mathilde and infant daughter Helene are buried. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.



This point honoring pioneer Louis Rose is located at a spot where Womble Street, if extended, would meet the Boat Channel at Liberty Station, site of the former Naval Training Center, 2007. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.

ailing Rose—surely would have lifted his spirits. It seemed to guarantee that, at long last, everything he had hoped and worked for since 1850 was, indeed, on the verge of realization.

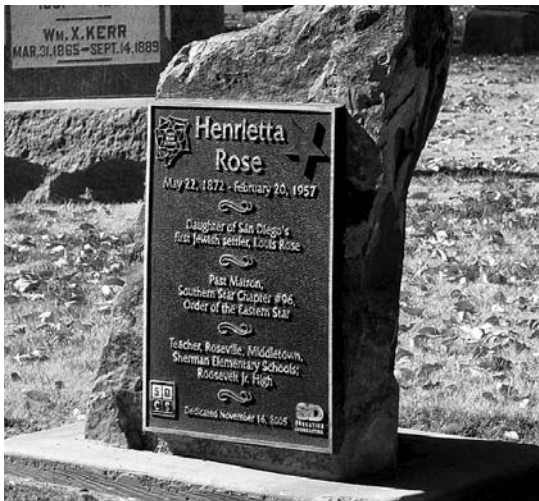
Roseville is close to deep water. Roseville property is in good demand. Roseville has got a new and substantial wharf. Roseville will be connected with the California Southern Railroad at Old Town by a broad gauge heavy steel track. Roseville will have lumber yards for the transshipment of lumber to the interior. Roseville will soon be connected with Ocean Beach by steam motor. Roseville will have a ferry running to San Diego soon. Ties have already been delivered at Roseville for the Ocean Beach motor road. Roseville will be supplied with water from Mission Valley. All passengers to and from Ocean Beach will pass through Roseville. Roseville is a good business property. Roseville is a fine residence property. Roseville is attracting the attention of investors. Roseville offers special advantage to speculators. Roseville is all we claim for it. For a reliable list of Roseville property call at our office.⁵⁸

Rose died February 12, 1888. After a Jewish funeral service and ceremonies at the Masonic Lodge, he was buried in the cemetery that he had deeded to the Jewish community—land located today under the Sharp Cabrillo Hospital near Roseville.⁵⁹ It would have been a fitting place for Rose to spend eternity, but as fate would have it, the cemetery fell into disuse and it was sold by Congregation Beth Israel, San Diego's oldest Jewish congregation.

The bodies of Rose, his wife Mathilde, and infant daughter Helene were

exhumed along with those of other early Jewish settlers and re-interred at the Home of Peace Cemetery at Mount Hope. They are buried together there in Jewish Pioneers Row.

In September 2004, marking the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in North America, the City of San Diego decided to honor the contributions of its own Jewish community by designating as Louis Rose Point a small circle of land where Womble Street of Roseville meets the boat channel.⁶⁰ The point will be part of a larger city park carved by the city from the former Naval Training Center, which has been renamed as Liberty Station.



Henrietta Rose headstone, 2007. When members of the Louis Rose Society for the Preservation of Jewish History learned that Henrietta Rose had been buried in 1957 in an unmarked grave at Mount Hope, they teamed in 2005 with members of the Order of the Eastern Star, the San Diego Education Association and the San Diego Unified School District to honor the teacher of 45 years tenure. Photo courtesy of Herb Targum.

NOTES

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2. Second District Court of New Orleans, *Eckel vs. Rose*, Case #1632, Ouesiphoe Drouet, notary public, statement of service of demand note to Caroline Rose, Louisiana and City Archives, New Orleans Public Library.
3. S. G. French, "Reconnaissance of Route from San Antonio to El Paso," Senate Ex Doc. 31 Cong, 1 Sess. No. 64 (December 31, 1849): 41-42; Thomas B. Eastland and Joseph G. Eastland, "To California Through Texas and Mexico," *California Historical Quarterly* 18, no. 2 (1939) n.p (entry for June 8, 1849); Eastland, 106-107; Julia Nott Waugh, *Castroville and Henry Castro, Empresario* (Castroville: Castro Colonies Heritage Association, 1986); "Castro, Henri," *The Handbook of Texas Online* <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/CC/fca93.html> (accessed June 2, 2005).
4. *Intelligenz Blatt* (of the Herzogtuermer Bremen and Verden), June 12, 1811; Olaf Rennebeck, interviewed by author, January 3, 1996; Rennebeck, archivist for Emmaus Church of Neuhaus-an-der-Oste, interviewed by author, March 7, 2000.
5. H. I. Bach, *The German Jew: A Synthesis of Judaism and Western Civilization* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1984), 75.
6. "Names," in *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, [CD-ROM] (Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, 1997).
7. John Henry Brown, *Life and Times of Henry Smith, the First American Governor of Texas* (Dallas: A.D. Aldridge & Co., Dallas, 1880), 80; W. Roy Smith, "The Quarrel Between Governor Smith and the Council of the Provisional Government of the Republic," *The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association* 5, no. 4 (1902), 279; Rupert N. Richardson, "Framing the Constitution of the Republic of Texas," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 31, no. 3 (1928), 203.
8. Davis married Maria de Jesus Estudillo of San Leandro, a niece of major landowner José Antonio Estudillo of San Diego. "José Antonio Estudillo." Online Biographies, San Diego Historical Society, <http://sandiegohistory.org/bio/estudillo/estudilloja.htm> (accessed June 5, 2005); "José María Estudillo," San Diego Historical Society, Online Biographies, <http://sandiegohistory.org/bio/estudillo/estudillojm.htm> (accessed June 5, 2005); William Heath Davis, *Seventy-Five years in California* (San Francisco: J. Howell, 1929), 334; Iris Engstrand, *San Diego: California's Cornerstone* (revised, San Diego: Sunbelt Publications, 2005), 78.
9. E. W. Morse, "Reminiscences of Early San Diego," *San Diego Union*, June 1, 1900, 6.
10. Louis Rose to City Land Commission, October 17, 1850, San Diego Historical Society (hereafter SDHS), Land Commission Document File; Sarah Robinson to Charles Haraszthy, October 21, 1850, Robinson family document file, SDHS; Mary A. Helmich and Richard D. Clark, Interpretive Program: Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Vol. II, Site Recommendations GDP, No. 26 (Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1991) n.p.
11. *San Diego Herald*, August 27, 1852.
12. San Diego County Recorder, Deed Book C: 199; San Diego Board of Trustees, Minutes, 7 December 1852.; "Chapter CXXXIX: An Act to Repeal the Charter of the City of San Diego and to Create a Board of Trustees," *Statutes of California passed at the Third Session of the Legislature* (San Francisco: G. K. Fitch & Co and V.E. Geiger & Co., State Printers, 1852), 223-225; Orion Zink and Irvin Shimmin, "The Story of San Diego Lodge No. 35, F. & A.M.," *The Master Mason*, 125th anniversary edition (San Diego: private publisher, 1976), 3.
13. San Diego Board of Trustees, Minutes, January 6, 1853; Rose's purchases included, in the Playa: Block 40, Lot 3, \$37. Block 45, Lot 2, \$5. Block 45, Lot 3, \$13. Block 46, Lot 1, \$5. Block 46, Lot 2, \$11. Block 46, Lot 3, \$22. Block 46, Lot 4, \$21; San Diego Board of Trustees, Minutes, July 12, 1853; San Diego County Recorder, Deed Book D: 132. Rose purchased Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 of 160 acres each in La Cañada de las Lleguas. He later added to these holdings.
14. *San Diego Herald*, January 28, 1854.
15. *San Diego Herald*, February 25, 1854.

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16. *San Diego Herald*, January 29, 1855.
17. Benjamin Hayes, *Emigrant Notes*, 2:193-194. The handwritten diaries of Judge Benjamin Hayes are available in the Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley.
18. *Ibid.*, 2:191-192.
19. *Ibid.*, 1:188.
20. *San Diego Herald*, September 12, 1857: 2; *Ibid.*, November 14, 1857: 2; *Ibid.*, December 5, 1857: 2; *Lorenzo Soto vs. Louis Rose*, District Court Case 02070037, 1860, SDHS.
21. *San Diego Herald*, January 29, 1859, 2.
22. *Lorenzo Soto vs. Louis Rose*; Naomi Baker, "'S. D. Leaning Tower' Stands for 48 Years: Rose Canyon Rival of Old World Wonder. Will it Topple?" *San Diego Union*, June 21, 1936, SDHS, Rose Canyon clipping file.
23. Laurie Bissell, "San Diego Cemeteries: A Brief Guide," *JSDH* 28, no. 4 (1982), 272; Henry O. Langley, *The San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing December, 1865* (San Francisco: Towne & Bacon, 1865), 674.
24. The son, William Robinson, who had slipped the Union Army blockade and had enlisted in the Confederate Army, subsequently became popular enough to win election from San Diego County to the state Assembly. Unfortunately, he later had episodes of unexplainable rages and had to be committed to the state insane asylum.
25. San Diego County Recorder, May 20, 1868, Deed Book 3, 156.
26. James Pascoe, Map of Roseville, Subdivision of Pueblo Lots Nos. 198, 199 and 208, surveyed for Louis Rose, (San Diego, 1969), Mapping department, San Diego County Assessor's Office.
27. Olaf Rennebeck, archivist of Emmaus Church in Neuhaus-an-der-Oste, interviewed by author, March 8, 2000.
28. Except along Main Street, the blocks all were configured the same. Lots 1-6 were on the northeastern side of the street and Lots 7-12 were on the southwestern side. Each of these residential lots had a street frontage of 50 feet and a depth of 100 feet. The commercial lots on Main Street also measured 50 by 100 feet. In this case, however, the lots designated as 5, 6, 7, and 8 were rotated 90 degrees to face Main Street rather than the numbered residential streets. This enabled each block on the northwest side of Main Street to have four commercial lots.
29. *San Diego Union*, January 9, 1869, 2.
30. *Ibid.*, April 14, 1869, 2.
31. *Ibid.*, July 28, 1869: 3; Louis Rose, Petition to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, 8 September 1869, SDHS, Collection R 2.93, Petitions to the Board of Supervisors, Box 1, File 1869, Document 69-13.
32. An alphabetical roll call of the earliest property owners in Roseville included: William Cleveland, Cornelius Cole, William Wiley Davis, Alice Dentler, Jose Estudillo, Thomas Fox, W. Jeff Gatewood, James Giffin, David Glass, Joel Harland, James Hinds, John Chauncy Hayes, Thomas Judd, Max Lowenstein, William Lynch, R.C. McConnick, James McCoy, George Pendleton, Max Pollock, Rufus Porter, Julius Rachfelcke, William Weider, and Gustavus Wittfeld; San Diego County Recorder, March 12, 1869, Deed Book 5: 228-229; March 13, 1869, Deed Book 5: 243; March 27, 1869, Deed Book 5: 182, 188, 234, 236; April 9, 1869, Deed Book 5: 345; April 12, 1869, Deed Book 5: 273; April 24, 1869, Deed Book 5: 291, 305; April 26, 1869, Deed Book 5: 305, 346; May 5, 1869, Deed Book 5: 358; May 6, 1869, Deed Book 5: 397, Deed Book 7: 53.
33. San Diego County Recorder, April 24, 1869, Deed Book 7: 84.
34. San Diego County Recorder, April 29, 1868, Deed Book 5: 343, 346; May 4, 1869, Deed Book 5: 348; May 7, 1869, Deed Book 5: 383; May 14, 1869, Deed Book 5: 383; May 15, 1869, Deed Book 5: 384; May 17, 1869, Deed Book 5: 408, Deed Book 6: 64, 288.
35. San Diego County Recorder, Marriage Licenses, 116.
36. *Rose vs. Rose*, District Court Records, June 21, 1854, SDHS, R2.38, Box 17; San Diego County Recorder, September 28, 1869, Deed Book 7: 50.
37. Ronald D. Gerson, "Jewish Religious Life in San Diego, CA, 1851-1918" (master's thesis, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, 1974), 28, 31; *San Diego Union*, October 6, 1870, 3; San Diego County Recorder, Register of Deaths, March 13, 1873; *San Diego Union*, May 30, 1872; San Diego County Recorder, Register of Deaths, February 20, 1957.

38. Henrietta Rose, interviewed by Winifred Davidson, April 9, 1932, SDHS, Louis Rose vertical file.
39. Fitch was a Yankee sea captain who had converted from Protestantism to Catholicism in order to marry the lovely Josefa. The marriage, however, was forbidden by the jealous Governor José María Echeandia the night before it was to have taken place. According to the oft-told story, Josefa whispered to Fitch: "Why don't you carry me away, Don Enrique?" The next night, Josefa strolled from the Casa de Carrillo to the Pear Garden, which occupied the site of today's Presidio Golf Course. In the garden, Pío Pico waited with two horses—one for him and one for Josefa. The couple dashed to La Playa. According to a disputed legend, two ships were at anchor: Fitch's *María Ester* and another ship, *Vulture*, owned by Fitch's friend, Richard Barry. To throw authorities off the track, Josefa and Henry sailed away on the *Vulture*, slipping under the guns of Fort Guijarros at the mouth of the bay before soldiers there could be alerted. The couple was married in Valparaíso, where they stayed until after their first child was born. Then they returned aboard the *Leonor* knowing that Josefa's parents would be melted by their grandchild. Although Henry had to do penance, the couple soon was reintegrated into San Diego society. Historians don't quarrel with the overall story, but suggest Fitch had been a supercargo aboard *Vulture* and was not at that time affiliated with the *María Ester*.
40. Henrietta Rose, interviewed by Winifred Davidson, April 9, 1932, SDHS, Louis Rose vertical file.
41. San Diego County Recorder, Register of Deaths, August 21, 1875; San Diego County Recorder, September 8, 1869, Deed Book 6: 339; June 22, 1876, Deed Book 28: 326; Claude Reddy Conklin, oral history, SDHS.
42. San Diego County Recorder, February 9, 1870, Deed Book 8: 224; March 2, 1870, Deed Book 9: 239; May 21, 1870, Deed Book 9: 439; *San Diego Union*, July 6, 1873, cited in Stern and Kramer, "The Rose of San Diego."
43. *San Diego Union*, March 24, 1870, 3.
44. *San Diego Union*, September 15, 1870, 3.
45. Clarence Alan McGrew, *City of San Diego and the County of San Diego: The Birthplace of California* (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1922), 1:316.
46. Richard F. Pourade, *The Glory Years* (San Diego: Union-Tribune Publishing Company, 1964), 79; *San Diego Union*, February 23, 1871: 3; *Ibid.*, March 9, 1871, 2.
47. Pourade, *The Glory Years*, 85.
48. *San Diego Union*, March 30, 1871, 3; *San Diego Union (Weekly)*, April 6, 1871, 3.
49. *San Diego Union*, April 3, 1871, 2.
50. San Diego County Recorder, April 3, 1871, Deed Book 12: 328.
51. *San Diego Union*, April 13, 1871, 3.
52. Johanna Love, Kay Audlum, Col. E. J. C. Kewen, and D. A. Hollister were the buyers. San Diego County Recorder, April 4, 1871, Deed Book 13:192; Deed Book 15: 200; April 17, 1871, Deed Book 13: 225; April 18, 1871, Deed Book 13: 212.
53. *San Diego Union*, April 10, 1871, 4.
54. *Ibid.*, August 31, 1871, 4.
55. *Ibid.*, February 2, 1872, 3; February 11, 1872, 3; March 13, 1872, 3; November 28, 1872, 3.
56. Rickey D. Best, "San Diego and the Gilded Age: The Efforts to Bring the Texas and Pacific Railroad to San Diego," *JSDH* 34, no. 4 (1988), 269.
57. *Ibid.*, 274-276.
58. *San Diego Union*, January 1, 1888.
59. *San Diego Sun*, February 13, 1888, 5.
60. Donald H. Harrison transcribed remarks made at the September 22, 2004 announcement ceremony featuring Mayor Dick Murphy, City Councilman Michael Zucchet, Park and Recreation Director Ellen Oppenheim, and United Jewish Federation President Steve Solomon.