



Another Early Female Physician, Sophronia Nichols (Whose Life Held Many Similarities to Dr. Willella's)

Sophronia Atheam was born in 1835 in Massachusetts. Her ancestors were early pioneers of Martha's Vineyard. She graduated from school as a teacher, as did Dr. Willella, and married Joel Nichols. They subsequently had five children, only two of whom survived.

At the time there were stern regulations regarding a woman entering the field of medicine, considered a male-only field. However, becoming a medical doctor was Sophronia's dream. In 1874 she graduated from Boston University Medical School, the only woman in her class. She first practiced in Pennsylvania, where she had few patients.



Sophronia's brothers were, by then, living in California and felt she might be more accepted as a female doctor in the west, where physicians were scarce. In 1876 she and her children arrived in San Francisco; she sent the children to live with her sister in Alpine. That same year, Sophronia received her California Medical License, only the 26th doctor licensed in the state. She set up her first medical practice in the west in Oregon at age 41 but subsequently practiced all over the west coast. She, like Dr. Willella, was a homeopathic doctor.

When she was 59, Sophronia moved to Alpine. She was reportedly a husky and strong woman who kept her hair very short. She let nothing stop her when she was needed to attend to a sick person. She delivered her first baby in Alpine in 1895. In January of 1897 she delivered the daughter of a couple who owned a famous Alpine resort. As did Dr. Willella, she drove to her patient's residence in her horse-drawn buggy. After delivering the baby she stayed for 3 days to take care of mother and child.

Like Dr. Willella, Sophronia drove her horse and buggy over any kind of road or in any weather condition or at any hour of the day or night. She went where she was needed. Only sometimes was she paid for her services. She accepted this as part of the life of a country doctor.

Sephronia remained active until 1902, when she had a stroke. She then moved to Rancho Barona to live with her daughter and died in 1903. She is buried in Alpine.

Sophronia's home in Alpine was on Tavern Road. Later, an abandoned 1886 schoolhouse was added to her house and used as a medical office. The building is currently used by the Alpine Historical Society.

Louise Hoffman



So Thankful for These Two

As we are well into fall, the Board of Directors looked back at the obstacles confronting the Howe-Waffle House and the society during the spring and summer seasons. Through all the difficulties with COVID-19, graffiti, break-ins and vandalism, two board members were always there, going above and beyond the call of duty. They are Tina Davidson (left) and Nan Liebsack (right).

The Board of Directors gave a token of their appreciation with a little gift at the last board meeting, showing them that we are grateful for all the time they've put in and thankful for all they've done to return normalcy to the HWH. We feel blessed to have them on our board.

April Bettendorf

President's Message

Hello dearest members and friends,

Well, here we are again, stuck in virus limbo. I'm sure I'm not the only one feeling like this will never end, but I know our day of happiness is coming. I feel certain we will emerge stronger for having shared our strength and unity.

Meanwhile, the board has turned this terrible downtime into a perfect opportunity to make much-needed refurbishments to our dear Dr. Howe-Waffle House. Currently, several rooms are being patched, painted and freshened. We will reopen with pride and confidence. The gift shop will have a new Victorian look, the Pulati room. Dr.'s waiting room and kitchen will also be freshened up with Victorian-appropriate colors and window coverings. The dining room woodwork has been re-stained back to its deep gorgeous original color. The décor committee has been working very hard, sorting through our vintage clothing collection. Separating and organizing our treasures has been a much-needed labor of love. Thanks Alison, Max and Wayne.

The damaged windows have been replaced; the damaged screens are being replaced next. I can't thank Ray and Liz, owners of Santa Ana Glass and Screen, enough for their excellent work and concern for the house. When they first saw the damage, they almost cried. They've gone beyond just another day's work; they're doing things for us at no charge every step of the way.

If that wasn't enough, it looks like our newlyplanted rose bushes and Rosemary are all thriving. I like to think it's because of the love pouring out of the house. Or maybe it's just because I haven't been the one tending them.

When we're finally able to re-open, we will be adding new opportunities for the Society to really share the house with others. What are those opportunities? You'll just have to wait and see? (Oh, I know, I'm an awful tease).

For now, gentle readers, please be safe, happy and healthy.

All my love, your president, **Tina Davidson**



A legacy of preservation since 1974

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Secrets from Dr. Willella's Clothes Closet: The Anatomy of a Jail House Uniform



What's been hiding in the Doctor Howe-Waffle House closets? A recent project to evaluate the vintage clothing collection at Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society turned up an unusual donation that had been set aside for years—what I had been told was a vintage Orange County Jail prisoner's uniform.

With no information on the uniform's provenance, I was curious about the time period this would have been from, and decided to do some research while on my own lockdown due to Covid-19. This was no horizontal-striped chain gang outfit or orange jumpsuit, but a sturdy denim-style workman's jacket and pant combo, with the eye-catching difference of having one white and one blue leg and arm, and a jacket with a blue front and white back. Like the iconic black and white stripes, any escapee wearing this ensemble would have been easy to spot!

Try as I might, I could find no similar inmate styles in an internet search. In fact, there seemed to be more images posted of prison guards than prisoners. Chris Jepsen at the OC Archives was able to locate one photo of 1930's inmates working outside the old Orange County Court House after the 1933 earthquake. But while they also

were clothed in denim work outfits, these appeared to be a single color.

Looking at the pants there were not many clues as to vintage, other than an unusual metal adjustment buckle in the back of the waist, and silver metal fly buttons instead of a zipper. Modern zippers were first produced in 1912, but Levi Strauss didn't begin using them in blue jeans until 1947. So, the lack of a zipper didn't really pin down an age for these work clothes. But I hit the jackpot when I discovered the two original labels inside the jacket neck. Proudly proclaiming that this was a "United Garment Workers of America Union," "Duck Goods" product, the manufacturer's label stated "Stronghold, Los Angeles Cal, Brownstein-Louis Company," size 36. Size was of no help, as numeric men's clothing sizes had been in use since before the War of 1812. The United Garment Workers Union existed from 1891 to 1994 and research indicated that this version of their label started to be used "circa 1930."

I was quickly able to find a treasure trove of information on the Brownstein-Louis Company of Los Angeles. They were the big local manufacturer of work clothes for all of Southern California starting in 1895, and one article confirmed that they made prison uniforms along with normal work clothes. They constructed a beautiful building on Figueroa in LA in the 1920s, and another building in the '30s. The "Stronghold" brand was relaunched in 2004, according to their website. The Stronghold was the first branded apparel to be manufactured in Los Angeles and was the only maker of denim and canvas work wear before WWII. The Stronghold employed 1,000 workers in downtown Los Angeles, making them the largest manufacturer of clothing in Southern California.

The majority of workwear seen in early Hollywood films was manufactured by The Stronghold... most pre-WWII Hollywood films that featured cowboys, railroad workers, construction workers, explorers, farmers, miners, or prison inmates... featured The Stronghold clothing. In 1936, Charlie Chaplin wore The Stronghold hickory striped bib-overalls in one of his most memorable movies, "Modern Times." Based on the information in these articles, this uniform would have been made after 1911 (when they changed from Brownstein, Newmark & Louis to Brownstein-Louis) but before 1930 when the Stronghold brand began

OC Jail inmates after the 1933 earthquake

using their "Stronghold Steve" mascot image on labels and buttons. And since this particular Union label design apparently went into use around 1930, and Orange County prisoners were wearing single color uniforms by 1933, my research would fix this set of vintage clothing right around 1929 or 1930!

I enjoyed every minute of my "armchair research" project and hope you found it interesting too. It's amazing how much information can be culled from a few vintage pieces of cloth. Perhaps more secrets will be uncovered in Dr. Willella's closet! Alison Young

Get to Know Your Board, Part 2

In our last issue we introduced the board and told you about their exciting career choices and how their skills could be applied to volunteerism. Today, let's read about their first encounter with paid employment, as well as their least favorite job. These jobs may not have reflected their career goals, but let's face it, we all have to start somewhere.



Our President, Tina, started raising and selling parakeets at age nine. Her least favorite job was selling cans of peanuts for her Blue Bird troop.



V.P. Marilyn started at Thrifty Drug Store at age 18, alternating between the photo center, the ice cream department and the cash register.

Her least favorite was also at Thrifty Drug Store. In those days cash registers didn't show tax, total, or amount of change to be given back. She said she was slow with math and people were impatient. She quit on the fourth day.



Treasurer Nan's first job was cleaning two houses. Her least favorite job was working in the H.R. department of a large corporation.



Our Secretary, Louise, started working at 17 at the W.T. Grant Store in Santa Ana, in the credit and layaway department.

Her least favorite job was at a company that printed manuals. She took photographs of pages she had typed on a manual typewriter. She then held the negatives up to the light and covered any blank spots with black ink, so imperfections wouldn't show on the printed page. It was tedious, grueling and unsatisfying work. She didn't last long there.



April started working the day she turned 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ at a TG&Y Store. It was fun because several of her friends also worked there.

A part-time summer job was her least favorite. She gave out samples of detergent in a laundromat to customers to use to do their laundry that day. She quit after one month.



Lynn's first job was working at a sandwich shop call Grinder. Her least favorite job was working in the loan department of a bank as the vicepresident's secretary.

Five out of the six board members babysat during their adolescent or teen years. The going rate at the time ranged from \$.50 to \$1.25 an hour.

April Bettendorf

Top Events in 1920 One Hundred Years Ago

- 1. America had a de facto woman president. First Lady Edith Wilson
- America sustained the worst terrorist attack in its history. The Wall Street bombing
- 3. The "Lost Generation" began its transformation of American literature. Sinclair Lewis, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway
- 4. J. Edgar Hoover began his ascent.
- Flappers flaunted conventional standards of behavior.
 Bobbed hair, short skirts and drop-waist dresses
- 6. The most popular song was Swanee, by Al Jolson.
- Babe Ruth was purchased from the Boston Red Sox by the New York Yankees. Hence, the curse of the Bambino
- 8. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in the U.S.
- 9. The Black Cross Nurses was established.
- 10. KDKA, in Pittsburgh, became the first radio station to offer regular broadcasts.

April Bettendorf

From Tina's Victorian kitchen... LOVELY VICTORIAN APPLE CHARLOTT

Butter or nonstick spray for greasing pan 6 large, tart apples (such as Granny Smiths) 1 cup granulated sugar 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 1 cup all-purpose flour Grand cinnamon to finish Powdered sugar, also to finish

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line the bottom of a 9-inch pan with parchment paper. Butter the paper and sides of the pan. Peel, halve and core apples, then chop them into medium-sized chunks (I cut each half into four "strips," then slice them fairly thin [about ¹/₄ inch] in the other direction). Pile the cut apples directly into the prepared pan. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, using an electric mixer or whisk, beat eggs with sugar until think and ribbons form on the surface of the beaten eggs. Beat in vanilla, then stir in flour with a spoon until just combined. The batter will be very thick.

Pour batter over apples in pan, using a spoon or spatula to spread it so that it covers all the exposed apples. (Updated to clarify: spread the batter *and* press it down into the apple pile. The top of the batter should end up level with the top of the apples.) Bake in preheated oven for 55-60 minutes, or until a tester comes out free of batter. Cool in pan for 10 minutes on a rack, then flip out onto another rack, peel off the parchment paper, and flip it back onto a serving platter. Dust lightly with ground cinnamon.

Serve warm or cooled, dusted with powdered sugar. (Try this—it's very good.)



Heine House to HWH Gazebo

Growing up in Santa Ana, I passed it hundreds of times. It was an old green house, kind of odd and spooky-looking, on the corner of 4th and Flower Streets. It was two stories high, plus a basement and attic. My dad always referred to it as "Ora K.'s house" and I went inside just once, when I was about seven years old.

Just recently I learned that when the house was torn down, some of the lumber was used to build the gazebo in the back yard at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. Dr. Willella didn't actually have a gazebo, though they were popular during her lifetime. However, after her house

was moved by the SAHPS from its original location at Bush and 7th Streets to its current one and was undergoing restoration, a gazebo was built (around 1980) with lumber from Ora K.'s house.

Ora K. Heine's younger son, Max, and his wife, Rowena, and my parents were close friends. They would often get together to play bridge and we took some family trips together. Their only child, Steve, and I, about the same age, were childhood friends.

When I heard about where the wood for the gazebo had come from, I wanted to find out more about the Heine house. I learned that Frank and Ora K. were not the original owners. Rather, in 1902 Cassius and Ollie Nash sold the lot on the southeast corner of W. 4th St. (now W. Santa Ana Blvd.) and Flower to Mrs. Mary Parker, a dressmaker and, apparently, well-off widow. She had a son named Charles. That year she had a house built for herself; the address was 820 W. 4th St. In Nov., 1908 Mary (now using the name Chilson) sold the house to Electa Perry and her son, Elma Davis. Mary, active in the First Baptist Church, continued to live in north Santa Ana until her death in 1931.

The Davis family, who had purchased the house from Mary, used it as a rental. In Feb. of 1920 Elma Davis sold it to Frank H. and Ora Kennedy Heine and they moved in late the next year. During the first few years, they sometimes took in boarders. Frank worked at a local fruit packing plant, where he was in charge of manufacturing crates.

Frank died in 1963 and Ora K. remained in the house until 1971, when she moved to a smaller house on N. Flower and deeded the old house over to her two sons. They later (1975) sold the house to the City of Santa Ana, who was going to take it through eminent domain, and the house was torn down. Ora K. died in March, 1980.

Steve told me about some of his grandmother's accomplishments. She served as a matron at the Orange County women's jail under Sheriff James A. Musick. She was on the Santa Ana planning commission for 30 years and a charter member of the Toastmistresses Club in Santa Ana (women weren't admitted to Toastmasters until the early 1970s). She gave Riviera Dr. in Santa Ana its name and was occasionally on the local radio station, KVOE (later KWIZ).

Steve told me his grandfather, in addition to building citrus crates, owned a business making toy airplanes with propellers that turned by pulling a string. (Steve still has a few of them.) The business burned down. Frank thought his partner did it for the insurance money, but that was never proved and the business was never re-opened.

Thanks to Steve Heine and Chris Jepsen for their help with this article.

Louise Hoffman



Tustin Area Museum Gets a Major Facelift

Volunteers have been taking advantage of the forced COVID shutdown by pushing ahead on the complete revitalization of the Tustin Area Museum in Old Town Tustin earlier than planned. This local museum has seen thousands of adults and area students, often through classroom visits, to see how life in Tustin "was" in the "early days".

Back in mid-1979, the fledgling Tustin Area Historical Society opened their museum in the historic Knights of Pythias Building on El Camino Real in

downtown and, with the exception of some minor collection changes and additions, the layout was pretty much the same for the last 40 years.

Beginning several months ago, members cleared out all the entire museum to refinish the original hardwood floor, repaint the walls, and replace all the lighting with brighter LED fixtures. A rear office wall was moved back four feet to allow for even more exhibit room. Meanwhile, new glass cabinets and moveable walls were purchased to improve the exhibit space and allow for future flexibility.

One thing that has not changed is the display of Tustin's first fire engine which was created years ago from a donated 1912 Buick touring car. The beautifully-restored vehicle includes a hand-cranked siren (particularly enjoyed by the school kids).

While some exhibits are still being finalized, the museum will have new areas for local sports heroes, Tustin's military heritage,



Thanks to a generous donation by a member, a new electronic research center was added which will allow visitors to view back issues of the original *Tustin News* community paper as well as images from the society's collection that aren't on display due to space limitations. Their wide collection of local and county history books is available for research as well.

Technology upgrades now allow for the three new TV wall monitors to be used for video presentations, displays, and special events. The museum gift shop has been expanded and more



emphasis will be focused on the front window display for passersby.

The Tustin Area Museum is located at 395 El Camino Real at Main St. While currently closed, when normal hours return, it will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays and every-other Saturday. Visit <u>www.TustinHistory.com</u> or their Tustin Area Museum Facebook page for further information on their grand reopening.

Guy Ball

Note: per Guy Ball, since this article was originally written, the museum has re-opened.





Congratulations, Christina Tinde Jesenski!

Congratulations are in order for a special friend of SAHPS. In her senior year at the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA), Christina Jesenski was named Artist of the Year for Theater by the *Orange County Register*. A semi-finalist last year, Christina threw her hat in the ring once more to secure the title for 2020.

Long-time fans of our Historical Cemetery Tour will no doubt remember Christina from her performances in several memorable Cemetery Tour roles, including portraying our own Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle. Most recently, in our 2017 tour, Christina immersed herself in the part of the famed Polish actress (and Orange County resident) Madame Helena Modjeska as she played the star-crossed Lady Macbeth.

Christina's mom, Britt, also a familiar sight around Cemetery Tour, is an amazing artist in her own right. Britt generously shared her time and talent with costumes, hair and makeup to ensure that our OCSA student actors always looked stunning.

And, if you happened to follow Christina's career at OCSA, you may have been fortunate enough to have witnessed her remarkable performance as Alice Liddell in *The Alice Project*. *The Alice Project* was a reimagining of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and was the first production at OCSA expressly for middle school students. As an 8th grader, Christina played the eponymous part of Alice at the age of 80. It is no exaggeration to say that this performance was a compelling evening of theater for performers of any age. Christina also portrayed Titania in OCSA's spectacular production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and performed to acclaim in local community theater.

Christina is now attending the University of Evansville in Indiana to continue to pursue her passion for the theater. Her many fans at SAHPS wish her all the best. Or as they say in the theater world: Break a leg Christina!

Max Schmidl

Collections

Collections. It seems we all have them. Yes, even you. If you have three or more like items, let's face it, you have a collection. Why do we have them? There can be many reasons and here are just a few.

- 1. Obligation: Perhaps it's something you inherited, like your Aunt Millie's porcelain dolls or Grandma Mary's sewing thimbles. You can't bear to get rid of them, so you either display them or box them up in a closet, but the fact remains, you have a collection.
- 2. Sentiment: Many of us collect objects that remind us of events in our live, such as concert tickets, sports and theme park memorabilia or theater programs.
- 3. Memories: We go on a vacation that we want to remember, so we pick up seashells from various beaches, or postcards, magnets, mugs or t-shirts from places we've been.
- 4. Gifts: You know how it is. You happen to mention that you think pigs are cute and before you can say "oink, oink," it seems every birthday or Christmas you're given a cute little ceramic or porcelain pig. Before you know it, you've got a collection.
- 5. Business: There are some who collect coins, memorabilia, sports cards and classic cars in hopes that they will have future value and they'll make some money.
- 6. You love it: If you're like me you just collect things for the sheer joy of having the collection.

The fun is in the finding of the items and then always being on the lookout to add to those items in order to make your collection bigger. Then, of course, you must find the perfect spot to display it and arrange it just right. It's your hobby, it's something to do, it's an activity you love. For years to come you can enjoy looking at it, using it or talking about it.

Now, go dust off that collection of yours and treasure it!

April Bettendorf

Negro Leagues Centennial

Did you know that there was an important anniversary in baseball this year? 2020 marked the centennial of Negro Leagues baseball. Prior to 1947, when Jackie Robinson integrated Major League Baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Black (and Latino) players were not offered contracts in the major leagues. Before then, African-American baseball players created their own professional barnstorming and traveling teams.

The Negro Leagues formally became more organized when the Negro National League was formed in 1920 with eight teams. The Negro American League and the Eastern Colored League soon followed. The Great Depression hindered the growth of the Negro Leagues, but the East-West All Star game was first held in 1933 and continued until 1950. This annual event was the centerpiece of the Negro Leagues season and usually drew 50,000 fans to Chicago. Negro Leagues teams succeeded in cities with thriving Black economies.

The heyday of the Negro Leagues was from 1932 to 1946. Players such as Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson and "Cool Papa" Bell became legends, and teams such as the Kansas City Monarchs, Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords were powerhouses. The Crawfords traveled in luxury buses and were treated like celebrities off the field and on. The Negro Leagues came to rival their Major League baseball counterparts in talent and attendance.

When Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, Major League baseball slowly began to integrate. This marked the decline of the Negro Leagues. Young stars such as Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Ernie Banks left the Negro Leagues to pursue their Major League dreams. The era of the Negro Leagues basically ended in the 1950s.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri is well worth a visit. You can easily spend an afternoon there. The museum chronicles and celebrates the rich history of African-American baseball that otherwise might have been forgotten. For more information, please check the museum's website at NLBM.com.

Alan Lawson



SILLY IS AS SILLY DOES

As usual, the SAHPS gang was on the lookout for "an opportunity for possible amusement" when we gathered for a work day at the house. Ray, our glass man, was replacing the last window pane when Marilyn and I decided to hang out of the open space and wave to passing cars. Lots of folks waved back, laughed and honked. After being joined by the rest of our group, we coerced a complete stranger into taking our picture.

To quote George Bernard Shaw, "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing"

Wishing you all a very long life, The Prez.



OPPORTUNITY FOR NEWSLETTER ADS

Recently, the society has begun a campaign of soliciting advertising spots for our newsletter. This will help advertise trusted business and help defray the cost of producing our newsletter.

The cost of ad space is reasonable enough for individuals to add personal messages. You might announce a special event OR a word of thanks and encouragement to the society for all the darn hard work we're doing. (I'm shameless, I know).

If you would like to place an ad for the next newsletter, please give me a call and I'll make that happen.

This newsletter has been paid for entirely by one business who believes in charitable efforts. Thank you so much Ahmad Hashemian.

> Tina Davidson 714-401-6158

Ahmad Hashemian * Capital Aspects, LLC 714-751-6600 CA Ins. License #0773469

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