

Carlsbad Time Lines

Q2 2020

Carlsbad Historical Society



Shipley-Magee House - Temporary Closure

President's Letter

It has been a very eventful and unsettling spring. We hope that this newsletter finds you all well. Due to the world circumstances, we will not be able to print and mail out paper copies. So if you are one of those who've requested a paper copy, or cannot open a PDF, please let us know and we will send you a plain text of the newsletter through your email. It is during times like these that we are experiencing when we come to realize that though we are all individually impacted by world events we are also part of a larger group and the importance of community. A community that offers support to each other and respect for the overall greater benefit.

As a historical group we want to preserve for future generations of Carlsbad residents how we are individually and communally impacted by the global pandemic of Covid19. With this in mind, our organization is reaching out to you, our members, to contribute your thoughts, digital photos, art, or anything else you care to share, on how this pandemic is impacting your daily life. So please tell us your story. If you are willing, include your name, age and when you moved to Carlsbad. Let us know how you are living through this historic event. How has social distancing impacted your family? Are you making face masks, or wearing them? Are you shopping more, cooking at home, dusting off old skills of sewing, cooking, baking? Have you decided to start growing vegetables again. Do you attend church service regularly, and how has that changed? Are

you reaching out to neighbors or younger family members, offering them tips on basic skills? We look forward to hearing from you. Please send anything to our gmail account: Cbadhistory@gmail.com.

The following is the **second part of President Schnebelen-Gutierrez presentation given at St. Michael's church.**

Shipley Magee

Today, we are celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. Michael's. I'd like to take a few minutes to share with you a little bit of history regarding one of the church's founding families, the Shipleys, whose generosity and contributions helped to lay the foundation for this celebration.

Many of you may have heard of Florence Shipley Magee; whose gifts to St. Michael's included the donation of land for the current church and the commissioning of the beautiful St. Michael's and the Dragon stained glass window.

But, you might not have been aware that Florence Magee's parents, Alexander and Julia Shipley were equally giving and very involved in the formation of St. Michael's.

The Shipley's were one of the earliest Carlsbad Families arriving in 1890. Their strong ties to England laid the groundwork for their close friendship to other local expatriate British residents, the Shaw and Ramsay families. All three families were practicing Episcopalians and, by contributing money and labor, these families became the cornerstone for creation of St. Michael's, Carlsbad's first church.

The story of the Shipley Family, their background, how and why they arrived in California and their contributions to our city and to St. Michael's really is the story of California, a family still tied to the east and yet dedicated to making a new life in the west.

Let me share a little history of Carlsbad, the significance of the Shipley family's contributions to our community and to Saint Michael's as benefactors and founding members.

In 1883 the Santa Fe Rail service was given permission to lay a rail line through the coastal area of Robert Kelly's Rancho Agua Hedionda, and thus creating a direct north south rail service connecting San Diego to Los Angeles. Rail lines opened up San Diego County coastal land for development. When mineral and potable water was found along the rail line in this area by John Frasier, it created a real estate advantage. Water in a desert is a highly prized commodity, and mineral water was especially valuable. Health spas and artesian water areas were all the rage throughout the United States in the 1880s.

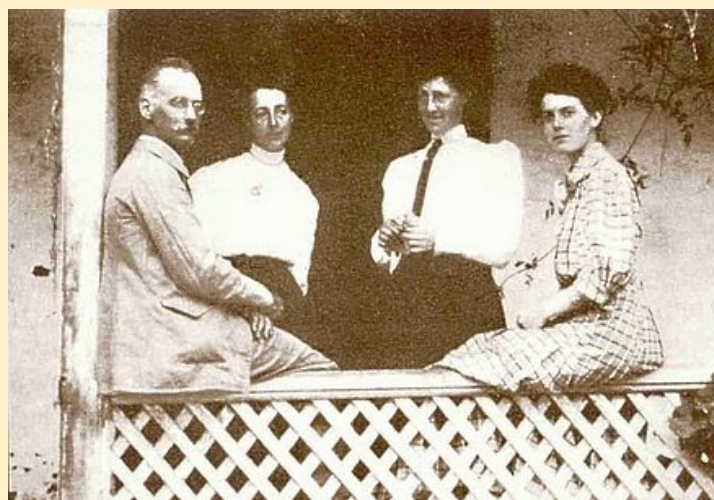
With water as the draw, a real estate development company was created; the Carlsbad Land and Water Company. By 1886 the Directors of the company; Gerhard Schutte, Samuel Church Smith, Henry Wadsworth and Henry Nelson purchased land nearest the rail line and subdivided it into building plots. Trees were planted, dirt roads laid out, and a four story health spa & hotel was built, all focused on the claim of artisanal water similar to that of the famous Carlsbad Spas in Europe. Three of the Directors built homes, two of which are still standing, albeit with modifications; the current Magee House across the street, the current home of the Carlsbad Historical Society, built by Samuel Church Smith, and the Sun Diego / Land and Water Company Restaurant was the former Gerhard Schutte home. However, disaster struck within four years, by 1890, in the form of a severe drought. As water became scarce, the significance of a health spa dependent on water lost its value. Scarcity of water also created issues for families dependent on work associated with the health spa hotel and well, and people left town. Those who left included three Carlsbad Land and Water Company Directors. Gerhard Schutte was the only remaining member.

Vacant property became available for purchase. It was during this real estate recession that Alexander Shipley and family arrived in Carlsbad.

Alexander Shipley was 48 years old when he first set eyes on Carlsbad. In 1890, during one of his many excursions searching for the perfect climate and health spa, the Shipley family stopped in Oceanside, rented a buggy and toured the area. Samuel Church Smith, the original owner of the currently known "Magee House" had left town and listed his property for sale.

Alexander Shipley purchased the small home near the rail line, the artisanal water well, and some surrounding land from the Carlsbad Land and Water Company. Between 1890 and 1893 the Shipley's commuted between their Calistoga

home and Carlsbad. Finally, in 1893 they sold their northern California home, and moved permanently to Carlsbad.



Alexander, Julia and Florence Shipley (with Aunt Millie) at the Shipley-Magee House Porch

Carlsbad

Once in Carlsbad, we've learned from Correspondence, census records, and city registries, that Alexander spent most of his time supervising his investments, traveling for business, and health, and often combining both. To say the family was well off is an understatement. The Shipley's were the wealthiest, most educated, most well traveled and well connected family to ever come to town. Alexander did not labor as most residents, he didn't ranch or farm. He was a businessman and intellectual. He had one separate building on his property dedicated exclusively as a library.

Julia, his wife, oversaw the running of her home. She had staff to clean, garden and take care of their horses and buggy. Julia focused her time on their daughter Florence. She traveled, joined a variety of women's organizations, and participated in church activities. Her closest friends in Carlsbad were members of the Shaw and Ramsay families, who were British Expatriates.

Settling here in 1893, the Shipley's found no established churches in Carlsbad. We must keep in mind that this area was mainly ranch land, and with a very diminished population living in "town", and with limited amenities, social and intellectual pursuits. If residents wanted to attend religious services they traveled to Oceanside. The Carlsbad Community Church was not established until 1924 and St. Patrick's Catholic Church in 1943.

The significance of the Shipley's befriending British expatriates and joining efforts to create and establish a parish cannot be ignored or overlooked. They had money, and interest, and opportunity in creating a local Episcopalian church.

Establishing St. Michael's pulled the community together to form a cohesive town, after so many had left due to the drought. This was a turning point in the town's history.

Thus begins their connection to St. Michael's.

"As a result of the advertisement campaign in England that promoted the American West, many English citizens formed expatriate communities in San Luis Rey, Carlsbad, and Encinitas.

<https://stmichaelsbythesea.org/history-intro/>

Why would the Shipley's care about socializing with British Expatriates?

Alexander Hamilton Shipley 1843-1925

Alexander Hamilton Shipley was born in 1843 in Brooklyn, New York and was one of four children of packet ship officer Thomas Bligh Shipley and Sophia O'Connor. A packet ship was a mail ship carrying mail between ports. Thomas Bligh Shipley was born in Delaware and a member of the influential Delaware Shipleys who were involved in banking, shipping, international commerce between the United States and England, and many members of the family were civil servants for the United States government.

Sophia O'Connor was a daughter of a Royal Army Officer, born, and here the information varies by information provided on census records, either in Ireland or in the West Indies, (1860). It appears from ship records the family traveled extensively and eventually to New York in 1835.

Research indicates that the Thomas Bligh Shipley family traveled often to England and that their children, Alexander included, attended school in Liverpool where their mother Sophia had extended family. It seems that she was related to the Muspratts of Liverpool, noted chemists. (Just as a side note, Florence's middle name was Muspratt, pointing to a close connection between the families).

When Alexander's father, Thomas Shipley, died in 1860, his widow Sophia and their children settled permanently in New York. At this point the Delaware Shipley family, and in

particular Alexander's uncle by marriage Edward Bringhurst, began to guide and mentor Alexander in business ventures.

By 1875, Alexander was engaged in business in New Zealand. He traveled for 10 years between New Zealand, England and the United States. It was during this 10 year period that Alexander met his wife Julia Seamont, married and had a daughter, Florence, who was born in New York City in 1882. By 1885, President Cleveland appointed him as the US Vice Council to New Zealand, and shortly thereafter his health took a turn for the worse. He resigned his position and retired to Calistoga, California in 1886.

Julia Seamont Shipley 1853-1943

Julia was born in 1853 in Pennsylvania to parents listed on the census records as immigrants of France (father) and Germany (mother). The 1870 census finds no mention of her father, who perhaps died during the civil war, but does list Julia living with her mother who was remarried and with several additional children. While single, Julia applied for a passport and traveled at least once outside of the United States to Cuba.

Through letters it is shown that by 1886, Julia, daughter Florence, and Alexander's sister Lizzie had moved west and joined Alexander in Calistoga.

Julia Seamont Shipley kept in contact with her mother and half siblings in New York and New Jersey, through letters, and encouraged their daughter Florence to establish a relationship with her grandmother through the same method.

Florence Muspratt Shipley Magee 1882-1972

Florence attended the local Carlsbad School for a very short time, and then was enrolled in Our Lady of Peace (OLP) Catholic Boarding school in San Diego. Florence graduated from OLP in 1901. Her final graduation exam books highlight her excellent education, which included chemistry, algebra, Latin, as well as history and English. As a sign of the esteem her father felt towards her education and abilities, after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, during the time Alexander traveled east to visit relatives, he left the running of his financial affairs to Florence. She was just 24, and this was 14 years before women gained suffrage or the right to vote.

In addition to her excellent academic education, Florence had outstanding creative abilities; she was a talented sketcher like her grandfather Thomas Bligh and her uncle Samuel.

For the next decade after graduation, Florence participated in local activities with her parents. She joined in amateur theatrical plays, created beautiful crochet, embroidery, tatting and beading, traveled to visit relatives on the East Coast, and friends throughout California.

Florence had a keen love for animals and was known for her horsemanship. At some point, she met her future husband Hugh Magee while out riding. Hugh's mother, Victoria, was a descendant of two original San Diego Californio Families, the Estudillos and Pederinos, and his father was a former US Army Officer Henry Magee.

Gaining a special dispensation, as Florence was Episcopalian, and Hugh a Catholic, they were married at the Mission San Luis Rey in 1912, officiated by Father O'Keefe.

Florence and Hugh moved to his family's ranch outside of Pala, Condor's Nest. Florence was an active participant in the ranch, helping physically with all areas of maintaining the ranch, and contributing financially as well. Florence and Hugh had no children.

After her father's death, in 1925, Florence continued a close relationship and care of her mother Julia, often making the 2 day horseback ride from Pala to Carlsbad. She lived at Condor's Nest until Hugh's death in 1941.

After her husband passed away, Florence returned to Carlsbad and lived with her aging mother, until Julia passed away in 1943.

Florence at this time was alone, no children of her own, nor siblings, but she did have close friends. For the next 30 years Florence focused on her community and church.



Florence Shipley Magee

At the time of her death in 1972, Florence's will included bequests to her beloved cats, and other pets. Her family home was left in the care of the City of Carlsbad for use as a historic and recreational park, various friends and employees received personal donations of money, furniture, art and antiques.

So finalizing the research for this talk, I had a few last questions; why was it so important for the Shipley family to establish St. Michael's, and how did St. Michael's impact and influence the town of Carlsbad?

What did I know for sure; there was no reference in any letters between Alexander, Julia and her East Coast family, or Florence, regarding any religious denomination, practices or beliefs. Alexander's Delaware family were Quakers; Julia's parents were French and German immigrants, so most likely not Episcopalian; Florence attended a Catholic Boarding school, and married in a Catholic Church. And yet all of the family, Alexander, Julia, and even Florence as a widowed adult, all were practicing and generous members of the Episcopal church, and in particular of St. Michael's .

We have no evidence to support why the Shipley's chose to help establish an Episcopal church in Carlsbad. Nor do we know what religious affiliation they held before moving to town. But I have a theory based on what we do know about their life experiences.

The Shipleys had feet in two separate worlds: the old one they left behind in the East Coast, England and New Zealand; and the new one they were creating in Carlsbad. Their friendship with British expatriates, the Shaws and Ramsays, who were also Episcopalian, would have been familiar and comfortable, having lived and left a similar life. This friendship helped to create a bridge between their old life and their new one. Creation of the Episcopal parish by these families was a gift to themselves, creating a religious, cultural and social foundation. But it was also a gift to the town of Carlsbad. As the first established church and parish, it gave the town a moral compass that the community could follow, and a permanence of place that's lasted for 125 years.

What a wonderful gift to all of us.

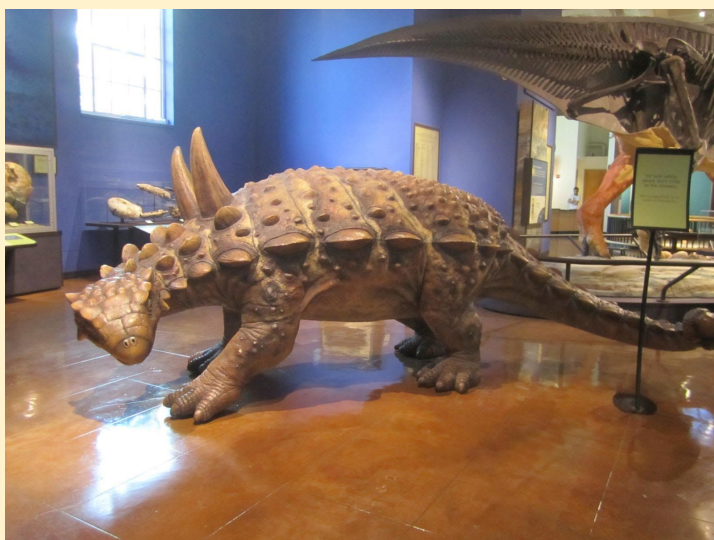
So does it really matter why? The fact is we are very glad they did!

Paleontology and Carlsbad

You might not be aware but San Diego County is a treasure trove of paleo history. Many fossils have been found in Carlsbad, and can be found at the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. Here are a few photos from a recent visit.



Carlsbad Ammonites



The Carlsbad Ankylosaurus

Rainfall Records in San Diego County

April 2020 saw record levels of rainfall in San Diego County. We thought you might enjoy taking a look at the rainfall records from the last 100 plus years

MARCH 7, 1983

RAINFALL RECORD AT SAN DIEGO SINCE 1850.

1850-1	8.40	1890-1	10.47	1930-1	10.78
1851-2	9.48	1891-2	8.70	1931-2	13.18
1852-3	11.03	1892-3	9.26	1932-3	10.63
1853-4	9.77	1893-4	4.97	1933-4	4.26
1854-5	13.56	1894-5	11.90	1934-5	15.10
1855-6	9.89	1895-6	6.21	1935-6	8.39
1856-7	4.76	1896-7	11.78	1936-7	15.93
1857-8	7.54	1897-8	4.99	1937-8	9.72
1858-9	6.61	1898-9	5.24	1938-9	9.79
1859-60	6.58	1899-0	5.97	1939-40	11.30
Average	8.76	Average	7.95	Average	10.91
1860-1	7.90	1900-1	10.45	1940-1	24.74
1861-2	15.64	1901-2	6.17	1941-2	13.05
1862-3	3.87	1902-3	11.76	1942-3	11.10
1863-4	5.14	1903-4	4.40	1943-4	14.47
1864-5	8.45	1904-5	14.32	1944-5	11.04
1865-6	12.82	1905-6	14.68	1945-6	9.34
1866-7	15.75	1906-7	10.62	1946-7	8.33
1867-8	11.23	1907-8	8.55	1947-8	6.83
1868-9	11.68	1908-9	10.23	1948-9	10.42
1869-70	5.48	1909-1	9.79	1949-50	8.55
Average	9.59	Average	10.10	Average	11.79
1870-1	5.17	1910-11	11.99	1950-1	5.92
1871-2	6.18	1911-12	10.75	1951-2	18.16
1872-3	6.50	1912-13	5.97	1952-3	6.54
1873-4	16.83	1913-14	9.83	1953-4	9.13
1874-5	5.75	1914-15	14.41	1954-5	7.21
1875-6	10.11	1915-16	12.55	1955-6	4.52
1876-7	3.75	1916-17	10.13	1956-7	8.89
1877-8	16.10	1917-18	8.04	1957-8	13.90
1878-9	7.88	1918-19	8.74	1958-9	5.28
1879-80	14.38	1919-20	8.91	1959-60	7.45
Average	9.26	Average	10.03	Average	8.70
1880-1	9.66	1920-1	7.08	1960-1	3.46
1881-2	9.51	1921-2	18.65	1961-2	7.39
1882-3	4.92	1922-3	6.36	1962-3	7.72
1883-4	25.97	1923-4	5.68	1963-4	5.27
1884-5	8.67	1924-5	5.81	1964-5	19.03
1885-6	16.96	1925-6	15.66	1965-6	7.18
1886-7	8.32	1926-7	14.74	1966-7	11.21
1887-8	9.92	1927-8	8.71	1967-8	3.68
1888-9	11.02	1928-9	7.10	1968-9	11.76
1889-90	15.02	1929-30	10.75	1969-70	9.58
Average	11.99	Average	10.05	Average	8.61
1970-1	8.68	2001-2	2.27		
1971-2	6.48	2002-3	11.25		
1972-3	7.47	2003-4	5.30		
1973-4	8.13	2004-5			
1974-5	8.37				
1975-6	11.22				
1976-7	9.21				
1977-8	19.41				
1978-9	15.55				

Donation

In early March, Dani Gosewisch, the great granddaughter of Gerhard and Bertha Schutte, sent us an email with an offer of additional donations to our museum. In the past, Dani has been very generous in her donations to the Carlsbad Historical Society. You might remember the west bedroom bed and dresser, and the velvet covered settee and chair. All of which were owned by the Schutte Family and used while they were living in Carlsbad.

Dani's donations this time were equally wonderful and add so much to our understanding of her family and their time in Carlsbad. Some of the donations included framed family photos, water color paintings of Schutte family children, beautiful Haviland hand-painted decorative wall plates in shades of green with white flowers, and this "Hunter" style pocket watch that once belonged to town founder Gerhard Schutte.

So first there are really 2 parts to the watch. The case that CWC. Co and the crescent moon with the star and the separated trade on one side of the moon and underlined word mark on the other side was only used on watch cases

from the Crescent Watch Case Company between 1882-1904.

The watch movement was Elgin and with the serial number 1560056 was only used in 1892. So the watch fits perfectly during the time period that Gerhard lived in Carlsbad.

The case style with the closed doors rather than open faced is called "Hunters" style.

Gerhard and Bertha Schutte lived in their Carlsbad home from 1886- 1906. All items of the Schutte Collection donated by their great granddaughter, Dani Gosewisch, are now on display. So be sure to visit our newest display when we reopen.



Gerhard Schutte's watch donated by Dani Gosewisch

California during the 1919 Pandemic

Although the death rates from the misnamed Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918-1920 were low at about 0.5%, many people were infected. One quarter of the world population was infected, or about 500 Million people. The influenza did not originate in Spain but was named so because it was the only country in Europe that acknowledged that they had an epidemic; the countries at war did not want to expose a weakness.

Because an influenza virus mutates more rapidly than a coronavirus, there was a mutation during the epidemic. The virus was brought by servicemen to the USA during World War I, it mutated in America, and it was carried back to Europe, where it (re)infected more people.

History repeats itself. There are very similar stories of the problems authorities had with supplies and also with deciding to limit the person-to-person contact. Mayors and Governors were criticized for not responding quickly, or for being too aggressive. Another debate was whether to use a mask or not!

The following website is a wonderful repository of the history of the 1919 pandemic in the United States:

<https://www.influenzaarchive.org/index.html>

Here is a quote from the section on Los Angeles:

"It was mid-September 1918 when cases of influenza began appearing in the Los Angeles area. At first, the disease attacked seamen aboard a naval vessel that had arrived in the harbor. On September 28, officials at the Naval Reserve Station at Los Angeles Harbor were placed, their installation under quarantine, although they were quick to state that the move was merely precautionary, as no cases yet existed. Several days later, Army officials placed the Arcadia Balloon School under protective quarantine, prohibiting the men there from visiting nearby Pasadena and other communities without special permission. There too, officials stated that there were no cases amongst soldiers."

And in the summary: *"In the end, Los Angeles experienced a lower epidemic death rate than many other American cities: 494 deaths per 100,000 people. By contrast, San Francisco – which acted slowly and which relied heavily on the purported protection of gauze face masks to stop the spread of influenza – had an excess death rate of 673 per 100,000. Powers, Mayor Woodman, and the City Council could be proud of their efforts."*

Currently the coronavirus 2020 pandemic is averaging a 7% mortality rate worldwide (5.5%in the USA), but this should go down as the number of those infected (but showing no symptoms) is accounted for through testing.

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Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 to 3 pm.

Private Tours with Tea are given  
Monday through Thursday  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

[www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.carlsbadhistoricalsociety.com)