

# LIME KILN CHRONICLES

Newsletter of the *Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District*  
University of California, Santa Cruz

## Conference a Success

Over eighty people attended the Conference on Lime and Lime Kilns in California History that was hosted August 8th and 9th by the Friends. By all measures, the conference was a huge success. This was the first time a large group of people with this common interest met and shared information. Attendees came from many parts of California and even other states.

Besides lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits, participants also enjoyed a tour of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District by Friends President Frank Perry. Judy Steen told about the Jordan family, who lived here in the 1850s and early '60s, and Jan Dekema explained how one of the historic worker cabins is being restored. The tour was made extra special by the participation of Hal Hyde, who talked about the early use of the historic buildings by the University, and Jo Ann Cacace, whose grandfather was a cooper and blacksmith at the site.

The conference not only elevated public awareness of the Historic District, but also raised funds for ongoing educational programs and restoration work.

The Friends would like to thank our conference sponsors for helping make it such a success: The Agricultural History Project, City of Santa Cruz Historic Preservation Commission, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, Mountain Parks Foundation, Museum of Art & History, Pajaro Valley Historical Association, Santa Cruz Archaeological Society, and the Santa Cruz Museum Association.

## The Jordans: Family with a Limerock Foundation

By Judy Steen

A rare, unsigned, lithographic reproduction of a drawing of a house is in Special Collections, University Library, UCSC. The title printed at the bottom of the image reads "Residence of A. P. Jordan, Esq., near Santa Cruz." The illustration shows guests arriving for a social event, women in hoop skirts and shawls, men in frock coats. Horses have already been unhitched from carriages.

On the verso of the illustration, written by an elderly hand, is the note: "Taken when Mr. Jordan was alive. He is standing on the piazza [and?] myself." This inscription must have been written by Mary Jordan, the wife of Albion P. Jordan. Jordan, with Isaac E. Davis, was the first owner of the ranch and lime works on the property that would become the campus of the University of California, Santa Cruz. Today, the house is known as Cardiff House, the campus Women's Center. It is one of the early structures in the Cowell Lime Works Historic District.

Based on the style of the drawing and the distinctive lettering, the image of the house can be attributed to



Lithographic reproduction of a drawing, "Residence of A. P. Jordan, Esq., near Santa Cruz," by Edward Vischer, ca. 1864-1865. Albion P. and Mary Jordan on porch.

Photo: courtesy Special Collections,  
University Library, UCSC

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## *Lime Conference Photos, August 8–9, 2009*



All photos: Jim MacKenzie



*Clockwise from top left:* Board member Cynthia Mathews, left, chats with lime kiln historian Bob Piwarzyk.

Campus Architect Frank Zwart welcomes everyone to the Saturday program.

A large crowd gathers at the cabin to hear Jan Dekema tell about the restoration work.

Judy Steen lectures about the history of the Jordan family from the front porch of the Cardiff House.

Presenters at the Saturday program: (left to right): Pat Paramoure, Julia Costello, David Dawson, Sally Morgan, Mike Dalbey, Bob Piwarzyk, Karin Goetter, and Frank Perry.

Participants examine the kilns up close and learn how lime was made.

Field trip participants gather at the historic entrance to the former Cowell residence (now Cardiff House).





Photo: Frank Perry

The Cookhouse probably dates from the 1880s.

## Plaque to be Unveiled

Members are cordially invited to a very special event on Friday, October 30th: the unveiling of a bronze plaque commemorating placement of the district on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a good opportunity to meet other members of the Friends and to join with University and government dignitaries, including Chancellor George Blumenthal, as we celebrate this important recognition. The ceremony will take place at the Cookhouse, starting at 4:00 p.m. Parking will be available in the Barn Theater parking lot.

### Notice to Members

There will be a short business meeting at the Cookhouse conference room, 3:30 p.m., before the plaque unveiling on October 30. The purpose will be to elect members to the Board of Directors of the Friends. The nominees are: Peg Danielson, Joe Michalak, and Frank Perry (3 year terms), Tremain Jones and Jim MacKenzie (2 year terms), and Cynthia Mathews (1 year term). All members are invited to attend.

### New Members

Sandra L. Cohen  
 Julia Costello/Foothill Resources Ltd.  
 Lisa Franceschi  
 Karin Goetter and Trent Beck  
 Douglas P. Ley and Linda Gaudiani  
 Craig and Dusty Miller  
 Glenn Thomas Oppenheim  
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### Business & Organization Members

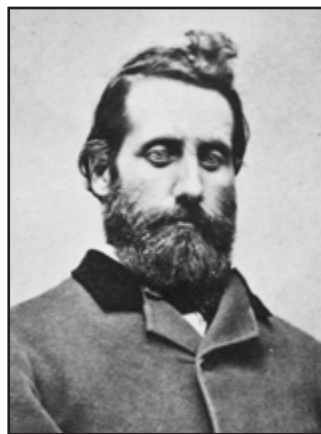
Cabrillo Civic Cubs of California  
 Pacific Legacy, Inc.  
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(The Jordans, continued from p. 1)

Edward Vischer, the nineteenth-century, German-born artist and photographer. Vischer produced some of the earliest images of California landscapes, missions, and residences, including nearly a dozen in Santa Cruz County in the 1860s.

Though undated, the Vischer drawing of the ranch house must have been made when the Jordans resided there, between May 1864 and July 1865. A newspaper article reported that "Mr. A. P. Jordan is building a new residence in that most delightful situation overlooking the town and the Bay of Monterey, long since selected as a sight [sic] for the building, near the lime-works of Davis and Jordan" (*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 14, 1864). From the broad front porch, one would have had a sweeping view of the few farmhouses that dotted the landscape below and of the broad expanse of Monterey Bay.

Coincidentally, A. P. Jordan and Mary (Perry) Jordan each arrived in Santa Cruz in 1853. A. P. was born in Brunswick, Maine, in 1826. He arrived in California in



Photos: author's collection

Albion P. Jordan, 1826-1866, and Mary Elizabeth (Perry) Jordan (Mrs. Albion P. Jordan; later, Mrs. Pierce B. Fagen), 1837-1915. Mary Elizabeth Jordan photo by Bradley & Rulofson, noted San Francisco photographers, established in 1863.

1849 and in Santa Cruz in 1853. That year, A. P. and his partner Davis acquired land and started the burning and shipping of lime at the base of today's UCSC campus. A. P. was soon on his way to becoming a prosperous and respected businessman.

Mary Elizabeth Perry was born in Falmouth, Massachusetts, in 1837, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Greene) Perry. John Perry arrived in Santa Cruz about 1852. The following year, he built the Perry home and sent for his wife and their three children, Mary, Charles, and Alphonso. Perry was already an established carpenter before leaving for California from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. He also drew his own plans to work from. Perry built several residential, commercial, and public buildings in Santa Cruz, some of which still survive. The 1864 Jordan ranch house is attributed to Perry.

Mary began teaching children in her parents' home

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(The Jordans, continued)

and was an assistant to Eliza Farnham, the noted early feminist of Santa Cruz. Mary lived less than a block away from Farnham's soul mate and women's rights advocate, Georgiana Bruce Kirby.

Mary Perry and Albion Jordan were married in Santa Cruz in 1859. It has not been determined exactly where they lived from the date of their marriage until they moved into the ranch house. The couple had three children. May (some sources cite as Mary) born in 1860 (died in 1862); followed by a second daughter, Marion, in 1862; and son, Peter, in 1865. That same year, May died.



Photo: author's collection

Home of John and Elizabeth Perry, parents of Mary (Mrs. Albion P. Jordan). Built by John Perry in 1853 at corner of Mission and Union Streets; moved in 1885 to current location, 114 Escalona Drive. Mary's brother Charles Perry standing on steps.

In 1863 the Jordans traveled to Southern California for A. P.'s health. The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* expressed its happiness that, after six weeks, "our esteemed fellow citizen, A. P. Jordan Esq. and his lady have returned from their trip to San Pedro and Los Angeles, ... Mr. Jordan ... returns in general health, although either from having experienced much heavy weather and sea sickness in the passage up the coast, or from coming suddenly into the bracing climate of Santa Cruz, he does not feel as well as when breathing the Indian air of Los Angeles" (October 24, 1863).

A. P. continued to be plagued by health problems. Nevertheless, in 1864 the Jordans moved into their new home, and in March the following year, son Peter Albion Jordan was born. In July 1865, the Jordans sold their half interest in the firm of Davis & Jordan to Henry Cowell for \$100,000. They retained, however, other land and many shares in the California Powder Works, located at the site of today's Paradise Park. Hoping that a change of climate might restore A. P.'s health, the Jordan family left for Maine. Eighteen months later, on November 14, 1866, A. P. Jordan died in Maine. Jordan's body, accompanied by his family, returned by ship to Santa Cruz, a trip

that took over two months. He was buried in Evergreen Cemetery on January 26, 1867.

A newspaper tribute to A. P. spoke of him as "universally esteemed and loved by those sustaining business relations with him... [and] that he was a good man to work for, being kind and affable, and caring for the interests of his employees. He was a noble and warm friend, always pleasant, and quick with a word from the heart. He was a ready and interested citizen, perfectly upright in dealing, and ever willing to help a good cause with true generosity" (*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 2, 1867).

Mary Jordan was one of the wealthiest widows in town. She and her two surviving children, Marion and Peter, lived on Union Street, next to the Perry family home, about a mile from the old Jordan ranch house. In 1873 Mary wed prominent physician and banker Dr. Pierce B. Fagen, a widower nearly twenty years her senior with two grown sons. In 1885 she had the original Perry family home moved a short distance, from the corner of Mission and Union to its current site at 114 Escalona Drive (formerly Davis Street), near the end of Jordan Street. The Perry house has been designated a Santa Cruz City Landmark. Mary then had constructed on the original Perry family home-site a Queen Anne mansion; its gardens were among the finest in the city. The mansion was demolished in 1955 for a proposed business district bypass. The lot sat empty for three decades, until it became the site of the current characterless office building and parking lot.



Entrance to path leading to Cardiff House, off High Street, 2009.

Photo: Joe Michalak

Daughter Marion Jordan married Herbert Cox, a teacher and vice-principal of Santa Cruz High School. They had one child, Gertrude. Son Peter Albion Jordan became a wholesale grocer and importer and married Blanche Hartwell. They were the parents of four children. The Peter Jordan family lived in Alameda, but they also retained ownership of a home in Santa Cruz, where they frequently visited relatives and spent summers.





Photo: author's collection

Mary Jordan, her mother, daughter, and granddaughter, photo early 1890s. Left to right: Gertrude Jordan Cox, 1885-1902, Mary's granddaughter; Marion Augusta (Jordan) Cox, 1862-1901 (Mrs. Herbert E. Cox), Mary's daughter; Mary Elizabeth (Perry) Jordan Fagen, 1837-1915 (Mrs. A. P. Jordan, and later, Mrs. Pierce B. Fagen); and Elizabeth (Greene) Perry, 1814-1902 (Mrs. John B. Perry), Mary's mother.

For forty-nine years after A. P.'s death, Mary was active with her family, her home and other properties, the First Congregational Church, and many charities and civic organizations, including the Kindergarten Board, the Woman's Aid Society, the Red Cross, the Santa Cruz Improvement Association, and the Decorative Art Society and Women's Exchange. Mary registered to vote in 1912, the first year that women could vote in California. She listed her occupation as "Capitalist."

Mary (Perry) Jordan Fagen died on October 18, 1915, at the age of seventy-eight, at her son's home in Alameda, after attending the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. In her obituary, it was said that "few people have ever resided in a place whose life has touched as many as that of Mrs. Fagen, a woman who was most charitable and whose one thought was that of helping and doing good. She belongs to a class that is fast vanishing of those who have stood for all that was pure, noble and best from the pioneer days in California until now." Also mentioned was that "she lived for many years at what is now the Cowell home, near the kilns, and the older people will remember the hospitality there and of the many gatherings out doors at the beautiful groves on the place" (*Santa Cruz Surf*, October 18, 1915; *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 19, 1915).

Many members of the Perry, Jordan, and Cox families are buried in Evergreen Cemetery, the pioneer cemetery on the hillside near Harvey West Park.

The late Marion Kathleen (Jordan) Asche—great-great-granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Perry, great-granddaughter of Albion P. and Mary Jordan, granddaughter of Peter Albion Jordan, and daughter of Peter's son, Albion P. Jordan—returned to live in Santa Cruz in 1959, with her husband, Douglas Asche, and their five children. Marion died on April 10, 1991. Douglas died on



Photo: Joe Michalak

Cardiff House, 2009. Originally, Jordan home. (Photo by Joe Michalak)

September 4, 2009, in Santa Cruz, survived by four of his five children, ten grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. The most recent descendent of A. P. and Mary Jordan is great-great-great-great-granddaughter Jordan Asche, born in Santa Cruz in July 2009.

Though Albion and Mary Jordan lived in the ranch house for little more than a year, and A. P. lived in Santa Cruz only twelve years, their family history in Santa Cruz has continued through eight generations. Walking up the path off High Street to Cardiff House, past the gnarled trunks of old trees, some of them nearly one hundred and fifty years old—cypress, walnut, deodar cedar, black locust, elm, hawthorn—and arriving at the quaint, yellow ranch house, one is transported back in time and place to those first generations of Jordans, who became one of the founders of the lime industry and progenitors of a long line of Santa Cruz citizens.

For contributing to this article, acknowledgments to the late Marion Jordan Asche, for her efforts in preserving the Jordan family history and Santa Cruz history and sharing it with the community; to the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District, especially Frank Perry and Joe Michalak; to Sally Morgan, Senior Environmental Planner, Physical Planning & Construction, UCSC; to Roger Edberg, arborist, Assistant Superintendent, Ground Services, UCSC; and to Christine Bunting, Head of Special Collections and Archives, University Library, UCSC.

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(The Jordans, continued)

Author Judy Steen is a historian, retired UCSC librarian, and editor of *The Sidewalk Companion to Santa Cruz Architecture, 3rd Edition*. She resides in the historic Perry House.

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### Santa Cruz newspaper articles

"Albion P. Jordan [Obituary]." *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 2, 1867.

"Death of Mrs. Mary E. Fagen." *Santa Cruz Surf*, October 18, 1915.

"Death Calls Mrs. Mary Fagen." *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 19, 1915.

"Improvements in Santa Cruz." *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 14, 1864.



Photo: Joe Michalak

### District Popularity Grows

While we do not yet have a formal tour program, over the past year representatives of the Friends have given a number of tours of the district and lectures to civic groups. Among those who toured the district were the UCSC alumni, the Cabrillo Civic Club, attendees of the lime conference, and classes from De Anza College and UCSC. Lectures were given to the Lifelong Learners and the El Camino Real Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. If you are involved with an organization who would like to learn more about the lime works and local history, please email us at [limeworks@ucsc.edu](mailto:limeworks@ucsc.edu). Tours and lectures will be available over the coming year on a limited basis.

(Top) Campus alumni tour the historic limeworker cabins.

(Left) John Barnes, Director of Campus Planning, and Frank Perry, President of the Friends, with a "Certificate of Appreciation" given to the Friends by the City of Santa Cruz Historic Preservation Commission.




Photo: Joe Michalak

## *Join the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District*

Your membership donation will help to restore, preserve, and interpret this historic site.

All of our Friends receive invitations to special tours and events, biannual newsletter, opportunities to volunteer on restoration projects, and opportunities to be a docent for historic district tours.

In addition, memberships at the \$100 category or above receive benefits provided by the UC Santa Cruz Foundation, including their names in the annual Honor Roll of Donors, a subscription to UCSC Review, and invitations to campus and Friends Groups events.

Memberships are tax-deductible as allowed by law. UC Santa Cruz Foundation Federal Tax ID #23-7394590. 

### **Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District is to aid in the documentation, restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the historic lime kilns and related structures and buildings of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District and other historic sites on the campus of the University of California, Santa Cruz.*

### **Board Members**

Frank Perry, President  
Joe Michalak, Vice President  
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\_\_\_Online with credit card. Join now at <http://giving.ucsc.edu>. Please specify "Friends of Cowell Historic Lime Works" in comment field.

\_\_\_By check. Make enclosed check payable to "UCSC Foundation." Please specify "Lime Works" on memo line.

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## **Mail check to:**

Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District  
Mail Stop PP&C  
University of California  
1156 High Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064





Photo: Frank Perry

Volunteers work on shoring the cabin in preparation for repairing the foundation.

### *Cabin Restoration Continues*

Work on restoring one of the historic limeworker cabins continued over the summer. The foundation on the west end was excavated with the help of archaeologists, and the support posts were removed, repaired and reinstalled. As soon as archaeological work is finished on the inside, work will begin on replacing or repairing floor joists. In the meantime, repairs are being made to the siding, including fixing cracks and replacing wood that has rotted.

The goal is to restore the cabin to its appearance around 1910, the date of the oldest known photograph

of the cabin. The exterior will be whitewashed as it was originally. Only a few remnants of the original white-wash have survived, mostly under the eaves.



Photo: Frank Perry

Weathered wood on a cabin wall.

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