

GREEN RANCH ROAD (F5)

This fireroad is named for the "Greenhill Ranch" which was the property of Berkeley residents Robert Clarke Green (1905-1981) and his wife Deborah Bixby Green (1904-1959). In 1938, they built a summer/country house on their south-facing, 170-acre parcel near Mount Diablo's summit. The renowned architect, William Wurster, designed the house. The summer estate included a large swimming pool, tennis court, and guest quarters. The State of California acquired the property in 1965. The

house was demolished in 1993. Efforts are underway to return this area to nature. In 1995, one of the Green's daughters, Deborah Green Seymour, wrote: "We all called it 'Diablo.' It was also known as the 'Green Ranch', although officially it's title was 'Greenhill Ranch.' We learned a lot at Diablo. What we gained from our parents and the rangers was a love and respect for the mountain and its inhabitants, and the responsibility for taking care of this special place."

HETHERINGTON TRAIL (E2): Named for William Alford Hetherington (1906-1983) and wife, Blenda Hetherington. His parents were Clark Wilson Hetherington and Daisy Alford Hetherington. William was a native Californian, and a professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He died in San Francisco and was buried in Tulare, CA. William and Blenda owned an 160-acre parcel in Donner Canyon beginning in 1950. The State Park System acquired this parcel in 1973. The Hetheringtons insisted on selling their property to the State, because it was their desire that the property be put into permanent protection status. The name Hetherington is sometimes spelled with double "rr" on the Fifth Edition of the Trail Map of Mount Diablo State Park. This is incorrect. Death records spell the name as indicated above.

JILL CREEK (D5)

The creek is named for Jill Brumleve Kilcourse, granddaughter of Angel Kerley, and daughter of Tom and Joan Brumleve (see Angel Kerley Road).

LAS TRAMPAS-MT. DIABLO TRAIL (A6)

"Trampa" means "trap" or "snare" in Spanish. Hunters and fur trappers were the first non-Native-Americans to settle in Contra Costa County. Jedediah Smith, a well-known trapper, crossed Contra Costa County in May 1827.

MACEDO RANCH (B6)

Frank A. Macedo (1886-1980) was a Portuguese immigrant from the Azores Islands. He arrived in New York City on a whaling vessel in 1903, and settled in Contra Costa County in 1906. In 1909, he purchased 825-acres around what is now the Mount Diablo State Park staging area in Danville. Frank grew hay, raised cattle and horses, and engaged in contract hay bailing on farms in the area. In 1922, he leased 185 acres near downtown Walnut Creek, and went into the dairy business, selling milk for 40 cents a gallon. He retired in 1945 to a home at 1835 Oakland Blvd., Walnut Creek. The Macedos sold their Danville property to the Park in 1959. Frank married Isabel Macedo in 1910. His wife and their only son, Frank Silveria Macedo (1912-1975), died the same year. The elder Frank died in Walnut Creek at the age of 94 and is buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

MARSH TRAIL (G2)

Dr. John Marsh (1799-1856) owned a nearby ranch called "Los Meganos" (Spanish for "sand dunes"). He was the first American settler in Contra Costa County. John descended from an old New England family, and was a graduate of Harvard College. In 1837, he obtained a grant from the Mexican government that contained 13,316-acres at the foot of Mount Diablo, now the geographic center of Contra Costa County. John married Abbie Tuch Marsh in 1851 and subse-



John Marsh's "Stone House" near Brentwood.

quently built the "Stone House" about four miles West of Brentwood. In 2002, the State of California acquired the 4,000-acre Cowell Ranch adjacent to the Stone House to create one of the newest Parks in the State. John was brutally murdered and robbed on September 24, 1856, while driving his buggy on the road from one of his ranches in Martinez.

MERIDIAN RIDGE ROAD (E3)

"Meridian" is a surveying term referring to the North-South axis lines drawn for land division. Some early maps name this road "Median Road."

MIMULUS SPRING (F4)

The genus *Mimulus* is the Latin name for the monkeyflower plant. There are at least ten varieties of the monkeyflowers in Mount Diablo State Park. Some varieties are common around springs. "Mimulus Spring" was first identified on a map in Mary Bowerman's 1944 book, *The*

Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo, California, originally a doctoral dissertation. The second edition, updated by Barbara Erter, was published in 2001. The nearby "Fire Interpretative Trail" (F4) was dedicated to Mary Bowerman.

MITCHELL CANYON TRAIL (D3)

Isaac Mitchell (1829-1921) was a native of Kentucky. He came to Contra Costa County in 1849 with the gold rush, and initially engaged in farming in the San Ramon Valley. He later purchased a large tract of land in the canyon where he lived until his death. He and his wife had six children. According to the authoritative *History of Contra Costa County*, published in 1926, "Mitchell Canyon, at the base of Mount Diablo, is named for him."

MIWOK ROAD (H2)

Miwok is translated as "people" or "Indian people" and identifies any one of several different Native Californian groups. Native Californians lived in the area of Mount Diablo State Park for over 5,000 years before the arrival of the Europeans.

MORGAN TERRITORY ROAD (H4)

Both the "territory" and "road" were named for Jeremiah (Jerry) Morgan (1819-1906) and his descendants. Jeremiah was born in the Cherokee Nation, Alabama, near the Tennessee River. He came to California in 1849, and claimed 10,000-acres of land on "the morning side of Mount Diablo" in 1856. After the first official survey by the U.S. government in 1862, Jeremiah's land claims were reduced to 2,000-acres. Jeremiah had 16 children by his first wife, Sarah Ellis Morgan. She died in 1869. Morgan Territory Road was officially named by Contra Costa County in 1892. The road is 14.5 miles long, and passes through four townships.

MOUNT DIABLO (F4)

The origin of the name invokes speculation. The most popular version revolves around the Spanish word "Diablo" meaning "devil." This reference is believed to stem from an 1805 Spanish military expedition that went in search of runaway Native Californians from San Francisco's Mission Dolores. The Spanish soldiers caught sight of the runaways hiding in a willow thicket near what is now Buchanan Field in Concord and decided to wait until the next morning before capturing them. During the night, the group of Native Californians mysteriously escaped. In response, the Spanish dubbed the site "Monte del Diablo", meaning "Thicket of the Devil." Subsequently, English speak-

ing individuals believed "monte" translated to "mountain" and thus, tagged the summit of the nearly mountain "Mount Diablo." Subsequent generations of visitors to the mountain thought the name to be appropriate because the trip to the summit was "a devil of a climb!"

MUIR PICNIC AREA (E5)

John Muir (1838-1914), American naturalist and explorer, who was born in Dunbar, Scotland and educated in Scotland and the University of Wisconsin. While traveling on foot, he visited many of the grander scenes in the mountains of California, including Mount Diablo in 1877. Founder of the Sierra Club, he was a pioneer advocate of forest conservation and establishment of national parks.

MURCHIO ROAD (D1)

Dominic Murchio (1849-1916) and his wife Julia Raggi Murchio (1859-1931) were born amid the vine-clad hills of sunny Italy. They were married in California in 1879, and settled in the Clayton area, becoming owners of one of the finest ranches in that area. The ranch extended up Mitchell Canyon to Deer Flat and included White Canyon. They grew hay, grain, cattle and wine grapes on about 4,000-acres. Dominic and Julia were parents of 13 children. The Murchio family ranched in the Mitchell Canyon vicinity for almost 80 years.

OLOFSON RIDGE ROAD (F4)

The Olofson family, John Peter Olofson (1834-1903) and his wife Clarissa Olofson (1840-1913) and their seven children homesteaded 138-acres in the vicinity of Mitchell Canyon beginning in 1886. John emigrated from his native Stockholm, Sweden at the age of 14. He arrived in San Francisco in 1848, and initially was a dockworker. He married his wife in 1857. She emigrated from Liverpool, England.

OLYMPIA TRAIL (F3)

"Olympus", the mountain throne of the Greek gods, and "Olympia", the site of the Olympic games, repeatedly have been used for American place names. Such is probably the case here. However, local legend persists that this peak was named for "Olympia Beer." Before the area was annexed to Mount Diablo State Park, the Concord/Mount Diablo Trailride Association built many of the trails around Mount Olympia. The Association's trail builders supposedly stashed Olympia Beer along the trail to refresh themselves after a hard days work. Today, alcohol is not permitted in the Park. (*cont'd on page 4*)