

**SAN GABRIEL
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
546 W. BROADWAY,
SAN GABRIEL, CA. 91776**

The San Gabriel Historical Association was formed in February, 1981.

Three groups, The Los Compadrinos, The San Gabriel Historical Society and the San Gabriel Museum Association voted to join forces to become the San Gabriel Historical Association.

The Los Compadrinos was formed in the 1930's by members of early California families to preserve early California customs, traditions and lifestyle.

The San Gabriel Historical Society was formed in 1958 to preserve local historic landmarks and old adobes and collection of historical artifacts and memorabilia. They kept the Lopez de Lowther Adobe built on Mission land , circa 1800 (330 S. Santa Anita St, San Gabriel) open to the public for 14 years.

The San Gabriel Museum Association grew out of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration which stimulated an awareness of San Gabriel heritage and preservation. The museum artifacts were housed in various places throughout the city.

The San Gabriel Historical Association opened their first museum in a room at Coolidge School in San Gabriel. The school was in need of the room a year later so the museum artifacts were again without a home. In 1982 the museum reopened on the 2nd floor of the SG Civic Auditorium AKA The Mission Play House. The museum was closed again in 1987 due to severe damage from the earthquake that same year. The City of San Gabriel donated the house at 546 W. Broadway, formally owned by The Joe Acuna family back in the 20-40's. This building became the permanent home of our museum in 1991.

THE BOVARD-WILSON-HAYES HOUSE

A shining example of the Victorian era is still alive and well in San Gabriel. This fine house was built for Reverend George Findley Bovard, a young Methodist Minister and his wife Emma in 1887. Bovard was a Presiding Elder, equivalent to an Assistant Bishop, whose mission covered the general Pasadena Area. Bovard left San Gabriel in 1890 to administer Arizona. He later returned to the Southland where he became first, acting President of USC. In 1903 he was officially selected President a post he held until 1922.

In 1893 Milton Scott Wilson bought the Bovard house and lot. Wilson moved into the house with his wife, Mary Letitia Chandler Wilson, their daughter Mary Letitia Wilson and son George Lee Wilson, who became a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff. Milton Wilson became the Justice of the Peace for the 36 square mile San Gabriel Township. One of Wilson's main functions was performing marriages.

San Gabriel boasted 13 saloons near the Mission. Sometimes, on a Saturday night, someone would get knifed or shot. If a suspect were apprehended, he would have to be detained over the weekend. On Monday morning, he would be taken to court in Los Angeles for arraignment. Since San Gabriel had no jail, suspects would held over in the milk house, which was affectionately called "the jail."

In 1904, Edwin Hayes, Station Master of the Southern Pacific Railway Station in San Gabriel, married Mary Letitia Wilson, To Edwin and Mary Letitia was born Mary Ruth Hayes in 1907. Mary Ruth lived her entire life, except when being away at college, in the house until her untimely death in 1990.

Mary Ruth Hayes donated her house, its furnishings and the "jail," along with funds to move the house, to the San Gabriel Historical Association. During the move, the 100-year-old "jail" collapsed when the roof was removed. The jail was completely reassembled using the original river rock with reinforced with steel. The house continues to be restored.

**SAN GABRIEL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please check: Renewal _____ New _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I'd like to receive the Newsletter by Email and help the Association save money:

Yes: _____ **No:** _____

I'd like to volunteer: **Yes:** _____ **No:** _____

CATEGORIES

Individual - \$20.00 \$ _____

Family - \$30.00 \$ _____

Student/Senior - \$15.00 \$ _____

Business & Civic - \$50.00 \$ _____

Individual Life Member
\$1,000 + \$ _____

Museum Contribution \$ _____

Hayes House Contribution \$ _____

Special Project: \$ _____

Name _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

**SAN GABRIEL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
546 W. Broadway
San Gabriel, California 91776**

Dues and contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. 10/2018