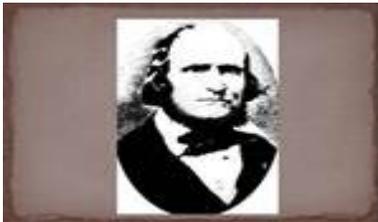




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“The more things change, the more they stay the same.” This adage applies to Livermore as it reaches its 140th birthday on April 1st. There’s more to our local history than just the light bulb. The Livermore Heritage Guild maintains a wonderful History Center at the Carnegie Building on Third Street. Read on for nuggets about Robert Livermore, railroads, downtown and movie theaters, and watch for local history posts on City social media in the days ahead. Marc citymanager@cityoflivermore.net.



Robert Livermore – Robert Livermore, born in England in 1799, came to the Livermore Valley in 1835. In 1838, he married Josefa Higuera Molina when California was part of Mexico. He died on February 14, **1858**, and is buried at Mission San Jose. The City of Livermore was founded in **1869** with a population of 75 people. The City occupied the area from 4th St., to the railroad tracks and P. St., to Livermore Avenue. So who named the town Livermore? William Mendenhall. The City was incorporated on April 1, **1876**.



Railroads – The Transcontinental Railroad was completed in 1869, and William Mendenhall gave land to the railroad. The Southern Pacific Depot was built, and it presently sits at L Street between Railroad Avenue and First St. A second train depot was built in 1908 between K and L Streets for the Western Pacific Railroad, but the structure was torn down in 1956. The Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) train began service for Livermore in 1998, and the City is hard at work bringing BART to Livermore.



Downtown – Do you recognize this building? The Hub, built in 1892 downtown was located on a prominent intersection and was a place to purchase a fine cigar. Torn down in 1974, the location became Lizzie Fountain in 1976 at First St. and Livermore Avenue. The fountain was renovated in 2010, and is enjoyed by people of all ages. Planning for the remaining empty lots downtown is underway and is expected to include housing, retail, green spaces, and a hotel.



Movie Theaters – The Arts are important to the community, and residents for generations have enjoyed going to the movies. The Bell Theater opened in the Schenone Building near the flagpole in 1909. In 1931 it became the State Theater until its closure in 1958. The Vine Theater originally opened in 1956 at First and O Streets, and reopened as the Vine Cinema in 2002. The downtown Livermore Cinemas opened in 2006.