

Pioneers Luncheon
Saturday December 11, 2010 at Noon



Mariani'

s 2500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara

Reservations MUST BE MADE BEFORE!! Thursday December 9, it is most important to place a reservation in advance... For Reservation E-Mail to "sccpioneers@aol.com" be sure to include your menu selection in the e-mail. or Call: 408-554-7587

Please note: Names will be checked off the reservation list as you enter, if your name is not on the list, you will be requested to wait until all those who reserved a place have been seated.

Cost: \$25 (make checks payable to California Pioneers)

Menu (make one selection per person)

Calamari Steak (breaded) with a Lemon-Butter Sauce and Red Potatoes

Roast Pork served with Potatoes and Vegetables of the day

Vegetarian:

Pasta Primavera Fresh Vegetables sautéed in Olive Oil, Garlic with Fettuccine

Entrees are served with:

Green Salad, Rolls, and Butter, Dessert and Tea, Freshly Brewed Reg. or Decaf Coffee

Mariani's Restaurant is located on the south side of El Camino Real, two blocks west of San Thomas Expressway in Santa Clara. Best to get to Mariani's before 11:30 am to get a parking place.

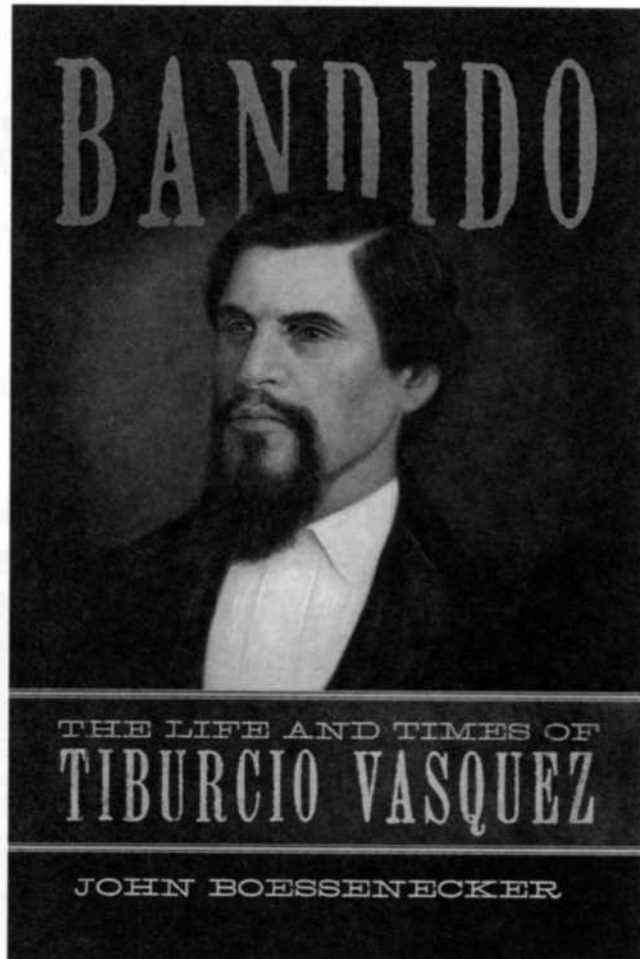
Our speaker for this meeting is an old friend who has spoken to us previously, JOHN BOESSENECKER. He is an expert on Lawmen and law breakers of the old west and often seen in documentaries about the Old West.

Tiburcio Vasquez is, next to Joaquin Murrieta, America's most infamous Hispanic bandit. After he was hanged as a murderer in San Jose in 1875, the Chicago Tribune called him the most noted desperado of modern times. Yet questions about him still linger..

After he was hanged as a murderer in San Jose in 1875, the Chicago Tribune called him the most noted desperado of modern times. Yet questions about him still linger. Why did he become a bandito? Why did so many Hispanics protect him and his band? Was he a common thief and heartless killer who got what he deserved, or was he a Mexican American Robin Hood who suffered at the hands of a racist government? In this engrossing biography, John Boessenecker provides definitive answers.

Bandido pulls back the curtain on a life story shrouded in myth a myth created by Vasquez himself and abetted by writers who saw a tale ripe for embellishment. Boessenecker traces his subject's life from his childhood in the seaside adobe village of Monterey, to his years as a young outlaw engaged in horse rustling and robbery. Two terms in San Quentin failed to tame Vasquez, and he instigated four bloody prison breaks that left twenty convicts dead. After his final release from prison, he led bandit raids throughout Central and Southern California. His dalliances with women were legion, and the last one led to his capture in the Hollywood Hills and his death on the San Jose gallows at the age of thirty-nine.

From dusty court records, forgotten memoirs, and moldering newspaper archives, Boessenecker draws a story of violence, banditry, and retribution on the early California frontier that is as accurate as it is colorful. Enhanced by numerous photographs many published here for the first time Bandido also addresses important issues of racism and social justice that remain relevant to this day. Bandido is the first full-length biography of Tiburcio Vasquez, 500 pages long with 70 illustrations. Published by University of Oklahoma Press, it is written for the general reader. He will have the books at the special price of \$30; the dust jacket price is \$34.95.



A San Francisco attorney, John Boessenecker has a B.A. degree in history from San Francisco State University and a J.D. from University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Since 1969 he has published numerous magazine articles on crime and lawlessness in the Old West. He is the author of *Badge and Buckshot: Lawlessness in Old California* (1988); *The Grey Fox: The True Story of Bill Miner* (1992); *Lawman: The Life and Times of Harry Morse* (1998); and *Against the Vigilantes: The Recollections of Dutch Charley Duane* (1999), all published by the University of Oklahoma Press, and *Gold Dust and Gunsmoke* (1999), published by John Wiley & Sons of New York. Boessenecker has appeared frequently as a historical commentator on PBS, The History Channel, A&E, and other television media.

Sheriff John Hicks Adams

John Hicks Adams is probably the most well known and famous Sheriff in the history of Santa Clara County where he served as Sheriff from March 4, 1864 to March 6, 1876. Sheriff Adams, the seventh Sheriff of this county, was born in Edwardsville, Illinois, on June 13, 1820. His father, John Adams Sr., was elected Sheriff of Madison County in 1838. John Jr., was appointed Deputy Sheriff; his duties included collecting taxes and taking care of court business.

In December, 1841, John married Mathilda Pomeroy. Their first child, May Hanna was born one year later on December 21, 1842. They had 8 children.

In May of 1847, during the Mexican War, Adams joined Company J, Fifth Regiment of the Illinois Volunteers. During the march south, the commander of his company, Captain Niles, died; John was promoted to Captain of Company J, the rank he continued to maintain throughout his year and half of active duty. John served most of his time in the Southwest, fighting Indians. Captain Adams was discharged from the service on the 12th of October, 1848.

When word spread East that gold had been discovered in California, John was struck with gold fever. He headed West In August 1849. with a six-mule team and light wagon, accompanied by Allen Pomeroy, William Reynolds, and Dr. C. N. Lusk, leaving from St. Joseph, Mo., April 8, 1849. They passed heavily loaded trains, guarded carefully against Indian attacks, were joined by several other parties, and after many hardships and deprivations from lack of water, arrived at Hangtown August 1, 1849. Captain Adams mined and ran pack trains in various camps in Northern California for two years, then went back to Illinois via Panama and

arrived at Edwardsville, October 12, 1851. A year later, in the spring of 1852, he again started for California, but this time he was accompanied by his family. They settled in Manhattan Creek, near Georgetown, where John continued mining successfully.

In August, 1853, Captain Adams removed to Santa Clara County and settled on a farm near Gilroy. The present Adams district school near Gilroy still stands on the land which he donated to the county for that purpose in 1856. Those were Wild West days, to be sure, when upon arriving at the schoolhouse in the morning, bear and lion tracks were to be found in front of the door and around the building.

Mr. Adams organized the Home Guards in Gilroy during the Civil War and was their captain. He also served as president of the South Almaden Quicksilver Mining Company.

John started his political career by running for and winning the office of County Supervisor for Gilroy and Almaden Township in the September election of 1861. In 1863, John ran for Sheriff, beating William Aram by more than 500 votes. With the passing of Sheriff Kennedy on February 6, 1864, the Board of Supervisors appointed Adams (who would have been sworn in as Sheriff in March) to finish out Kennedy's term. Adams ran for re-election in 1865 and 1867, winning both elections. He became the first Sheriff in Santa Clara County to be elected to three successive terms. Retiring for a couple of years in 1870, he again ran for re-election in 1871 and 1873, winning both terms. In 1875 Adams lost an election for the first and only time in his life, losing to Nicholas Harris, 2,854 to 2,140.

Soon afterward, a band of Confederate partisan rangers, known as Captain Ingram's Partisan Rangers from the San Jose area robbed two stage coaches in the Bullion Bend Robbery near Placerville. During the pursuit, Deputy Sheriff Staples of El Dorado County was gunned down when he surprised them at a rooming house the next day. Information filtered to Sheriff Adams that the Confederates were holed up in a shack near Almaden. Sheriff Adams and a posse of Deputies surrounded the shack, and demanded their surrender. The robbers failed to obey the order and tried to escape. A shoot-out ensued, like one in a western movie. All of the Confederates were either captured or killed in the volley of shots. Sheriff Adams was wounded when a bullet struck his pocket watch and glanced into his ribs.

Later that year and the next Adams pursued another gang of "partisan rangers", the Mason Henry Gang who had rapidly

degenerated into a vicious gang of outlaws, committing robberies, thefts and murders in the southern San Joaquin Valley, Santa Cruz County, Monterey County and Santa Clara County, preying on stagecoaches, ranchers and others, especially if they were known Union men in the vicinity. Adams pursued the gang with the help of two companies of Native California Volunteer Cavalry from Camp Low during the summer of 1865, but no one could locate their hideout at Loma Prieta. In June, 1865, a posse of nine soldiers and five citizens led by Sheriff Adams searched the area around the Panoche Valley in what is now southern San Benito County in search of the gang after receiving a reliable tip that they were planning a raid on the ranches there. However, a system of spies set up by the secessionists had warned the band of their approach. When Sheriff Adams arrived at Panoche, Mason and Henry were already retreating towards Corralitos. Despite some encounters, they were not caught, but Adams' pursuit made it so hot for them they soon left for Southern California. There Henry was killed by the Sheriff in San Bernardino County in September 1865 and Mason by a bounty hunter near Fort Tejon in 1866

On January 24, 1878, Adams and ex-County Clerk Cornelius Finley left San Jose for the last time, leaving San Jose to mine gold in Arizona's Davidson Canyon. In late August, Adams and Finley were appointed Deputy United States Marshals for the Arizona Territory. Ten days later, the headlines in Arizona and San Jose newspapers told the story of their murders. Adams and Finley had left the Washington mine and were in route to Tucson when they were ambushed by five Mexican bandits. Finley died instantly with a gun shot to his heart, but Adams put up a fight. Shot once in the side (which was not sufficient to cause his death), but appeared to have been beaten to death with clubs and rocks. The murderers were caught in Mexico and held in a Sonorian jail, but Mexican officials refused to extradite them to the United States for the prosecution of the murders.

While Captain Adams was Sheriff, he was second to none in skillful pursuit of wanted outlaws. Although he didn't personally capture the highwayman Tiburcio Vasquez, it was his information that led to Vasquez's arrest and capture in Los Angeles, Vasquez was hanged before a large crowd of men, women and children in the yard of the Santa Clara County Jail.

In 1864, a band of renegade Confederate soldiers from San Jose robbed two stage coaches near Placerville. During the pursuit Deputy Sheriff Staples of El Dorado County was gunned down.

