

Folger Estate Stable



DOCENT HANDBOOK



*Provided by:
Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks*

Thank you for volunteering to be part of the Folger Estate Stable Docent Program. We appreciate your interest in sharing this historic treasure with our community.

As a docent, you will help visitors discover the importance of the Folger Estate Stable as an icon of the “Great Estates” period of California history at the turn of the 20th century. You will also be able to share interesting stories about the property’s different owners and their history.

In this handbook, you will find information about our program procedures, as well as some guidelines to help you become a great docent. Also included is a complete history of the Folger property, as well as a sample tour of the site. The handbook is yours to keep for review and to bring with you when you volunteer.

Please feel free to contact the Executive Director with any questions or comments you might have about your volunteer activities. We hope you enjoy your Folger Estate Stable docent experience!

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I. GENERAL ORIENTATION

Wunderlich Park

Wunderlich Park was created by the County of San Mateo in 1974 after a donation of 940 acres by Martin Wunderlich, and is currently used by hikers, runners, and equestrians. The park address is 4040 Woodside Road. The park rangers' office is located in Huddart Park at 1100 Kings Mountain Road.

Park Regulations

Hours for Wunderlich Park are from 8:00am to dusk. No smoking or fires of any kind are allowed in the park. Dogs (except service dogs) and pets are also not permitted.

An ADA accessible restroom is located next to the main parking lot.

Parking is available in the main parking lot near the park entrance. Elderly and disabled visitors can be dropped off in front of the Carriage House door across from the stable.

Folger Estate Stable

The Folger Stable was built in 1905 as part of an estate owned by James Folger II, and was designed by architect Arthur Brown Jr. The Folger Family sold the property that included the stable to Martin Wunderlich in 1956.

After becoming part of Wunderlich Park, the stable was privately leased until 2006. Renovation of the stable was undertaken by the Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks and the county of San Mateo in 2006 and completed in 2010. The Folger Estate Stable Historic District - which includes the main stable, the carriage house, the blacksmith barn, the dairy house, and the stone walls - is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks

The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks are park enthusiasts and stewards who provide a wide range of programs and events in two historic redwood parks in the heart of the Bay Area. Our mission is to promote the positive health and community benefits provided by these parks and to support equitable and inclusive access for all park users. We lead hikes, provide environmental education, showcase local history, and celebrate the unique horse heritage of San Mateo County.

Friends does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, the appointment to and termination from its Board of Directors, hiring and firing of staff or contractors, selection of volunteers, selection of vendors, and providing of services.

Stable Leasee

The 30 stalls on site are leased from the County by Chaparral Ranch that provides riding lessons, trail rides and summer camps.

Folger is a working stable and the horses boarded here are privately owned. Visitors are allowed in the stable aisle only during a guided tour and when accompanied by a docent. Feeding and petting any of the horses on site is not permitted at any time. Also, for safety reasons, visitors and volunteers are not allowed in the grooming areas just outside the stable. Remember that HORSES AND RIDERS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.

Security and Access

The Museum and Program Room are secured by a metal key. A separate key and lockbox combo opens the Carriage House. Keys are located in a

lockbox located across the breezeway from the museum next to the fire extinguisher. **Please remember to return the key to the lockbox at the end of your shift or tour.**

The Museum and the Program Room are connected to the stable building alarm system. The main alarm box is located to the right of the front entrance. Stable staff will disarm and set the alarm, except on Sundays. If there is a problem with the alarm and no stable staff person is available, call Premier Security Solutions (888-595-3836).

Emergencies

There is a first-aid kit and incident report forms in the box under the desk in the museum. There is an additional first-aid kit and fire extinguisher located in the Carriage House. A fire extinguisher and AED defibrillator are located across the hall from the Museum.

For minor incidents that require assistance, call the Wunderlich Park Ranger (650-851-1210). For a serious emergency, call **911**, and report the incident, the park name and the park address.

If you do not have a cell phone, you may use the land line inside the Carriage House. Please note that these phones are for emergency use only by Folger Estate Stable volunteers.

Folger Estate Stable Programs

Museum Exhibits - The Carriage Room Museum houses exhibits about the history of the Folger property and the surrounding area, as well as the horse heritage of Woodside. Docents staff the Museum during open hours, greet visitors, and answer questions about the exhibits. The Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., excluding holidays.

Guided Tours - Docent-led tours are scheduled by appointment. Guided tours of the site take approximately one hour, including time for visitors to see the Museum exhibits. Groups are generally limited to a maximum of 25 people. Tours must be pre-scheduled at least one month in advance through the Friends Executive Director.

School Programs - School programs are offered to 3rd and 4th grade classes at the Stable on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 10:00am and 1:00pm. The programs are led by a site interpreter from the San Mateo County History Museum and assisted by Friends' docents who help with hands-on program activities.

Meetings & Retreats - The Carriage House facility is available for rent for meetings and retreats. The rental fee includes the assistance of a docent to help with set-up and to give a short

tour of the stable site if requested. Meetings and retreats are scheduled through San Mateo County Parks. All groups must comply with the Facilities Use Regulations approved by the County.

Scheduling

Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of a 3-hour time slot per month for one of the above positions. There is no limit to the number of hours worked or to covering multiple positions. A schedule will be sent out to all docents at the first of every month that includes activities, dates and times, docent name(s), and tour group information. Please call or email one of the other docents if you are unable to make your scheduled time, and let the Executive Director know of any changes.

Attire

Dress for all docents is casual. Closed-toe shoes are recommended. You will be issued a name tag to wear during your shift.

II. DOCENT GUIDELINES

A. Museum Docent

Review the information included in the exhibit panels. Docents should also read and be familiar with the “History of Folger Stable” by Susan Green (Section IV).

During open hours, greet in-coming visitors, let them know that you are a volunteer for the organization that restored the stable and installed the museum and direct them to some of the highlighted exhibits: the timeline, the blacksmith display, and the Folger Family wall. Children might be interested in the horse and tie stall replicas, the electrical box, the governess carriage or the cart rail tracks.

Visitors are not allowed to touch or climb on any of the exhibits, with the following exceptions: the electrical box, the blacksmith drill press, the horse and tie stall replicas, horse mounts intended for children, and the tack box.

Ask visitors if they have any questions and encourage them to sign the guest book. There is a donation box directly above the light switches if visitors inquire about making a donation.

Horse pens, as well as a limited quantity of horseshoes, are available by the docents’ desk to give to young visitors. Be sure to check with parents before giving any items to their children.

Museum Opening Procedures

1. Retrieve the museum key from the lock box in breezeway. Secure code will be given to you separately
2. Turn on aisle and donor board lights outside
3. Unlock the museum door and turn on lights
4. Store the door snakes under the visitors' table
5. Turn on TV video (Horsepower) in corner – find the 2 remotes – point each one towards the equipment and press the power button on the top right of the controller
6. Turn on back screen *Silent Witness* video – Pull screen towards you and flip the small black switch on the side panel of the screen
7. Setup coffee – Detailed instructions for making coffee in top drawer of coffee cart
8. Roll dolly with poster board out of the Program Room (room next to the museum), so it is visible to patrons
9. Get broom and cobweb remover from program room supply closet and sweep hay from front entry of museum and clear cobwebs (if there is time)
10. Restock brochures in the museum and down at the kiosk from the programming room as needed.
11. Fill in the docent journal at the end of your shift.

Museum Closing Procedures

1. Fill out Docent journal
2. Restock horseshoes, pens, brochures, etc. from the program room
3. Pour out remaining coffee and dump filter and coffee grounds
4. Bring coffee cart back into museum
5. Wheel dolly with poster board back into the Program Room
6. Empty small waste bins into larger outside garbage
7. Close and lock the Program Room (room next to the museum)
8. Turn off TV and DVD (push power button on each of the remotes)
9. Turn off back AV screen (open panel and flip small switch on side of screen)
10. Turn off museum lights and isle and donor board lights
11. Replace Docent Parking pass into desk drawer if you used one
12. Check for personal belongings
13. Replace snakes snugly under sliding doors
14. Lock museum door
15. Put key back in lockbox

NOTE: Docents may store any personal items in the locked storage room during their work shift.

B. School Program Docents

The school tours include several hands-on activities, including apple-pressing, building stone walls, leather crafts, tack cleaning and horse care. After an initial slide presentation and tour of the estate, the County History Museum site interpreter will assign docents to help the students with the various hands-on activities.

The school tours also include a trip to the museum, so School Program Docents should be very familiar with the displays and information in the museum.

C. Retreat or Meeting Host

Docents will meet representatives from the visiting group at the Carriage House entrance to unlock the room and assist with set-up.

Bring a copy of the Facilities Use Guidelines so you are able to answer any questions about the room use and/or park regulations.

Give a short tour of the stable if it has been requested. The tour should be limited to approximately 15-20 minutes and include only a brief historical introduction, the Chinese walls, 3-4 key stable stops, and a short visit to the museum. Read the tour guidelines in section II-D, as well as the sample tour in section III if you will be giving a mini-tour.

Meet the representatives at the conclusion of the meeting/retreat and make sure that room is cleaned and garbage has been removed by the group. Close and lock the Carriage House.

NOTE: Retreat Hosts are not required to remain on-site during the entire event, unless requested by the visiting group.

D. Tour Guide

Nothing helps a tour go smoothly like knowing the material you are presenting, so familiarize yourself with the information in the Sample Tour (Section V), as well as the exhibits in the Carriage Room.

Feel free to carry the docent handbook with you on the tour to use as a reference, but try to avoid reading directly from the manual.

Every group of visitors is different, so it's important to assess your audience and decide if you will need to adjust the time and content of the tour. If there are several elderly people in the group, you may want to shorten the tour. If the group includes children, you may want to simplify your descriptions or point out some different features.

Maintain good eye contact with your visitors. Eye contact makes visitors feel included in the discussion and is also a good indicator whether you're keeping their interest.

A pleasant, smiling face tells visitors that you are having a good time. If you are enjoying yourself, they will too.

Speak clearly and think of “projecting” rather than speaking loudly. Vary the tone and volume of your voice to emphasize a fact or story.

When a visitor asks a question, be sure to repeat it in case the whole group did not hear it. Then focus on the visitor who asked the question and respond appropriately.

Occasionally, a visitor will ask a rhetorical question, or will try to argue with facts or stories you are presenting. Acknowledge his/her point, but keep your responses brief and move on to the next point.

If you're not sure of the answer to a visitor's questions, don't hesitate to say “I don't know”. You can also respond with a phrase such as “That's a good question - if you'd like to leave your phone number or email, I'd be glad to find out for you and let you know.”

Don't be concerned if you realize you have missed a part of the “script.” There may be a time to present a fact or story later in the tour, or someone might ask a question which will lead to an appropriate discussion about the topic. The most important thing to remember is to relax and enjoy your tour!

III. Sample Tour for Registered Group

Before the Tour Begins

Unlock the Carriage House, if using. Prepare equipment if using the video in the Carriage House instead of in the museum. Generally, with a small group (under 10 people or so) it may be easier to watch the video in the museum, but it depends on time available/characteristics of group (age/disabilities).

Your group will have been told to come to the stable area, but you might want to wait outside the Carriage House door so participants can see where they should go.

Tour Introduction: Possible script

“Welcome to the Folger Estate Stable. My name is ____ . I am a volunteer docent with the Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks (Friends), the non-profit organization that raised the funds and managed the renovation of the stable.

Our tour will take about an hour and will include a summary of the history of the park, a walk through part of the historic district, a visit to the Folger Carriage Room Museum, and a short video about the stable and its restoration.

There are restrooms in the lower parking lot, and in the stable opposite the museum entrance.

Folger Stable is a working stable, so we would appreciate it if you keep your voices down. Please do not run near the horses or attempt to touch or feed them. “

Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks: Historic Overview

The Friends, formed in 1995, provides programs in both Huddart and Wunderlich Parks:

- Docent-led hikes for young children in Huddart Park,
- Programs for third and fourth graders at Folger Stable through a partnership with San Mateo County Historical Association
- Special tours like this one at the Folger Stable in Wunderlich
- Meet A Mini program to introduce youngsters to horses
- Operation of the Folger Carriage Room Museum

The Friends serves both Wunderlich and Huddart Parks, sister parks that came into being due to a 12,000 acre Mexican land grant called Canada de Raymundo given originally to an Irishman named John Coppinger. In the 1850s, the land in both Parks was extensively logged and it is said that there were no less than 5 sawmills in the area during this time. One of these was Richard's

Sawmill, remembered today through the name of the main road in Huddart Park, Richard's Road. It was down this road that teams of oxen hauled lumber toward Redwood City where it was taken by barge to San Francisco. After California became a state in 1850, Coppinger and other large landowners subdivided their properties into smaller parcels. Today, in both Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, large stumps of virgin redwoods and "skid roads" where the teams of oxen dragged logs to saw mills are still visible.

In 1935, James Huddart, a wealthy San Francisco lumberman and Woodside Resident, deeded 900 acres of his property to San Francisco. Water rights problems caused the property to be deeded to the State of California and subsequently, in 1944, to the County of San Mateo.

In 1956, Martin Wunderlich, a developer from Denmark, purchased 972 acres where we are now standing with the intent of building a subdivision with a golf course on top. In 1974 he donated the entire parcel to the County of San Mateo, after the newly formed Town of Woodside would not grant him the permits necessary for his development.

Wunderlich Park History

Back in the 1870s this land was "working land." Spanish land grants were frequently given to people who had done a favor for government

officials. John Coppinger, an Irishman, was given the Rancho de Raymundo land grant after helping to settle a skirmish with the Mexicans in Monterey. After acquiring the property in 1840 he began selling off portions of it. The first owner of this portion was an extroverted lumberman, Charles Brown, who paid off the property with 3,300 feet of lumber. Brown built the first sawmill on the peninsula and an adobe house, still standing today on private property near Wunderlich Park. In 1850 John Coffee Hays, a Texas Ranger, bought the property. He became the first sheriff of San Francisco County, which extended down here in those days. It was said that he regularly rode horseback to San Francisco.

In 1872 Simon Jones, an ex-senator from Texas and also a Texas Ranger, bought 1,500 acres and called it Hazelwood Farm. He grazed cattle, raised horses and planted vineyards and fruit trees. He employed large numbers of Chinese laborers who built drainage systems, the network of trails still existing today, and the beautiful "Chinese Walls" that you will see behind the Stable. In 1880, Jones reported that his land was worth \$9,500, not including the livestock which was worth \$1,567. His vineyards were used to produce grapes, which he exported to China as raisins, reportedly 14,000 lbs. of them in 1886!

When Simon Jones died in 1890, there was an attempt by his son Everett and a subsequent owner to operate the site as a kind of “Bed and Breakfast” to attract people to this area. In a 1901 publication, Hazelwood Farm was advertised as “an hour’s drive from the Redwood Depot, pleasantly located in the foothills with a fine climate. Stage fare is 50 cents and board is \$8-10 per week.”

Apparently, this arrangement was not sufficiently profitable because in 1902, the property was reported sold and this article appeared: “This village has added another new resident to its growing population in the person of JA Folger II of San Francisco, who has purchased the Jones place, known to many through its sulphur springs, mountain drives, and other things too numerous to mention. Mr. Folger intends building a fine residence on his new domain.”

In approximately 1905 Folger did indeed build his fine residence and stable on the property, designed by the architect Arthur Brown Jr., about whom you’ll hear more as we tour the site. (Show enlarged photo of the stable in 1910 if desired) Folger is generally credited with harnessing the waters of Alambique Creek and introducing hydroelectric power to this area. His mansion is now in private hands and located just outside the

park boundary. There is a photo of it in the museum.

Folger's Coffee: The Folger family originally came from England and after living first on the east coast, settled on the whaling island of Nantucket. Two centuries later, with whaling on the decline, Samuel Folger sent his three eldest sons to join the California gold rush. He sent them to San Francisco by ship, crossing the isthmus of Panama by mule. Fourteen year old James Folger and his two brothers arrived in San Francisco in 1849 at the height of the gold rush.

After staying in San Francisco due to his young age, James was allowed to go to the gold fields in 1852 where he earned a tidy sum and was described by an employer as "having more sense than most of us and he put the money he got from gold picked up at Wood's Creek into a provision business." He returned to San Francisco and worked for William Bovee at Pioneer Steam Coffee and Spice Mills, where he was made full partner at age 24. After his marriage in 1864, James purchased the coffee company and renamed it "J.A. Folger and Company." When he passed away at the young age of 54, his son, James II, took over the coffee company and also built his residence and stable in Woodside on the property that became Wunderlich Park. Under his leadership the company expanded dramatically

and became America's number one coffee brand. (at this writing, it still sells more coffee than any other company in America).

The Folger family kept the property until 1956, leasing out the stables for boarding. In 1956 Mr. Folger sold almost 1,000 acres to Martin Wunderlich, retaining some acreage for his mansion and family use. In 1963, the family sold the Folger Coffee business to Proctor and Gamble. (Show old Folger coffee can and can after sale to Proctor and Gamble if desired). Folgers Coffee is now owned by Smuckers Inc. Since 1974, the Stable and the 942 acres surrounding it have been open to the public as Wunderlich County Park.

The stable had deteriorated significantly by the turn of the century, and in 2002 the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks formed a committee to evaluate the feasibility of renovating the stable building. In 2004, the Folger Estate Stable District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. By 2008 funds had been raised to renovate the stable. The renovation was completed in 2010.

The involvement of Folger and others on the peninsula signaled a significant change in activities on the peninsula. What had previously been a focus on farming, ranching and the keeping of horses gave way to more recreational pursuits. Two cultural transitions were taking place when

Folger built his stable and mansion: the nationwide transition from horse and carriage to horseless carriage, and the transition in use of the land from ranching and farming to more recreational activities in what was called the “Great Estates” period. Today we enjoy the landscapes and woodlands that initiated from the Folger landholdings and were perpetuated by the generosity of Martin Wunderlich.

Show 12 minute Video (if showing in Carriage House).

The video, Silent Witness, discusses more history of the stable property, the restoration project and interviews key participants including members of the Folger family.

Stable Tour (Through courtyard area, around back to stable to see Chinese Walls, through the porte cochere into stable aisle past museum entrance.

- **Courtyard area:** The stable was designed by architect Arthur Brown, Jr., who also designed (or co-designed) San Francisco City Hall, the SF Opera House and Coit Tower. Brown was a personal friend of James Folger and the stable and mansion were one of his first projects after architectural school. The architectural style

of the stable is known as French Baroque, with an Arts and Crafts influence. It is 188 feet long and 75 feet wide. The stable, carriage house, and upper barn were all built from redwood harvested on the property. The main architectural features are the corbels under the eaves, the paneled soffits, the balcony on the side and the arched portico.

- **Chinese Walls:** Chinese laborers brought over by Simon Jones built the walls, trails, and drainage system throughout the park. The walls behind the stable (also visible through the museum windows) were built in the 1870s and are well preserved and the most impressive walls in the park. They are referred to as “dry stack” walls because the stones fit together without any cement or adhesive. They have survived earthquakes, soil erosion, and floods for over 150 years. A commemorative plaque honoring the Chinese laborers is located in a stone near road down to the parking lot.
- **Porte Cochere area:** This was the area where the horses were harnessed and

hooked up to the carriages. The original cast iron “deflectors” protected the pillars and the wheels of the carriages. The stall wing outside was may have originally been used as a work area to repair tack and work on minor blacksmithing. The glassed in area to the right is now used for children’s programming. It has a storage room in back that was once a boiler room to heat water for the carriage room and preserve the fine wooden carriages inside.

- **Stable Interior:** The first of 4 skylights can be seen just inside the building proper. Designed as a type of turn-of-the-century air conditioning, the sun heats the air which rises into the skylights, past the dormers, and is ventilated out of the building, providing a cooling breeze on the hottest of days.

Pink marble baseboards line either side of the entrance to the stable aisle, along with cast iron drainage ditches. Much of the marble and cast iron was original though some parts were duplicated by the renovation architect. The Folger Museum was the original carriage room of the stable.

Three cast iron window grates were found on the main One iron grate is in the museum in the blacksmith section. The original grates were riveted because welding was not regularly used until around the 1920s. The original fire hose reel on the wall next to the stairwell is fitted with an old fire hose and nozzle. The Museum will be visited after a quick trip down the stable aisle.

The glassed in room with the fire place may have originally been living quarters, but is now used as a tack room. Above the fireplace is a photograph of Peter Folger, son of James II, on his horse. The photograph was donated by his children, Peter and Elizabeth, both of whom are interviewed in our video.

- **Stable Aisle:** Horses were originally kept in “tie” stalls, a duplicate of which is in the museum. “Box” stalls were installed throughout the stable during the renovation to replace the original stalls. These new stalls have yoke type upper doors and windows between stalls for increased interaction among horses and between horses and visitors. The original

handcrafted hay drops in the ceiling allowed hay to be dropped into 2 stalls at a time. The area out the back door was used to water the horses as well as for tying and grooming. The old watering trough and the metal tie rings still exist in this area.

- **Museum interior:** A return to the Museum enables visitors to spend some time (depending on schedule, 15 minutes, or more) learning about the history of the area, the families associated with the Park, and the importance of horses in the mid-peninsula area. If video was not shown in Carriage House, visitors may view it here.
- **Return to Carriage House:** Docent does a brief summary of the tour, answers questions, hands out brochures for Friends, Chaparral ranch, walking tour. Group is welcome to wander around to see more of the site. Everyone is thanked for their support and enthusiasm. Donations are always welcome through the Friend's donation box in the museum, on line, or by mail.

- **After the tour:** Return signs, photos, props, lost items, etc. to the storage/programming room. Check museum and programming room to make sure doors are locked and lights turned off. Notify staff to report any incidents or other concerns (650-851-2660).

IV. HISTORY OF THE FOLGER ESTATE STABLE By Susan Green

The first known human inhabitants of the land where the Folger Stable stands were the Ohlone Indians. For food they gathered acorns, seeds, roots and berries. They also fished and hunted small animals. They did not make pottery, but were skillful at weaving beautiful water-tight baskets. Their domed huts were constructed of branches or tules and grass and leaves. When Europeans colonized California and established the Mission System, the Native American population rapidly and tragically declined.

Spain was the first country to occupy California. The people of Mexico completed a successful revolution against Spain in 1821. What had been New Spain then became a part of Mexico. Mexico officially ruled California until the occupation of Americans in 1846. Few Californians chose to refer to themselves as Mexicans, but preferred to be called Californios.

During those times, large land grants were given to new settlers to stimulate colonization. One of those fortunate settlers was a young, ambitious Irishman by the name of John Copinger. Born in 1810 in Dublin, he was the fourth of five children. He arrived in California by a means not established. It was rumored that he deserted a British navy ship along the California coast in

1834. Outside of one communication to his mother saying that he was in Monterey, his family never heard from him again. The only shred of evidence as to the time and place of his arrival is to be found in the records of the Larkin Store in Monterey in a dusty ledger. The entry is for the purchase of rum and beer and is dated November 1, 1836. From that date forward his name appears in ledgers frequently.

In 1836, while living in Monterey, Copinger assisted a group of dissidents and an important government official, Juan Bautista Alvarado, in a skirmish against the Mexicans. The dissidents won and Copinger was credited with firing the round of artillery that settled the argument. As a result, Alvarado became indebted to Copinger and when he became governor, he rewarded the Irishman with the 12,500 acre Canada de Raymundo land grant in 1840, consisting of property from Alambique Creek on the south to lower Crystal Springs Lake on the north, and from Skyline to the Canada Valley. Copinger was one of the first Europeans to settle on the Peninsula.

In 1839 he married a comely senorita by the name of Maria Louisa Soto. Maria Louisa's father, Raphael Soto, was granted the rancho where the City of Palo Alto now stands. Her grandfather, Ignacio Soto, was a member of the de Anza expedition which came to the Presidio in San Francisco in 1776. Copinger and Maria Louisa were married at the mission church in Santa Clara.

After a gala wedding, the couple settled on the property in temporary quarters. In 1840 they built an adobe house which stood on the northwest corner of King's Mountain Road and Woodside Road. It was destroyed during the 1906 earthquake.

Copinger was known to be gentlemanly and self-contained, but quick-tempered. He was also an industrious man. Not only was he Justice of the Peace in 1842 for The Redwoods (a term used to describe the Skyline area and the surrounding mountains) and what is now San Mateo County, but he made many improvements to his land. He built a dam on the property and a grist mill at Bear Gulch. He raised cattle and planted many crops. He sold off one major parcel of the land grant during his lifetime. It was a notorious sale to an extroverted adventurer, Charles Brown. In 1846 Brown received a deed for 2,880 acres of timbered slopes and valley range which he called "Mountain Home Ranch." The method of payment was 3,300 feet of lumber which could be harvested from his newly purchased land. Brown was credited with having built the first sawmill on the Peninsula as well as an adobe house that still stands in Woodside today. A plaque on Portola Road indicates the location of the sawmill.

Copinger was not able to enjoy the fruits of his labor for long. He died of a stomach ailment in 1847 at age 37, about eight years after moving to the property. A short time later, his widow

married an Irish sea captain, John Greer, and they maintained the remaining property for a few more years. Eventually the Greers moved from Canada de Raymundo to Maria Louisa's father's rancho near what is now the City of Palo Alto. Their home was located on the property where the Town and Country Shopping Center is today.

When Charles Brown left The Redwoods in 1850, "Mountain Home Ranch" was sold to John Coffee Hays who was a former Texas Ranger. He became the first sheriff of San Francisco County and renamed the ranch "Hays Ranch." He used Brown's adobe for a roadhouse for lumbermen while he and his wife lived in a two-story house beside it. For the next six years it was said that Hays commuted to San Francisco on horseback.

In 1858 Hays sold the property and for the next four years there were a series of different owners. In 1862 the timberland portion of the ranch and the valley portion of the ranch were divided and the timberland, or mountain portion, was sold off separately.

In 1872 Simon Jones, an ex-senator from Texas, also of Texas Ranger fame, bought the timberland portion of the ranch, which consisted of about 1,500 acres, and called it "Hazelwood Farm." He had an exporting business with headquarters in San Francisco. He made major agricultural changes to the land. He grazed cattle, raised horses and planted large tracts of vineyards and

fruit trees. In 1886 he exported 14,000 pounds of raisins to China. He introduced a number of non-native trees to property such as Monterey cypress, olive and eucalyptus trees. While serving as windbreaks, the fast-growing eucalyptus trees were planted almost exclusively for firewood. He discovered many resources on the property such as water springs, oil, natural gas and two sulphur springs. Many local residents drank the water from the sulphur springs believing that it had medicinal qualities. He also imported large numbers of Chinese laborers who built rock walls and a network of roads and trails through the property which still exist today. Of all the structures built by Jones, the only one standing today is the "cold house."

When Simon Jones died in 1890, the ranch went to his son Everett. He continued his father's pursuits and eventually leased the land to various tenants. He decided to sell it in 1902, at which time James Folger II bought it.

The Folger Family was originally from England. In 1635 they sailed across the Atlantic and settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Peter Folger met Mary Morrell on the voyage over and they were married a short time after arriving here. They lived in Watertown, Massachusetts for twenty-five years, moved to Martha's Vineyard for a short time, and finally settled on the barren island of Nantucket. There Folger became a schoolmaster and preacher, aside from following his trade as a

blacksmith and acting as official keeper of records. The Folgers' last child, a girl named Abiah, was born on the island. Years later, Abiah gave birth to a son who had a great influence in forming our country. His name was Benjamin Franklin.

Two centuries later, Peter Folger's descendants lived in the largest whaling port in the world. In 1842 Nantucket's whaling vessels brought home riches in the form of oil for the lamps of a growing new nation and whalebone to shape its ladies' figures. Every boy was trained to be either a blacksmith or a carpenter so that he could work on repairing the whaling ships.

One of Peter Folger's descendants in Nantucket was Samuel B. Folger, who had taken up the trade of blacksmith. His shop performed major jobs for shipbuilders and harbor works and he owned two ships. He had nine children and was a prosperous member of the community. Tragedy struck the family in 1844 when two of their children died and a fire reduced the port's waterfront to charred rubble and ashes. The town never fully recovered financially and whaling was on the decline.

On December 5, 1848, President Polk's message to Congress referred to the vast riches of gold in the newly-acquired territory of California. In the fall of 1849 Samuel Folger's three sons boarded a ship headed for the Isthmus of Panama and, after crossing the Isthmus by foot and by mule, they sailed on to California to mine for gold.

When they arrived in San Francisco, the two older brothers proceeded to the gold fields, but the family could not afford to pay the travel costs for the youngest son, 14-year-old James. He had to remain in San Francisco to raise enough money to join his brothers. In 1850 he went to work as a carpenter for an entrepreneur named William Bovee who was building his first coffee mill in San Francisco. Bovee's new company was called The Pioneer Steam Coffee and Spice Mills and he produced coffee ready for the pot: roasted, ground and packaged. After working for Mr. Bovee for a year, James had saved enough money to go to the gold fields and agreed to carry along samples of coffee to sell to the miners.

When he arrived in the gold fields, James went from camp to camp, taking orders for coffee and panning for gold. At Wood's Creek, near Sonora, he made a strike and carried his precious gold dust with him as he traveled northward. He heard that there was a lot of mining going on south of Auburn around a flat known as Yankee Jim's. There he found many miners but not a store, so he decided to open a store of his own on the spot. A diary date of 1852, found years later in the deserted ruins of Yankee Jim's, said: "The young man from Nantucket, Jim Folger, is most courageous - at his tender age he has more sense than most of us and put the money he got from gold picked up at Wood's Creek into a provision business."

James spent two years at Yankee Jim's, sold his business and then returned to San Francisco with his profits. The company continued to be enormously popular and at age 24, James was made a full partner of the Pioneer Steam Coffee and Spice Mills.

In 1861 James Folger married Ellen Laughren, who had come to San Francisco with her family from Burlington, Vermont. Two years later their first son, James II, was born. The family built a house near Lake Merritt in Oakland and James commuted to his business in San Francisco by ferryboat. Four more children were born, but two died very young.

James bought the company in 1865 and renamed it J.A. Folger and Company. Like many adventurous men of his time, he had several interests other than his business. He was involved in various civic affairs both in Oakland and San Francisco, and he made frequent visits to Nantucket, the island of his ancestors, and kept his family there advised of his doings. He died at age 54 in 1889 of a coronary occlusion and his son, James II stepped into the role of president of J.A. Folger and Company. Under his leadership the company expanded dramatically and eventually became America's number one coffee brand.

James Folger II married Clara Luning in 1899 and they resided in San Francisco. He conducted his

business there and also became active in many civic affairs. He met some of his future neighbors who lived on the Peninsula: William Bourne, August Schilling, Joseph Donohoe and Arthur Brown, the father of the architect who would later design his estate in Woodside, to name a few.

Up until the late 1880s, the Woodside area had been mostly a logging, agricultural community. With the advent of train travel, people in San Francisco were able to travel quickly and easily to the Peninsula. With that event, a significant change took place. Wealthy families from San Francisco who wanted to escape the cold, foggy summers were buying large tracts of land and building elegant estates up and down the Peninsula. The area changed from being agricultural to recreational. Wagon trails and old skid roads became riding and carriage trails. It was called "The Great Estates Era."

In 1902 it was reported in a local newspaper that, "This village has added another new resident to its growing population in the person of J.A. Folger II of San Francisco, who purchased the Jones place, which is known to many through its sulphur springs, mountain drives and other things too numerous to mention. Mr. Folger intends building a fine residence on his new domain."

With the purchase of the Jones property, the Folgers began to plan for their new domain. Around 1904 Mr. Folger commissioned Arthur

Brown Jr. to design his estate and stables. Brown was born in San Francisco in 1874, the son of an accomplished engineer who designed many buildings including the palatial home of Charles Crocker on Nob Hill in San Francisco and the fashionable Hotel Del Monte in Pebble Beach. Arthur Brown Jr. studied civil engineering at UC Berkeley under Bernard Maybeck and was among a group of students that included Julia Morgan, John Bakewell and Edward Bennet, all of whom would become prominent architects. Brown, like the rest, left for Paris after graduation to continue his education at the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

In 1903 Brown left Paris and, after brief work in Washington on the Museum of Natural History, he returned to San Francisco where he formed a partnership with Henry A. Schulze. Although the partnership with Henry Schulze was short-lived, they participated in the creation of the Burnham Plan for San Francisco in addition to designing the estate and stable for James A. Folger II in 1904.

Soon after his partnership with Henry Schulze dissolved in 1905, Arthur Brown became partners with John Bakewell with whom he remained partners until 1927. During this time Bakewell and Brown enjoyed a reputation as one of the most distinguished architectural firms in California. It was with Bakewell that Brown designed the most important buildings of his career: San Francisco City Hall, San Francisco Opera House, City of Paris Department Store, San Francisco Art

Institute, Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco, and the Hoover Tower at Stanford.

From 1928 to 1950, Brown, then on his own after his partnership with Bakewell dissolved, designed Coit Tower, the War Memorial Opera House, the Veterans Building, the Federal Building and many more. At the time of his death in 1957, he was working on an extension of the east front of the United States Capitol Building. In a tribute to Brown, *Architect and Engineer Magazine* described him as "One of the leading architects of the United States." (*Architect and Engineer*, 1957:15)

The stable was built in 1905 and was likely built prior to the estate to house horses and animals needed to support the construction of the estate. The stable design was said to be derived from French Baroque and the Arts and Crafts movement. It was a wooden frame structure built on a foundation of concrete footing and retaining walls of concrete and stone and was made from redwood trees harvested from the property. The building was adorned with corbels under the eaves, paneled soffits, an arched main portico and a balcony on the side of the building. Pink marble baseboards lined the inside walls, three fireplaces were built to heat the building and there were radiators in the carriage room to keep the carriage woods dry. Gas chandeliers, said to be especially luxurious, were used for lighting. Bricks lined the floor of the stable and cast iron fenders were designed to deflect the carriage wheels on the

pillars in the porte-cochere area. Square nails were used in constructing the stable. Seldom have horses been so luxuriously housed.

The new house, a grand four-storied structure, was similar to the stable, but more elaborate, and was characterized by several balconies and awning-shaded windows. The impressive ground floor entryway had a porte-cochere, with balustrade leading to a second floor balcony; the two upper stories were topped by a deep cornice on brackets and interrupted at its crest with broken pediment and finial in the Baroque manner. The central section was flanked by two large wings - each lined with windows, each with its own balustraded balcony - terminating in tall, pierced chimneys. A broad porch and balcony looked out over the gardens behind the house.

The Folgers enjoyed many years on their elegant country estate. They divided their time between San Francisco and Woodside and continued Simon Jones' agricultural pursuits, planting cherries, apples and pears. Folger harnessed the waters of nearby Alambique Creek, storing it in a concrete reservoir near Salamander Flat. The water was used to create the area's first hydro-electric power. His was said to have been the original house on the Peninsula fully wired for electricity. Folger also powered a sawmill constructed on the property.

Along with enjoying carriage rides on the old trails that had been developed on the property, a family campsite was maintained near Alambique Flat. It consisted of several tent frames with wooden platforms. Canvas was put over the frames when in use. The family spent weekends there when they wanted to “get away from it all.” Recently, the site of Folger’s skeet range has been located. The area is still littered with pieces of broken clay pigeons.

After James Folger II died at age 58 in 1921, his sons took over the business and it continued to grow into a major roaster and seller of coffee throughout the nation. Clara Folger remained on the property until her death in 1940. The children collectively owned the property until 1955 when Peter Folger bought the house and thirty acres from his siblings. He owned that portion of the property until 1977 at which time Nolan Bushnell of Atari purchased it, and it was subsequently sold to the Carroll Family in the 1990s.

The land on which the stable is located was sold to Martin Wunderlich in 1956 and was donated to the county in 1974. From 1972 until 2006 the stable and surrounding paddocks and arena were leased to Patricia Holmes, who raised Welsh Cob ponies and ran a horse boarding operation. Presently, the stable is used for horse boarding and the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks offers educational programs and tours to the public. There is now a museum in the stable that explores

the local history of Woodside and the Folger property, life in California in the early 1900s and the importance of the horse in Western American culture.

The Folger Stable is very deserving of preservation because of its architectural beauty and rich history. Visiting it gives us the opportunity to glimpse an era of a golden age gone by. It symbolizes the equestrian history of the area and has contributed to making Woodside the special place it is today. To quote Bill Lane, who was a major supporter of the Folger Project, "I feel very strongly that a unique community like Woodside benefits from preserving a truly historic structure like the Folger Stable to help maintain a character that is directly related to what it creates, as Wallace Stegner referred to it "A Sense of Place," as well as the beautiful, natural environment that Woodside is blessed with."

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