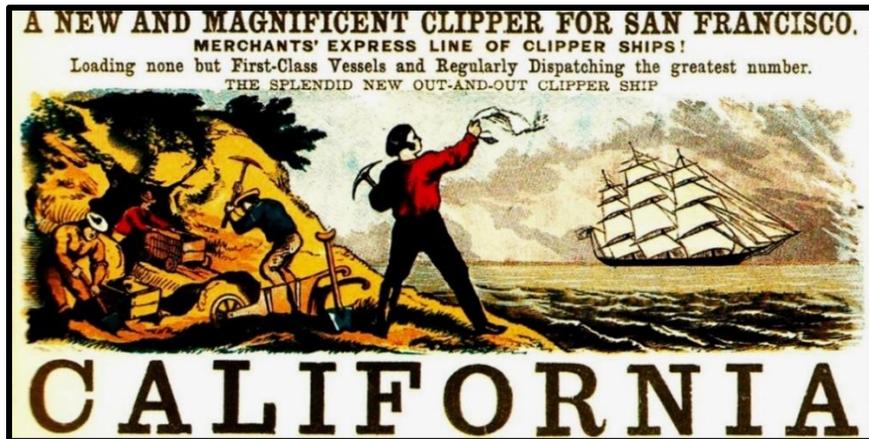


# Signals from Telegraph Hill

December 2017

Volume 14

Number 9



## San Francisco Corral – Westerners International

WEBSITE: [www.westernerssf.org](http://www.westernerssf.org)

EMAIL: [westernerssf@gmail.com](mailto:westernerssf@gmail.com)

Please join us on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for  
From Time Balls to Popcorn: A History of San Francisco through its Public Clocks!



Steven Sodokoff pictured with one of San Francisco's most significant historical clocks. Can you guess where it is?

Steven Sodokoff, a Time Ambassador, fourth generation fine jeweler and history enthusiast, followed his heart back to San Francisco after graduating with a BS from Cornell University, where he studied and taught communication arts. Steven's passion for photography and the history of the birth of San Francisco drove him to start cataloging the numerous surviving monumental timepieces around town. This is a talk about how the representation and measurement of time has helped shape the development of San Francisco as a Modern City out in the wild western frontier of the 19th century. Initially, ornamental clocks were used on church steeples as a call to prayer. Monumental keepers of time, such as the clock on San Francisco's Ferry Building, were used to regulate transportation. Commercial jewelers used street clocks as advertising tools for their stores. Some of the most important and essential parts of San Francisco's history consist of public timepieces in important meeting places that enhance and maintain the intimacy and scale of our neighborhood blocks.

### Meeting Location: Fior d'Italia, 2237 Mason Street, San Francisco

The restaurant provides us with a private room and **valet parking**. We gather at 5:30 and dinner seating begins at **6:00 p.m.** *Please note change of time!* A three-course selection is available and costs \$39.00. **RSVP:** Please send checks and dinner reservations by **December 1, 2017** to Judy Van Austen, KOC, 1789 Northwood Court, Oakland, CA 94611. See final page for full contact information; you can contact Judy by e-mail or phone to reserve a seat.



## ***Living Legend Nomination for Dr. Robert J. Chandler, San Francisco Corral of Westerners***

**Robert J. Chandler**, an Army brat, was born in Utah, and has lived in Hawaii and both Southern and Northern California. Recruited by Dick Olson, Bob joined the San Francisco Corral of the Westerners in 1987. Thirty years later, in 2017, during a moment of weakness, he allowed himself to be persuaded by Brian D. Dillon to also join the Los Angeles Corral. Chandler is the Sheriff of the San Francisco Corral, having served in this capacity in 1992, 2002, 2016 and 2017. He has made over a half-dozen presentations to the San Francisco Corral during the past thirty years, and recently (2016) also has begun to grace the Los Angeles Corral in this regard as well.

Dr. Chandler is an historian of international repute, specializing in California history, political history, economic, monetary and banking history, historical ephemera, printing and lithography, and the history of California minorities. Bob earned his Ph.D. in history in 1978 at U.C. Riverside; his dissertation was entitled, *The Press and Civil Liberties in California During the Civil War*. Chandler then spent 32 years as Senior Research Historian for Wells Fargo Bank, based in San Francisco. Bob has written more than 60 articles on California during the times of the Gold Rush and the Civil War on civil rights, commerce, finance, gold, journalism, politics, military suppression, numismatics, philately, printing, stagecoaching, steamships, and Wells Fargo generally. He has served as an editorial advisor to the *California Territorial Quarterly* since 1996 and is one of that journal's most consistent contributors.

Bob was the co-editor (with Bob Schoeppner) of the first two Brand Books published by the San Francisco Corral (BB 1: 1996; BB 2: 2001). He is also the recipient of three prestigious Westerners International Coke Wood Awards, the first (2001) for *California Stagecoaching: The Dusty Reality* (Dogtown Territorial Quarterly 47, Fall 2001: 4-24, 34-40); the second (for 2005) for his co-authored article with Steve Potash, *The Pacific Mail: Pioneering U.S. Flag Steamship Company* (The Argonaut, 16, Summer 2005: 54-106), and the third (for 2010) for his three articles on the Pony Express (*California Territorial Quarterly*, 81, Spring 2010: 4-27; 28-41; 42-29). Chandler's books include an *Illustrated History of California* (2004); Arcadia's *Wells Fargo* (2006); *Gold, Silk, Pioneers & Mail: The Story of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company* (co-authored with Steven J. Potash, 2007); and *San Francisco Lithographer: African American Artist Grafton Tyler Brown* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2014). Bob's most recent book, *An E. Clampus Vitus Hoax Gone Awry: Sir Francis Drake's 1579 Plate of Brasse* will be published by the Grand Council of the ECV, and is forthcoming in early 2018.

In addition to being one of the most active of all Westerners, Dr. Chandler is a member of the bibliophilic Roxburghe Club of San Francisco. Since 2014, Bob has been on the Council of the Friends of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also presently the Director of the San Ramon Valley Museum. Chandler is the past President (2003-2011) of the Western Cover [Philatelic] Society and is presently its secretary. He is the past President (2005-2007) of the Book Club of California, and was the long-time (1996-2013) editor of its *Quarterly Newsletter*. Bob is the past President (1981-82) of the San Francisco Civil War Round Table, an honorary Kentucky Colonel and the past President of the Fighting '49ers Toastmasters (1980, 1982, 1984, 1992). He is the X-Noble Grand Humbug, of Yerba Buena #1, the Mother Lodge, of E. Clampus Vitus, holding this exalted position in 2005-2006. Bob "Clamper" Chandler is the living embodiment of his alter-ego, Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico. In his few remaining minutes of spare time over the past four decades, Bob has also been a devoted husband to his long-suffering wife Susan and a loving father to his three adult children, all of them serving out life sentences as his closest relatives without possibility of parole.

In recognition of Dr. Chandler's exemplary service to the San Francisco Corral of the Westerners, to the advancement of California History, and of his many contributions to Western civilization, especially his valiant efforts towards stemming the rising tide of illiteracy on the Pacific Littoral, we are pleased and proud to nominate him as a ***Living Legend of the San Francisco Corral***. We believe this honor to be richly merited and appropriate since the most recent San Francisco Corral Living Legend, Bob's good friend, Richard H. Dillon, so designated 14 years ago in 2003, has recently passed on to his reward. We ask most humbly and respectfully that the Home Corral in the Sovereign State of Texas give the present nomination of Dr. Robert J. Chandler its most favorable consideration, so that the San Francisco Corral of the Westerners may count at least one *Living Legend* amongst the *Living*.

Many thanks,

Brain Dervin Dillon, Ph.D.

Sherriff, Los Angeles Corral of the Westerners

On behalf of the entire San Francisco Corral of the Westerners

(SF Corral members please confirm their approval by e-mail to [briandervindillon@gmail.com](mailto:briandervindillon@gmail.com) for listing as "co-signers" to the nomination by no later than November 30.)

## Noteworthy Events



**San Francisco History Association – Tuesday, November 28, 7:45 p.m. (Doors open at 7:00) – A Century of Looking Back: San Francisco through Magic Lantern Slides.** SFHA founder and President Ron Ross will share his collection of rare glass “magic lantern” slides, featuring dozens of photographs of early San Francisco, including 1906 earthquake scenes and images from the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Group participation is encouraged at this program! **St. Phillips Church, 725 Diamond Street (between 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Elizabeth).** [sanfranciscohistory.org](http://sanfranciscohistory.org)



**Haas-Lilienthal House – Sunday, December 3, 2017, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Holiday Open House.** Join San Francisco Heritage for an afternoon of holiday fun at the historic Haas-Lilienthal house. Holiday cheer, festive buffet, music, and a visit from Santa! Free for members and their guests; \$15 for general public. **2007 Franklin Street San Francisco. Further info: [www.sfheritage.org](http://www.sfheritage.org)**



**California Historical Society – Wednesday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.: Telling the Hard Stories of Native American Life – 1760s – 1860s:** A presentation that explores the darkest parts of California's history relating to California's native population. Hear from three authors as they present on topics including the Mission era, Indian slavery and genocide. Books by all three authors will be sold. Also: check the website for CHS holiday bookstore events throughout the month of December. **678 Mission Street, San Francisco – [www.californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org) – (415) 357-1848.**



**San Francisco Civil War Round Table – Thursday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m. – Jessie Fremont's Abolitionist Salon.** Elaine Elinson will be talking about Jessie Benton Fremont and the salon of abolitionists that she led in 1860-61 at Black Point. Submit menu choice to Treasurer Norm Ishimoto, 1906 18th Ave, SF, 94116. Roast leg of lamb \$40; Chicken Pomodoro \$35; Cheese ravioli (vegetarian) \$32. **United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue (near Sloat).** **More information at <https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoCivilWarRoundTable/>.** (You do not have to be a Facebook member to view the page.)



**S. F. Westerners Posse: 2017**

**Sheriff:**

Robert Chandler, PhD  
[chandlerbasset@yahoo.com](mailto:chandlerbasset@yahoo.com)

**Trail Boss:**

*Ask how you can assist us here!*

**Registrar of Marks & Brands:**

*We also need help here!*

**Keeper of the Chips:**

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**International Rep.:**

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**Inkslingers Emeritus:**

Tom McLaughlin; Richard F. Olson; Mary Lou Lyon, HM



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In order for you and your friends and organizations to continue to receive this publication, send us your email address.

Email: [westernerssf@gmail.com](mailto:westernerssf@gmail.com)

*Mark your calendar* for the upcoming meeting dates of the S.F. Corral of Westerners International (usually the fourth Tuesday of the month): (No meeting in November); December 5, 2017 – last meeting of the year! In 2018: January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, (May outing on Saturday, May 12), June 26<sup>th</sup>. Future meetings to be determined.



Unusual Christmas postcard from California. Instead of traditional holiday imagery, the Cliff House is shown on Ocean Beach underneath a sunny sky. And instead of holly or poinsettias, California poppies are shown. Postmarked 1913. Published by Edward H. Mitchell of San Francisco.