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# *Sourisseau Academy*

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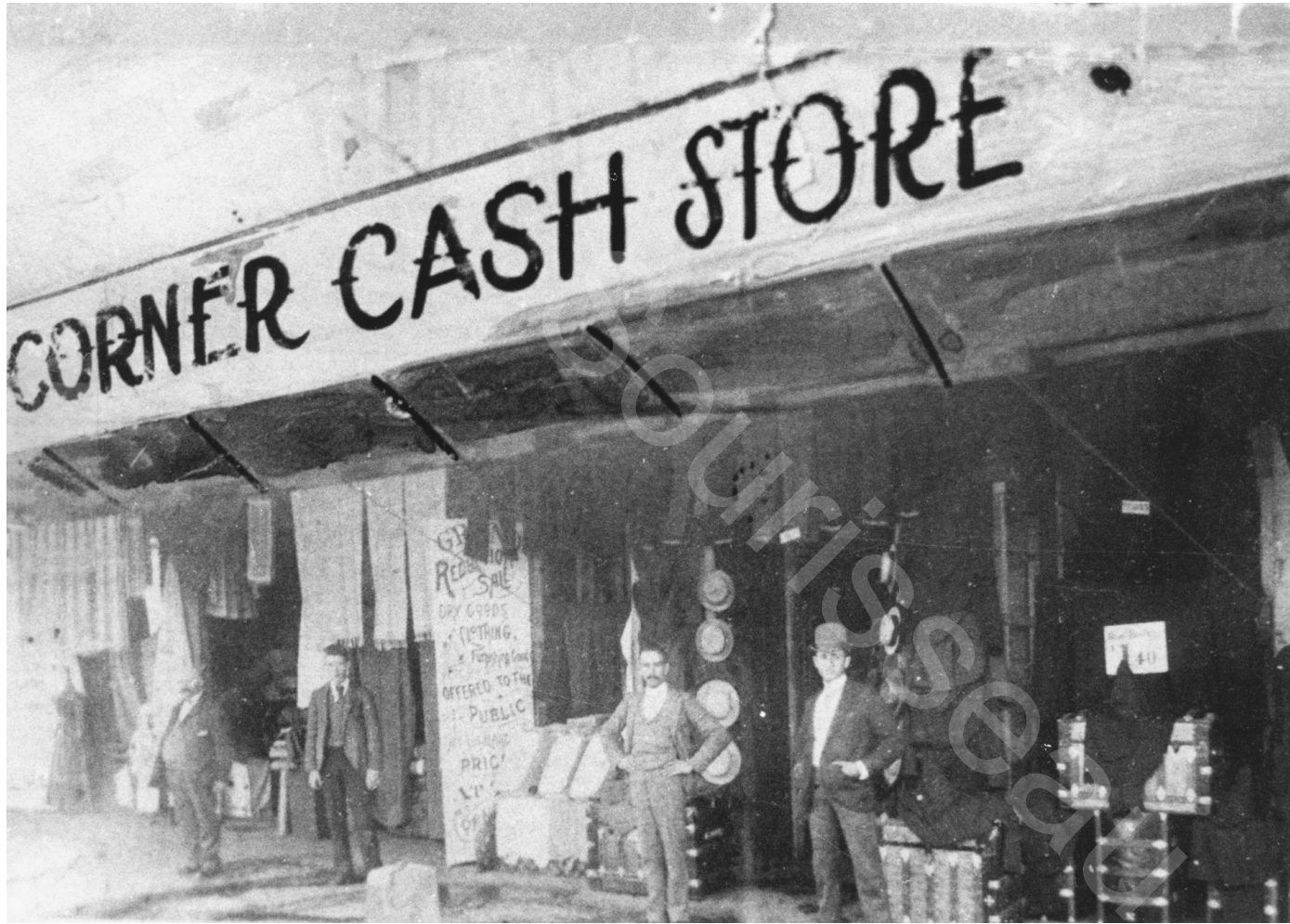
## **The German Community in San Jose**

by April Hope Halberstadt

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[117] **Corner Cash Store and Leopold Hart.** Located at southeast corner of Market Street and Santa Clara, the Corner Cash store occupied the best business location in San Jose. The mercantile emporium was established by Adolph B. Steinbach, who started his career working for another local merchandising giant, Lazard Lion. By 1886, Steinbach sold his store to the personable Leopold Hart, who transformed and expanded this location into San Jose's most important department store.



[118] **Hart's Department Store.** It took three generations of the Hart family to create the department store that became a community icon. Founded by Leopold Hart, the store grew from 2,000 square feet with four clerks to a store covering an entire block with hundreds of employees. Leopold's only son, Alexander, began working for his father as a very young man, expanding the Hart business through aggressive advertising and strong civic participation. The third generation included two sons and three daughters; all worked in the firm. (Arnold Del Carlo, photographer)



[119] **Eagle Brewery.** If there is any one product associated with the German culture, it is beer. The honor of establishing San Jose's first brewery goes to Joseph Hartmann, native of Hesse-Darmstadt. Hartmann established his famous Eagle Brewery in 1853 at the corner of Market and San Antonio Streets, later moving to Market and San Carlos Streets where the St. Claire Hotel now stands.





[120] **Fredericksburg Brewery.** San Jose was home to several breweries, but the one in business the longest was established in 1869 on The Alameda. The seven-story Fredericksburg Brewery, designed by Theodore Lenzen, was not San Jose's earliest brewery, but it was the largest. The Fredericksburg Company was founded by Gottfried Frederick Krahenburg and brewed a variety of beers, including lager beers and pilsner. It closed in 1973.



[121] **The Lenzen Family: Architects and Builders.** Building over five hundred structures, the Lenzen family can rightfully claim to have created nineteenth-century San Jose. There were six children born to Nicolas and Gertrude Lenzen: two girls and four boys. The oldest son, Theodore (1833-1912), was already an architect when the family came to California. His younger brother, Jacob, did not have an architecture degree, but found work as a contractor and designer. Theodore Lenzen's first commission was the College of Notre Dame, pictured here about 1863. Theodore had a son, named Louis Theodore (1875-1920). Louis was trained in California and in Germany. Jacob Lenzen (1838-1910) had a son named Theodore W. Lenzen and the two went into business as Lenzen & Son. Maintaining a family tradition, Theodore W. studied architecture in California and Germany. San Jose had four building designers named Lenzen, three of them with the name Theodore. It could have been confusing.





[122] **Lenzen Designed San Jose City Hall.** If there is one building that captures the status and vitality of urban San Jose in the late Victorian era, it is the 1889 City Hall. Designed by Theodore Lenzen, the architecture reflects its era. The mansard roof displays the latest European style in civic grandeur and stone facings show its substantive budget. Lenzen felt using sandstone was an extravagance, but civic leaders pointed out that other local cities had made liberal use of stone from San Jose's Goodrich quarry and San Jose deserved the best.



[123] **Germania Hall.** The Germania Verein (German Club) is San Jose's oldest social organization, founded in 1854 and still meeting for fellowship in downtown San Jose. They met in the building pictured here for a few years, at South Second Street near San Fernando. It was owned and designed by Theodore Lenzen, whose office is seen just next door. This hall was first built for the Turn Verein, the German athletic club organized in 1868. They moved to larger facilities on North Third Street near Santa Clara, giving this hall to Germania Verein for concerts and parties. The building burned in 1885 and was a terrible loss to the community. The fire destroyed the roof and walls, the theatrical library and costumes, the music library and some of the instruments of the Orchestral Society. The Turn Verein shared their new hall with Germania for the annual Masquerade Ball and larger concerts, a relationship that remained until Germania moved to 261 North Second Street.





[124] **Fireman's Parade with Torrent Engine Company No. 2.** Public safety was a priority in early San Jose. Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 appeared in 1854, but San Jose citizens wanted more than hooks and ladders; they wanted a pumper. They bought a used pumper from San Francisco and formed Empire Engine Company No. 1. A serious fire in 1855 underlined the need for more protection, and a second group, Torrent Engine Company No. 2, was formed. There was good-natured rivalry between the two companies. Empire was known as the "Irish" company and Torrent was called the "German" company, although membership of both was mixed. Firemen paraded at events such as the Fourth of July, wearing their parade regalia. Here is Torrent Engine Company No. 2, led by Foreman Valentine Humberg. Humberg's two young sons, John and Henry, are also in the parade, just to the left of center.



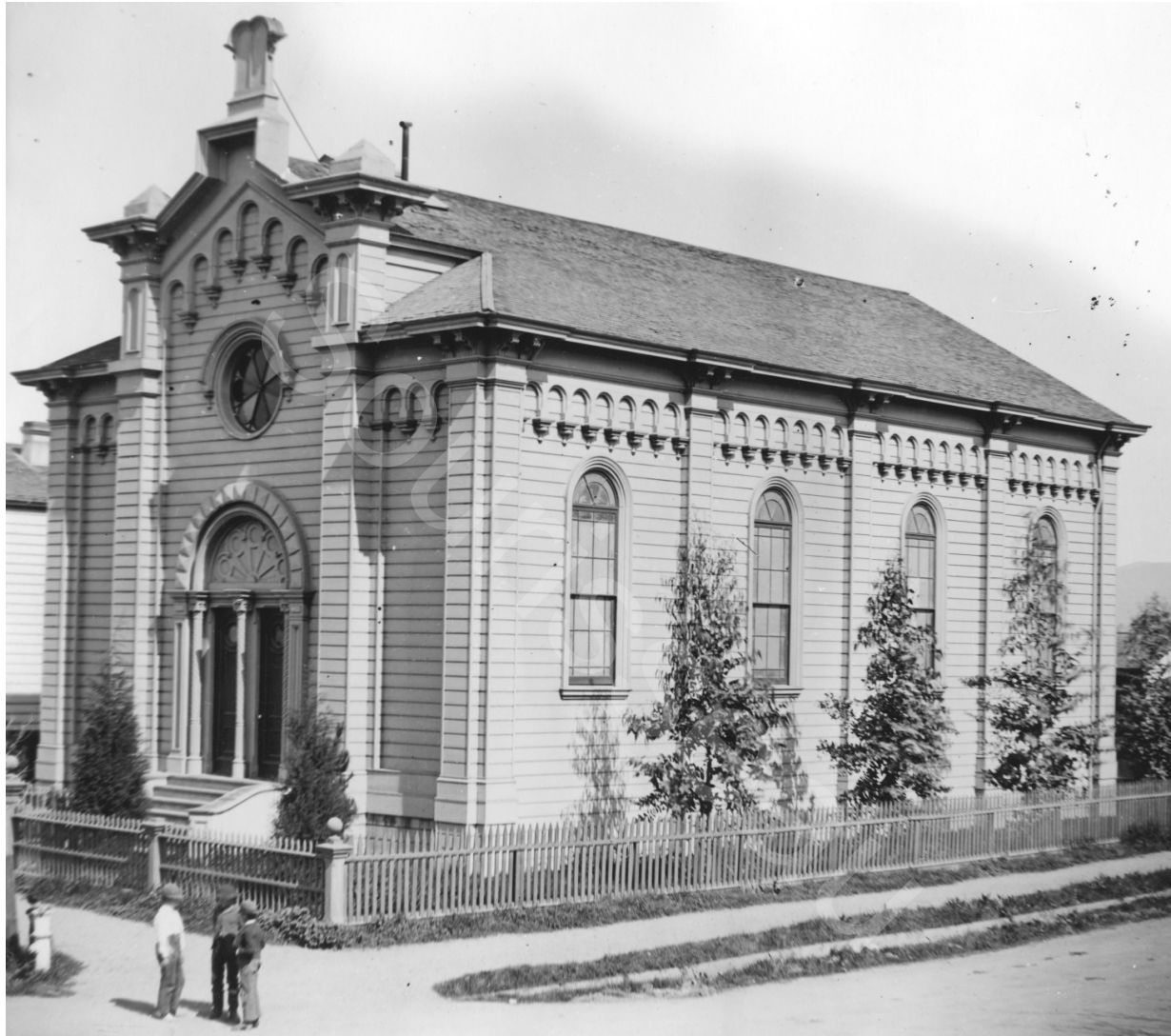
[125] **Adolph Pfister.** Adolph Pfister was a merchant and musician; one of San Jose's most successful German immigrants. A native of Alsace, he came to California in 1847 with the regimental band of Stevenson's Brigade. Pfister went to the mines when gold was discovered and returned with money to invest. He built San Jose's Washington Hotel in 1850 and later established himself in the mercantile business.





[126] **Pfister Block.** The Pfister Block, later known as the New Century Block or Saratoga Capital, was built by Adolph Pfister in 1868 and is located at the southeast corner of Second and Santa Clara Streets. The Pfister Block was his second store; the first was located at the southeast corner of First and Santa Clara Streets. He was elected mayor in 1870 and served three terms. While mayor, he devoted his mayoral salary to buy books for a Free Library, which he created in a room over his store.





[127] **Bickur Cholim.** Established in 1870, Bickur Cholim served the local Jewish citizens, many of whom were German pioneers in San Jose's mercantile businesses. Members included Jacob and Meyer Levy, the Marcus Stern family, the Leopold Hart family, and Jacob Rich, a wealthy capitalist. The temple was located on the northeast corner of South Third and San Fernando Streets until April 25, 1940, when it was destroyed by fire. Today's congregation meets at the Temple Emanu-El in the College Park area of San Jose. San Jose's German-speaking community attended one of three churches. Local Catholics attended St. Joseph's where there were German speaking clergy. Bickur Cholim first appeared in 1870, as did the German Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 59 South Third. By 1892 the German-speaking Catholics had built their own church and school, St. Mary's, on the corner of Third at Reed Street.