

# ONLINE HISTORY JOURNAL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

## How Did Capitola Get Its Name?

By Frank Perry



Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History  
705 Front Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
[www.santacruzmah.org](http://www.santacruzmah.org)

April, 2021

# How Did Capitola Get Its Name?

By Frank Perry

The City of Capitola, California, began as “Camp Capitola”—a seaside resort established on the north shore of Monterey Bay in the late 1860s or early 1870s. Historians have long disagreed on the year of the resort’s founding, the origin of the name Capitola, who named it, and when it was named. Did the people in nearby Soquel want the area to be the capital of California? Was it named for the character in a popular novel of the era? Or did the name originate in some other way? This essay is an attempt to sort through the conflicting evidence.

## Introduction

One would think that how an incorporated city of ten thousand people came to be named would be known. The etymology for most of the towns in Santa Cruz County is well established. Watsonville was named for Judge John H. Watson. Santa Cruz, which means Holy Cross, took its name from the Spanish mission. Scotts Valley is named for the Scott family, Davenport for whaler John Pope Davenport, and so forth.<sup>1</sup> The origin of the name Capitola, however, is not so straightforward. Competing explanations have been put forward for well over a century, and it is difficult to know which one, if any, is correct.

The purpose of this essay is to gather together (for the first time in one place) most of the pertinent evidence and competing claims for the founding and naming of Capitola so that they can be compared and perhaps some conclusions drawn. Both primary sources and secondary accounts are included so that readers can see where and when the stories originated and how they were retold by later authors. The first part is an annotated chronology of evidence and etymologies by year of publication (with the month added where there was more than one publication within a year). Following

this, the lines of evidence are weighed and interpreted more fully.

There are several people key to this story. Frederick Augustus Hihn (aka F. A. Hihn and pronounced “heen”) owned the land where Camp Capitola was established. Samuel Alonzo Hall and his wife, Rachael, leased the campground site from Hihn. Daniel Rogers Beckford (aka D. R. Beckford or Dr. Beckford) may have suggested the name Camp Capitola. Lulu Hall Green Wolbach was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hall and also helped establish the camp.

## Chronology of Evidence and Etymologies

**1859.** *The New York Ledger* publishes in serial form the story “The Hidden Hand” by E. D. E. N. Southworth (Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth). The principal character is a clever and adventurous girl named Capitola. The novel is reproduced two more times in the *Ledger* (in 1868-69 and in 1883).<sup>2</sup> It is first published in book form in 1888 and there are numerous theatrical versions. The novel is hugely popular and becomes Southworth’s most famous work. Women start naming their daughters “Capitola” and it also begins



The *New York Ledger* for April 23, 1859 with an installment of “The Hidden Hand.” The novel debuted February 12.

showing up as a name for boats, horses, mines, and various product brands.

**1860.** Article in *The Daily Bee* (Sacramento): “At the Metropolitan Theater, this evening has been set apart for the benefit of Mr. J. B. Howe and Miss Marian Lee, who will appear as ‘Wool’ and ‘Capitola,’ in the *New York Ledger* story, entitled the ‘Hidden Hand.’ As this play is very lengthy, it will constitute the entire performance of this evening.”<sup>3</sup>

This indicates that the story of Capitola had reached California less than a year after initial publication. This was the first theatrical version of *The Hidden Hand* performed in California.<sup>4</sup> Soon, there were others. It was performed in Santa Cruz on at least two occasions, in 1882 and 1890.<sup>5</sup>

**1863.** Incorporation of the Capitola Gold, Silver, and Copper Mining Company.<sup>6</sup>

This was in the Uvas District, Santa Clara County, and D. R. Beckford was secretary of the Board of Trustees [see **1873** (July), **1874** (June 10), and **1895** for Beckford’s connection to Camp Capitola].<sup>7</sup> There was also a Capitola Mining Company in Virginia City.<sup>8</sup>

**1868** (January). *Santa Cruz Sentinel* editorial: “By Legislative proceedings, we see that Hon. Mr. Giltner, member of the Assembly from Mariposa, has given notice that he will at an early day introduce a bill for the removal and permanent location of the State Capitol.”<sup>9</sup>

The reason was frequent flooding. The paper urged relocation to San Jose, Santa Clara, Oakland, or some other city not subject to severe floods. Such a move never took place, of course. This editorial may have inspired the item (below) about Soquel.

**1868** (February). “The Soquelians, not wishing to be behind their neighbors in enterprise and generosity, hereby tender to the State of California, Porter’s Hall, to be used as a State Capital for the present, and when it is completed, the new Town Hall, now in course of contemplation, contention and erection.”<sup>10</sup>

This short article has long been the source of the theory that Capitola got its name because Soquel wanted to encourage the state to move the capital there. This was clearly the source used by Leon Rowland in *The Story of Old Soquel* (1940), which served as a source for later authors.<sup>11</sup>

In recent decades, historians have begun to doubt that the 1868 piece was a serious proposal. More likely it was someone’s tongue-in-cheek boast, trying to one-up Santa Cruz—which still did not even have a town hall. In a lengthy article on the same page, a writer listed only as “Dashaway” complained of Santa Cruz’s lack of a hall and described in detail what was needed (including suggestions for location, size, uses, and amenities) and how it could be financed. “Soquel is now issuing stock for the purpose of building a Hall at a cost of from two to three thousand dollars,” said the writer, “and I am informed the stock is being rapidly taken.”<sup>12</sup>

**1868.** Additional events in 1868 are discussed in the book, *The Tragedy of Martina Castro*, published in 2020 (see entry under **2020**).

1871. Article in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*: “Soquel. This quaint little village of about 100 souls is situated four miles south of Santa Cruz and about one half mile from the Bay of Monterey; at this point there is a fine wharf and warehouse to correspond with its requirements. Just below this landing is one of the finest bathing beaches on this coast, considered so for its pure white sand, its freedom from fogs and wind, and the absence of undertow to the surf. Some 500 families have visited this point of Monterey bay the present season, staying from 4 to 30 days each.”<sup>13</sup>

This indicates that what is now Capitola was in use as a summer campground at least as early as 1871. Given the large number of families, this was probably not its first summer as a campground.

1872. Article in *San Jose Daily Mercury*: “At Soquel beach there is an excellent wharf, which is now being extended considerably and which when finished will afford accommodations for loading the largest sailing vessels. . . . The beach at Soquel is sandy, sloping gradually, and is an excellent bathing place.”<sup>14</sup>

This article uses the name “Soquel” for the beach, with no mention “Camp Capitola.”

1873 (June). Letter in *San Jose Daily Mercury*: “I believe the verdict of the whole company was that Soquel was the best and most interesting point we visited,” said J. C. Simmons after returning from an 11-day camping trip along the coast. “Mr. Hall, on whose land we camped, we found to be a very urbane, accommodating gentleman. He has erected several sheds for the accommodation of campers, and will, perhaps, erect others. He also designs putting up a dressing-room immediately, on the beach, for the benefit of bathers.”<sup>15</sup>

This writer calls it Soquel rather than Capitola.

1873 (July). A letter to the *San Jose Daily Mercury* by “One of the Company” and published July 15 describes traveling over the hills to Capitola on a camping trip. “Late in the afternoon we reached Camp Capitola, a pleasant sheltered spot by the sea, named last year by Dr. Beckford.”<sup>16</sup>

If correct, this means the resort was named “Capitola” in 1872. According to research by Rex Walker, “Dr. Beckford” (1828-1879) was born in Massachusetts and came to California during the Gold Rush. He held a number of jobs in the San Francisco and San Jose area, including clerk, oculist, agent for a life insurance company, and real estate

**TO CAMPERS.**

**I AM PREPARED TO RECEIVE** campers, as follows: To board, adults (on the camp ground), at one dollar per day; children, half-price. Plenty of hay for bedding. Houses furnished to sleep in for those not having tents. Ample room for stabling horses, at fifty cents per head. Two good sail-boats for excursions and fishing. A good dance hall on the grounds. Provisions furnished to parties not desiring board. Omnibus will be at Santa Cruz, to take Campers to the Camp, on the arrival of the stage. Every facilities for bathing.

**S. A. HALL,**  
Proprietor “Camp Capitola,” Soquel.  
For further particulars enquire of D. B. BECKFORD or A. K. PHILBROOK, San Jose. (j55d1m)

Advertisement in the *San Jose Daily Mercury*, June 10, 1874.

salesman.<sup>17</sup> He also owned stock in several mining companies.<sup>18</sup>

1874 (June 10). From an advertisement for Camp Capitola in the *San Jose Daily Mercury*: “For further particulars enquire of D. R. Beckford or A. K. Philbrook, San Jose.”<sup>19</sup>

Apparently Beckford, who supposedly suggested the name “Capitola” for the camp, was also helping promote it in San Jose.

1874 (June 13). Advertisement in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*: “Opening of Camp Capitola, At Hall’s Beach, Soquel. A Ball will be given at the Opening of the above-named camp on Thursday [sic], June 18, 1874. A fine new Pavilion with good dancing floor has been erected, sufficiently large to accommodate ten sets. Excellent music and refreshments will be provided. Tickets, including Supper, \$2.50. S. A. Hall, Proprietor.”<sup>20</sup>

This is the first mention of Capitola in the *Sentinel*. By itself, this could be interpreted as the first-ever opening of the camp, but the previous accounts indicate it was not. During its early history, Capitola closed in the winter and reopened at the start of summer.

1875. A letter in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* uses the wording “Hall’s Camp, Capitola, Soquel Creek, July 14.” Later the writer refers to it as “Camp Capitola.”<sup>21</sup>

1876. Advertisement: “Rhode Island Clam Bake - A Centennial Ball Will be given at Camp Capitola, at

the Soquel Beach, on Tuesday Evening, July 4th, '76."<sup>22</sup>

Although the camp is called Capitola, the name Soquel is retained for the beach.

**1886.** Birth announcement: "Miss Capitola Sairs arrived at Camp Capitola yesterday, to the great delight of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Sairs. If she turns out as bright, cute and bonnie a specimen of girlhood as the original 'Capitola,' she will do credit to her birthplace."<sup>23</sup>

This item from The *Santa Cruz Daily Surf* about a girl named Capitola (who was born in Capitola) also makes reference to the girl in the Southworth novel. When she married in Santa Cruz in 1918, Capitola Sairs was going by the nickname "Ola."<sup>24</sup> She died in 1968.<sup>25</sup>

**1889.** Article in *Santa Cruz Daily Surf*: "'Capitola,' like the little heroine for whom it was named, has long made for itself a place in the hearts of many admirers."<sup>26</sup>

This is the only historic account discovered so far that directly connects the name of the town to the character in the novel. It is part of a long article on improvements to Capitola. This seems like pretty hard evidence for the origin of the name. However, there remains the remote possibility, given its context, that this statement was an invention for public relations purposes or a misinterpretation by the writer.



Painting of Capitola in 1889 by Cipriano Dodero and commissioned by F. A. Hihn. (Capitola Historical Museum collection)

**1890.** A promotional booklet on Santa Cruz County by E. S. Harrison states, "Capitola, the gem of the Bay of Monterey, is a summer resort in a delightful nook about four miles from Santa Cruz, in a protected cove where the Soquel River empties into the bay. It was established in 1876 by Mr. Hihn,

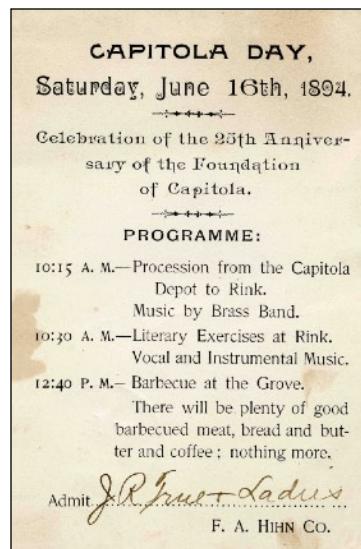
who owned the property, and it has since steadily grown, until to-day it is one of the most popular sea-side resorts in California."<sup>27</sup>

This may be the original source of the 1876 date for the founding of Capitola, which may be incorrect. This was, however, the year that the railroad line was constructed through Capitola, linking Santa Cruz and Watsonville.<sup>28</sup>

**1892.** The description of Capitola in Harrison's 1890 booklet (above) is reprinted in his much larger *History of Santa Cruz County*.<sup>29</sup>

**1894.** (June 15) Newspaper article: "'Capitola Day,' the 25th Anniversary of the founding of that place, will be celebrated to-morrow in fitting style. Procession from depot, music by band, literary and musical exercises at rink and barbecue in the grove—all in good old-fashioned style."<sup>30</sup>

See June 18 article, below.



Invitation to Capitola's birthday celebration, June 16, 1894. (Gordon van Zuiden collection)

**1894.** (June 18) Newspaper article: "At Capitola, The 25th Anniversary of its Founding Celebrated By a Re-Union of the Pioneers, and a Pleasant Picnic and Barbecue Free for All Visitors."<sup>31</sup>

This article mostly tells about F. A. Hihn's talk on the history of the region and some of the pioneer Hispanic residents. It was followed by a talk by Charles M. Cassin on the founding of Capitola, but no particulars are given. This article firmly establishes that Hihn, at that time, regarded 1869 as the year Capitola was founded. Unfortunately, the article does not tell the origin of the name or who named it.

**1895.** (April-June) The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* tries to get the name of Capitola changed to “Hihnport” in honor of F. A. Hihn, who developed it. There is no indication the change was embraced by Mr. Hihn and, of course, it did not stick. “‘Capitola’ is a meaningless word to those not familiar with the community located at the mouth of the Soquel creek, Santa Cruz county, Cal.,” said the paper.<sup>32</sup>

**1895.** (May) The *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, continuing with its Hihnport campaign (see above), stated, “Capt. Hall, who many years ago named Hihnport Camp Capitola, tells us that the name was suggested to him by Dr. Beckford, of San Jose, who said the definition of the name was “good camp.”<sup>33</sup>

This is the second article that specifically links Beckford to the naming.

**1896.** According to the book, *Santa Cruz County . . .*, “Since Capitola was established as a resort by F. A. Hihn, in 1876, every measure and precaution in the way of sanitation has been taken to enhance if possible its natural health-insuring conditions.<sup>34</sup>

Note the 1876 date for the founding.

**1905.** The obituary for Rachael Hall says, “She came to California in 1855 with her husband, and they settled at Capitola in 1869, founding that resort.”<sup>35</sup>

**1911.** Writer Josephine Clifford McCrackin writes about the Capitola birthday celebration held on Saturday, July 29. She began by saying it was like celebrating the birthday of a “young lady of a certain, or rather uncertain age.”<sup>36</sup> To find out how old Capitola was, she “went at once to the fountain-head of all knowledge on the subject of Capitola, and F. A. Hihn himself told me she was thirty-[s]even years old.”<sup>37</sup>



McCrackin (From her book, *The Woman Who Lost Him*, 1913)

McCrackin then elaborates, telling how Capitola got its name:

F. A. Hihn first came into possession of that piece of country in 1857, also into possession of a lawsuit, two things that were often acquired simultaneously in California, those days. There was little else on the land,

save a potato patch; and it took till 1874 to have the litigation removed. Then began the improvement of the place; and we, who are old enough, can remember how famous Camp Capitola was in its very earliest day. There were camps there, however, before this was named Capitola; and people have often wondered how it got its pretty name.

This beach was always a favorite with people from Sacramento, and they kept things pretty lively; and once at the height of the season, when Mr. Hihn was there himself, the question was raised, and not for the first time: what should the place be named? One said this, the other said that, and at last a young lady from Sacramento was asked for her views on the subject? She said that to her, this beach was the most beautiful of any she had seen; and the most beautiful building she could think of was the Capitol at Sacramento. That if she were a man, she would propose to name it Capitol Beach; and so the way was paved to naming the whole place Capitola. A fitting name, we must all agree.<sup>38</sup>

McCrackin’s timeline and story of the naming are somewhat different from others, though she says she spoke directly to Hihn. At the 1894 birthday party, Hihn used 1869 as the year Capitola was founded. Now he has changed it for some reason to 1874. McCrackin says there were camps there before 1874, however, and we know from contemporary descriptions that this is correct.

**1920s.** Brochure: “The ancient Indian tribes, finding at Capitola an ideal climate, used this spot for years as their capitol, or tribal headquarters.”<sup>39</sup>

This amusing but probably invented etymology appeared in a promotional brochure published by The Capitola Company.

**1929.** An article on a proposed merger of Soquel and Capitola into one town says, “‘Capitola’ is said to have been taken from ‘Capitancillos,’ meaning ‘little captains.’”<sup>40</sup>

Interestingly, there is a Rancho Los Capitancillos in Santa Clara County.

**1932.** Newspaper story about Lulu Hall Green Wolbach:

That the beginning of Capitola as a resort was made possible by the profit from a 100

head of hogs who walked all the way from Soquel to San Jose to market was the statement today of Mrs. Lula [sic] Green Wolbach of Soquel.

Mrs. Wolbach's father, S. A. Hall, leased the Capitola property from F. A. Hihn in 1868, she said, and farmed it until 1873. That year he had a big crop of barley and fattened the hogs for market.

As there was no railroad by which to ship the hogs, Mr. Hall and several friends drove them over the old San Jose road to San Jose from which point they were sent by train to San Francisco.

July 4, 1874, with 100 guests present, the resort opened. It consisted of a dance hall and a dining room.

The guests were so delighted with the entertainment they stayed ten days and with the money they left Mr. Hall built and equipped six cabins along the beach. Mrs. Wolbach said the guests danced until daybreak that July.<sup>41</sup>

**1940.** According to the book, *The Story of Old Soquel* by Leon Rowland, "The people of Soquel in 1868 invited the state of California to move its capital there. They offered the use of the hall over Ned Porter's store and promised use of a 'city hall' as soon as it could be erected."<sup>42</sup>

Under "Capitola," the author writes, "La Playa de Soquel became Capitola in 1869 when F. A. Hihn laid out 'Camp Capitola' as a watering place."<sup>43</sup> He also states that S. A. Hall was the first lessee and that Hall rented bathing suits.

The author clearly drew from the February 8, 1868 article about inviting the capital to Soquel. He states that the resort was named Capitola in 1869 but does not give a source.

**1951.** (May 20) A *Sentinel* feature on Capitola says, "With the end of Mexican rule, La Playa de Soquel became Soquel Landing. Then in 1869 it became Capitola when Santa Cruz's first millionaire, F. A. Hihn, laid out Camp Capitola on the pattern of famous European spas. The name commemorated Soquel's effort in 1868 to become the capital of California by offering the use of the hall over Ned Porter's store for state offices."<sup>44</sup>

Although the article does not have a byline, it was probably written by Leon Rowland, as some of the wording is identical to that in his 1940 book,

*The Story of Old Soquel*, including a line about "overalls and mother hubbards" for bathing suits.

**1966.** "Capitola was named and developed in 1876 by F. A. Hihn, early Santa Cruz county businessman," said a *Sentinel* feature by Margaret Koch.<sup>45</sup>

This date may have come from the books by Harrison (1890 and 1892). Koch discounts the possibility that Hihn named it for the girl in the Southworth novel and reiterates the story that it was so named because Soquel tried to get the state capital to locate there. "The hopeful city fathers also promised to construct a suitable Capital building as soon as possible—on the main street."<sup>46</sup> The source of this promise could not be found. The article states incorrectly that Capitola means *capital* in Spanish.

**1969.** According to the book *California Place Names*, "The place was developed as a resort by F. A. Hihn in 1876 and called Camp Capitola, apparently a publicity name coined from 'capitol.'"<sup>47</sup> The fourth edition (1998) adds that there was a character named Capitola in the popular Southworth novels and cites *Santa Cruz County Place Names* by Donald Thomas Clark as the source.<sup>48</sup>

**1960s?** (date uncertain) From *Highlights of Capitola History*: "The name Capitola is of French origin from a latin root. Capitola, the madcap, is the leading feminine character in a novel titled 'The Hidden Hand' written in 1859 by Mrs. E. D. D. [sic] Southworth. Since this was a popular novel of the day it is reasonable to believe that this might have been the source of the name."<sup>49</sup>

It is true that the word "capitol" comes from the Old French, *capitolie*, which was derived from the Latin, *Capitolium*. In chapter 58 of the novel, it is revealed that Capitola's mother was French and that she had the unusual name of *Capitolie*.

**1970.** The book *American Place-Names* offers this: "A coinage from *Capitol* with a Spanish ending; in CA it was given for commendatory purposes in 1876."<sup>50</sup>

**1970.** *Sentinel* article: "A submission by a Harbor High School student artist was adopted as the city's official seal. The drawing was submitted by Valerie Vrooman. . . ."<sup>51</sup>

The City of Capitola seal says "Founded 1875," and this version remains in use as of this writing (2021). This may be the only case where that year is

used. Curiously, the original artwork (in the collection of the Capitola Historical Museum) shows that the “5” was altered from something else, but it is not clear what it was previously.



State historical landmark plaque on the Superintendent’s building. The building is also on the National Register of Historic Places. (photograph by the author)

**1973.** A bronze plaque is placed on the Superintendent’s building: “Camp Capitola. Superintendent’s Office. California’s first seaside resort community was established here in 1869 by Mr. F. A. Hihn. The grand opening was held on July 4, 1874. For the 15 acre resort, located in the present village and depot hill areas, the superintendent’s office, built from local redwood in the 1880’s, served as the headquarters for Camp Capitola until 1930. California Registered Historical Landmark No. 860. Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Capitola Historical Society, July 28, 1973.”

**1973.** The book *Santa Cruz County: Parade of the Past* states, “Camp Capitola—that’s what Frederick A. Hihn called his resort when he laid it out in 1869, following the pattern of European watering places. . . . Camp Capitola had its grand opening July 4, 1874.” The book further explains that “the name ‘Capitola’ was given to Frederick A. Hihn’s new resort probably to commemorate the fact that the town of Soquel had, in 1869, just invited the government of the State of California to settle there and make its capital in upstairs rooms of Ned Porter’s store. *Capitola* is ‘capital’ in the Spanish language.”<sup>52</sup>

Capitola opened for the 1874 summer season on June 18, 1874, although there was also supposedly a celebration on July 4 of that year. Capitola is not the Spanish word for “capital.” That word is the

same as in English. The so-called pitch by Soquel was in 1868, not 1869.

**1978.** The book *Soquel Landing to Capitola-by-the-Sea* states: “The increasing interest in sea bathing led F. A. Hihn to establish a campground on the flat land east of the Soquel stream on June 16, 1869. He leased the campground to S. A. Hall, the ship’s carpenter, and the name *Camp Capitola* was given to the fledgling resort, in commemoration of Soquel’s effort to become the capital of California the year before. Though named Camp Capitola in 1869, . . .”<sup>53</sup>

This interpretation is interesting in that it states that the name Capitola not only dated back to 1869 but that it was founded on June 16 of that year. This was apparently based on the fact that a picnic celebrating Capitola’s 25th anniversary was held on June 16, 1894. One has to wonder, however, if the latter date was simply picked because it was on a Saturday. June 16, 1869 was on a Wednesday.

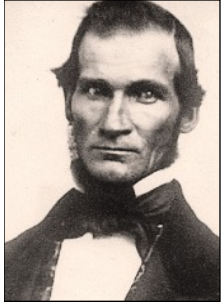
**1986.** *Santa Cruz County Place Names* devotes nearly an entire page to the entry for Capitola. “Most authorities agree that the name Camp Capitola was chosen by F. A. Hihn, but they cannot agree upon the reason for the choice.”<sup>54</sup> The book cites some of the references given above that state that it was so named because Soquel tried to get the state capital located there. “However, another more fanciful source has been suggested. Could the camp have been named for Capitola, the heroine in two popular novels?” Author Donald Thomas Clark is skeptical of “the sturdy German” F. A. Hihn being influenced by the sentimental Southworth novels, but acknowledges the 1889 *Surf* article that says the town was named for the heroine in the stories. He describes this origin as “fanciful.”

**2004.** The *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola* by Carolyn Swift describes the town’s founding:

Samuel Alonzo Hall established Capitola in 1874 on the beachfront leased from Frederick Hihn. Hall had a ten-year lease from 1869 to 1879 and permitted camping at the beach in the summertime from the beginning of his occupancy. For this reason, the year 1869 is sometimes listed as the starting date for Capitola. Its actual founding, however, was June 18, 1874, with a grand opening on July 4.

Although Hall is credited as Capitola’s founder, it was his daughter Lulu who





S. A. Hall. (Capitola Historical Museum collection)

suggested the beach be opened to campers. She convinced her father to make the investment. As a former Soquel School teacher, Lulu would have been acquainted with “Capitola,” the fabled heroine in the series of sentimental novels by E. D. E. N. Southworth, and most likely suggested the name for Hall’s camp.<sup>55</sup>

**2009.** A chronology of Capitola in the *Santa Cruz County History Journal* says for 1874, “In June, S. A. Hall names and officially opens ‘Camp Capitola.’ Capitola was likely named by S. A. Hall’s daughter, Lulu Hall Green Wolbach, after the heroine ‘Capitola Le Noir’ of the series of popular novels by E. D. E. N. Southworth.”<sup>56</sup>

This interpretation makes it clear that the naming by Wolbach is speculation.

**2013.** A photograph caption in the book *Capitola* states, “In 1869, Samuel Alonzo Hall (1816-1902) and his wife, Rachael, leased the beach flat at Soquel Landing. . . . He set up a campground in 1874.” Another caption on the same page states, “S. A. Hall’s daughter, Lulu Hall Green Wolbach, a former Soquel School teacher, named Capitola for the lively fictional character created by author E. D. E. N. Southworth.”<sup>57</sup>

**2018.** According to a Capitola tourist guide, “Capitola is ‘capital’ in the Spanish language.”<sup>58</sup>

This incorrect statement was probably taken from the 1973 book, *Santa Cruz County: Parade of the Past*, as the wording is identical.

**2020.** The book *The Tragedy of Martina Castro* by Ronald Powell contains the following for the year 1868: “Ruling in Third District Court Case Nos. 608 and 609. Both suits between Antonia Peck and Frederick Hihn regarding Antonia and Henry Peck’s alleged sale of their claims in Rancho Soquel and Shoquel Augmentation to Hihn in 1862 were conducted without a jury. Judge McKee, after hearing testimony and evidence from both sides, issued his decisions for both suits on September 26, 1868, ruling in favor of Hihn. With the conclusion of this trial, Hihn was able to begin construction of his planned resort at the mouth of Soquel Creek.”<sup>59</sup>

The 1862 agreement is discussed earlier in the same book (pages 415-422).

**Undated.** An unpublished Hall family history describes the founding of Capitola and includes descriptions by Lulu Hall Green Wolbach, daughter of Samuel Alonzo and Rachael Hall, who ran Camp Capitola in the 1870s:

Lulu married Harvey Green, becoming the mother of a son, (who died at eight years of age) and a daughter. When her husband died in 1873, she returned to assist her parents in pioneering the first campground summer resort in California at Capitola. The property was leased from F. A.

Hihn for ten years with a contract of sale. (It was leased as the property was in litigation and could not be directly sold at that time.) Lulu states:

“The property had originally been leased to use as a farm, but I persuaded Father to open Capitola to campers as it had such a good bathing beach. We advertised and on July 4, 1874, the first campground on the Pacific Coast was opened; This proved to be a popular vacation experience with the public and was a big success. It was formally opened by a clambake on the beach followed by a dinner and dance. . . . A floor thirty-feet by forty-feet . . . had been laid, covered by redwood branches, and the next year a building was constructed. Supper at 12 o’clock was served in a redwood bower to over one hundred guests. The campground idea became a proven success in California.”

When the lease expired, the rent was increased to such an extent that renewal was not justified, so the Halls leased the Marina Resort, a camp on the west side of Wood’s Lagoon (the present yacht harbor).<sup>60</sup>

In this and the **1932** article Mrs. Wolbach uses the July 4, 1874 date for the opening. Neither the *Sentinel* or *San Jose Daily Mercury* mention a special event at Capitola on July 4 of that year. The



Lulu Hall Green Wolbach. (Capitola Historical Museum collection)

advertised opening was June 18. The *Mercury*, however, advertised a clambake on July 4, 1876. While it is possible the 1874 event was simply not advertised or reported, it is also possible that Mrs. Walbach, some 50 years later, confused 1874 with 1876—the nation’s centennial being more memorable.

## Discussion of the Different Naming Theories

At least six explanations have been put forth for the origin of the town’s name:

1. State Capital Theory—The people of Soquel wanted the state capital to locate here.
2. Capitol Building Theory—Capitola is beautiful like the capitol building in Sacramento.
3. Indian Theory—It was the capital for the local Indian tribes.
4. Good Camp Theory—Camp Capitola means “Good Camp.”
5. Little Captains Theory—Capitola comes from the Spanish word *capitancillos*, meaning “little captains.”
6. Hidden Hand Theory—Named for the character Capitola Black in the Southworth novel.

### State Capital Theory

This theory seems to have originated with historian Leon Rowland and his 1940 book *The Story of Old Soquel*.

This theory was often repeated through the rest of the 1900s. There are several reasons why it began to fall out of favor with local historians. First, careful reading of the 1868 article and comparison with the neighboring article on a proposed town hall in Santa Cruz, suggests that it could be tongue-in-cheek. Second, the campground is not referred to in print as “Camp Capitola” until 1873, though, according to that account, the name was suggested in 1872. Last, this theory does not explain how one gets from the word “capital” (the town) or “capitol” (the building) to Capitola. Several authors tried to resolve this issue by saying that Capitola is Spanish for capital, but this is not true.

### Capitol Building Theory

The 1911 article by Josephine Clifford McCrackin tells how a young visitor to Capitola from Sacramento told F. A. Hihn that the most beautiful building she had ever seen was the State Capitol, and that the beach, because it was so



Therese, Katherine, and F. A. Hihn, circa 1861. (Capitola Historical Museum collection)

beautiful, should be named Capitol Beach.<sup>61</sup> McCrackin was a respected writer, and the implication in the article is that she got this information from F. A. Hihn. Consequently, her telling of the story is worth serious consideration.<sup>62</sup> This is the only source found so far for this version of the story, however, and it does not explain how the word “capitol” changed into Capitola.

### Indian Theory

The statement that Capitola was the capital for regional Indian tribes comes from a 1920s promotional brochure for Capitola. There is no evidence that this is true. It was probably an invention for public relations purposes and should be discounted.

### Good Camp Theory

The 1895 article stated that Samuel Alonzo Hall was the person who named Camp Capitola, based on a suggestion by “Dr. Beckford,” who said the definition was “good camp.” This is the only article discovered so far that provides this definition. Although not used much today, as an adjective “capital” can mean “very good; excellent; first-class; as a *capital* singer or player; a *capital* dinner.”<sup>63</sup> This does not explain how the word “capital” transformed into Capitola.

### Little Captains Theory

This theory comes from a single sentence in a 1929 article about a proposed merger of the towns of Capitola and Soquel. It says that Capitola is said to have come from the word *capitancillos*, meaning “little captains” in Spanish. This definition is correct, but *capitancillos* does not sound much like

Capitola. This seems to be the only place this definition is presented and no further explanation was given. Without some context and supporting evidence, little credence can be given to this theory.

### Hidden Hand Theory

Writer Margaret Koch, in a pair of 1966 *Sentinel* articles, may have been the first to mention the possibility that the name comes from the character in the E. D. E. N. Southworth novel, *The Hidden Hand*. Though largely forgotten today, this story was hugely popular in the late 1800s and very early 1900s, being serialized in the *New York Ledger*, and later published in book form. The *Ledger* was a story-paper with some 400,000 subscribers in the middle 1850s, and each copy reached two or more readers.<sup>64</sup> There were also more than forty theatrical adaptations of *The Hidden Hand*.<sup>65</sup> In short, Capitola was a widely-known fictional child in the later 1800s, analogous to Harry Potter today.

Koch, however, gave little credibility to the idea that the town's name came from the novel. In the 1980s, however, that theory got a boost when the 1889 article in the *Santa Cruz Daily Surf* was discovered that specifically states the town was named for the "little heroine."<sup>66</sup> This is the oldest known account on the origin of the town's name. It is at the beginning of a long article on important improvements made to the resort that spring by owner F. A. Hihn.<sup>67</sup> The article says that since the town's founding, "its growth has been steady and continuous and it has crept out of the baby clothes of camp life, wears the more grown-up appearance of a neat, trim and tree-embowered village, and is called simply Capitola."<sup>68</sup> This seems like further reference to the novel, where young Capitola Black, a New York street urchin in rags, changes into a southern belle.

As previously mentioned, the 1886 birth announcement for Capitola Sairs also references the "original" Capitola, though it does not say the town was named for her.<sup>69</sup>

Hihn has often been mentioned as the founder and even the namer of Capitola. Both Margaret Koch (in *Santa Cruz County: Parade of the Past*) and Donald Thomas Clark (in *Santa Cruz County Place Names*) thought it unlikely, however, that Mr. Hihn would name the campground for the character in the novel. The story, after all, appealed more to female readers.<sup>70</sup> This argument, however, seems weak. Hihn was married and had several children, and they could have read the story and told him about *The Hidden Hand's* popular protagonist. Hihn

and his wife, Therese, had eight children between 1856 and 1874.<sup>71</sup> Daughter Katharine turned 13 in 1869, the same age as Capitola Black at the start of the novel. Even if Hihn did not come up with the name for the camp, he likely would have had something to say about it. He kept close watch over the resort's development, especially in later years.<sup>72</sup>

By the 1990s, historians became more aware of the role of the Hall family in the early development of Capitola. The Halls were the lessees for ten years.<sup>73</sup> S. A. and Rachael Hall's daughter, Lulu Hall Green Wolbach, was a school teacher and, according to her own account, was around when the camp was established. It has been suggested that she had read the novel and came up with the name. The *Ledger* reprinted the story in 1868-69, shortly before the camp was founded. Also, various theatrical versions of *The Hidden Hand* were performed in California in the 1860s and 1870s, so that is another way that she or others might have become familiar with the character Capitola Black.

The quotes by Wolbach in the Hall family history, however, make no mention of her naming Capitola, and neither does her obituary. This would seem like something for which she would have wanted credit. She did claim credit for urging her parents to establish the camp, and she also was recognized as a founding member of the Soquel Congregational Church. When she died in 1936, she was the last surviving founder.<sup>74</sup> She was also very active with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, or W. C. T. U.

Given that there is only weak circumstantial evidence Wolbach might have named Capitola, and the evidence that her father in 1895 stated that "Dr. Beckford" suggested the name, makes the latter much more likely.

But where did Daniel Beckford get the name? Why in 1863 did he or one of the other stockholders name their Santa Clara Valley mine "Capitola"? Then there was the racehorse "Capitola," which was competing in San Jose races in 1872, the year Beckford supposedly named the camp.<sup>75</sup> Even if he suggested the name because of the horse, the mine, or perhaps a girl he knew, the name would originally trace back to the character in the book. It was pretty much unknown as a girl's name before Southworth coined it.<sup>76</sup>

### Founding Dates for Capitola

Based on the evidence presented in the chronology, there is a choice of five different years for the founding of the camp:

**1869.** According to some accounts, this is when the Halls signed the lease with Hihn and apparently people camped there. Hihn used 1869 as the founding date in a celebration 25 years later.

**1872.** Daniel R. Beckford reportedly suggests the name “Camp Capitola.”

**1874.** S. A. Hall first places ads for Camp Capitola in newspapers. Lulu Hall Green Wolbach uses this as the founding year in the Hall family history. Hihn uses 1874 as the founding date 37 years later.

**1875.** Year placed on the City of Capitola seal that was adopted in 1970.

**1876.** First used in 1890s’ books on Santa Cruz County history and features.

The flatland next to the mouth of Soquel Creek was used as a camping area at least as far back as 1871 and probably earlier. Any of the years listed could be (and have been) adopted as the year of the town’s founding. Based on available evidence, 1874 seems to be the year when the camp was more formalized, and that was when it was first advertised under the name Camp Capitola.

## Conclusions

For many years historians have searched for the correct answer to how and when Capitola got its name. While this seems like something that should be knowable, the waters have become so muddied over the past 150 years that it now looks as though the precise answer may never be discovered. The name may have come directly or indirectly from the

girl in the story, but this and the other theories presented here come with little in the way of concrete supporting evidence. All originated from single sources. There are more questions than answers, more contradictions than facts. It is even possible that a combination of sources and people played a role in naming the camp. Short of discovering an incontrovertible explanation written in the hand of Hihn, Hall, or Beckford, the true story behind the town’s name may forever remain mysterious, much like the hidden hand in the novel.<sup>77</sup>

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the many people who have contributed research on this topic through the years. Special thanks to Rex Walker and Carolyn Swift for discussing this topic and sharing their research. Thanks also to my fellow members of the History Publications Committee: Carey Casey, Debbie Muth, Marla Novo, Stephen Payne, and Lisa Robinson; and to the Board of Trustees of the Capitola Historical Museum: Pamela Greeninger, Joshua Henshaw, Niels Kisling, Brian Legakis, Emmy Mitchell-Lynn, David Peyton, Dean Walker, and Gordon van Zuiden.

## About the Author

Frank Perry was born and raised in Santa Cruz and has long been interested in the region’s cultural history and natural features. He is the author of numerous books and articles and since 2013 has served as curator of the Capitola Historical Museum.

## Notes

---

- <sup>1</sup> For the origin of the county's place names, see Donald Thomas Clark, *Santa Cruz County Place Names* (Santa Cruz: Santa Cruz Historical Society, 1986), 61-62. A second edition was published in 2008 by Kestrel Press.
- <sup>2</sup> Sari Edelstein, "Metamorphosis of the Newsboy: E.D.E.N. Southworth's *The Hidden Hand* and the Antebellum Story-Paper," *Studies in American Fiction*, Spring 2010, 32.
- <sup>3</sup> "Theatrical," *The Daily Bee* (Sacramento), March 3, 1860, 3:1.
- <sup>4</sup> "Benefit and Last Night," *Sacramento Daily Union*, March 3, 1860, 3:1.
- <sup>5</sup> "Hidden Hand," *Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel*, December 16, 1882, 2:6 (advertisement); and "The 'Hidden Hand' Tonight," *Santa Cruz Daily Surf*, October 22, 1896, 3:2.
- <sup>6</sup> "Incorporations," *Sacramento Daily Union*, August 5, 1863, 3:3. Numerous gold mining claims were established in the Santa Cruz Mountains around this time. With one exception, very little gold was found.
- <sup>7</sup> "Capitola Gold, Silver and Copper Mining Company," *Daily Alta California*, October 15, 1863, 3:7; "Capitola Gold, Silver and Copper Mining Company," *Daily Alta California*, February 3, 1866, 2:6.
- <sup>8</sup> "Mines in Virginia City," *Sacramento Daily Union*, December 12, 1862, 2:6.
- <sup>9</sup> "Removal of the State Capital," *Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel*, January 11, 1868, 2:1.
- <sup>10</sup> "The Soquelians," *Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel*, February 8, 1868, 2:4.
- <sup>11</sup> Leon Rowland, *The Story of Old Soquel* (Soquel: Soquel Print Shop, 1940), 21. Reprinted in 1980 in a collection of Rowland's works under the title *Santa Cruz: The Early Years* by Paper Vision Press, Santa Cruz.
- <sup>12</sup> "Town Hall," *Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel*, February 8, 1868, 2:2.
- <sup>13</sup> "Santa Cruz County," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 14, 1871, 4:1. Article reprinted from the *Pacific Rural Press*, October 7.
- <sup>14</sup> "Along Shore," *San Jose Daily Mercury*, July 11, 1872, 1:1-2.
- <sup>15</sup> J. C. Simmons, "Coasting," *San Jose Daily Mercury*, June 29, 1973, 2:3.
- <sup>16</sup> "Camp Capitola, Soquel," *San Jose Daily Mercury*, July 15, 1873, 2:4.
- <sup>17</sup> Rex Walker, personal communication, 2020. See also, "Capitola Conundrum: How Did The Town Get Its Name?" *Capitola Sunset*, Spring 2021, 1.
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>19</sup> "To Campers," *San Jose Daily Mercury*, June 10, 1874, 1:3. (advertisement)
- <sup>20</sup> "Opening of Camp Capitola," *Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel*, June 13, 1874, 2:5.
- <sup>21</sup> "Letter from Soquel," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 17, 1875, 2:2.
- <sup>22</sup> "Rhode Island Clam Bake," *San Jose Daily Mercury*, June 27, 1876, 1:2.
- <sup>23</sup> "Miss Capitola Sairs," *The Santa Cruz Daily Surf*, April 14, 1886, 3:3.
- <sup>24</sup> "Social: Morning Wedding," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, March 12, 1918, 8:5.
- <sup>25</sup> "Capitola McLellan Dies in Hospital," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 15, 1968, 24:6.
- <sup>26</sup> "Capitola," *Santa Cruz Daily Surf*, May 1, 1889, 2:4-5.
- <sup>27</sup> E[dward] S[anford] Harrison, *Santa Cruz County* (Santa Cruz: Board of Supervisors, 1890), 12. This same wording appeared in Harrison's much larger 1892 book titled *History of Santa Cruz County, California*.
- <sup>28</sup> Stanley D. Stevens and Benjamin Schwantes, "Frederick Augustus Hihn (1829-1913)," *Immigrant Entrepreneurship, 1720 To the Present*. [https://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entries/frederick-augustus-hihn/#\\_edn28](https://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entries/frederick-augustus-hihn/#_edn28) (Accessed February 8, 2021)
- <sup>29</sup> E[dward] S[anford] Harrison, *History of Santa Cruz County California* (San Francisco: Pacific Press Publishing Co., 1892), 115.
- <sup>30</sup> "Shifting Sands: Capitola Day," *Santa Cruz Surf*, June 15, 1894, 3:1.
- <sup>31</sup> "At Capitola," *Santa Cruz Surf*, June 18, 1894, 3:2.
- <sup>32</sup> "Why not call Capitola, Hihnport, . . ." *Santa Cruz Daily Sentinel*, April 23, 1895, 2:1.
- <sup>33</sup> "J. J. Conmy, . . ." *Santa Cruz Daily Sentinel*, May 5, 1895, 2:2.

- 
- <sup>34</sup> Phil Francis, *Santa Cruz County: A Faithful Reproduction in Print and Photographs of its Climate, Capabilities and Beauties*, (San Francisco: H. S. Crocker Co., 1896), 121.
- <sup>35</sup> “Death of Rachael Hall, About the First Resident of Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Surf*, October 13, 1905, 8:4.
- <sup>36</sup> Josephine Clifford McCrackin, “The Birthday of Capitola is Cause of Big Celebration,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 30, 1911, 1:1-2.
- <sup>37</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>39</sup> *Capitola: California’s Historic Summer & Winter Resort* (Capitola: The Capitola Company, undated). 1920s brochure, Capitola Historical Museum collection.
- <sup>40</sup> “May Combine Two Towns, Call It Sotola,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, September 6, 1929, 3:4.
- <sup>41</sup> “Hundred Hogs Who Walked to Market Provided Funds For First Resort In California,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, September 24, 1932, 2:1-2.
- <sup>42</sup> Leon Rowland, *The Story of Old Soquel* (Soquel: Soquel Print Shop, 1940), 21. Reprinted in 1980 in a collection of Rowland’s works under the title *Santa Cruz: The Early Years* by Paper Vision Press, Santa Cruz.
- <sup>43</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>44</sup> “Let’s Go . . . To Gold Centennial City,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, May 20, 1951, 11:1-8, 15:3-4.
- <sup>45</sup> Margaret Koch, “Talk of a Town and a Wharf . . . Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 9, 1966, 21:1. See also Margaret Koch, “What’s In A Name? Plenty!” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 9, 1966, 22:4-6.
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>47</sup> Erwin G. Gudde, *California Place Names: The Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical Names* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969), 53.
- <sup>48</sup> Erwin G. Gudde (revised and enlarged by William Bright), *California Place Names: The Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical Names*, Fourth Edition (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), 65-66.
- <sup>49</sup> Gertrude Chandler Forward, *Highlights of Capitola History*, (unpublished and undated manuscript) 2. Collection of the Capitola Historical Museum. Last entry in this chronology is 1962, so it is probably from the 1960s. The author was vice president of the Soquel Pioneers in 1967-68.
- <sup>50</sup> George R. Stewart, *American Place-Names: A Concise and Selective Dictionary for the Continental United States of America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), 77.
- <sup>51</sup> “Businessman Complains The Local Bar Draws Unsavory Element To Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 29, 1970, 14: 1-3.
- <sup>52</sup> Margaret Koch, *Santa Cruz County: Parade of the Past* (Fresno: Valley Publishers, 1973), 154.
- <sup>53</sup> Sandy Lydon and Carolyn Swift, *Soquel Landing to Capitola-by-the-Sea* (Cupertino, California: California History Center, DeAnza College, 1978), 21.
- <sup>54</sup> Donald Thomas Clark, *Santa Cruz County Place Names* (Santa Cruz: Santa Cruz Historical Society, 1986), 61-62. Note: a second edition was published in 2008 by Kestrel Press.
- <sup>55</sup> Carolyn Swift, *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola* (Capitola: City of Capitola Community Development Department, June 24, 2004), 20.
- <sup>56</sup> Carolyn Swift, “Capitola Chronology,” *Santa Cruz County History Journal* No. 6, 2009, 129.
- <sup>57</sup> Carolyn Swift, *Capitola* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2013), 13.
- <sup>58</sup> “Capitola and Soquel: Once One Now Two,” *Capitola Summer Festivals: Program Adventure Guide, 2018* (Aptos: Times Publishing Group, 2018), 34, 36.
- <sup>59</sup> Ronald G. Powell (edited by Derek R. Whaley), *The Tragedy of Martina Castro* (Santa Cruz, California: Zayante Publishing, 2020), 529.
- <sup>60</sup> Merlyn Chesnut, *Memories of Days Long Gone in California—Pioneering Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sierra Nevada Counties*, unpublished typed manuscript, 11 pages. The author is the great-granddaughter of Lulu Hall Green Wolbach. Though undated, the mention of the yacht harbor would indicate it was written after the early 1960s. Copy in collection of the Capitola Historical Museum.

---

<sup>61</sup> Josephine Clifford McCrackin, “The Birthday of Capitola is Cause of Big Celebration,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 30, 1911, 1:1-2.

<sup>62</sup> Historian Randall Brown, who has studied the works of McCrackin extensively, says she was “pretty reliable” and generally based her reporting on direct observation (personal communication to author, February 3, 2021).

<sup>63</sup> *Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language*, 2nd Edition (Cleveland and New York: The World Publishing Company, 1960), 268.

<sup>64</sup> Nina Baym, Introduction to *The Hidden Hand* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997) ix. (As cited by Sari Edelstein, “Metamorphosis of the Newsboy: E.D.E.N. Southworth’s *The Hidden Hand* and the Antebellum Story-Paper,” *Studies in American Fiction*, Spring 2010, 31.)

<sup>65</sup> Joanne Dobson, Introduction to *The Hidden Hand* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1998), xiv.

<sup>66</sup> “Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Daily Surf*, May 1, 1889, 2:4-5. In 1986 the article was listed in the index to the *Santa Cruz Surf*, published by the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Library, and was also discussed by Donald Clark in *Santa Cruz County Place Names*. It may be that one of the indexers was the first to notice the significance of this article. The indexing project began several years earlier.

<sup>67</sup> It should be noted that 1889 was also the year that F. A. Hihn had an illustration of Capitola placed on the official map of Santa Cruz County and had artist Cipriano Doderer render a large oil painting of the town (on permanent display at the Capitola Historical Museum).

<sup>68</sup> “Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Daily Surf*, May 1, 1889, 2:4-5.

<sup>69</sup> “Miss Capitola Sairs,” *The Daily Surf*, April 14, 1886, 3:3.

<sup>70</sup> Joanne Dobson, Introduction to *The Hidden Hand* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1998), xiv.

<sup>71</sup> Stanley D. Stevens and Benjamin Schwantes, “Frederick Augustus Hihn (1829-1913),” *Immigrant Entrepreneurship, 1720 To The Present*. [https://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entries/frederick-augustus-hihn/#\\_cdn28](https://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entries/frederick-augustus-hihn/#_cdn28) (Accessed February 8, 2021)

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Merlyn Chesnut, *Memories of Days Long Gone in California—Pioneering Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz Sierra Nevada Counties*, unpublished typed manuscript, 11 pages.

<sup>74</sup> “Mrs. Wolbach, Soquel Church Founder, Dies,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, May 11, 1936, 3:2.

<sup>75</sup> “The Fair,” *San Jose Daily Mercury*, September 4, 1872, 3:2-4.

<sup>76</sup> A search by the author of digitized newspapers prior to 1859 failed to find the name. Close inspection showed all occurrences to be incorrect transcriptions of the word “Capitols.” In the 1880 census, there are a few women named Capitola listed as born prior to 1859. These dates may be in error.

<sup>77</sup> In the novel, *The Hidden Hand*, Capitola has a small, red, hand-shaped birthmark on her left palm. In addition, the author later makes reference to the “hidden hand” of God.