

# San Mateo County History Museum

presents

## VICTORIAN DAYS



by Special Arrangement

# LIVE THEATRE

## VICTORIAN VILLAINS?

SHOWTIMES

12:30 PM & 3:00 PM

**Victorian Villains?** reveals events in the lives of three famous local residents. During the play, David Terry, William Sharon, and Sarah Althea Hill will be on trial for their questionable activities.

**David Smith Terry** came to California during the Gold Rush. A lawyer, he became a state Supreme Court Justice in 1855 and the Chief Justice in 1857. A Southern Democrat, he promoted pro-slavery causes. In 1859, his politics led to a confrontation with United States Senator David Broderick. Near Lake Merced, in present-day Daly City, the two politicians fought a duel. Broderick died as a result of his wounds.

**William Sharon** also arrived in California during the Gold Rush. Successful in business, he managed the Bank of California in Nevada. When William Ralston's lavish spending undermined the solvency of the Bank of California in 1875, Sharon encouraged the directors to demand Ralston's resignation. The same day he turned all his property over to Sharon, Ralston drowned in San Francisco Bay.

A beautiful girl from a privileged Southern background, **Sarah Althea Hill** attracted the attention of William Sharon in 1880. In the early 1880s, Hill served as Sharon's hostess at many parties at his Belmont estate. She also owned a Hillsborough cottage he had purchased for her. When their relationship cooled, Hill charged Wm. Sharon with adultery. Claiming they had been secretly married, she sued for divorce and alimony.

### YOU - THE JURY WILL DECIDE:

Was Justice Terry a man defending his honor or a murderer? Was Wm. Sharon a good businessman or did he illegally acquire the Ralston estate?

Was Sarah Hill a wronged wife or a gold-digger?

The audience acting as jurors will be asked to decide: Were Terry, Sharon, and Hill --

### VICTORIAN VILLAINS?



"Scandalous representation of these events! I would not attend any event in Courtroom A!" - Constance Flood Gavin

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 26  
12NOON - 4 PM

For more information about Victorian Days activities, go to [www.historysmc.org](http://www.historysmc.org)

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