



# sense

**Trilogy Vineyards**  
The Story

Submitted to:  
Shea Homes

Submitted by:  
Xsense Experiential Design  
November, 2006

3940-7 Broad Street #109  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
T805.689.0077 Einfo@x-sense.biz  
[www.x-sense.biz](http://www.x-sense.biz)

# Trilogy



## The Vineyards Story

## The Vineyards Story: A Brief Synopsis

The content of this document weaves together the many and varied cultural and historical aspects which define the essence of Trilogy's 'The Vineyards' Project. It was compiled and created by Xsense Experiential Design, of San Luis Obispo, California.

A brief description of the Experiential Design process and how it is being used by Xsense to build an accurate and authentic core story for The Vineyards is followed by chapters which detail the lives of Dr. John Marsh, his wife Abby, their involvement with the nearby Miwok tribe and the other groups and individuals with whom they interacted and upon whose lives and adventures much of the unique character of The Vineyards is based.

Dr. Marsh's early studies at Harvard later led him West, to extended medical studies at Ft. Snelling in The Michigan Territories, and the first of his two marriages. Following the untimely death in childbirth of his wife Marguerite, Marsh was forced to leave his young son in the care of friends. His travels eventually led him to Los Angeles, where he was permitted to take up the practice of medicine by local authorities.

After accumulating funds, Dr. Marsh departed from Los Angeles, heading north to search out land for the Rancho he envisioned as the proper setting for the remainder of his life. His search bore fruit when he purchased Rancho Los Meganos, a portion of which comprises the area where The Vineyards is located. The story of the evolution of Los Meganos into the successful rancho

it became leads also to the successful match-making efforts of a local friend who introduced him to Abby Tuck, a young teacher from Massachusetts just settling into her job as principal of a girls' school in nearby San Jose. Immediately smitten, a whirlwind courtship ensued, and the happy couple was married two weeks later.

This happiness, which produced a beautiful daughter named Alice the following year, was not to last. During the construction of Marsh House, the impressive abode currently seen near the entrance to The Vineyards, Abby, always of delicate constitution, fell ill and died, leaving infant Abby motherless. Realizing that she could not remain at the rancho, her distraught father gave little Alice into the care of a nearby friend at Marsh's Landing, today's Antioch.

Shortly following this sad event, Dr. Marsh's long-lost son turned up and a happy reunion did much to dispel the gloom which had descended on the rancho. This brief respite ended tragically however, with the murder of Dr. Marsh by some of his own vaqueros, on the lonely road to Martinez. It was ten years before his son, Charles Marsh, caught up with the murderers and brought them to trial. Little Alice eventually grew up, married and moved to Oakland.

The many threads of the Marsh story, as well as background information on the general history, geography, culture, indigenous peoples, customs, flora and fauna of the area and other subjects are included in the content story which follows. A general list of contents is presented on the facing page, by subject and use.

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

### Table of Contents

- 2 Introduction
- 4 Project Phases
- 7 The Trilogy at the Vineyards Experience
- 8 Trilogy at the Vineyards: Extracting The Essence
- 11 Dr. John Marsh: A Historical Perspective
- 25 Mountains & Miwoks: A Pre-History
- 35 Extending the Vineyards Story
  
- 37 Landscaping
  - 37 1. Aqueducts
  - 38 2. Terrain
  - 38 3. Wagon Wheel Entry Feature
  - 40 4. Warm Rock Tea Garden
  - 40 5. Culinary Herb Garden
  - 41 6. Terraced Pioneer Garden
  - 43 7. Alder Spa Garden
  - 44 8. Bay Miwok Indigenous Plant Garden
  - 44 9. Harvard Medicinal Plants Garden
  - 45 10. Amphitheatre & Event Lawn
  
- 46 Club Los Meganos
  - 46 11. Café D'Oro
  - 48 12. Abby's Gourmet Studio
  - 49 13. Mt. Diablo Ballroom
  - 50 14. The Delta Athletic Club
  - 52 15. Sawã Spa
  - 55 16. Entry
  - 55 17. Helak Room
  - 56 18. The Kirkland Center for Higher Learning
  - 56 19. John Marsh Library
  - 57 20. Mail Room
  
- 57 Sales Center & Model Homes



Warm Rock Tea Garden

### Introduction

In today's predictable, calculated, technically focused world, the core realm of the emotional is given scant notice, creating a consumer-driven society where individuals allot significant portions of their income to the quest of 'filling up' the empty spaces in their busy lives, usually without lasting success.

This ongoing search for nurturing, connection with others, enrichment and the expression of personal identity drives our economy and our lives, yet fails to fulfill these core human needs in most circumstances. Experiential design has the power to shift this paradigm, ascending above the technical, functional focus of project development to create solid emotional value for your client – and quantifiable ongoing returns for your endeavors.

In lifestyle residential markets, customers want not only well-designed functional living spaces, but also the experience of living within a meaningful environment that touches and surrounds them in a unique, emotionally fulfilling way. Creating such environments is not a fantasy – it is an art form embodied by the process called Experiential Design.

In the service industry, products and services are usually defined as 'quality of construction', 'amenity space per customer', or 'food and beverage offerings'. While each of these technical and functional elements must be tangible and superior in quality, they must also distinguish themselves as giving a value exceeding that of comparable and potentially interchangeable products and services. Successful experiential environments touch and hold customers emotionally, adding that all-important "X" factor of outstanding value as a natural extension of these functional elements.

Xsense therefore looks beyond a development's facilities and services to reveal its authentic core elements. These might embody, for example, the evolution of a theme, the unique 'seasoning' of

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

historical events and places, or the goal of providing an engaging experience. These core elements are brought together into a 'script' from which all else can flow consistently throughout a project. It tells the story of the place and is meaningfully inherent in all aspects of the development.

Once a script is defined, Xsense creates ways to 'tell' the story at the customer 'Touchpoint' level by creating alignment between the physical expression of a concept, its operation and its customer interactions. A useful analogy is the stage play – a producer's goal is to successfully align stage design, cast, costumes, props and presentation with the core intent of the play itself throughout each and every performance, fully engaging its audience in the most powerful and affecting experience possible.

To continue this analogy, Experiential Design redefines 'the stage' as the technical and functional elements of a development. This creates alignment between landscaping, architecture, interior design, operations and customer interaction, all flowing seamlessly from the core inspiration of the script. 'The story' is brought out within facilities and services through education, entertainment, aesthetics and sensory immersion.

By adding the all-important value of ongoing 'emotional engagement' to a development project, Experiential Design assures that not only will your project attract clients willing to spend a significant portion of their disposable income – it will also keep competitors at bay, excite and inspire your employees, and win the ongoing support of both internal and external communities.

Throughout the design process, Xsense stays involved, continuing to carry your core script on into operations and human interaction Touchpoints. This ongoing commitment ensures that a seamless, consistent, and engaging project presence reaches and connects with your optimal customer.



### Project Phases

#### Phase I: **X**ploration

During the **X**ploration process, authentic story elements are collected. These include history and legends, people and their stories, geography, weather, plants and wildlife, and many other pertinent elements. These elements consist of common knowledge as well as newly discovered facts, stories and information.

#### Phase II: **X**traction

**X**sense organizes and orchestrates the materials collected in the **X**ploration process, composing one or more possible scripts, each unique to the project being developed. This process is called **X**traction. Often there are several possibilities for scripts, providing greater choice and flexibility in creating **X**actly the right mood and message.

#### Phase III: **X**tension

In this phase the story is applied to all Customer Touchpoints, from Atmosphere to Zoning. We call this process **X**tension. Here the entire story comes to life as a living entity, incorporated not only into static elements such as the landscape, architecture and interior design, but also as sensual applications, functional operations and warm human interactions through the mindful management and promotion of the entire facility.

Ultimately, colorful anecdotes leading back to your central story will be presented by your staff at various Customer Touchpoint levels. As customers explore your project, these individual stories will coalesce into a richly entertaining educational experience, creating unforgettable memories and forging emotional bonds with your central story.

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

Essentially, Xsense reconnects elements that are usually disconnected or overlooked in project development. The “glue” for this connection is the story of the facility and the appropriate interpretation of its story for all concerned parties.

### Phase IV: Xperiential Management

To keep the core story alive, Xsense stays involved in operational training and coaching to implement the developed system and keep it fresh over the years. This includes regular performance audits, the development of new Xperiences, and ongoing re-evaluations of your project in relation to changing markets.



Abby's favorite spot on Marsh Creek



Trilogy at the Vineyards



One of the views from Mt. Diablo



The Trilogy at the Vineyards Xperience

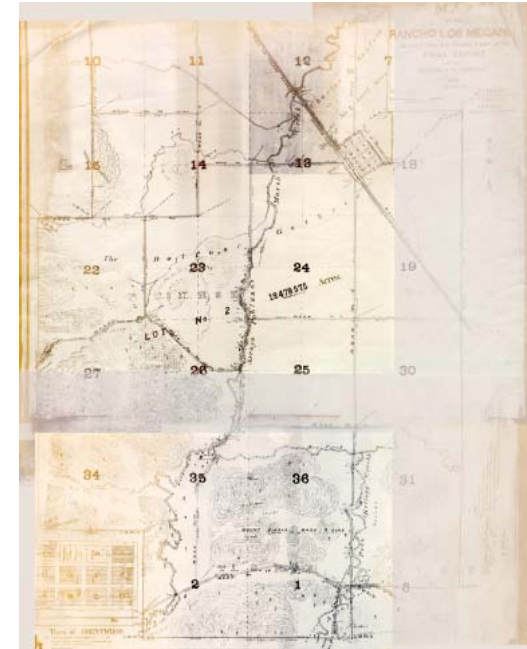
### Trilogy at the Vineyards: Xtracting The Essence

The result of extensive Xploration, the following synopsis, or Xtraction, presents our recommendation for your core script, with supporting materials gathered throughout the Xploration phase of this project, now 'woven' throughout the narrative. These rich and varied insights give a deeper, more multi-dimensional aspect to your story 'script' as it unfolds on the pages which follow.

#### The Vineyards Core Story

Trilogy at the Vineyard's 'core story' is based upon the authentic elements of this beautiful site - its history, climate, vegetation and culture, all innovatively blended with Trilogy's own essential story attributes. Other key elements, such as the Mediterranean style of architecture desired by the nearby community of Brentwood, bring a fresh and unique combination of intriguing qualities to the Vineyard experience, as do the stirring life adventures of this area's own 19th century adventurer, Dr. John Marsh and his courageous wife, Abby.

John Marsh, an academic, an explorer, and an avid student of culture and life was a noteworthy communicator and a progressive beacon in every community in which he resided. Marsh's life as a successful businessman and shrewd developer during the formative decade of the region add depth and meaning to many aspects of The Vineyards. According to California historian Dan Krieger, had Marsh lived beyond 1856, he would undoubtedly have developed Brentwood into a thriving commercial center akin to nearby Martinez, leaving an even greater economic legacy today.



Rancho Los Meganos, mid-1800's



Dr. John Marsh



Abigail Tuck Marsh

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

Trilogy at the Vineyards has the unique opportunity to finish Marsh's dream - to pick up where he left off, carrying his visions, passions and energy into our world today by creating an unforgettable locale that sets itself apart from the typical by crafting every detail of The Vineyards experience with an eye to beauty, quality, and a continually unfolding adventure for its fortunate residents.

Through the construction of the magnificent 'Marsh House', John and Abby Marsh intended to create a place of magnificence, a haven where they might graciously welcome and entertain guests, setting a new standard for California living and hospitality.

In particular, the Trilogy Vineyards development will continue the spirit of the 'Marsh House' dream, intended by John and Abby to:

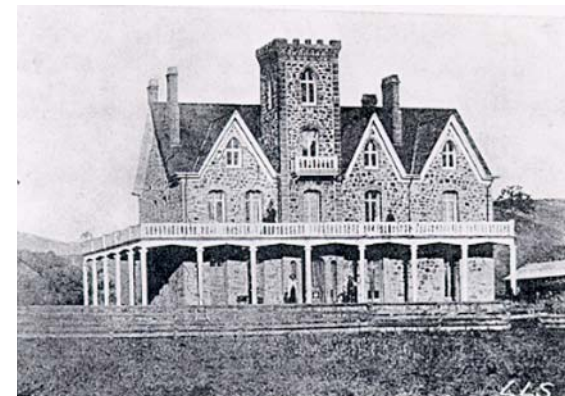
- "have nothing in California that approaches its magnificence"
- be "one of the most beautiful and complete residences (& residential lifestyles) in California"
- be "quite an architectural gem"
- be of the "finest quality freestone"
- "harmonize with the surrounding scenery"
- "set itself apart from the stereotypical California residential development"
- feel like a "cross between a comfortable cottage and an Italian villa"
- feature "water worn" cobblestone
- honor the native Americans, in particular the Bay Miwok Indians (all of the above quotes are actual comments from various articles written about Marsh by San Francisco Chronicle, during the 1850's)

### Xtension!

The Vineyards Goal: To take to heart the original attributes of the Marsh legacy and authentically reinterpret them in accord with modern life in today's world.

*"I have at last found the far west, and intend to end my ramblings here . . ."*

*John Marsh, 1846*

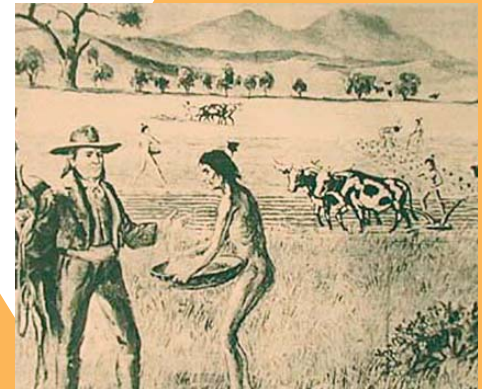


Marsh House, circa 1860

Trilogy at the Vineyards



View east over Contra Costa, from Mt. Diablo



Dr. John Marsh: A Historical Perspective

## A Gentleman Adventurer: The John Marsh Story

The life and adventures of Dr. John Marsh and his wife Abby are essential historical ingredients in the distinctive story that defines the mystique of The Vineyards. His journey from a New England boyhood via Harvard to the wilds of early California, his ability to create sensitive connections with Native American tribes everywhere he lived and worked, and his determination to woo and win the independent, spirited Abby Tuck Marsh as his life partner, even after the deep personal tragedy of losing his first wife and son, single out John Marsh as a fascinating individual with much to tell us about life in those times.

### Early Days

Born in 1799 in South Danvers, Massachusetts, John was a clever boy whose education began at Phillips Academy in Andover and continued at Harvard University where, at the behest of his strongly Calvinist family, he began his quest for a Bachelor's Degree in Divinity in 1814. However, a predilection for practical jokes that included affixing the name of a disliked professor to a heavy cannon ball, then dropping it from a second-story window onto the steps below, narrowly missing the aforesaid professor and leaving a crack in the steps of Hollis Hall which can still be seen today - led to several temporary expulsions from Harvard, thus lengthening his educational sojourn.

It was likely a good thing for the rambunctious Marsh that Harvard president [John Thornton Kirkland](#) was renowned for his progressive open-mindedness and a kindly nature. Knowing that his all-male student body needed a wholesome outlet for their otherwise riotous 'high spirits', he conceived the idea of a



Early 1800's cannonball

### Xtension!

- Cannon Ball Truffles
- Cannon Ball classes at the Delta Gym & Athletic Club



Engraving of Harvard University in the late 1700's

'physical fitness' program, commissioning the creation of an outdoor college gymnasium on a triangular patch of ground near Memorial Hall called 'The Delta'. This simple beginning later evolved into an entire system of integrated programs for fitness including an indoor gym and bath houses at the nearby river. These programs deeply influenced John Marsh who, having suffered from headaches since childhood, discovered that a fitness regime kept them at bay during the long hours of study required at Harvard. He eagerly adopted fresh air and exercise as a life-long practice.

### Michigan Territory and Ft. Snelling

While at Harvard, John Marsh developed a strong [interest in medicine](#) and began to pursue its study under the direction of Dr. John Dixwell, a Boston physician. Though Marsh never completed a college-level course in medicine, that did not deter him from furthering his medical knowledge by taking it up again upon graduation from Harvard in 1823, when he journeyed to Fort St. Anthony on the Mississippi River in the newly opened Michigan Territory. Fort St. Anthony is now known as Fort Snelling, Minnesota, named after Marsh's new employer, Colonel Josiah Snelling, Commander of Fort St. Anthony, where Marsh undertook to tutor Colonel Snelling's children, establishing the first official school in Minnesota. While at Fort Snelling, he continued his interest in medical studies for two years under Dr. Edward Purcell. Though John Marsh actually completed enough work to qualify for a medical degree, Dr. Purcell unfortunately died before being able to issue Marsh's official medical diploma.

### The 'Indian Agent'

In the early 1820's Fort Snelling was on the exciting edge of America's westernmost frontier, where Marsh became fascinated by the Ojibway and Sioux Native Americans he encountered at this remote outpost. He decided to obtain an appointment as a subagent





## Trilogy at the Vineyards

for the government's Sioux Agency, which began his life-long enthusiasm for all things Native American. As an ['Indian Agent'](#), he furthered his interest in Native American cultures, which brought him into contact with Marguerite Decondeaux, the beautiful daughter of a French Canadian trapper and a Sioux Indian woman. Falling deeply in love, John Marsh and Marguerite Decondeaux lived together in what was recognized as a common-law relationship, during which time Marguerite bore their son Charles.

While their lives together were happy, day to day relations between whites and Native Americans were complex. Because of his relationship with Marguerite, Marsh tended to favor the Sioux Nation. At Prairie Du Chien, he chose to warn Sioux leaders about a secret meeting between their long-time enemies, the Fox and Sauk. On the basis of his information, the Sioux leaders ambushed the meeting, massacring those who attended it. By taking this very partisan action, Marsh assured that he and his family quickly became 'persona non grata' in the Territory and they were forced to flee for their lives to New Salem, Illinois.

Intending to clear himself, John Marsh returned to Prairie Du Chien, leaving Marguerite, now pregnant with their second child, and their son Charles with friends in Illinois. It took much longer than Marsh had anticipated, and the separation stretched into months. Marguerite, desperately homesick and lonely for Marsh, bravely undertook to return to him, walking over 300 miles on foot with Charles in tow. It was a tragic choice. Weak and exhausted in the end, Marguerite went into labor and died along with her stillborn child, leaving Charles motherless. Marsh, heartbroken, quickly realized that he could not raise his small son by himself and was forced to entrust him to the care of his Illinois friends, the Paintier family of New Salem, while remaining himself in Prairie Du Chien.



Lakota Sioux Medicine Man

### Going West

Though the loss of Marguerite was devastating, John Marsh continued to champion the Sioux Nation, commanding a cadre of Sioux warriors during the Black Hawk War, and secretly providing them with illicit firearms. Discovered by the US Army, his actions again forced him to flee, traveling down the Mississippi River to Independence, Missouri, where he became a struggling merchant at another of the West's more remote gateways. Before his ill-fated business failed in 1833, Marsh was able to visit his young son one more time before surrendering to the inevitable and closing his doors. Still wanted in Minnesota for his collusion with the Sioux, it was clear that there was no going back - instead Marsh turned his gaze westward. In 1826, Jedediah Strong Smith had opened [the fabled Santa Fe Trail](#) to far-off California. Despite the rigors and dangers of such a formidable journey, California beckoned - and Marsh followed.

Arriving in the thriving Pueblo de Los Angeles in 1836, John Marsh decided to follow the medical work that had so engrossed him in Boston and Minnesota. But when Marsh approached the Alcalde of Pueblo de Los Angeles and requested permission to practice medicine, he was asked for proof of his medical degree. Not to be deterred, he calmly presented his [elaborately ribboned and stamped Harvard diploma](#), ornately written in latin, as proof of his claim. Evidently the language therein was sufficiently broad - when the priest at the pueblo was consulted about its authenticity, he approved the document, granting Marsh a license to practice medicine in California.

### Marsh's Medical Practice

Soon, 'Dr. Marsh' had a thriving practice. As California was a barter economy, he was reimbursed for his medical services in cowhides, tallow, beaver and sea otter



Wagons Ho!: Taking the Santa Fe Trail

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

furs, horses and beef cattle. Like many other 'ex-pat' Yankees new to California, John Marsh never forgot his New England roots. But memories of the starkly beautiful, rocky coastline of Massachusetts soon gave way to dreams of something grander, set amongst the thousands of [grass-covered hills](#) of the Californias: a rancho of his own.

Closing down his practice, Marsh traded his hides, tallow and furs to a local merchant for \$500 in hard cash, then rode north along the [El Camino Real](#), searching for suitable land. His travels took him to the San Francisco peninsula and then across the Bay into the Contra Costa. When he reached Cerro Alto de los Bolbones (today known as Mt. Diablo), at a spot not far from where Father Juan Crespi and Captain Pedro Fages first saw the San Joaquin Valley in 1772, Marsh knew that [he had found what he was seeking](#).

### Los Meganos and The Miwok

In 1837, Marsh used his \$500 to purchase Rancho Los Meganos ('The Sand Dunes') from Jose Noriega. The land tract measured twelve miles by ten miles, working out to a cost of roughly 6.5¢ an acre. Employing members of [the local Miwok tribe](#), Marsh built a small, one-story adobe, divided into four large rooms. It had a large attic, [earthen floors](#) and a [fireplace](#) in the main room, where [Marsh read nightly by firelight](#). To either side of the front door were benches, where Marsh enjoyed sitting during the [long summer twilights](#). It was one of the most isolated spots in Mexican California, but Marsh, with his long experience of frontier living, felt at home and comfortable among the Miwok. [Living in the shadow of the mountain](#) along the banks of [a winding creek](#), he began to plan the making of his fortune.

### Laying the Groundwork for Fortune

Having formed a warm relationship with the padres of Mission San Jose in what is now the Warm Springs District of the city of Fremont, he gradually acquired [cuttings and seeds](#) from the friendly friars and, with the help of the Miwoks, planted a large vegetable garden and



The mysterious side of Mt. Diablo



Miwok Warriors, 1818

### Xtension!

- The John Marsh Library with fireplace and leather-bound books
- Themed Gardens: Grape Vineyards, Olive Trees, Culinary Herb and Medicine Gardens
- Gold Dust Flakes sprinkled on Foods

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

orchard. [Apple, plum, pear, lemon, fig, almond, and olive trees](#) were soon joined by a large [vineyard](#) and fields of [barley and wheat](#).

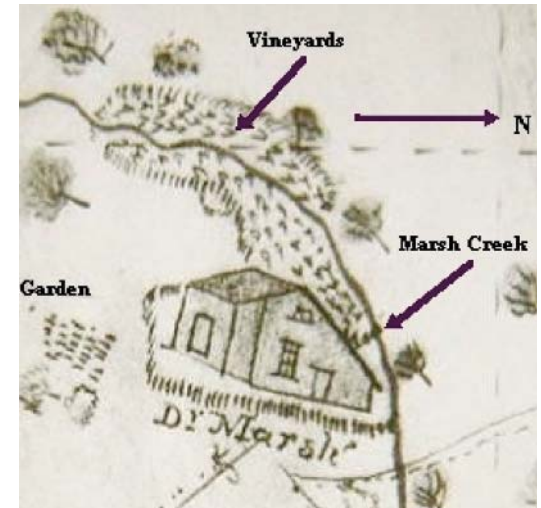
Marsh had the foresight to bring certain medical supplies with him to California, and he easily obtained other staples of 19th century medicine from [local botanical sources](#) such as horehound (Marrubium) for coughing, and digitalis from the foxglove plant for treating ailments of the heart. Thanks to his contact with the Franciscan missionaries and their practice of [keeping a herb garden](#) for medicinal purposes, he was supplied with many other practical medicines such as alkanet, borage, Bay Laurel, maidenhair fern and wormwood.

### Los Meganos Expands

John Marsh's hospital was [his adobe home](#). Reputedly Dr. Marsh never lost a patient, and so his medical talents were in high demand throughout the Californias. Medical fees were now paid primarily in cattle: one head of cattle for each mile traveled to visit a patient. His herds grew to nearly 6,000, increasing by 1,500 head annually and requiring the presence of a band of vaqueros to manage them. These Spanish cowboys lived in the attic at the adobe and also acted as Marsh's bodyguards. Rancho Los Meganos eventually became a way station between the Great Valley of California and what was coming to be known as 'The Bay Area'. Marsh also established [Marsh's Landing](#) (today's Antioch) on the delta near the mouths of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.

### The Rush for Gold

Once [gold](#) had been discovered on the American River in 1848, Marsh's Landing became a principal stop for 'Argonauts' en route to the legendary gold fields to the east of the Sacramento River. After searching for gold himself, near Marysville, Marsh returned home with [gold dust and nuggets](#) worth \$40,000. Folklore claims that [Marsh secretly buried his gold somewhere on Rancho Los Meganos](#), but no one has ever discovered his fabled cache.



A sketch of the Marsh homestead at Los Meganos



Where is Marsh's Treasure buried?

Realizing that the presence of other Americans would advance the cause of California's annexation to the United States, he actively encouraged other 'Norte Americanos' to emigrate to California. He wrote [enthusiastic letters](#) and sent [detailed maps](#) to Eastern newspapers for publication, promoting the California Trail cutoff of the Oregon Trail (a passage which he, Marsh, had never undertaken), and invited any and all successful travelers to sojourn at his rancho while getting settled in this new land.

### The Future Mrs. Marsh

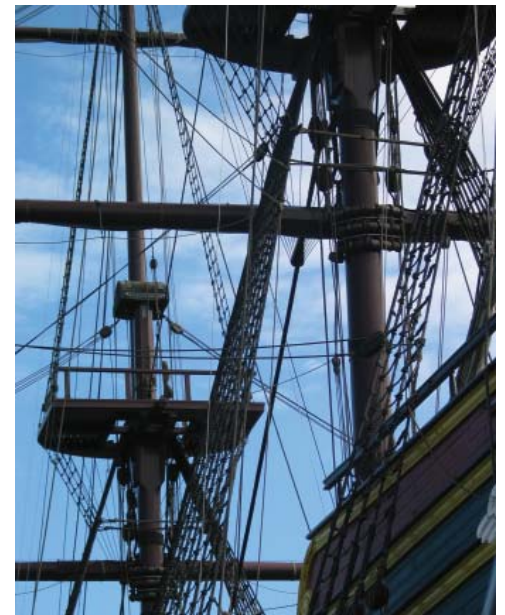
Despite his wealth and influence, John Marsh was a lonely man. Sitting alone before his fire late at night, he would read over and over the precious few magazines and newspapers from Boston, New York and London left behind by visitors to [Rancho Los Meganos](#). Many letters were written as well, especially in his fruitless search to locate his son Charles, now a grown man. Taking pity on the lonely Ranchoero, the Reverend William W. Smith introduced Marsh to Miss Abigail 'Abby' Smith Tuck, a bright, beautiful, well-educated and independent schoolteacher born and raised in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. Abby had a well-developed [spirit of adventure](#), unusual for a woman of the Victorian Age. After a period of time spent in the South as a private tutor and teacher, and finding that none of her many suitors could countenance having an independently-minded wife, she decided to seek her fortune in far-off California.

### Setting Sail for a New Life

In the early fall of 1850, Abby set sail for San Francisco chaperoned by a party of missionaries. As well as [good fortune](#), Abby was also seeking [good health](#) - she suffered from a chronic lung disorder which may well have been tuberculosis. Her poor health and the possibility of an early demise were frequently on her mind and she wanted fervently to find [a home where her health could be revitalized](#).

### Xtension!

- Wagon wheel-shaped paving at Vineyards Entrance symbolizes "The End of the Trail"
- Wrought Iron Lamps on the walls of the Lobby Entrance symbolize Dr. Marsh "Holding Up the Lantern" for newcomers to California
- 1847 Oregon Trail Sourdough Bread



Abby's mode of transport to Ssan Francisco

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

Abby at first struggled to find decent, well-paying work, but finally located an appropriate position for a lady of good family as Principal at a girl's school in San Jose. By June of 1851, she was sufficiently settled to consider undertaking a “. . . pleasure trip over the mountains into the San Joaquin Valley. . .” with a new friend, Mrs. Appleton, and it was during this journey that she was introduced to John Marsh. It must have been 'love at first sight', as their [whirlwind courtship](#) spanned all of two weeks before they were quietly married on June 24, 1851. Abby's letter home to her family, in which she gently breaks the news of her marriage, makes for fascinating - and very romantic - reading.

### Mrs. Marsh Meets Los Meganos

Though John Marsh wanted her to wait until he had built a more suitable residence, Abby soon insisted on moving into the original adobe house. She began to go about 'civilizing' Los Meganos, planting [cinnamon pinks, dahlias, peonies and roses](#) by the [warm adobe walls and walkways](#) of the Rancho and adding 'a woman's touch' to the property with the addition of [fruit trees, a dairy and laying hens](#). She was often to be found in her favorite spot on the meandering creek, reading in the shade of the [oaks and alder trees](#) lining the little stream. All that remained to complete the picture of [a happy home](#) was the addition to the family on March 12, 1852, of a daughter, Alice Francis Marsh.

### The Building of Marsh House

A beautiful, blue-eyed flaxen-haired child, Alice was both the pet of the Miwok women, who delighted in her fair countenance - and a strong impetus for her father to now undertake the construction of a home more suitable for the needs of a prosperous Ranchero and his growing family. Having chosen a site next to

#### Xtension!

- Vineyards emphasizes this 'long tradition' of focusing on good health
- Abby's Flower Gardens, Preserves, Cheeses, and Cooking School
- The Alder Tree in the Spa Garden



Abby's handiwork: the gardens of Los Meganos

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

the creek, with [a view of the surrounding valley and Mt. Diablo](#), the Marsh family began to create what was to become the Marsh House. Work was begun almost immediately, with [stone quarried](#) from the slopes of Mt. Diablo being used to construct [a magnificent edifice](#) designed by San Francisco architect Thomas Boyd. The Gothic Revival home had a sixty-five foot tower and an outer porch supported by octagonal pillars. When completed, the cost of the home was somewhere between \$5,000 to \$20,000, a great fortune in the 1850's. The exact amount is currently being researched. It seemed that at last John Marsh had succeeded in creating [the life he had dreamed of](#): a successful Rancho, a beautiful wife and child, and an impressively grand home in the making. But his joy was to be, again, a fleeting thing.

### The Loss of Abby

In fall of 1854 while the large house was still under construction, Abby's health began to fail. Nothing seemed to alleviate the return of her lung ailment, leaving her weak and failing slowly over the course of a year, until in mid-August, 1855, she finally gave up the struggle and quietly expired in her husband's arms. Again devastated with grief and left alone with a tiny child to raise, John Marsh was inconsolable. His daughter Alice, only two years old, was much too young to remain on the ranch without a mother. She was reluctantly entrusted to the care of a Mrs. Thompson who lived nine miles away at Marsh's Landing.

Sunk in grief, John Marsh refused to live in the newly completed Marsh House and buried himself in his work. The mid-1850's were difficult times for landowners living near mining districts in California as it quickly became apparent to gold seekers that the real wealth lay not in discovering gold, but rather in selling foodstuffs and supplies to the prospectors. Being one of the more successful suppliers of these items, Marsh and his Rancho became the target of unending squabbles with squatters and skirmishes with cattle thieves.



Abby, Alice and John Marsh, circa early 1853

### Xtension!

- The same stone used for the Marsh residence is also used in Vineyards construction
- Alice Fairy Cakes are served in the Warm Rock Tea Garden

### Conflict, Troubles and Tragedy

Disputes and confrontations flourished, affecting even Marsh's usually loyal vaqueros. At this troublesome time in his life, Marsh received solace in the unexpected arrival one dark evening of a rain-drenched young man seeking shelter from a harsh storm. The young man, who claimed to be Charles, John Marsh's long-lost son, had journeyed to California in search of his father. Sceptical of this claim, Dr. Marsh demanded that the young man remove his shoes and socks and show his bare feet. An unusual request in any case, it was the clincher: a genetic family trait had given Charles webbed toes and his triumphant display of this anomaly proved the truth of his claim. This amazing encounter must have seemed a godsend to Marsh, who set about enjoying [a happy reunion](#) with his now-grown son.

But tragedy struck again, this time as the result of an acrimonious salary dispute between Marsh and his Mexican vaqueros which was heightened by an ongoing feud over a bitterly fought court trial. On September 24, 1856, while driving his horse and buggy to Martinez, Marsh was waylaid on the road, robbed, and brutally murdered.

### An Epilogue - and the Resurrection of a Dream

Eventually, Charles Marsh tracked down two of his father's murderers, who were brought to justice ten years after the murder took place. Charles and Alice Marsh shared the inheritance of Rancho Los Meganos and it was Charles Marsh instead of his father who took up residence in Marsh House for a brief period. Eventually, the house was leased out to a long string of tenant farmers as it slowly deteriorated. It seemed that history was closing the book on Dr. John Marsh and his Los Meganos Rancho, until a local

### Xtension!

The creation of a Vineyards event just for the purpose of reconnection and family reunions



Ambush! Outlaws await the unwary traveler.



## Trilogy at the Vineyards

group of historians and interested citizens stepped in to prevent the loss of this rich chapter of California history. Today, Marsh House is being restored to [its original glory](#) under the careful guidance of the John Marsh Historic Trust. Much of the original Rancho Los Meganos, as well as the stone house that John built for Abby and Alice, have passed into the hands of the State of California. At present, the majority of the land remains as it was in the mid-1800's. Currently a major effort to create a 3,500 acre state park around [the beautiful old stone house](#) is underway, intended to commemorate the cultures of local Native Americans, early Mexican Californians, and the American pioneers and settlers of Early California.

### The Marsh Legacy

This site also celebrates a man whose life was an integral part of America's westward expansion. John Marsh's medical practice may have been flawed by the lack of a medical diploma, but unlike many contemporary physicians who presided over thousands of deaths from infected wounds and bungled procedures, Marsh's record as a medical practitioner is remarkably unsullied. His eclecticism and willingness [to learn herbal medicine](#) from Native Americans and Roman Catholic missionaries shows greater tolerance than some in the medical profession even today.

Marsh's vision for California is equally remarkable. [He saw the future](#) in terms of field agriculture - the planting of [vineyards](#), and the digging of [aqueducts](#) for water, the establishment of [orchards](#) and the sowing of [wheat fields](#). His February, 1846 letter to his old friend, former Governor and Democratic Presidential nominee Senator Lewis Cass of Michigan, correctly evaluated the agricultural potential of California. The letter cites the [mildness of California's winters](#), referring to the year-round [presence of hummingbirds](#) as proof of this claim. It speaks of the [fertile, well-watered valleys](#) and the ". . . greatest bay in the world . . ." This and dozens of letters like it brought the first wagon trains to California. Thousands of settlers soon followed. And, in Trilogy at the Vineyards, [John Marsh's dream for California](#) continues to be fulfilled.

### Xtension!

- Mild herbal remedies used in the Sawa Spa
- Aqueducts to transport water to Vineyard Gardens



The restoration of the Marsh House

## Trilogy at the Vineyards



An old Italian aqueduct that Dr. Marsh would have emulated at Los Meganos Rancho.



Miwok warriors, circa 1818



Mountains & Miwoks: A Pre-History

### In a Nutshell: The Geological and Anthropological History of the Area

Seas and fossils, mountains and Miwoks - the history of the Contra Costa (the 'Coast on the Other Side') is a fascinating one. 28 million years ago, a time traveler would have paddled his way to this area. Covered by ocean waters, the area around modern-day Brentwood was then lapped by endless sets of inbound waves and rich in sea-dwelling life. Today, deep beds of fossil remains have been unearthed at Blackhawk Ranch, near the foot of what is now Mt. Diablo, as proof of this claim. Life evolved at a gentle pace for many millions of years - but then, one million years ago, great tektonic upheavals thrust Mt. Diablo into existence as well as many of the tallest surrounding mountain ranges, and today's topography began to take form, as the surrounding land eroded into rolling, grassy and forested hills abundant with life.

Nature's bounty was an invitation to immigrating humans, traversing the land bridge between Siberia and Alaska and moving through the ancient Californias on their way southward. Seeing the natural wealth and beauty of this area, certain traveling groups chose to remain, and became the tribal groups with whom we are familiar today: the Miwok and the Yokut.

### In Harmony with the World: Early Native Americans in California

As these tribal groups grew, they divided into smaller tribal entities: the Saklans of the Miwok, the Costanoans, and the Cholbones of the Yokut, also termed the Volvons/Bolbones/Bolbones; these groups populated the area surrounding this great mountain, which they and other local tribes considered sacred and called 'Tuyshtak', or 'Kah Woo Koom' - 'Everywhere-Seen-Laughing-Mountain' for its great beauty and presence. It was the place where the creative forces of Eagle or Condor joined the mountain. There, Grandfather Coyote brought into being the Native American people and all things needed for life, at the 'center of the world'. The top of Tuyshtak



Miwok male with tattoo

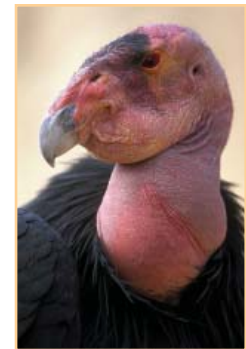


Sketch of early Miwok village

## The Miwok Creation Story

Mount Diablo, California has long been a sacred mountain to many Native California groups within its expansive view. The Julpun recognized the mountain as the birthplace of the world, while hundreds of miles away in the Sierra Nevada, some Northern Miwok saw it as the place from which a supernatural being lit the previously dark landscape. Further south, the Central Miwok featured this mountain as part of their most sacred ceremonies and Wintun spiritual leaders prayed to the Creator from the mountain's heights. Nearly every Native California community that viewed Mount Diablo would at one time or another make a pilgrimage to the summit area for ceremonies. Local natives would conduct ceremonies there because they believed that Mount Diablo was the center of creation. Mount Diablo State Park's interpretation of the Miwok creation story is as follows:

After a time Wek'-wek, the falcon, wanted to create people but didn't know how. He asked his father Mol'-luk, the California condor, who lived on a rock overlooking the east side of Mt. Diablo, about it, and was told he must speak to his grandfather O'-let'-te, Coyote man, who lived at the ocean. O'-let'-te told Wek'-wek he know how to make Mew'-ko (Miwok people), but first Wek'-wek had to capture three birds: Choo'-loo the Vulture, Ah-wet'-che the Crow, and Kok'-koi the Raven. Once captured, they took feathers from each bird. Next morning, Wek'-wek and O'-let'-te went around the countryside and stuck three feathers into the ground at each place they wanted people and villages. They also gave each place a name, used by the Miwok people. The three feathers they stuck into the ground were for Cha'-kah the Chief, Mi'-yum the Woman chief, and Soo-la-too the People. Next morning all the feathers sprang to life and became the Mew'-ko, or Miwok people.



## Trilogy at the Vineyards

was sacred and reserved for the use of the tribal shamans, the only individuals strong enough to withstand the overwhelming power of the spirits of Grandfather Coyote, Eagle, and Condor, the creators of the world, who lived there. As time passed, the summit of the mountain became a special meeting place where tribal groups met yearly for week-long festivals and other sacred events.

The [basaltic rock](#) of the mountain was revered; acorns, the most important foodstuff of these tribes, was ground to flour in groups of [ancient stone mortars](#), chipped into huge rocks over decades of time, by the women of the tribes. These weathered tools may be seen today, in certain areas around the mountain, near the locations of ancient, forgotten villages. These were hunter/gatherer communities: peaceful, [in tune with nature](#) and deeply connected with the earth.

### Day to Day Life in the ‘Eden of the West’

[The climate was kind](#) and most of the year men lived naked while women wore brief skirts of seashell-decorated fiber or animal skins, and adorned themselves with jewelry made from bits of [shell, bone and wood](#). Winter brought the use of [rabbit and deerskin](#) garments for greater warmth, and even [the use of mud](#) slapped onto their bodies as insulation from the cold. Periodically, the men of the tribe congregated in [sweat lodges](#), where [they purified their bodies](#) and refreshed themselves, using a [deer’s rib](#) bone as a stygl to remove the sweat from their bodies. [Tattoos](#) were common for both men and women, who incorporated into them their own standard measurements for determining the value of the shells that were their common currency in trade. [Hair was burned off](#), rather than cut, as for Native Americans and most tribal cultures, hair holds personal energy and power, useful to an enemy wanting to cast spells and work magic.

Intertribal trade was a common means for the exchange of goods: [basalt mor-](#)

**Xtension!**  
Signature Views of Mt. Diablo from:

- The Ballroom
- The Event Lawn
- The Miwok Indigenous Plant Garden



Ancient stone mortar site near Vineyards

**Xtension!**

- Mud Treatments at Sawa Spa
- Hot Rock Applications
- Use of Miwok seeds & food for meals & herbs for Spa Treatments
- Deer Bone Sauna Implements

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

tars and pestles were traded for bows and arrowpoints made by other tribes, as well as for unusual skins and goods from the seacoast: shells, salt, seaweed and sea water, which was used to flavor local foods. These included many forms of acorns - whole, cracked, pounded into flour, and leached (a small family might consume as much as 1,000 to 2,000 lbs of acorns a year), as well as game meats, the seeds of the buckeye tree, both ocean and fresh-water fish, and whatever local berries, plants, fruits, nuts and seeds could be gathered by the women of the tribes.

Metal was unknown in those times, and weapons of stone and shell were used for hunting and for handtools, which were used to cut and prepare the materials used in the creation of their beautiful, water-tight woven baskets. Used for both fishing and for cooking, these woven baskets were so strong that, once filled with water, they could withstand the extreme temperatures of the fire-heated rocks dropped into them to boil the liquid inside.

### The Coming of the Spaniards

It was an 'Eden' in many senses - but one that was not to remain; the long shadow of European influence was stretching its way northward in the guise of religion and conquest. In 1769, strange people arrived in their midst, people wearing long, coarse-cloth robes and carrying wooden crosses. These were the Franciscan friars, based in the new Mission San Jose, at the foot of the great salt-water bay to the west. And with them came change - forever. In their fervent desire to bring local tribes to Christ, the well-meaning but strict friars systematically erased all vestiges of this pastoral life. While there were no missions built in the Contra Costa, tribal men were clothed, brought to the San Jose Mission, and trained to become farmers and ranch hands. Their wives and daughters were dressed in European clothing and became house servants, while their children were removed to Christian schools. All



Twined Miwok fish trap basket



Miwok gathering and cooking baskets



## Trilogy at the Vineyards

were required to convert to the Catholic faith - but each tribe secretly retained the core of their spiritual traditions as best they could, practicing their ceremonies in secret, well-hidden from the eyes of the friars.

During this time, diseases brought by the white man decimated the native population, which had no natural immunity to the devastations of smallpox, typhoid and consumption. Many escaped into the mountains, often pursued by Spanish soldiers who, after repeated forays into local willow thickets and canebreaks at the foot of the sacred slopes of Tuyshtak in their attempts to retrieve runaways, began to call the mountain 'el Diablo', thus the sacred mountain's unearned epithet of today: Mt. Diablo.

As more and more settlers arrived from the eastern United States, settling in areas near established Spanish land grants, it became necessary to map out and accurately survey the land in this region. Early surveyors used the peak of Mt. Diablo as their '0°' point for laying in latitude and longitude to this end.

### **The Influence of Dr. John Marsh**

Into this melange of cultures Dr. John Marsh made his historic appearance in 1836. Immediately realizing the value of these beautiful open, rolling hills and pasturelands, Marsh set about acquiring his stake. Pragmatic as always, he converted to Catholicism to qualify for land ownership in Spanish California. Once ownership of Los Meganos was accomplished, he enlisted the aid of the friars of Mission San Jose to acquire native laborers. The Miwok tribe, now released from work at the nearby Missions and re-established in a small village near the site chosen by Marsh for his homestead, were engaged as Rancho workers.



Mortar site, early 1900's

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

His presence may at first have been resented, but [he quickly achieved a genuine friendship](#) with the tribe, given his natural inclination towards all things Native American. His [medical skills were prized by the Miwoks](#), who were struggling with European sicknesses. Marsh's healing abilities cemented his friendship with these humble people, who gladly labored on his behalf to raise his modest adobe dwelling and to establish his [gardens, vineyard, orchards and grainfields](#), the first wheat to be grown in Contra Costa. Many of his plantings were grown from cuttings brought to him from Mission San Jose, whose friars befriended him as well, offering [cuttings of pears, figs, almonds and olives](#), as well as many other [plants, both for food and for medicinal uses](#).

Though simple, the adobe served many purposes: dwelling, hospital, way station, and shelter for both friend and enemy - [Marsh was open-handedly eclectic](#) in his hospitality, realizing that the harsh circumstances of life in the West meant that survival was more important than enmity. This [unusual generosity](#) stood him in good stead for many years, [creating useful friendships](#) with men who became real powers in this formative age of early California life.

It was a lonely life, but one which Marsh was well-equipped to handle. He spent many an evening reading before [the indoor fireplace of the adobe](#), a 'luxury' unusual in the region, as most fireplaces were built outside for cooking purposes. Furniture was sparse: a table, wooden benches, and a simple bed. In one corner stood an unusual item: a [Chinese camphor chest](#). In it were stored [the deeds to Los Meganos](#), his Phillips-Andover [graduation certificate](#) and his [Harvard diploma](#).

This spartan lifestyle dramatically altered when Marsh carried his second wife, Abby Tuck Marsh, over the threshold of his simple home. Not one to waste time, Abby immediately set about making the homestead more domesticated, [planting stone fruit, vegetables and many](#)



Historic adobe structure



Chinese camphor chest

### **Xtension!**

New Vineyard homeowners will receive a signature camphor-wood chest holding the deed to their new Vineyards home.



[beautiful flower gardens](#). She quickly befriended the women of the Miwok village, making a custom of inviting them each day to her home for [afternoon tea](#).

### **X**tending the Dream

Given all of the above aspects, the local history of the region around Trilogy at the Vineyards is rich with possibility. [Many useful themes](#) present themselves as starting points for the development of branching story 'threads'. When Dr. Marsh's early history is added to this collection of California-based historical backgrounds, even more [opportunities for story development](#) become available.

Many [elements of life at Harvard](#), its environs and its campus bring in story lines for development into [health and wellness, learning and education](#). Marsh's [use of medicinal plants and natural remedies](#) create opportunities for developing [garden themes](#) as well as [classes in botany, natural remedies, and related subjects](#). Native American history of the area provides a treasure-trove of thematic explorations for spa, restaurant, garden, and a myriad of other applications.

### **X**tension!

- Peppermint and Verbena Teas will be offered in the Warm Rock Tea Garden
- Signature jams and preserves will be served in Vineyards restaurants and offered for sale in Vineyards shops
- Gardening clubs & classes will be established and the sharing of plants, seeds and produce will be encouraged



Miwok Indigenous Plant Garden



A typical meandering garden, a la Abby Marsh.



California Vineyards



Phase III: **X**tending the Vineyards Story

### **Phase III: Xtension - Telling the Vineyards Story**

Now that the authentic Vineyards story is confirmed, it can blossom into a complete sensory experience for residents, visitors, guests and staff, growing into a true Life Experience as time unfolds.

**Physical Applications:** Landscaping, architecture, operational flow, exterior and interior design, room layout, - all flow together seamlessly to create the world of John and Abby Marsh, with grace and inimitable style.

**Sensual Applications:** Incorporating the authentic sensual offerings of Vineyards brings unforgettably special sounds, smells, materials, colors, and tastes, each heightening the depth of the Vineyards Xperience:

The gentle gurgle of flowing water; bright splashes of flowers nestled in natural settings where streams meander and gently swaying alder trees beckon; hot, crusty sourdough bread broken open and drizzled with fresh local olive oil, perfectly prepared branded steaks, and decadent chocolate desserts delight and welcome hungry guests to table; where a sigh of satisfied relaxation greets the knowing hands of a skilled masseuse, and warm rocks soothe and stimulate the experience of being cared for by skilled professionals in a gorgeous spa setting.

**Human Interactions:** Experiential management has embraced a creative and engaging hiring and training process, making sure that the authentic Vineyards story reaches and touches every single resident, guest, and employee as well as members of the local community - thus uniquely and memorably connecting with every person who interacts with Vineyards in any manner.

**Operational Expression:** There are many ways to create truly special, memorable moments: the gracious and creative serving of foods, checking guests into the hotel in uniquely delightful ways, and many unexpected avenues for guests to discover the invigorating experience of good health.

**Communications:** A continuous and harmonious Vineyards look and feel begins with the voice on the telephone, supported by the well-designed and easily accessible website, the comprehensive brochure material, menus, event promotions, staff uniforms, souvenirs, even the label on the in-room shampoo - all represent hundreds of opportunities to create special impact.

### Landscaping

**I. Aqueducts:** John Marsh “*planned to irrigate by artificial means using the water from the creek but his death interrupted his plan.*” [San Francisco Bulletin, July 19, 1856]. In honor of his dream, Vineyards features elaborate aqueduct systems inspired by Italy’s most magnificent aqueduct architecture (photo below, left), a concept that far surpasses the simple, serviceable structures built for the mission orchards by the local Bay Miwok Indians (photo below, right).

Inspired by John Marsh’s own research and love for European classics, and his dream to create a uniquely California-influenced European setting as a complement to his magnificent new Marsh House residence, Italian immigrant craftsmen of the area would have surpassed themselves in creating a superlative system of scenically beautiful aqueducts.

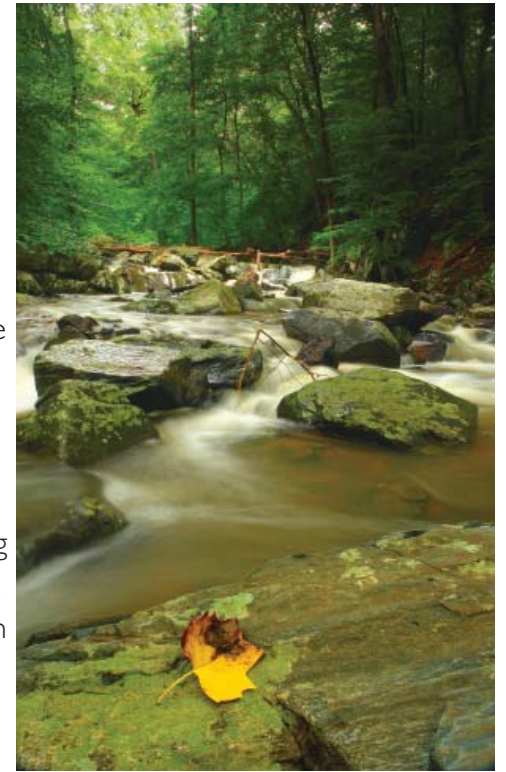


At left and above, examples of Mission-built water systems in California. The missionaries based their designs on those of Vitruvius, one of ancient Rome’s pre-eminent architects of public works.

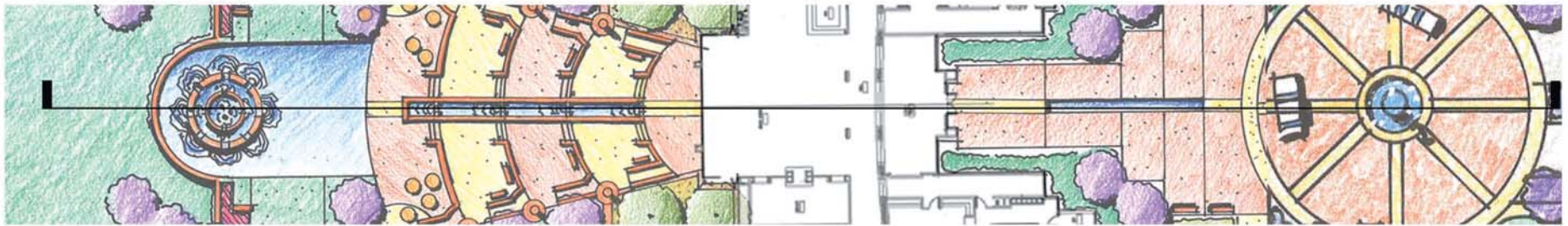
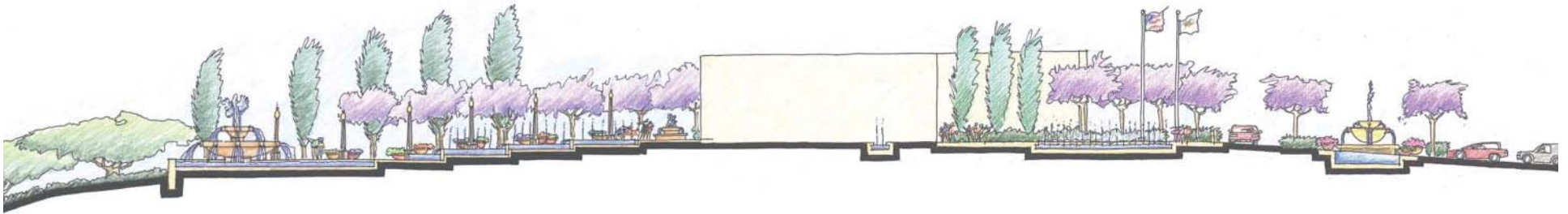


**2. Terrain:** “By this process [irrigation] the whole plain in front of the house may be enameled with flowers or in the process of time may be dotted with trees and become an extensive and beautiful park, as the taste of the owner may determine.” [San Francisco Evening Bulletin, July 19, 1856]. Taking these thoughts to heart, Vineyards - as “the [new] owner” - cherishes the rich historic past of John Marsh’s rancho and carries forward the essence of his visions, qualities and sense of authority into the modern lifestyle community which Trilogy celebrates.

**3. Wagon Wheel Entry Feature:** Symbolizing the end of the California Trail, the end of a long journey over the Rockies and the Sierras, and the beginning of a new life in California, the Wagon Wheel Entry garden embodies the story of John Marsh “holding the torch” and warmly welcoming those travel-weary immigrants who had followed his written directions to California (unaided by a map!). Pioneers arrived starved, in rags, and often without horses, wagons and supplies, all of which had been destroyed by hard use or left behind when the mountain trails became impossible to navigate other than on foot. Marsh fed and nursed them, helped them to obtain passports, locate work and, eventually, land and wealth as they put down roots in their new California homes.



Trilogy at the Vineyards



MAIN AXIS



SCALE 1"=10'-0"

TRILOGY VINEYARDS

Shea Homes

January 19, 2006



**4. Warm Rock Tea Garden:** The indoor/outdoor space near the spa & gym entry is a gracious reminder of Abby's customary taking of afternoon tea with the Miwok women. It was a humble celebration, but special because Abby so warmly welcomed these Indian matrons, serving them herself inside the old adobe, or under the shade of the creekside trees.

In this cosy garden, warm rocks are naturally arranged in clusters and invite one to sit in casual comfort. Packeted tea will be served, or for a more rustic experience, fresh lemon verbena, mint and other delicate teas may be self-harvested in the herbal tea garden that surrounds the warm rock sitting areas. Attentive white-jacketed waiters will be in attendance, providing a Victorian-style afternoon or high tea food service for garden guests.

**5. Culinary Herb Garden:** This edible plant & herbal garden would have been a natural addition to the elegant Marsh home, with its emphasis on culinary finesse and an air of exploration. John and Abby would have shared the seeds and cuttings with new California arrivals - Vineyards will carry on this spirit of sharing with residents. Culinary and herbal lectures use this garden frequently, as do the Club's chefs and avid culinary students, who are frequently seen gathering fresh-cut herbs for their creations. A hand-wash area and stone herb-washing sink perfect this culinary herb garden.



Herbs for Hand-Picking



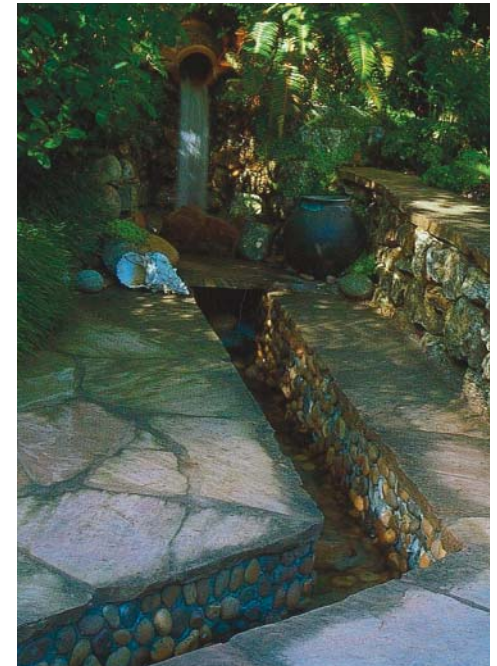
Garden Relaxation



Garden Terracing Feature

**6. Terraced Pioneer Gardens:** Inspired by Marsh's open invitation to camp at "Los Meganos" at end of the California trail, this charming extension of Cafe d'Oro offers cozy yet sophisticated terraced garden patches, perfect for outdoor wine-tasting, elegant picnics and hot-stone grilling. Food baskets may be brought from home, created with the assistance of the local deli, or full meals may be enjoyed 'sur le herb' as provided by the restaurant.

The low stone dividing wall provides built-in self-draining stone ice buckets, and small water fountains for drinking or washing hands provide the soothing sound of flowing waer. Sophisticated small stone BBQs or hot-stone pits, with adjacent benches and tables invite all comers to have a good time. Plump pillows and roughly woven linen table cloths and napkins (cloths cut from sugar-sacking were common in John and Abby's day) are supplied. Occasional concerts, gourmet picnics and other outdoor celebrations, enhance the enchanting atmosphere.



Stone Water Feature



A Place to Relax and to Dream

**7. Alder Spa Garden:** Abby's favorite resting and reading spot was under the alder trees by the creek. It was her place of rejuvenation and healing. In folklore, the alder tree is associated with fairies and it was believed that doorways to the fairy realm were concealed within its trunk. In many cultures, the alder is also considered a sacred tree. Abby may have felt that this magical and mystical environment was a welcome haven amidst the rustic, masculine environment of the rancho.

Today's world may no longer be as rustic and rough around the edges as was Abby's, but it is still highly stressful in its overwhelmingly modern, high-tech and rational way. Intrigued and fascinated by myth and folklore, we escape often into the magical fantasy worlds of film, television and theater, constantly seeking for inspiration to either soothe or stimulate our imagination. The Alder Spa Garden brings back the magical alder trees, the gentle and serene stream, Abby's brilliantly petaled flowers and fragrant herbs. It is once again a spiritual place, an escape she would seek out for its personality and energy, a place the Miwok Indians undoubtedly would have declared sacred and cherished for centuries, now becoming a beautiful retreat full of healing and peace for all Vineyard residents. A traditionally designed stone sauna, patterned after the Native American sweatlodge, is sequestered in a quiet corner of this garden.



Spirit of the Wood



Gentle Serenity Under the Trees



The Alder Stream

**8. Bay Miwok Indigenous Plant Garden:** Dedicated to the Bay Miwok Indians, Marsh's closest neighbors and friends, this unique environment lies close by the Event Lawn. The Miwoks did not cultivate crops, but rather harvested seasonal plants for a varied diet, including such foods as acorns, nuts, seeds and various other plant parts. In addition, they hunted animals including birds, deer, elk and fish. Large groups of Miwoks and other tribes would meet for feasts and dances. Mount Diablo was the focal point of their spirituality, with traditions and creation accounts that featured the mountain and a view of Mount Diablo. A small ceremonial space provides the opportunity for meaningful gatherings.

**9. The Harvard Medicinal Herb Garden:** At the Vineyards, wellness programs are based on the application of Harvard's famous Medical School Health Program. One key outdoor feature represents the medicinal plants John Marsh carried overland with him on his journey west, which were later supplemented by the extensive offerings of local mission gardens. Marsh's deep knowledge and adept use of medicinal plants for healing applications is brought together in this traditional healer's garden of growing medicines, an educational experience supported by extensive reference materials held in the Marsh Learning Center.



A Casual Setting for Indigenous Plants



Chamomile Blossoms



Fresh Peppermint Sprig



A Grand Outdoor Entertainment Venue -The Amphitheater and Event Lawn

**10. Amphitheater/Event Lawn:** Built for outdoor performances, lectures, ceremonies, dining events, dances, concerts and BBQs, this expansive area near the Miwok Indigenous Plant Garden would have been the perfect extension to the Marsh House, which was built to entertain, impress and set new standards of grandeur in California. Marsh would have wanted new immigrants to learn - and be entertained at the same time. He wanted to impress guests with all that California could give: dining in the sunshine and under the stars, his daughter Alice's wedding with a full string orchestra, a BBQ for all his vaqueros, neighbors and family, or even a visiting Harvard professor lecturing about Roman architecture.

Today the grassy amphitheatre is a natural extension of the ballroom, an exciting outdoor event space, or a place for meditating, journaling and just plain breathing. It is a space for formal and informal celebrations, performances and intriguing happenings.



Dining al Fresco



## Club Los Meganos

Los Meganos, the name of John Marsh's rancho, is the Spanish term for "sand dunes." This picturesque appellation brings a uniquely inviting and gracious flavor to the core of the Vineyards experience: The Club Los Meganos, home to Café d'Oro, Abby's Gourmet Studio, the Mt. Diablo Ballroom, the Delta Athletic Club, Sawa Spa, the Kirkland Learning Center, the Helak Room, the John Marsh Historical Library and the Mail Room. The Club is a place where warm and lasting friendships are built and nurtured, and personal interests and involvements are pursued in an elegant yet relaxed environment where Vineyards residents may come together in a comfortable and unpretentiously inviting atmosphere.

**II. Café d'Oro:** Everyone was fed at Rancho Los Meganos, even when the rancho had to resort to consuming seed grain. During the rancho's earlier bachelor days, dining was rustic and focused on BBQ beef, tortillas and other staple goods. Once Abby joined the household, there were butter, cheeses, eggs and a variety of fruit and vegetables. Marsh grew wheat in the winter and corn in the summer, so there would have been breads and other baked delicacies. In looking at the Marsh House, it becomes obvious that Abby and John had planned to entertain elaborately. Today, the Café offers its signature Oregon Trail 1847 sourdough loaves, branded with John Marsh's personal cattle brand, seen at right.

However formal the house may seem, the atmosphere would have been relaxed and multi-cultural in every way, a place where pioneers, landowners, vaqueros and Indians were equally welcome. Marsh would have insisted on hearty foods, a substantial BBQ, crusty bread, a full pantry - sharp knives and an enormous butcher block; Abby would have relished her colorful vegetables, English tea, sweet desserts, butter and cheeses, elegant bone china, Bohemian crystal, Italian linen and Belgian lace.



Fine Wines at Café d'Oro



Gold Flake food Decoration



Anchor-branded steaks

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

Had they lived today, John and Abby Marsh would have traveled the world and fallen in love with its cultures, foods, people and enterprises. They would have enjoyed the Mediterranean to the hilt; John would have studied its myriad languages and history, soon establishing lucrative trading partnerships. Abby would have collected artifacts, written postcards and frequented the Terme spas in constant pursuit of improving her health. She would have enjoyed local farmers' markets and spent hours in Italy's little bistros, watching life go by. Vineyards will bring this life and lifestyle back to Brentwood with Marsh's uniquely inviting and educational approach to living life fully and well.

The European-style Café d'Oro ties back to the gold Marsh buried on the rancho - the gold that was never found. Service is friendly, in a warm and inviting atmosphere offering cozy conversation nooks. It is without doubt the heart of the Club, where everyone meets for their morning chat.

Specialty coffees, pastries, light meals and a glass of wine invite one to relax - and stay for a while. Light classical music underlines the sophistication and warmth of the morning, while occasional live music invite an impromptu celebration of spectacular mountain sunsets. The foods follow a balanced optimal health regime, focused on organic, fresh and simple - a celebration of taste, color and seasonality. Local grapes, olives, stone fruit and produce are spun into many of the signature dishes.

Some signature menu items might include:

- Gold flakes on the signature pastries—staff would tell the story of the gold John Marsh found during the gold rush, which was buried on this ranch and never found. It could be in anyone's garden. . .
- The Marsh brand on steaks and loaves - staff will explain how Dr. Marsh was paid for his medical services: one head of cattle for every mile he traveled to treat a patient.
- 1847 Oregon Trail Sourdough as a signature bread, either with olives or raisins ("wine berries")—Rancho Los Meganos was the first place in Contra Costa to grow



Dr. Marsh's cattle brand



Original Oregon Trail Sourdough Loaves

wheat, so we are featuring a whole-wheat bread, baked with the olives of the land, as well as the original 1847 Oregon Trail Sourdough bread recipe.

- Alice Fairy Cakes—the Miwoks adored Alice, being the palest and most fragile child they had ever seen. An ‘Alice Tea’ might even be offered for children’s events.
- Signature food cooked on sizzling granite from Mt. Diablo - continuing the use of the hot granite, there could be a signature menu item cooked on sizzling hot stones.
- Abby’s Butter and Preserves—a vat of butter with the ranch brand and preserves of stone fruit, labeled in “her” handwriting.
- Nunn’s olives and olive oil, organic jams and preserves by local growers, and other regional delicacies will grace the tables of Café d’Oro as the seasons turn.
- And, who could forget the famous Marsh cannonball? Now in the form of delectable chocolate cannonball truffles and glace’d ‘bomb’ shells!



Cannonball Truffles



Signature Preserves

**12. Abby’s Gourmet Studio:** Adjacent to the ballroom, this inviting studio functions as a display kitchen, catering kitchen, ballroom buffet extension, and cutting-edge classroom, inviting cooking demonstrations, lectures and private dining, as well as featuring low glycemic foods in conjunction with Vineyards’ Optimal Lifestyle story. Linked to Harvard’s Optimal Health research, serving foods that indicate its glycemic index (GLYX) not only follows today’s health trends, but is easily possible with a Vineyards-inspired Mediterranean diet in mind.



Harvard Optimal Health Menus



Fresh-baked Whole-grain Breads



Low-glycemic Recipes

**13 . Mt. Diablo Ballroom:** The grand ballroom features expansive views of Mt. Diablo, the area's most significant visual and spiritual icon. Views are even more dramatic from the outdoor event space and amphitheater.



The idea of a 'grand ballroom' captures the Marsh's dream of elegance.

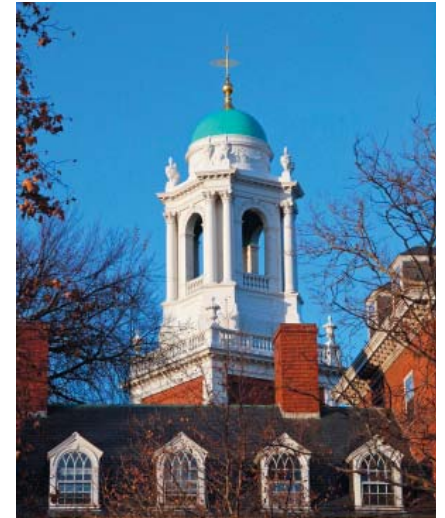
### 14. The Delta Athletic Club

- Harvard Athletics was a new development during John Marsh's time at the school, and in some ways evolved because of actions taken by Marsh and his fellow classmates.
- Exercises were vital to Marsh's success at Harvard, and in his later life adventures
- Marsh managed his headaches and temper with exercises and fresh air throughout his life

John Marsh studied at Harvard between 1819-1823, and “the class of 1823 was a rollicking, turbulent set.” Even while making his mark as a solid student, Marsh was expelled from Harvard twice for rioting, which was a common occurrence during that time. A split stone step at Hollis Hall, caused by a dropped cannon ball aimed at an unwary professor, today remains proof of those riots - and of Marsh's involvement. John Marsh was identified as the perpetrator when sharp-eyed staff members detected his distinctive handwriting on the note tied around the ball, initiating his second dismissal from the campus.

Harvard's president during that period, John Thornton Kirkland (term 1810-1828) was probably the most remarkable and beloved president Harvard ever had. For Kirkland, wit and learning belonged together; treating the students as gentlemen to turn them into gentlemen, was his revolutionary tutorial idea. He had magnetic charm, a fertile imagination, transparent clearness of his mental perceptions, fine and subtle ethic instincts, and good common sense . . . all of which greatly influenced John Marsh throughout his life.

The university understood that a “system of bodily exercises to manage the frequent riots and occasional rebellions” to “work the devil out of the students,” was needed. Dr. John Collins Warren and Charles Follen were commissioned to establish a college gymnasium.



A Harvard campus landmark



Water sports were featured at Harvard

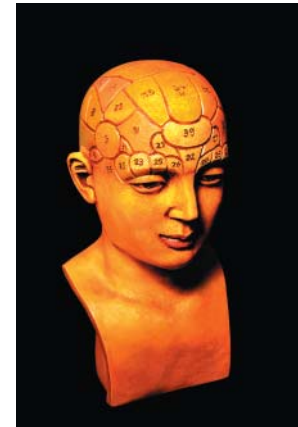
## Trilogy at the Vineyards

Hoping to find constructive outlets for youthful and often-riotous energies, the Governing Boards authorized the establishment of a College gymnasium. Parallel and horizontal bars, trapezes, and flying rings were set up in a triangular outdoor lot called “the Delta”, just west of today’s Memorial Hall.

Part of University Hall’s dining room was also equipped for winter exercise. The dining room turned out not to be a popular spot for exercising, so a circular (some call it octagonal) brick gym was later built, now known as the Rogers Building - or the “Old Gymnasium.” There were also bathing houses on the college wharf. Before starting his exercise regimen, Marsh complained of frequent headaches, both prior to and throughout his studies at Harvard, which he learned to keep at bay through exercising and fresh air. Later in life, he continued to exercise and made fresh air activities part of his lifestyle - inspiring the fitness & aquatics facilities of the Gymnasium and Bath House at Trilogy Vineyards.

Design inspirations include:

- A round brick or stone structure, much like Harvard’s first gymnasium
- A triangle-shaped outdoor exercise area, like “the Delta,” Harvard’s first outdoor gym
- A crack in the building’s front steps
- Harvard athletic paraphernalia & athletic colors
- Antique wood gym flooring from Harvard



Phrenology bust



1800's Harvard Athletics Poster



Outdoor gym facilities give variety to Vineyards workouts.

### 15. Sawā Spa (Rock Spa, Miwok)

The Sawa Spa at Vineyards is inspired by Bay Miwok healing, which features three core therapeutic elements: heat, water, and stones. For centuries the Miwoks Indians used these three natural elements in various ways.

They regularly visited the local hot springs - later known as Byron Hot Springs, combining water and heat with buoyancy, a significant element for healing and relaxation. Secondly, they built sweat lodges which were heated by hot rocks occasionally splashed with cool water, creating an intense and deeply cleansing mineral steam. The natural sweating effect produced by such action between heat, water and stone is a key element in body detoxification and relaxation, especially when incorporating spiritual cleansing rituals intended to purify the spirit and mind.

Furthermore, hot rocks were used in cooking by placing them into the stews and acorn mush dishes they cooked in tightly woven baskets. Therefore, a variety of handwoven baskets become key design and operational elements, as well as rocks, stone and water.

The spa honors these elements by using them in creative and elegant ways, meeting and surpassing today's lifestyle spa trends, and by creating a unique spa concept based upon these indigenous essentials from nature. The spa concept will be supplemented by healing plants (grapes, aromatherapy, oils, scrubs, tinctures, infusions, etc.) used by the natives, as well as vinotherapy elements that would connect the spa to the "Vineyards" story. Many of the Miwoks also used Byron Hot Springs.

Suggested offerings might include stone baths, replacing the ubiquitous Finnish sauna, which does not connect to the Vineyards story. Kurland Haslauer created these eventful saunas (photo on right); an adaptation of Miwok Native American design elements would be recom-



Treatments for both Women and Men



Treatments feature local plants and florals

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

mended, including perhaps an oversized basket to replace the metal kettle, as well as other Miwok-inspired color and design features.

Furthermore, a “usable” hot rock water feature has been discussed as a key feature of the common waiting/circulation space of the spa. Surrounding a large, warm center rock would be a knee-deep foot-bath surrounded by a stone bench. Spa-goers could enjoy the sensation of sitting on warmed rock and either dipping their feet into warm water or resting them against the warm center rock. Although this idea is not yet finalized, it was agreed that this signature space would offer a “free” treatment/relaxation feature, which would offer all key touchpoints: heat, water & rock, and perhaps an inverted “dome basket.”

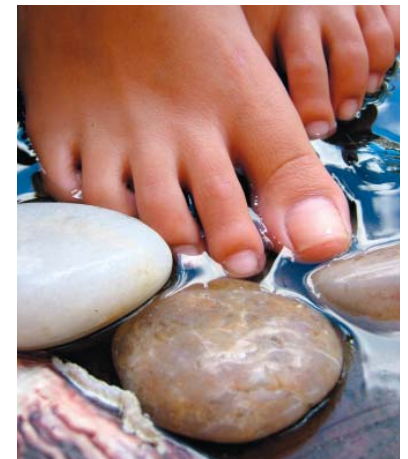
This area, possibly called “Weeya,” meaning “sacred ritual” in the Miwok language, and the spa itself could certainly create interesting ritual-based experiences for residents, and could be supplemented by portable warm rocks which spa-goers could place on their bodies to enhance relaxation.



Heated Stone Massage



Hot Rock Sauna



Local stones used for heat treatments



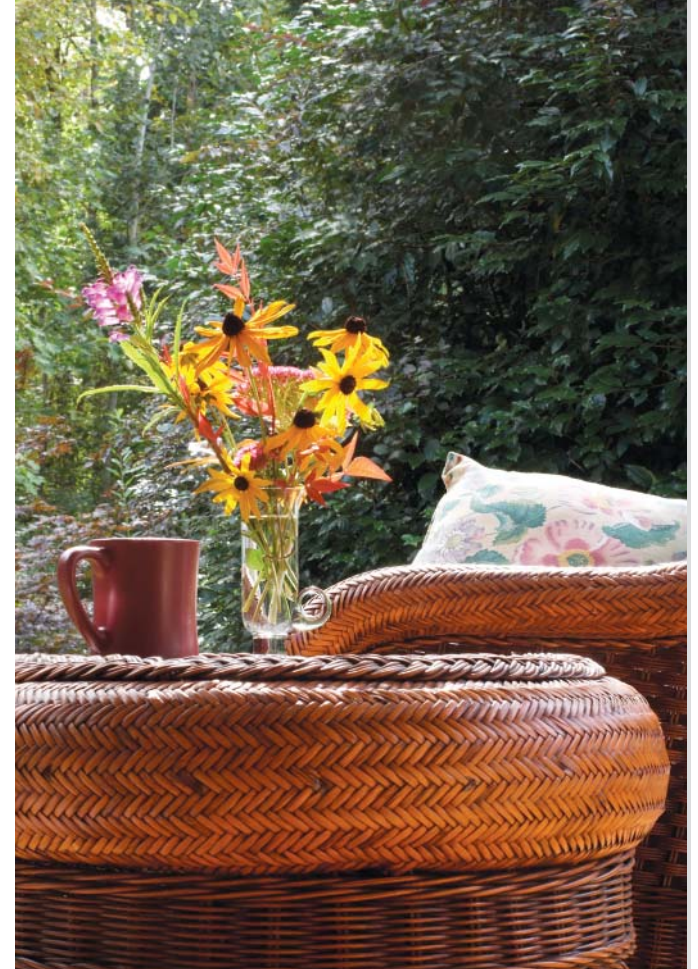
## Trilogy at the Vineyards

As an added cultural touch, beautifully woven baskets would be used for some of the key operational tasks such as towel transportation, storage and display, used towels, treatment trays, etc. The interior designers are aware of incorporating woven and basket elements, along with rocks and other Miwok design elements into the spa environment.

Outdoor areas of the spa, such as the spa garden and private treatment patios, will feature streams, alder trees and warm boulders, connecting these areas back to the Abby Marsh story. By doing so, we hope to create somewhat magical healing environments which spa customers may discover and enjoy for moments of rejuvenation, privacy - and to replenish all of the senses.

The spa story will become part of Vineyards greater optimal health program and lifestyle story by linking their offerings to the Harvard Optimal Health program, allowing an integrated approach of food, exercise, relaxation, lifestyle, intellectual pursuit and socialization.

The feel of the spa is integrated with the overall design of the Club, creating a distinctly residential, warm and intimate, almost romantic mood. It will become a place for individuals to discover and come to cherish as time passes. It will also immerse residents in a stylish environment which both lifts the spirits and honors the natives of this land. The spa will integrate indoors and outdoors to create a uniquely non-clinical environment. The space features water, natural stone, aged timber, polished wooden flooring, calmly splashing water, fireplaces, and various woven elements remi-



Outdoor Sawa Spa Garden

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

niscent of the Miwok. Again, the feeling, treatments and other customer touchpoints will connect back to heat, water and rocks.

**16. Entry:** A breathtaking welcome to California, as never seen before, this spectacular entry embodies a play between the world-famous California way of life (easy-going, friendly and fun-loving) and who John Marsh was (hard-working, ambitious, and serious). Marsh's Rancho was the cross between a hotel in the wilderness, an immigrations office and a chamber of commerce—a one-stop shop for setting up in California.

**17. Helak Room:** John and Abby built Marsh House to welcome and entertain in the grandest style possible at that time in California. Unfortunately they both passed away before the Marsh House was completed. To “finish their dream” this living room will be as welcoming today as it would have been in their lifetime.

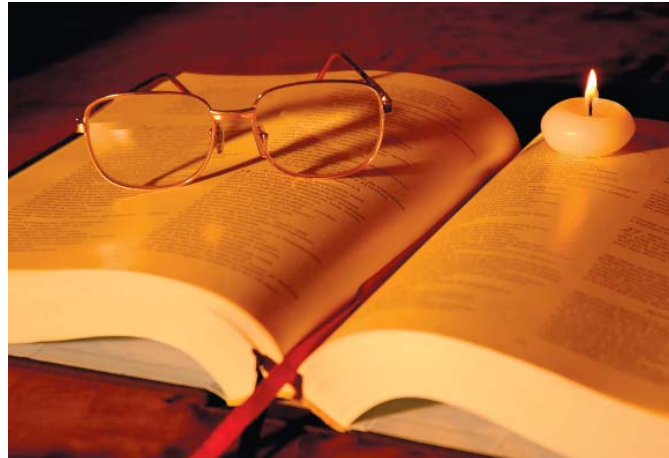


A Warm Welcome in the Helak Room

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

**18. The Kirkland Center for Higher Learning:** John Marsh's lifelong learning was strongly influenced by Harvard's favorite president, John Thornton Kirkland. John Marsh was among the very first college-educated Americans to settle in California. He believed in learning and teaching like few others and became the man he was because of his good, solid Harvard education. His Harvard diploma was one of his most prized possessions. The learning center at Vineyards will have strong design and programming influence from Harvard. An additional new element: might be inspired by recent local Miwok historical excavations. The décor will bring visions of a mid-1800's Harvard library, steeped in the traditions of a revered and world-renowned University .

**19. John Marsh Historic Library:** Bringing back visions of John Marsh's original adobe building and the rustic fireplace by which he enjoyed reading his books and correspondence, this comfortable, cozy space tells his story and provides glimpses into his exciting life.



History with a difference: The John Marsh Historic Library



The Kirkland Center for Higher Learning

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

**20. The Mail Room:** Abby & John were avid letter-writers and we learn about the rancho's history through their voluminous correspondence. John was particularly famous for his letters, which became instrumental in establishing California statehood. His descriptions of finding a way through the Rockies and Sierras, all the way to his ranch, were important influences in colonizing the state. The Mail Room would be a perfect place to bring back the romance of "old-fashioned" communications - perhaps even offering "old-fashioned" stationery, journals, fountain pens and ink to keep the tradition going at Vineyards.

**21. Sales Center & Model Homes:** At the heart of setting the tone and telling the story of John Marsh and California history, this key client touchpoint represents Los Meganos Rancho itself as both the end of the California Trail and the beginning of new lives.



Glorious Gardens: The Vineyards Legacy

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

### Key Names for Trilogy Vineyards

1. **Club: Club Los Meganos** - Los Meganos was the name of John Marsh's ranch. It means "sand dunes" in Spanish.
2. **Restaurant: Café d'Oro** - The European-style Café d'Oro ties back to the gold Marsh buried on the rancho, the gold that was never found, and the gold that made him wealthy. The "European" aspect connects the project to the vineyards concept.
3. **Spa: Sawã Spa** - Sawã is the Miwok word for stone or rock. Warm and hot rocks were used for cooking, warming, sweating and healing and are a key component in Vineyard's spa.
4. **Fitness: The Delta Athletic Club** - The Delta was a triangular patch of grass at Harvard, where the first athletic exercises were performed. This was during John Marsh's days at Harvard, the riots he was part of being the reason for President Kirkland in establishing the first athletics program at the college.
5. **Living Room: Helak Room** - meaning "warmth" in the Miwok language it reflects the sense of open-door-philosophy John and Abby Marsh had in mind for the Marsh House, welcoming pioneers to California. The living room should reflect this unparalleled hospitality in décor as well as in spirit. Los Meganos was at the end of the long California Trail, which led across the Sierras and ended at the Marsh House.
6. **Library: John Marsh Library** - this room is a reincarnation of Marsh's living area in the adobe and will tell his life's story.
7. **Ballroom: Mt. Diablo Ballroom** - the best views of Mt. Diablo are enjoyed from here, the sacred mountain of the Miwok.
8. **Gourmet Studio: Abby's** - Abby, Marsh's second wife, was responsible to take the bachelor ranch to a new culinary level. Abby imported many seeds from her home on the east coast, grew a large variety of fruits and vegetables, introduced chickens, cows and goats, made cheeses, cream and butter—a great diversification from the slabs of beef served with tortillas the vaqueros were content to eat.
9. **Center for Higher Learning: The Kirkland Center for Higher Learning** - this room will be designed like a Harvard Law Library, and John Thornton Kirkland was the president of Harvard during Marsh's matriculation, and also an important mentor in his life.

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

### Additional Suggestions for Street Names

Suggestions for street names; endings such as –street, -lane, -way, -blvd., -avenue, -court, -circle, -terrace, etc. will be added as needed.

1. Trail's End The rancho Los Meganos was the end of the CA Trail
2. New Beginnings Continuation of the above
3. La Vereda Del Monte Means Mountain Trail, trail from Marsh Rancho to Brentwood
4. Los Meganos Name of John Marsh's ranch, Spanish for "sand dunes"
5. Marsh's Landing The San Joaquin port John Marsh established, now Antioch
6. Miles & Cattle John Marsh charged a head of cattle per mile traveled to patients
7. Gold Rush Supplying the gold rush made Los Meganos wealthy
8. Marsh's Diggins John Marsh's gold mine north of Sacramento
9. By the Alder Creek Alder trees grew by Marsh Creek, Abby's favorite spot
10. Santa Fe Trail Trail John Marsh traveled
11. National Road Trail John Marsh traveled
12. Missouri River River on which John Marsh traveled
13. California Trail Trail John Marsh created and described, ending at Los Meganos
14. Sacred Mountain What Mt. Diablo was for the Miwoks
15. Bay Miwok Native Indian tribe living on Los Meganos
16. Isabella Grape grown on Los Meganos
17. Catawba Grape grown on Los Meganos
18. Camphorwood Chinese chest John Marsh used for all his precious belongings
19. Harvard John Marsh's alma mater
20. Salem John Marsh's home town
21. Ft. Snelling John Marsh's first pioneer appointment
22. Ft. Crawford John Marsh's second pioneer appointment
23. Independence John Marsh's third pioneer adventure

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

24. Cowhide CA “currency” and economic basis for Los Meganos
25. Hides & Tallow CA “currency” and economic basis for Los Meganos
26. Marsh Adobe John Marsh’s first home at Los Meganos
27. Marsh’s Light John Marsh was known to be the light to lead the way to CA
28. Pioneer Spirit John Marsh’s spirit
29. Healing Rocks Bay Miwoks contribution to health
30. Healing Springs If we find hot springs on the land (possibly Byron hot springs vein)
31. Miwok Springs If we find hot springs on the land (possibly Byron hot springs vein)
32. Mission San Jose Mission John Marsh was associated with
33. Mission Dolores Mission John Marsh was associated with
34. Cahuenga Pass Battle John Marsh helped avoid
35. Marsh’s Quarry Quarry for Marsh House stone
36. Alta California Mexican name for Upper California
37. Sawa Miwok word for “stone” or “rock” (“a” is pronounced like the “a” in the English word “father” (glottal stop), and eprents a catch in the throat). [will probably be the name for the spa]
38. Weeya “sacred, ritual” for the Coast Miwok (“eey” is pronounced like the “ey” in the English word “they,” only dragged out).
39. Hii’ & Kome Plains Miwok language for hii’ “sun,” and kome’ “moon,” where ii is pronounced like the “i” in “machine” only dragged out. Remember to pronounce both syllables in “kome”. “o” is pronounced like the “o” in English “know” without the “w”, and “e” is pronounced like the “e” in “set.”
40. Kikke Miwok for “water:” It was probably pronounced kikkE’, where kk is like English k only dragged out, ‘ is a catch in the throat, and E is like the English “e” in the word “places.”
41. Weke Miwok for “fire” was probably wEke’, where the “e” is pronounced like the “e” in English “set.”
42. Teyetta Miwok for “pack basket” (may have been) TEyETTA’. Use “T” for the sound of a “t” with the tongue curled back.
43. Charles John Marsh’s son
44. Alice John Marsh’s daughter
45. Abby John Marsh’s second wife, Alice’s mother
46. Marguerite John Marsh’s first wife, Charles’s mother
47. Kirkland President at Harvard during John Marsh’s terms

## Trilogy at the Vineyards

- 48. John Marsh            Original owner of Los Meganos ranch
- 49. Hidden Treasure    John Marsh's gold was buried and never found at Los Meganos
- 50. Fairy Forest        Alder tree are the mystical homes for fairies
- 51. Oregon Trail        Trail John Marsh traveled
- 52. Prairie du Chien    John Marsh's second pioneer appointment