

**From:** [Diane Oeh](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment - HC](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting the Nomination of the Los Altos DAR Chapter For the Los Altos Historic Preservation Award  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:19:30 AM

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Members of the Los Altos Historical Commission:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Los Altos DAR chapter for the Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

The "Settlers Project" met several of the award criteria:

Demonstration of pioneering or innovation efforts in historic preservation or education - this project took creative

approaches to local history research during a pandemic, engaged 16 people in researching local settlers and writing

their profiles. It took a fresh look at distributing the information in printed and virtual form.

Public Benefit received (educational, beautification, advocacy, etc.) - this early local history is now documented and

broadly available to the public. The project profiled local residents even ones who are not famous and documented

their lives. It engaged descendants of the Berry family and other early settlers in the research and connected the

researchers with the current residents of historic homes. The project documented the namesakes of local streets,

schools and other facilities bringing the meaning back to these names while keeping the early residents' memories alive.

Impact to the City of Los Altos - the project preserves the early history of the City of Los Altos, brings meaning to

local place names and brings the Los Altos community to the world through the broad distribution of the work

on the web and in national and state libraries.

As a resident of Sunnyvale I have often wondered about the meaning behind Murphy Avenue, Kifer Road, Grant Road, Murphy Road, Magdalena Avenue and others. The Settlers Project informed me about the naming of each of these places along with information on the early residents.

I wrote the profile of Shelby Hood Kifer for whom Kifer Road is named. It was very interesting to delve into the maps, vital records, gravesite information, city directories, obituaries and

databases to learn about Shelby Hood Kifer, his family and his life. In 1853, his parents sold their land in Missouri, traveled overland with oxen to California and settled near Mount View, California. Shelby Hood Kifer lived with his parents until 1870 and by 1876 his father had a land grant along Grant Road and Permanente Creek which Shelby owned by 1889 and farmed until the end of his life in 1910. He was highly respected in the community and was a successful orchardist and farmer.

Please name the Los Altos DAR Chapter project the winner of this year's Los Altos Historic Preservation Award.

Thank you,

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