

MISSION PEAK REPORTER

FEB - APRIL 2016

Editor, Al Minard

FEBRUARY 2016

Wednesday, February 3, 1 PM to 3 PM, Shinn House open to the public for docent led tours.



Wednesday, February 3, Noon to 4 PM, Shinn House Archive Room Library open to the public.

Saturday, February 6, Volunteer and Docent tour of Robert Dollar/ Fallkirk Mansion, San Rafael. Call Joan at 510-795-0891 for time and arrangements.

Wednesday, February 10, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net



Sunday, February 14, Valentine's Day, Tell everyone you know that you Love them.



Monday, February 15, President's Day Holiday, many banks and businesses closed.



Tuesday, February 16, 10 AM, Meet at the Museum of Local History to learn about doing a "Passport to History" program to encourage more people, especially young ones, to visit our historic sites.

Wednesday, February 17, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net



Thursday, February 18, 7 PM to 9 PM, Mission

Peak Heritage Foundation Board meeting in the Shinn House Archive room everyone welcome to attend.



Sunday, February 21, 1 PM to 3 PM, Shinn House open to the public for docent led tours.

Monday, February 22, 9:30 to 3:30, Christie Dentry is presenting a class titled DPOE on how to preserve digital images for generations. This class is provided by the City of Fremont Recreation Department, that costs \$40 per person.

Wednesday, February 24, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net



Thursday, February 25, Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS) Spring Symposium in San Juan Capistrano, 5 Pm to 6:30 PM, opening reception.

Friday, February 26, CCHS tour of Chapman University and Huell Howser Archives.

Saturday, February 27, CCHS Symposium in San Juan Capistrano.

Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Dues become due on January 1.

Dues are \$10 for single address for one year or \$45 for single address for Five-Years or \$75 for single address for Ten-Years
Mail your check to MISSION PEAK HERITAGE FOUNDATION at P.O. BOX 3078, FREMONT, CA 94539

March 2016

Wednesday, March 2, 1 PM to 3 PM, Shinn House open to the public for docent led tours.



Wednesday, March 2, Noon to 4 PM, Shinn House Archive Room Library open to the public.

Saturday, March 5, 10 AM to 4 PM, San Francisco History Expo Day at the old Mint.

Sunday, March 6, 10 AM to 4 PM, San Francisco History Expo Day at the old Mint.

Wednesday, March 9, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net



Sunday, March 13 Daylight Savings time begins, please set your clocks ahead one hour and don't be late.



Wednesday, March 16, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net

Thursday, March 17, St Patrick's Day, wear something green.

Thursday, March 17, 7 PM to 9 PM, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board meeting in the Shinn House Archive room everyone welcome to attend.

Saturday, March 19, Noon to 6 PM, Alameda County History Day competition at the Oakland Museum, downstairs. Documentaries, Exhibits and Performances are open to the public to enjoy for free, each candidate has 10 minutes for the documentaries or performances. Award ceremony at about 5 PM.

Sunday, March 20, 1 to 3 PM, Shinn House open to the public for docent led tours.



Wednesday, March 23, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net



Sunday, March 27, Easter

Monday, March 28, 7:15 PM to 9 PM, Washington Township Historical Society meeting at the Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Mission San Jose area.



Wednesday, March 30, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net

APRIL 2016

Friday, April 1, April Fool's Day, Watch out for pranks.

Saturday, April 2, Noon, The Shinn House Docents present, "April Showers Tea", with Bonnie "The Hat Lady" Remigio presenting hats from several different decades.



Tuesday, April 5, 7 PM to 9 PM, Washington Township Historical Society and the Museum of Local History Guild present a talk by Jim Griffin on "Pioneer Women and their Men" at the Irvington Odd Fellows Hall, upstairs.

Wednesday, April 6, 1 PM to 3 PM, Shinn House open to the public for docent led tours.



Wednesday, April 6, Noon to 4 PM, Shinn House Archive Room Library open to the public.

Wednesday, April 13, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net

Sunday, April 17, 1 to 3 PM, Shinn House open to the public for docent led tours.



Wednesday, April 20, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net

Thursday, April 21, 7 PM to 9 PM, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board meeting in the Shinn House Archive room everyone welcome to attend.

Wednesday, April 27, 10 AM to Noon, Docent training for anyone interested in learning how to be a docent at the Shinn House. Call Al at 510-552-4839 to confirm or email at: alminard@comcast.net All Docents that are available will celebrate a graduation exercise as Docents of the Historic Shinn House. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome to enjoy and honor our new docents.



MAY 2016

Wednesday, May 4, 1 PM to 3 PM, Shinn House open to the public for docent led tours.

Wednesday, May 4, Noon to 4 PM, Shinn House Archive Room Library open to the public.

Sunday, May 8, Mother's Day, do something to honor your mother.



Sunday, May 15, 1 to 3 PM, Shinn House open to the public for docent led tours.

Thursday, May 19, 7 PM to 9 PM, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board meeting in the Shinn House Archive room everyone welcome to attend.

Monday, May 23, 7:15 PM to 9 PM, Washington Township Historical Society meeting in the Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont.



Photos of the Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Volunteers field trip to the Robert Dollar/ Falkirk Mansion in San Rafael on Saturday, February 6, 2016.



Joseph Washburn Clark

1813-1878

Joseph W. Clark was born to Abraham Clark (1780-1855) and Milicent Washburn Clark (1784-1863) in their historic home in Farmington, Connecticut. In 1830 they moved to New Haven where Joseph was attending Yale. But in the fall of 1831 Abraham left with a group of families who were relocating to western Illinois. Joseph eventually graduated from Yale Medical School in 1837; went into medical practice in Illinois, Iowa and then in 1842 moved to Platteville, Wisconsin (an area of zinc mining) which was across the Mississippi River not far from Dubuque, Iowa, with his parents, his brother Dennis and his four sisters, Mary, Jane, Anne and Lucy, effectively acting as head of the family.

In the early spring of 1850 Dr. Clark left Platteville and went by wagon train to California; the story is that he never traveled on Sunday but that he often overtook the others in the train who kept going every day because his mules had been refreshed by their day of rest! He went into business selling supplies to miners in Georgetown with his brother-in-law Elias Gill. In 1852 he went back to Platteville and brought out his wife, Jane Wells Fessenden (also from Farmington) and children, and his brother Dennis. They formed a company called Gill, Clark & Co., again selling supplies in Sacramento and San Francisco (52 California St.). Dennis had married Mary Caroline (Carrie) Hubbs in Portland, Maine in 1850 and only stayed two years in California before returning to live in Portland. Joseph's mother and sister Jane came around 1854. In 1858 Jane married Edmund Sanford who had come to California in 1850 and they settled in Oakland where he had a drugstore at 10th St. and Broadway.

One of Dennis Clark's daughters, Emma, graduated from Wellesley in 1879 and married architect George Percy who was also from Maine in 1881. Percy came to California to design some buildings for Stanford University and he and Emma settled in Oakland. In 1928 Emma gave to the Society a letter written by Dennis Clark in December 1852 describing the city of San Francisco, reprinted in the December 1928 Quarterly (Volume V No. 4). Their daughter Isabelle Percy was born in 1883. Isabelle became an artist and architect and in 1907 was one

of the three founders of what became the California College of Arts and Crafts at Broadway and College Avenues in Oakland. There is a gallery at CCAC that bears her name, Isabelle Percy West.

In the 1850s Dr. Clark is variously listed as being in business (Hill, Clark & Co., 87 Front St. San Francisco and with Coghill & Co. at 71 Front St.) and as a physician, residing on the south side of Harrison between 2nd and 3rd St. In 1856 Dr. Clark purchased a 150-acre ranch on the banks of Alameda Creek in Niles from William Sim and he asked his youngest sister, Lucy and her husband Joseph Shinn to come manage it. On August 16, 1856, Joseph Clark received a deed for the land from Sim and also executed an agreement for eventual ownership by James and Lucy Shinn.

James and Lucy (Clark) Shinn had left Platteville about the same time as Dr. Clark and initially moved to Tennessee in 1851 and then to Texas in 1852 before coming to Niles in 1856. The fact that Texas was becoming a pro-slavery state did not sit well with James Shinn's Quaker principles and so he may still have been looking for a suitable place to farm and raise his family. The stimulus for the move to California came in the opportunity provided by his brother-in-law Dr. Clark who wanted to assist his sister and her family to join him in California. The Shinn/Clark Ranch was a small part of the huge acreage of Mission San Jose, founded in 1797. After Mexican independence from Spain in 1821 there was pressure to disband the missions and the land was subdivided into various land grants, one of the latest of which was 30,000 acres granted to Andreas Pico by Governor Pio Pico in 1846. In 1849 early Mormon settlers Beard and Horner purchased some of this land from Pico and in 1852 William and Eliza Sim bought land along the Alameda Creek from them. Sim had built a cottage on the property from lumber salvaged from a schooner that had been abandoned in the Bay during the Gold Rush. James and Lucy and their five children lived in this small house for 20 years until the "Big House" was built in 1876. Both buildings are still standing in a city park in what is now Fremont (2004).

Two of the Shinn children made notable contributions to the intellectual life of early California. Charles Howard Shinn (1852-1924) was a journalist, author and forester. Milicent Washburn Shinn (1856-

1940) was the first woman to receive a doctorate from the University of California, and edited the Overland Monthly magazine.

When gold mining began, vegetables and fruits were sold at exorbitant prices.

According to The History of Washington Township "The first record of fruit-raising in Niles was in 1856 when William Sim had a few peach trees in bearing.... There was great demand for the fruit and it sold for a dollar a peach. Mr. Sim, fearing he might be robbed, set his man to watch the tree at night, but in the morning the man and the peaches were gone."!

James Shinn continued the fruit propagation experiments that had been started by Captain Sim and planted one of the first and largest fruit orchards in Alameda County. Over time, with successful harvests, he added more land to his ranch. In 1870, in partnership with Dr. Clark, Shinn established one of the earliest nurseries in the area. In a letter on New Year's Day 1874 he wrote:

"I am extremely busy. This is the season for selling trees. We are digging up thousands, and sending to various places. We filled two railroad cars very lately, entirely with trees, about 6,000 in each car, to go to different towns and then be distributed. We sell trees mostly 2 years old, and as we planted our first 2 years ago, we are now selling our first. But we have a great many of 1 year old, which will wait one year more. And shall set out this winter 60 or 80 thousand young ones."

They were the first in the county to import trees and plants from abroad, especially Japan, among them special varieties of peach and mandarin orange; some of the original specimen trees are still growing on the land. Instead of an illustrated catalogue, the nurseries in Japan sent water color paintings of their plants to show what they looked like and many of these survived and were distributed to the cousins when the Shinn House was closed around 1970 and donated to the city. A rice paper scroll has also survived, which served as the bill of lading for a shipment of trees and plants from Japan around 1880.

Milicent Shinn later wrote about her Grandfather Clark that he was known as "the most perfect Puritan in San Francisco." He did not resume his medical practice in California, but was active in various business ventures

and the First Congregational Church of San Francisco. In 1862-63 he served one term in the State Legislature. In 1875 he is listed in the S.F. City Directory as a mining secretary, working at 418 California St., and residing at 615 Harrison St. "From the time when he learned his catechism beside his mother's spinning wheel in a Farmington farmhouse, and guided his blind grandfather every Sunday to his seat in the Farmington church, through all his school and college life, his medical practice in the wild West, and his long business life in San Francisco, he was a boy and man of peculiarly blameless life and character." Dr. Clark died in San Francisco in December 1878. He had two children who survived to adulthood: Lucy, who married Henry Tichenor who had lumber mills in Mendocino Co; and Joseph Fessenden Clark who was associated with the Navarro Mill Co. and lumber dealers in San Francisco.

Submitted by Kathryn Kasch, great-great granddaughter of Lucy Clark Shinn, Aug. 11, 2004

November 7, 1905

Dear Florence,

I have always called you so, and I shall not do otherwise in the future; for Joe's sake I shall lay less emphasis on the "dear", but continue "Florence" for you know we have sort of grown up together, and I had abundant reasons to call your "Ma" my "Ma." To her encouragements and tender care I owe much in my early ministerial life. Surely then I am exceedingly glad not only to be present but also according to your request to officiate at the nuptials of my sister and my cousin Joseph. May God's richest blessing follow you both all the days of your earthly journey, and when that's over, may you both so have lived and loved, that an abundant entrance shall be yours above.

Several weeks ago I congratulated Joe because of the food fortune coming to him, to have a life companion endowed with those arts and graces of a womanly woman, such as you. You too need special congratulations for Joe has always been known as a model among men. Were I asked to point a fault in him, I could not find any weakness in him. Surely such a union can foreshadow nothing else but great happiness.

Mrs. Maar joins me in these thoughts.

In anticipation of a most blessed day, I remain yours in His Name.

Frederic Maar

Kindest regards to your father and mother and Emelita.

Clark's Point

By Ann Clark Hart

Published by Pioneer Press in 1937

James and Lucy Shinn came to California because Lucy's brother Dr. Joseph Clark had purchased 250 acres of land from William Sim, where the Shinn House is now located. Kathryn Kasch, great granddaughter of Charles Howard Shinn is regularly looking for additional information about her family. Kathryn ran across a book titled "Clark's Point" written by Ann Clark Hart and told me about this book. I researched the purchase price of this book from www.ABE.com and it was priced at \$70.00 plus shipping. I then checked the Fremont Main Library and found that it was available from another library so I ordered the book and read it.

William S. Clark, who Clark's Point refers to, was one of many by that name in San Francisco in the 1850's but as far as I know was not related to Lucy Clark Shinn. Clark is apparently an Americanization of the job title "clerk", of which there were many. Lucy's brother was Joseph and the Clark that was associated with "Clark's Point" was William S. Clark.

The author of this book writes, "The story of the First Wharf in San Francisco Bay as told by William S. Clark,

"Yerba Buena in 1847 began to assume some life. Early in that year under Alcalde Bartlett the town took the name of the Bay—San Francisco. Yerba Buena had been originally named under the following circumstances: There lived in the locality a widow named Juana Briones, who gathered herbs on Telegraph Hill from which she concocted a very palatable tea. The local territorial officers in making their periodical excursions to the Embarcadero always partook freely of this delicious beverage —*yerba buena* or "good herb" tea. Hence the name Yerba Buena was given to the locality.

"I was firmly convinced that California at the end of the war would be deeded to the United States, hence I say the importance of the site of San Francisco. Its location on the bay made it superior to all the other towns on the Coast as a commercial point. Therefor I proceeded at once to make permanent improvements. I first looked around for building materials, as I desired to construct a warehouse and a wharf. There were no

materials at hand hence I was obliged to cross the bay to a stretch of timber land lying north of Angel Island on the mainland. There I cut down trees and prepared the lumber and piles necessary for such structures. I was occupied for about two months on this work in the redwoods. I succeeded in engaging a launch from General Sutter to convey the lumber to Clark's Point at the foot of Broadway Street, and there I immediately began the construction of my warehouse. After the land was surveyed I was able to obtain legal title by securing an alcalde grant to the lot at Clark's Point, where I had already built my cabin and was living.

"In the construction of my wharf a great difficulty presented itself, I had no pile driver, and no suitable material was at hand out of which to make one. No pile driver had ever been used in the vicinity of San Francisco Bay before this date. But necessity being the mother of invention and circumstances favoring my plans, I found on visiting a whale ship anchored at Sausalito on the opposite side of the bay that it was ballasted with pig iron. I got some blocks of this pig-iron, and binding the pieces together with iron straps, I made a hammer of about twelve hundred pounds weight, which answered the purpose of a pile driver. As for machinery, my raising apparatus was a gin or windlass power worked by two men. This windlass I obtained from the salvage of a wrecked vessel; I paid one hundred dollars for it. My assistants, a carpenter and a blacksmith, had never before seen a pile driver in operation; hence some difficulty was encountered in getting it in proper working order. With this crude machinery and with the assistance of these rough workmen, I proceeded with the construction of my wharf to the extent of one hundred and fifty feet. It was the first wharf built on piles on the Pacific Coast north of Panama. Before the wharf had been planked and finished the brig *Belfast* from New York, loaded with merchandise, De Witt and Harrison, owners hauled up alongside and discard her cargo; this was the first vessel docked at a wharf in the harbor of San Francisco."

In an editorial paragraph September 30, 1848, the weekly Californian announced:

"An era in the history of California has occurred since our last publication, which we lose no time in

placing upon record. The event to which we allude is no less than the appearance of square rigged vessel, the brig *Belfast* from New York, at the wharf at the foot of Broadway, actually fast to and lying peaceably alongside the said wharf, the like of which we believe that venerated individual "the oldest inhabitant" has no recollection of ever beholding before in San Francisco, or even in any part of the Territory. We have been credibly informed that as soon as the Belfast was seen lying at the wharf, foot of Broadway, and discharging her cargo, goods fell 25 percent and real estate rose 50 to 100 percent."

□□□□

The Clark's Point book also mentions a slightly different history of California becoming a state. There is no bibliography in the book so I am unsure of the information, but it is interesting. The author states that although the local people who represented California to the United States Congress, had agreed that the border of California would be Mexico, the peak of the Sierra Mountains and the border of Oregon. When they went to Washington City, congress wanted to include all that was obtained from Mexico into one state divided into North California and South California, with North California being a free state and South California being a slave state. This was not what the elected representatives from California wanted, they had already voted that California would be a free state. According to the book, it was presented once with the large borders in committee, I think, and approved and the following day it was brought back up and became the California we know now. The book mentioned that it was presented during several terms of Congress before finally being approved as it is now.

The land that was given to America by treaty included all of what is now Arizona, all of Nevada and a lot of Colorado.

This book also refers to the Laurel Hill Cemetery, first named Lone Mountain Cemetery.

"In many of the big cities of the United States there are old cemeteries, Trinity, in New York, is over two hundred years old. That is to say, the churchyard is. New York City looks on Trinity churchyard with a feeling akin to affection. Yet it was not always so. More than once has Trinity been in danger. There is a certain order of mind which looks on open ground

in a city as worse than wasted. These people might be called the Grabbers. Central Park, New York, has always been in danger, and had the many schemes for "utilizing" Central Park been carried out, the park would now be a solid mass of buildings. Trinity churchyard in New York did not have the magnificent expanse of Central Park, but small as it is it excited the greed of the Grabbers. They spewed the idea of a street through old Trinity. This was in the days just after the Revolution. At first Trinity's lot owners and pew holders laughed at the idea. But they soon found that the plan was popular.

Carlisle wrote in his day, "England has a population of twenty millions, mostly fools." If Carlisle were alive today [1937] he might write, "New York has a population of seven millions, mostly fools." The proportion of New York fools was probably just as high one-hundred and fifty years ago as now, and Trinity found that the Grabbers greatly impressed the fools. The Trinity trustees found that the Grabbers plan was to extend Pine Street through the graveyard. The details of the plan are forgotten now, but the Trinity trustees consulted, thought deeply, and evolved another plan. It was to erect a large

**Mission Peak Heritage Foundation
Volunteer Field Trip to the Glass House**
and Forest Home Farms in San Ramon
on Saturday, March 26, 2016. We will be
carpooling from the Shinn House. Please
call Joan Serafino at (510) 795-0891 for more
information. We will leave Fremont at 9:00
AM sharp. We will go to lunch after the tour
at a local restaurant.





APRIL SHOWERS TEA

Saturday, April 2 at noon

The Shinn House is cordially inviting you to spend an afternoon with us for scones, savories, finger sandwiches, tasty desserts, and our “famous” Shinn House tea blend.

Our theme will be April Showers. Come and join us in the Shinn House Archive Room, 1251 Peralta, in Fremont. The cost is \$26 per person and is a tax deductible donation.

Our speaker this month will be Bonnie “The Hat Lady” Remigio. She has collected hats from several decades and eras. She will be presenting a hat modeling show using six of our tea attendees as the models. She will be talking about the hats worn in each of six decades. This should be a fun and interesting talk.

We have decided to ask that you wear a hat (optional) for this occasion. We will have a hat contest and give a prize for the woman wearing the best hat of the day.

RSVP and send your check for \$26 made out to MPHF

Sandrea Woehl, 1832 Dahill Lane, Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 247-3279 (510) 396-5141 swoehl@sbcglobal.net

Victorian Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 17, 2016

Noon to 4 p.m.

Shinn Park, 1251 Peralta, Fremont

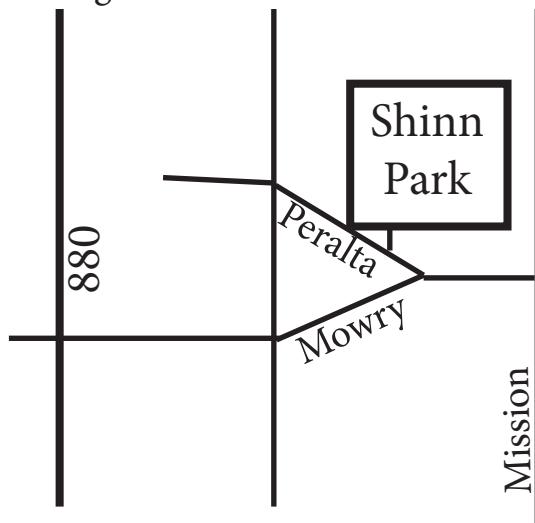
Featuring Model A's from the Acorn A's, Gunfighters of the Old West, Music for easy listening and Beautiful Gardens maintained by the Friends of Heirloom Flowers, Docent led tours of the 1876 Shinn House and the Shinn Archive Room. We will have Ice Cream Sundaes, Popcorn, water & soda for sale. Enjoy a step back in time and the peaceful relaxation of the Shinn Historical Park, 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont



For more information call (510)795-0891 or E-mail: "alminard@comcast.net"

or see our website: www.missionpeakreporter.org

This is a benefit for Mission Peak Heritage Foundation



Graduation of New Docents on Wednesday, 10 AM to Noon, at the Shinn House Archive room on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. Everyone invited to attend and congratulate our new docents. Refreshments will be served.

Mission Peak Volunteers tea, "April Showers Tea" on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 10 AM. This tea is all about Ladies hats, there will be several decades of hats shown and modeled.

Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Volunteers Field trip to the Forest Home Farms and the Glass house in San Ramon on Saturday March 26, 2016. We will leave promptly at 9:00 AM from the Shinn House parking lot by carpools. All volunteers are invited to join us.

Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board Members

President: Joan Serafino (510) 795-0891
Vice-Pres: Barbara Anderson (510) 566-9656
Secretary: Sandrea Woehl (510) 247-3279
Treasurer: Dick Shinn (510) 828-1869

Directors At Large

Karen Mueller (510) 656-5393
La Vonne Minard (510) 552-4842
Michiko Yee (510) 793-9352
Al Minard (510) 552-4839

Patterson House Advisory Board

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Mission Peak Heritage Foundation
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