

Guillermo Wagner Granizo – Artist, Historian, Storyteller

1.



Doña Francisca María Felipa Benicia Carrillo de Vallejo

1986

Doña Francisca María Felipa Benicia Carrillo de Vallejo (1815 - 1891) was the wife of Gen. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo and namesake of the City of Benicia.

2.



Gen. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo

1987

Gen. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo (1807 – 1890) was the military commander and governing official with responsibility for the northern frontier of Mexican California. His extensive property holdings included Rancho Suscol which he subdivided into the City of Vallejo and, along with Semple and Larkin, the City of Benicia.

3.



Dr. Robert Baylor Semple (1806 - 1854)

1987

Dr. Robert Baylor Semple (1806 - 1854) was California's first newspaperman, second dentist, and ferry service entrepreneur. Semple participated in the Bear Flag Revolt and was Chairman of the California Constitutional Convention at Monterey, California.

Semple is called "The Father of Benicia" because he provided the vision and the leadership in founding Benicia in 1847. Gen. Vallejo provided the property and Thomas Larkin and Bethuel Phelps provided funding.

4.

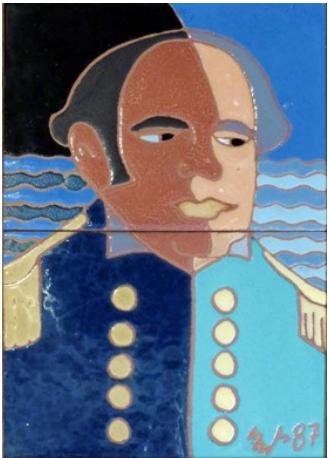


Thomas O. Larkin (1802 – 1858)

1987

Thomas O. Larkin (1802 – 1858) was based in Monterey, California. He was the only United States Consul to Mexican California. The wealthiest man in California at the time, he was recruited by Dr. Semple to help finance the new City of Benicia.

5.



Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones

1987

Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones (1790 -1858) was the Commander-in-Chief of the US Navy Pacific Squadron, 1841 – 1843 and 1848 -1850. He brought his supply ship, the *USS Southampton*, into what is now Southampton Bay to scout locations for a naval base. Benicia's Commander Jones Point (located on the 9th Street Park) is named after him.

6.



Capt. Charles P. Stone

1987

Capt. Charles P. Stone (1824 – 1887) designed and supervised the construction of the original stone Arsenal buildings in 1853 to 1856. He later commanded Union forces in the defense of Washington D.C. and designed and supervised the construction of the base of the Statue of Liberty. He fought in the Civil War as a General and later acted as a military consultant to the Egyptian Army.

7.

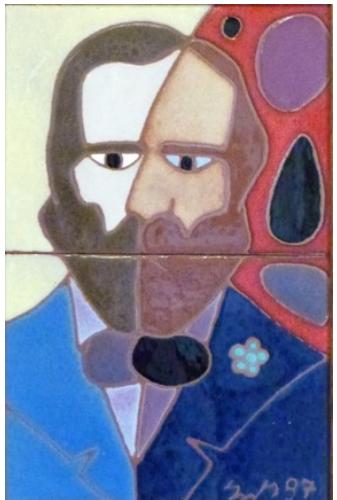


Captain Ulysses S. Grant

1987

Captain Ulysses S. Grant (1822 – 1885) was the Regimental Quartermaster of the 4th Infantry Regiment when it came to California in 1853. He was in Benicia for only one week before departing for Ft. Vancouver. He later became the commander of Union forces during the Civil War and President of the United States (1869 – 1877).

8.



John Gomo

1987

John Gomo (1825 - 1887) was a French stonemason and sculptor who supervised the construction of the stone buildings of the Arsenal. He also built stone buildings at Mare Island, Beringer Winery, and other locations. Gomo personally executed the eagle and cannon sculpture above the door of the Powder Magazine.

9.



Edward H. von Pfister

1987

Edward H. von Pfister (1813 - 1886) was the owner of the von Pfister store on First Street in Benicia (1847 – 1848). A portion of the building is still standing. It was in this store in 1848 that the first public news of the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill was released, starting the Gold Rush. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

10.



Self-portrait of Guillermo Wagner Granizo as a clown

1987

Upon seeing this work son of the artist Ron Wagner commented, “That’s my dad. That’s the way he was.”

11.



Scenes from Benicia Arsenal History

1987

The camels in the foreground recall the 38 camels brought to the Arsenal in 1863 for 1864 auction. The long stone building is Building 9 constructed in 1854 as a weapons manufacturing and storage facility. It currently houses one of the structures of the Benicia Historical Museum. The building placed in the rear of this artistic interpretation is the Clocktower, constructed in 1859 as a storehouse.

12.



Self-portrait of Granizo

1986

He is sitting on a camel on a carousel perhaps as an artistic reference to the camels that were once at Benicia. The left side of his body seems to be Hispanic and the right side seems to be Anglo, reflecting his mixed Guatemalan and American artistic and cultural heritage. The carousel was a common theme in Granizo’s works. One of his first memories was of riding a carousel in South America.

13.



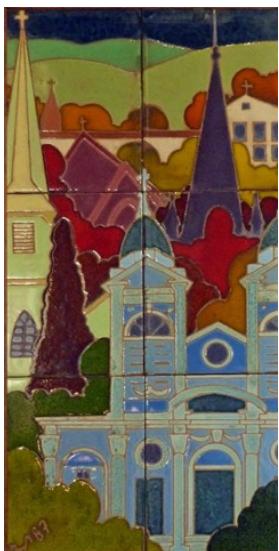
Noah Herding the Camels to the Ark

1986

This image shows the biblical story of Noah's ark; it's starting to rain, the flood is coming and it's time to get the pair of camels to safety.

(Donated by Mary Ellen Ramsey on behalf of the Helen C. Freeman estate).

14.



Benicia's Churches

1987

In this composite scene, St. Dominic's Catholic Church is in the foreground and the Lutheran and Congregational churches are in the background.

15.

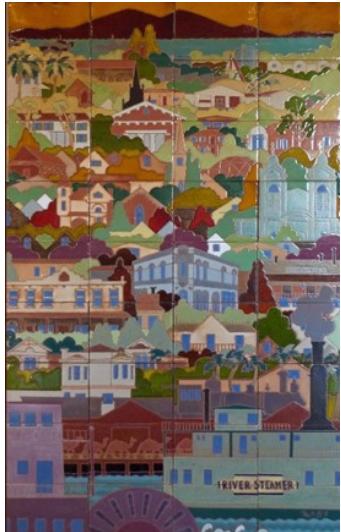


Father Joseph Sadoc Alemany, O. P.

1987

Father Joseph Sadoc Alemany, O. P. (1814 – 1888) was Bishop of Monterey (1850 – 1853) and First Archbishop of San Francisco (1853 – 1884). It was his suggestion that prompted Mother Mary Goemaere to move her community and school to Benicia.

16.



Historical Scenes of Benicia

1987

Granizo told stories in ceramic tile art pieces about historic events, sites, and people. This panel combines all of the major landmarks of Benicia in a composite image, such as the Capitol, early buildings, churches, breweries, and transportation (railroad steam engine, paddlewheel boat, and the automobile), including camels.

17.



Mother Mary Goemaere

1987

Mother Mary Goemaere (1809 - 1889) was a Dominican Sister who came to Benicia in 1854 from Monterey to start the St. Catherine's Convent and Academy for Young Women at the behest of the first Archbishop of San Francisco, Rev. Father Joseph Sadoc Alemany.

18.

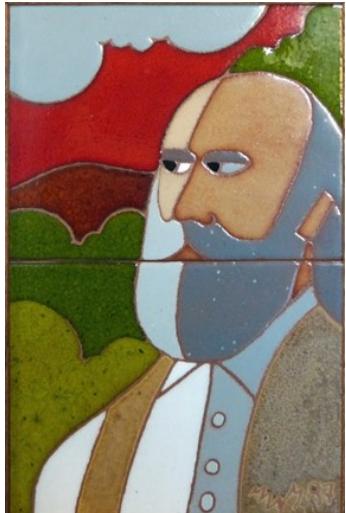


Father Francis Sadoc Vilarrasa, O.P.

1987

Father Francis Sadoc Vilarrasa, O.P.(1814 - 1888) was the Pastor of St. Dominic's parish, 1854 – 1888. He built the novitiate and house of studies that were added to the original church.

19.



Bishop John Henry Ducachet Wingfield

1987

As a Reverend John Henry Ducachet Wingfield (1833 – 1898) became president of the College of Saint Augustine in Benicia in 1875. He supervised both St. Augustine Academy, the men's school, and St. Mary's of the Pacific, the girl's college and later became a Bishop.