

# HISTORY CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

## A week in the life of Louis Pascal Dallidet



It's really more like a week and a half, but that doesn't sound as good on a headline. I have long asserted in these missives that - technology aside - people in the past lived very similar lives to the ones we lead today. I aim to underline the truth of that with a selection from the diary of my personal favorite Dallidet, Louis.

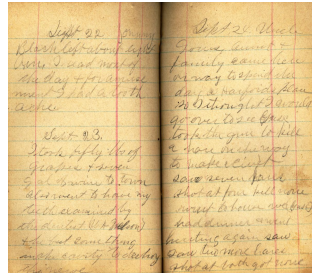
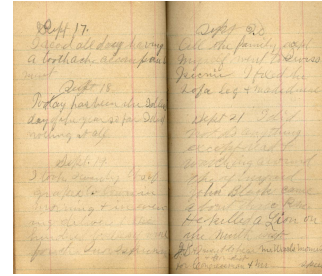
Louis Pascal Dallidet was born on May 17, 1863, the fourth child of Pierre and Ascencion Concepcion. He kept a daily diary starting on January 1, 1882, when he was 18 years old. Most entries are short, reflecting a highlight of his day's activities. He would tend the fields, deliver produce and wine "to town" (his mother's family owned a market about half a mile down the road on Monterey St.), seek social pursuits with his friends and siblings, and other general activities.

Below, the portions **in bold** are the words of Louis Dallidet, transcribed directly from his

diary. Interlarded with plain text are the reactions of your very own History Center Executive Director, Thomas Kessler.

**Sunday Sept. 17, 1882 - I read all day having a tooth-ache accompaniment.**

Haven't we all been here? Feeling sore or sick is the perfect excuse to curl up with a good book or your favorite show and let the hours slip by.



**Friday Sept. 22, 1882 - Johnny Black left about eight A.M. I read most of the day and for amusement I had a toothache.**

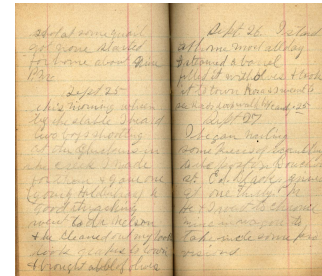
A friend had come by the previous day and enlivened the household with stories about killing a mountain lion, and then stayed the night. Louis' sore tooth is still clearly occupying the front of his mind.

**Saturday Sept. 23, 1882 - I took fifty lbs. of grapes and seven gallons of wine to town. Also went to have my teeth examined by the dentist (W.A. Nelson) and he put something in the cavity to destroy the nerve**

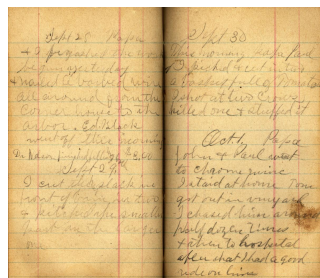
Here we learn that Louis was not the type to put off treatment, seeking the help of the town's dentist just a week after the ache was bad enough to mention in his diary. We don't know if he made an appointment or simply walked in, but either way he didn't sit around.

It can't just be me that's squeamish about body horror. The thought of "destroy[ing] the nerve" is extremely disturbing. I make no claim of being an expert in medical history, so anyone out there who might know what compound or chemical was used, please let us know.

**Monday Sept. 25, 1882 - This morning, when by the stable, I heard two boys shooting at the chickens in the creek. I made for them and gave one (young Hildenbran) a good thrashing. Went to Dr. Nelson and he cleaned out my tooth. Took grapes to town and bought a barrel of olives.**



Doesn't having a toothache put everyone on edge? The social mores of how to discipline children may have changed, but if you've ever caught one of the neighborhood kids (eg) breaking a window and then given them a chewing out, you'll understand Louis' feelings in this situation.



**Thursday Sept. 28, 1882 - Dr. Nelson finished filling my tooth \$3.00.**

That bill would be roughly \$80 today, adjusted for inflation. Not a bad deal, though I'm still not sure I'd want to go through all this pre-Novocaine. Plus you need to keep in mind that this was the third visit in almost a week, and analgesic painkillers were fairly primitive. While I have no doubt Louis found it a great relief, it does make me wonder how will folks look back

on today's medical technology 140 years from now.

If you want to see the place where Louis suffered so, read on!

# Parisian Farm-to-Table Luncheon at the Dallidet Adobe

La France en fête at the home of San Luis Obispo's  
most famous French resident

Pierre Dallidet would be so proud!

Live music from Brynn Albanese (recently of Café Musique)

Une galerie d'art featuring local artists

A caricaturist to capture the memories

A silent auction with diverse objets d'art

A raffle for a beautiful pearl necklace - très chic!

Prominently featuring produce grown in  
the Dallidet gardens:

You will be welcomed with a glass of Champagne  
Each table will have a dégustation of fruits, nuts,  
and cheeses

Your apéritif will be a chilled loganberry soup  
Quiche with heirloom tomatoes and fresh herbs  
Salade niçoise with salmon will please your palate  
Finish sweetly with un dessert de macarons

Oh la la, we can hardly wait!  
Buy your ticket today!



\$75 per ticket

Saturday, August 21  
11:30 am to 2:00 pm

1185 Pacific Street  
San Luis Obispo

**ESTERO BAY NEWS**  
Your Community • Your News

[www.historycenterslo.org/luncheon](http://www.historycenterslo.org/luncheon)



**Venez tous à la fête!**

We are celebrating Pierre Dallidet's French roots this summer, and we want you to join us! We're bringing all the delights of a Parisian street fair here to San Luis Obispo. It's our first

foray back into in-person events, and your first opportunity in over a year to experience the jewel of San Luis Obispo. There will be art and music, beauty and fun. Everything you could want from a trip to Paris, without having to get on an airplane.

And food? Well but of course! We will be serving only the freshest produce, grown right on the property in our very own Dallidet Gardens! The incomparable Debbie Collins, who has delighted so many of you with our Soup Sampler events, will be crafting *la carte* to entrance your palate. So act now, don't miss out!

Saturday, August 21  
11:30 am to 2:00 pm

In the Dallidet Gardens!  
1185 Pacific Street  
San Luis Obispo

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE OR TO BUY YOUR TICKETS](#)

---

## Looking for peace in nature?

Our fantastic mindfulness instructor Kelli Schonher is offering two new opportunities to clear your mind and connect with the Dallidet Gardens.

On **Saturday, August 7th**, she will be offering a Connect to Nature workshop from 9:00 to 11:30.

On **Saturday, August 28th**, deepen your enjoyment of the many dimensions that Nature provides through the simple ability of playfulness.

[Click here for more information or to register.](#)



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TK'.

Thomas Kessler  
Executive Director

---

