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*Sperry*

...stepping back in time...

## images of Santa Cruz Island

*The island is a lovely place.  
Let those who go there step lightly, touch gently.*

Helen Caire,  
from the article "A Brief History of Santa Cruz Island from 1869–1937,"  
*Santa Cruz Island Anthology*, p. 46

California plein air artists discovered Santa Cruz Island in the early 20th century, braving the Santa Barbara Channel crossing and days of rudimentary camp life to render the island's beauty for all to see. The written accounts of several people who also visited the island prior to 1925 complement these historic Santa Cruz Island images.

Art courtesy of the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and Maureen Murphy

Lockwood DeForest  
(1850–1932)  
*Untitled (Landslide midrange, Santa Cruz Island)*  
1919



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**James Madison Alden**  
(1834–1922)  
*Rancho and Valley Santa Cruz Island*  
1855

*The earliest buildings on the island were mainly of adobe bricks, but bricks were also fired for constructing the walls of the chapel in 1891, the large and small stables, the winery and fermentation cellar at the Main Ranch and the large double warehouse at Prisoners' Harbor in 1887....*

*Of course many garden flowers were introduced. My grandfather had gardens made in front of the charming adobe houses at the Main Ranch and at La Playa, especially planted to roses....*

*As to our island days, they were as near to paradise as one can come this side of eternity.*

**Helen Caire**, from the article  
"A Brief History of Santa Cruz Island from 1869–1937,"  
*Santa Cruz Island Anthology*, p. 33, 40



COURTESY OF SANTA CRUZ ISLAND FOUNDATION

**Alexander Francis Harmer**  
(1856–1925)  
*Fry's Harbor, Santa Cruz Island*  
c. 1905

*There is one cañon beyond Pelican Bay about half a mile that beats anything I have come across for trees, moss-covered rocks, and lichen-covered cliffs. On one side where the cliffs face north they are covered with lichen, while the other side has steep brown, bare cliffs. At the foot of the cañon the ocean comes into a little gravel beach in a sort of cove. This is all toward Fry's Harbor, and the sea-cliffs and coves get better and better.*

**William Oberlin Dawson**, diary excerpt, 1919  
*A Step Back in Time*, p. 163



**Carl Oscar Borg**  
(1879–1947)  
*Captain McGuire Catching Seal, Santa Cruz Island*  
1908

*Remembering our island days makes summarizing material difficult. We were out-of-doors all day: riding, boating, swimming, gardening. There were cruises to the Painted Cave in the Santa Cruz or with yachting friends: an eerie other world where light shafting through the high entrance showed all shades of amethyst and emerald; and tawny tones extinguished to Stygian darkness as one penetrated into the caverns. Seals leapt off ledges with echoing barks as they swam out into the sea-world of light.*

Helen Caire, from the article  
"A Brief History of Santa Cruz Island from 1869–1937,"  
*Santa Cruz Island Anthology*, p. 42

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