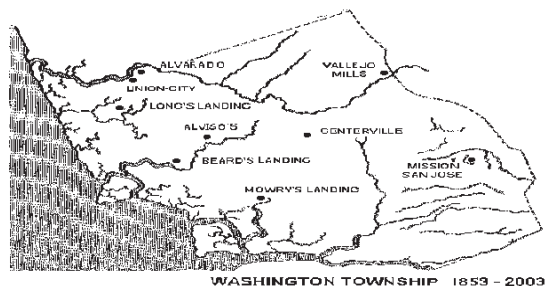


# Washington Township Historical



## JULY-AUG 2011

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**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JULY 25, 2011 TIME: 7:00 PM**

**PLACE: FUKAYA ROOM, FREMONT MAIN LIBRARY, 2400 STEVENSON,**

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Regena Dennie and Al Minard

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

I am very excited about getting the Juan Batista de Anza traveling exhibit to the Fremont Main Library on Stevenson Boulevard. This is only the second stop for this exhibit from the National Park service and when it leaves Fremont in mid-September it will go to Arizona for the next couple of years. Please note that we will have our July meeting in the Fremont Main Library at 7:00 PM. We will have a very short business meeting and then Steven Ross from the National Park Service will tell us a little about the Anza Trail Exhibit. Washington Township Historical Society also thanks the Ford F-100 Club and George Roeding for providing vehicles for us to ride in for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. George's fire truck did not make it through the entire route because it overheated but still managed to make the front cover of the Fremont Bulletin. I have not finished making arrangements for our September speaker but I am hoping that it will be one of the local old timers telling about some of their early experiences here in Washington Township. I thank Gil Garza, Patricia Schaffarzyk, and especially Regena Dennie for all of their help in putting the exhibit together for the Anza Trail exhibition.

*Al Minard*

### Guest Speaker, Steven Ross

National Park Service Ranger Steven Ross will relate the story of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, which commemorates the founding of San Francisco in 1776. Captain Anza forged an overland route between Sonora, Mexico and Alta California. He led over 240 colonists to settle San Francisco, which doubled the Spanish population of Alta California, and forever changed the lives of the native Indian population. Mr. Ross will also discuss present day interpretation of the trail, including the planning of the recreation trail from Nogales, Arizona to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Steven Ross is an Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Anza Trail), where he focuses on collaborating with local jurisdictions to build and interpret the Anza Trail. Prior to joining the National Park Service in 2009, Steve worked for over 20 years as a city planner and environmental consultant throughout California. Steve has worked as a planner for the cities of Berkeley, Long Beach, Santa Monica, Rancho Cucamonga, and Encinitas. Steve also spent seven years with LSA Associates in Irvine and Berkeley, where he managed the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports and related studies for a wide variety projects and clients. Steve has a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Cal Poly Pomona and a Bachelor's degree from the U.C. San Diego.

**"To Collect, Preserve and Diffuse Information Relating to the History of Washington Township"**

## FROM THE MAIL BAG

California Historian, Spring 2011, Ann Roberts writes, "A walk through Ferndale Cemetery". In July 2010, the Ferndale Museum held a fund raiser, in which eight presenters stood by eight graves in the Ferndale Cemetery and told the life story of the person buried in that plot.

Mission Peak Reporter, July-September 2011, tells the story of James Shinn, who made his home in Niles and founded the State Horticultural Society in 1878. Sunday, October 16, 2011, is scheduled for their "Paint Your Pumpkin" Day. Ribbons will be awarded for the best decorated pumpkins.

Union City Historical Museum, July 2011, Myrla Raymundo writes, "visitors to the Museum were Bobby and Mary Berbel, and Maria Elena Torres", who brought old photographs of the Pacific States Steel Mill. Newly elected president for the 2011/2012 term is Robert Swartz.

The Oakland Heritage Alliance has send a schedule of their walking tours. August 6<sup>th</sup>, is Lake Merritt and August 7<sup>th</sup> is The Redwoods of Oakland. For information call (510) 763-9218 or the website at [www.oaklandheritage.org](http://www.oaklandheritage.org)

Alameda Museum Quarterly, Spring 2011, Ron Ucovich writes, "A Victorian Breakfast", the story of the Aunt Jemima Breakfast Club.

Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly, June 2011, Dennis Evanosky writes, "Cohen Bray House". The home built in 1884 as a wedding gift for their children. Descendants from the family still continue to make it their home.

California State Genealogical Alliance, May-June 2011, is a non-profit organization to help members with genealogical research through education. On October 15 a Family History Day will be held in Sacramento.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Argus, May 21, 2011, Letter to the Editor by **Norma Neto**, wonders why we are afraid of progress in building high-speed trains in the United States.

Tri-City Voice, May 3, 2011, **Myrla Raymundo** writes, "Early Filipino immigrants". In the 1920's, the first generation of Filipinos came to the United States to work in the sugar plantation in Hawaii. Also in 1920 Filpinos ccame to the United States as Merchant Marines.

Tri-City Voice, May 3, 2011, **Pat Kite** Writes, "Butterflies Welcome". There is an old Irish blessing, "May the wings of the butterfly kiss the sun and find your shoulder to light on to bring you luck."

Tri-City Voice, May 10, 2011, **Al Minard** submitted picture of the "Arts and Crafts at Shinn Park" held on May 15, 2011

Tri-City Voice, May 10, 2011, **Phil Holmes** writes, "Centerville streets and roads." Streets names for early pioneers include: Blacow, Mattos, Mowry, Norris and Stevenson.

Tri-City Voice, May 17, 2011, **Myrla Raymundo** writes, "Centro de Servicios", located in Decoto and established in 1974 as part of the Spanish speaking citizens' Foundation. The dedicated staff and volunteers serve more than 800 families each month.

Argus, May 14, 2011, Matthew Artz writes, "Ohlone College trustees opted for experience in selecting **Vivien Larsen** to fill Newark's vacant board seat through the 2012 elections."

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.....  
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 per year

.....  
PATRONS MEMBERS: \$50.00 for one year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL CHECK TO: Washington Township Historical Society      PO BOX 3045      FREMONT, CA 94539

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS (Continued from page 2)

**Tri-City Voice**, May 17, 2011, Gosia Gizycki writes, “**Vivien Larsen** was appointed as the newest member of the Ohlone College Board of Trustees”, representing Newark.

**Fremont Bulletin**, May 20, 2011, “Ohlone Board appoints **Vivien Larsen** as trustee to replace the late Bill McMillian.”

**Tri-City Voice**, May 24, 2011, **Phil Holmes** writes, “The Civil War affected Washington Township”. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Alameda County was only eight years old. A rally in support for the Union cause was held in the ballroom of the Brooklyn House in Alvarado.

**Tri-City Voice**, May 27, 2011, Julie Grabowski writes, “dedicated to Community”. **Michiko Yee** was honored as Volunteer of the year by the Citizens for Better Community, for her outstanding volunteerism in numerous ways since she arrived in Fremont in 1964.

**Tri-City Voice**, June 7, 2011, **Pat Kite** writes, “Juniper”. There are 50 different Juniper types, from squiddy ground cover to towering 60-foot tall trees the birds like.

**Tri-City Voice**, June 7, **Phil Holmes** writes, “75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for First Assembly of God” It’s founder, Joseph Rodrigues drove through Centerville in 1933 and felt compelled to establish a church for the Portuguese speaking community.

**Tri-City Voice**, June 14, 2011, Julie Grabowski writes, “Shinn House tea preserves local history.” One of **Michi Yee**’s fund raising teas to benefit the Shinn House had as special guests, James and Patricia Shinn, on March 24, “Arbor Day.” Assisting were **David Schipul** and **Al & La Vonne Minard**.

**Tri-City Voice**, June 14, 2011, **Myrla Raymundo** writes, “Decoto Chamber of Commerce”. The Chamber was founded in 1907, and in 1913 the Chamber published a leaflet stating the Decoto was the “land of opportunity”.

**Tri-City Voice**, June 21, 2011, **Phil Homes** writes, “Queen of the Fruits.” Apricots originated in Armenia and were cultivated in India by 3,000 BC. Growing apricots started in California after the founding of Mission San Diego in 1769.

**Argus**, July 3, 2011, Students who are entering the Writing contest, sponsored by the Fremont Area Writers, will mail their entries to **Myrla Raymundo**. A \$50.00 prize will be awarded to the best student who expresses their views about life in the Tri-City Area.

**Tri-City Voice**, July 5, 2011, **Phil Homes** writes, “Sack City”. Now known as Alder Avenue, it was once part of Mission Lands and later owned by Elias Beard. The development of Cabillo Park in the 1950’s spelled the end for Sack City.

**Fremont Bulletin**, July 8, 2011, **Al Minard** and **George Roeding** are pictured on the cover in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade float which has the Washington Township banner displayed



Brian Barlow and Al Minard by the 1922 Model T Ford, Niles Fire engine at the 4th of July Parade



George Roeding and family at the 4th of July Parade

**Washington Township Historical Society**, The National Park Service and the Alameda County Library have teamed up to bring the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail travelling exhibit to the Main Fremont Library, 2400 Stevenson Boulevard, Fremont, CA. This is a large multiple panel exhibit that tells much of the story of the Anza Party along with the names of at least some of the people who came with Anza. These families left their homes and everything they knew about to come to Alta California to live. This included men, women and children as well as cattle, horses and other animals. The National Park Anza travelling exhibit will be in Fremont from the grand opening on Monday, July 25, 2011 until September 16, 2011. The exhibit will then be packed up and shipped to Arizona where it will spend the next couple of years on display. Please consider coming to the Grand Opening on July 25, 2011 and hear Steven Ross with the National Park Service tell about the Anza trail and this exhibit. This is a FREE event and there will be refreshments after the meeting, which will start at 7:00 PM and then adjourn to the History Room upstairs in the Library, to see the exhibit.

In 1773, Juan Bautista de Anza, captain of the small Presidio of Tubac in Sonora (now southern Arizona) received permission from Antonio María Bucareli y Ursúa, Viceroy of New Spain, to find an overland route from Sonora to northern California. Such a route was needed for two primary reasons. First, supplying the early California missions and presidios by ship had turned out to be risky and unreliable - something more predictable and safe was needed if these establishments were to thrive. Second, the king of Spain wanted the Viceroy to initiate a strong colonizing effort in “Alta California” in order to combat recent encroachments by other European powers (most notably England and Russia) and to ensure Spanish control over the recently rediscovered San Francisco harbor.

In January of 1774 Captain Anza, Father Francisco Garcés, a small group of soldiers and servants, and a herd of about 200 cattle and pack animals left Tubac to explore and open the needed supply route from northern Sonora to California. Under Captain Anza’s leadership this first expedition established formal and friendly relationships with the Yuma tribe at the juncture of the Gila and Colorado Rivers, and elicited the active support of the tribe’s chief, Salvador Palma. This



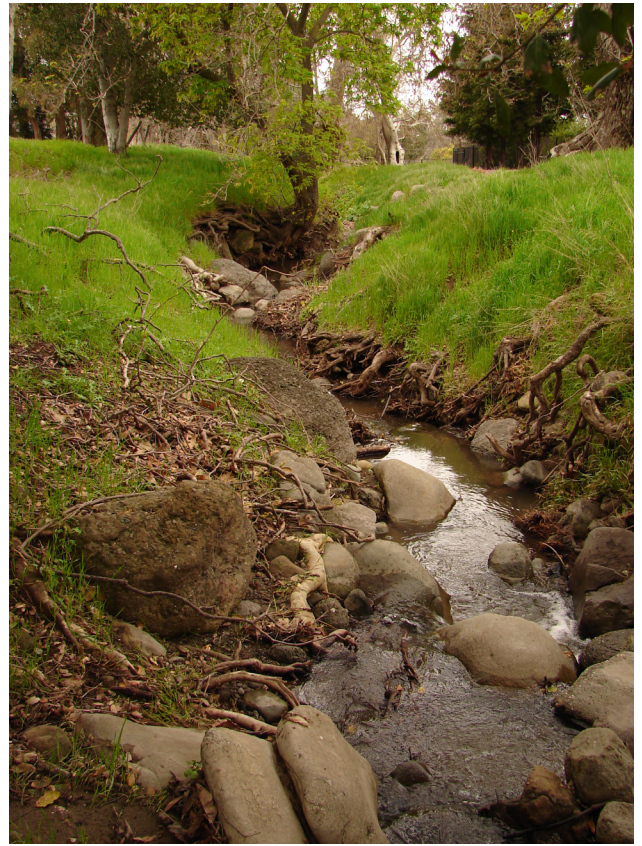
Higuera Adobe

support turned out to be crucial for ensuring safe passage over the rivers and preventing death from thirst and starvation when Anza was forced to retrace his steps after becoming lost in the sand dunes. On March 22, 1774 Anza and a portion of his expedition arrived at mission San Gabriel (near what is now the city of Los Angeles), having successfully found a route through near waterless deserts and uncharted mountain passes. An overland route to Alta California was now available for use in transporting supplies and colonists to the outermost reaches of northern New Spain.

For his accomplishments, Anza was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and charged by Bucareli to take an expedition of settlers over the newly opened route to establish both a presidio and a mission in the area of San Francisco bay. Thus, in March of 1775, Juan Bautista de Anza assumed the responsibility of recruiting families and organizing supplies for the first colonizing expedition to northern California. After numerous months spent preparing the newly recruited families for the arduous journey and delays due to Apache raids on the expedition’s horses; Anza, a small military escort, and approximately 240 men, women and children left Tubac on October 23, 1775. For nearly five months they traveled by horseback, mule, and on foot; arriving at the Presidio of Monte Rey on March 10, 1776.

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The trip had often been difficult and the colonists had endured lack of water and food, life threatening weather conditions, debilitated and dying animals, and roads that often seemed impassable due to rain, mud, sand or snow. At least twice the expedition was hampered by desertion of servants or military personnel. Nonetheless, only one woman died (due to childbirth complications) and four babies were born. Without the help of Native American tribes they met along the way, the expedition may not have been so successful. In June of 1776, the colonists, led by Anza's second in command Lieutenant José Joaquin Moraga, were given permission to continue their journey to the bay of San Francisco and build there the presidio and mission for which the colonists had left their homeland. The expedition then travelled to what is now Mission San Jose and to the hot springs near what is now the Higuera Adobe. Mission San Jose area was nearly flat with lots of year round water, which made it ideal for farming and the Higuera Adobe site was ideal for defensive purposes. From the Higuera site they could see all the way across the bay and nearly to the Golden Gate for approaching ships. It was about 20-years later that Mission San Jose was founded and nearly 50-years later that the Higuera Adobe was built.



Agua Fria Creek near the Higuera Adobe



Reconstructed Mission San Jose Church

## MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES

Al Minard and Gil Garza

Please welcome new member: **Andrew Galvan**

Pat Bagwell in one of the Ford F-100 trucks in the 4th of July Parade

