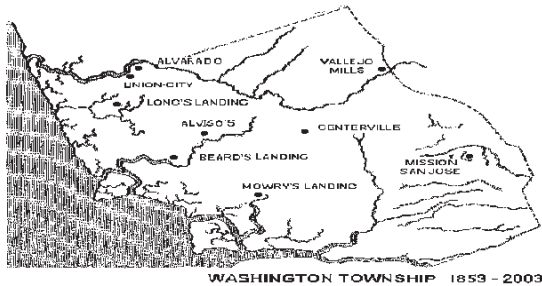


# Washington Township Historical



## MAR - APR 2016

VOL 40

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**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016, 7:15 PM at  
MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST. FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Tim Swenson and Al Minard

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Members and Friends of Washington Township Historical Society,

Our speaker this month is Bob Ingersoll. Bob Ingersoll married one of the Peralta women, and began a study of this family. He will be telling the history of the Peralta Family. The Catholic Church missions claimed most of the land in the area of the missions. After Mexico gained their independence, the Mexican Government forced the Catholic Church to give their land to the people. The Church gave their land to many of the local families, like the Peralta's, Vallejo's, Alviso's, Higuera's and many other Catholic families. For the past 10 years I have been judging Junior and/or senior high school History Day projects for Alameda County. When I first started there were no entries from Fremont, Union City or Newark. I am happy to report that we now have two high schools

and one junior high school all in Fremont, submitting History Day Projects. For the past 8 years I have judged Historic Documentaries and these have become better and better each year. I am, also happy to report that many of our members have renewed their membership with Washington Township Historical Society. I will be working with the Museum of Local History, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation and us to see if we can put out a joint newsletter. We need to mail this newsletter to more 200 addresses to get bulk rate mailing which is a bit of a nuisance but it is much cheaper. We are hoping to do that with our next newsletter, which will look different than this one, we hope that you will like it.

*Al Minard*

## OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS BOB INGERSOLL

Bob Ingersoll married into the Peralta family and then for about 20 years researched this historic family that were some of the earliest settlers in the East Bay. They were here before it was California or Alameda County. The Peralta's lived mostly in our neighboring township but after Mexico won their independence from Spain

in 1822, the Peralta's were one of the large families that were granted land that Mission San Jose had previously claimed. I am sure that we will hear some very interesting information about this early California family.

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

# MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN THE NEWS

*Tri-City Voice*, January 26, 2016, **Lila Bringhurst** writes about John Bunting and Fleda Overacker who were married in 1877, divorced in 1885 and remarried in 1900. What a story, it could have been a TV sitcom, except that TV wasn't invented yet.

*Tri-City Voice*, January 26, 2016, Dolores Ferenz writes about a Spanish Organ Concert at the reconstructed St Joseph's Church. This was a free concert with a goodwill offering to benefit Old Mission San Jose.

*Tri-City Voice*, February 2, 2016, **Lila Bringhurst** writes about the new fence area. This is an Eagle Scout project by Joey Winmill of Troop 106.

*Tri-City Voice*, February 2, 2016, **Gil Garza** writes about the "improvements" to the Historic Higuera Adobe in Warm Springs. The Rotary Club of Mission San Jose with help from the Washington Township Museum of Local History has made improvements to the Adobe so children's projects at the Adobe can be done easier.

*Tri-City Voice*, February 9, 2016, **Myrla Raymundo** writes about the celebration of the Union City Historical Museum saving history for the past 15 years. This event included local dignitaries and an open house to the Museum.

*Tri-City Voice*, February 9, 2016, **Pat Kite** writes about a Basil window box garden. Pat states that there are

over 160 varieties of basil and that pioneer women used them along floors to deter insects and in window sills to discourage flies.

*Tri-City Voice*, February 9, 2016, Barbara Wilcox writes about a rare screening of a Silent film classic, titled "The Loves of Pharaoh" at the historic Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum on Sunday, February 21, 2016.

*Tri-City Voice*, February 23, 2016, Ira Bletz writes about a three-part, hands-on-workshop at Ardenwood Farm on home brewing of beer. You will also learn about the incredible history and fascinating lore while brewing.

*Tri-City Voice*, March 8, 2016, **Lila Bringhurst** writes about "Two Women of Washington Township", Laura Thane and Mary Jane Lee Tilden were the two very important women in this area.

*Tri-City Voice*, March 8, 2016, **Pat Kite** writes about California's Golden Poppies. These poppies once blanketed the California coastal mountains and many sailors used the poppies as a beacon to set their course.

*Tri-City Voice*, March 8, 2016, Ardenwood farms writes about an American Hero, Johnny Appleseed. His story is based on pioneer nurseryman John Chapman. He began his quest to establish apple orchards across the Midwest when he was only 18 years old in 1792.

## FROM THE MAILBAG

*Mission Peak Reporter*, Feb-Apr, Reports on a tour of the Robert Dollar mansion in San Rafael and the upcoming tour of Forrest Home Farms & Glass House in San Ramon. They also report on an article on Clark Point in San Francisco, Lucy Shinn's maiden name was Clark, but this does not appear to be a relative. There is also mention of a Spring Tea at the Shinn House on Saturday, April 2 at Noon.

*The Club Car*, Niles Canyon Railway, March 2016, They report of finding two large rocks on the Historic Rail each weighing about 800 pounds, one between the rails and one laying alongside the rails. They also report on saying goodbye to the old ticket office as the boarding area renovation continues with new platforms, lights and more.

## MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED SINCE JANUARY

Al Minard, Don Barsi, Michelle Roeding, The Greens, Judy Sprague, Mr. & Mrs. O'Connor, Carolyn Watson, John and Rose Barr, Michael and June Fugmann, Tim Swenson, Bruce Roeding, Pat Kite, Katie Janseen, and The Hebels.

Thank you very much for renewing your membership

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS, INCLUDING TOURS OF HISTORIC SITES

## MARCH 2016

**Tuesday, March 8, 7-9 PM**, Washington Township Museum of Local History meeting at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont

**Thursday, March 17, 7-9 PM**, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board meeting in the Archive Room of the Shinn House, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont

**Monday, March 28, 7:15-9 PM**, Washington Township Historical Society meeting at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont, Bob Ingersoll, guest speaker

## APRIL 2016

**Saturday, April 2, 12 Noon-2 PM**, Shinn House Tea, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont, with Bonny "The Hat Lady" Remigio, speaking on hats over the decades. Cost \$26 per person, make checks out to MPH and send them to Sandra Woehl, 1832 Dahill Lane, Hayward, CA 94541, Please call Sandra at (510) 247-3279 to confirm space available.

**Wednesday, April 6, 1-3 PM** Public tour of Shinn House, \$4 Adults, \$2 children 7-12, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont.

**Friday, April 8, 10 AM-4 PM**, Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont, - ongoing - Celebrating Women and their Work (Exhibit)

**Tuesday, April 12, 7 PM** -Odd Fellows Hall, Irvington, Jim Griffin Talk - Pioneer Women, their Work and their Men, FREE

**Saturday, April 16, 10 AM - 3 PM** - Natural World of Fremont Day @ Central Park

**Saturday, April 16, 11 AM** - Tim Swenson will lead a tour through Alvarado, discussing various buildings and the history of the area. The duration of the tour will be about an hour and a half, and the distance will be about one half mile. Tourgoers should meet in the parking lot of Alvarado Elementary School.

**Sunday, April 17, 1-3 PM**, Public tour of Shinn House, \$4 Adults, \$2 children 7-12, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont.

**Tuesday, April 19, 7-9 PM**, Washington Township Museum of Local History meeting at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont

**Thursday, April 21, 7-9 PM**, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board meeting in the Archive Room of the Shinn House, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont

**Saturday, April 30, 11 AM-3 PM** - Rancho Days at the Higuera Adobe in Warm Springs, on Rancho Higuera Drive. Fremont

## MAY 2016

**Wednesday, May 4, 1-3 PM** Public tour of Shinn House, \$4 Adults, \$2 children 7-12, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont.

**Tuesday, May 10, 7-9 PM**, Washington Township Museum of Local History meeting at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont

**Sunday, May 15, 1-3 PM** Public tour of Shinn House, \$4 Adults, \$2 children 7-12, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont.

**Thursday, May 19, 7-9 PM**. Mission Peak Heritage Foundation Board meeting in the Archive Room of the Shinn House, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont

**Saturday, May 21, 11 AM**- Irvington Walking Tour – Meet at the Irvington Monument, led by Caroline Harris.

**Sunday, May 22, 3 PM**- Alvarado Sugar Beet talk at Union City Library by Tim Swenson

**Monday, May 23, 7:15-9 PM**, Washington Township Historical Society meeting at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont, Donald Barsi, speaker.

## JUNE 2016

**Wednesday, June 1, 1-3 PM** Public tour of Shinn House, \$4 Adults, \$2 children 7-12, 1251 Peralta Boulevard, Fremont.

# WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH

## REPORT ON THE MERGER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Transition committee met in early March and everyone was asked if they thought the merger of the historical organization could happen with just a bit more work. Almost everyone felt that there were too many problems and that it was a bigger problem than we thought when we started this project. Most of the committee felt that a joint newsletter was a good idea to have all of the historical dates, times, and events in one place. A motion was made seconded and approved to table any further discussion of a merger for at least one year. We will be moving ahead with a joint newsletter and shared costs for the newsletter at an undecided percentage for each society.

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

