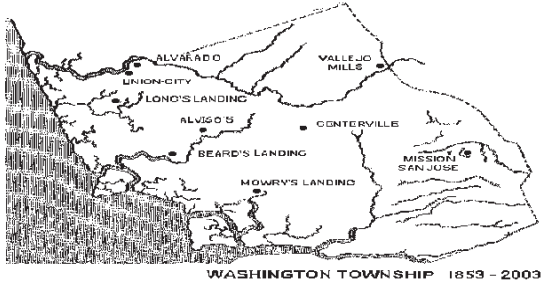


WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL



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NO. 05

PRES: GIL GARZA

(510) 494-1186

V.P.: JUDY SPRAGUE

(510) 657-0661

REC. SEC.: TIM SWENSON

(510) 489-8944

TREAS.: REGENA DENNIE

(510) 656-3892

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, September 23, 2013 TIME: 7:15 PM
PLACE: MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST, FREMONT

Washington Township Historical Society Editors: Regena Dennie and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recent events

We recently had a behind the scenes tour of the Luis María Peralta Adobe in San Jose CA. Photographs of the Adobe exterior and interior are available for anyone interested. We will be looking at several adobes from surrounding communities to see how we might want to make our adobe more inviting and useable.

On August 11th Jim R. Griffin, Inc. celebrated their 100 Anniversary. This was a very special event. There was a steam train ride from Sunol to Niles and back through the canyon. A banjo player plucked away as we rolled along. There were a series of panels on display that were produced with the help of Patricia and Phil for the event. The information shown was extensive and engaging visually and historically.

The Alameda Lodge No. 167 Free and Accepted Masons (F&AM) of Fremont celebrated their 150th anniversary on Sept 7th. Fremont's Mayor Bill Harrison, City Councilman Raj Salwan as well many local and not so local F&AM lodge members were in attendance to socialize, eat and drink in celebration of this impressive milestone. A time capsule was filled, autographed and buried to commemorate this noteworthy event.

Upcoming Events

On September 28th 2013 we will be celebrating the restoration of the Rancho Higuera Historical Park Information Center (11:00AM-2:00PM). A new addition will be a set of Informational/Educational graphics and text panels that highlight key time periods for the Galindo-Higuera Adobe. The schedule of events isn't finalized so we will have to keep you posted.

Saturday September 28th is also National Public Lands Day! Joining us for the beginning of our celebration will be folks from the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Caravan associated with the East Bay Regional Parks. The Rancho Higuera Historical Park will be the first stop on a four destination point caravan. A schedule of the Juan Bautista de Anza historic trail caravan is available at: <http://www.publiclandsday.org/npld-sites/juan-bautista-de-anza-national-historic-trail>.

The list of people who have helped with the Adobe Information Center restoration project is long and deserves more than a quick mention. At the Sept 28th celebration we will do our best to express our thanks for the specific efforts that will showcase one of Fremont's more important historic jewels - the Rancho Higuera Historical Park and Adobe.

Gil Garza

The November Meeting of Washington Township Historical Society will be held on Monday, November 28, 2013 at the Museum of Local History beginning at 7:15 PM. Everyone is invited and we invite you to bring a friend.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Argus, July 28, 2013, “Plan for 16 possible parks approved” by Denis Cuff. Alameda County Parks, Recreation and Historic Commission stated, Keeping Tesla on the list of potential regional parks sites was supported by commissioner, **Al Minard**.

Tri-City Voice, July 16, 2013, the Victorian Ice Cream Social, held at Shinn House on July 21, 2013, was promoted by **Al Minard**.

Tri-City Voice, July 23, 2013, “Saint Anne’s Celebration” by **Myrla Raymundo**. St. Anne has celebrated its 40th Anniversary with an 8:00 AM Mass followed by a festival.

Tri-City Voice, July 23, 2013, **James Griffin** writes, “One hundred Years”. Many buildings in the area were designed by the Griffin’s namely the old Mission San Jose Grammar School, the first Protestant Church in Irvington was built in 1883 and movie sets and set designs for the Essanay Studios in Niles.

Tri-City Voice, August 6, 2013, **Phil Holmes** writes, “Our Villages”. Niles had the most colorful nicknames. It was called “Gopher Town” during a period when gophers were numerous and causing a lot of trouble. It has been called the “Canyon City”, the Playground City” and sometimes even called the “Town that would be Hollywood”.

Tri-City Voice, August 6, 2013, **Pat Kite** writes, “Orchids, a story”. Orchid or Orchids got its name from the ancient Greeks who though the tuberous roots were supposed to be a powerful aphrodisiac for both man and beast.

Tri-City Voice, August 20, 2013, **Phil Holmes** writes, “The Winter of 1846”. Edwin Bryant visited Mission San Jose in September of 1946, the streets were deserted except for two donkeys near the fountain. He noted that the adobe houses were deserted, roofless and crumbling.

Fremont Bulletin, August 23, 2013, **Carol Zilli** is looking for docents to help teach the “Music for Minors II” classes in the fall. Please call 510-733-1189 if you are interested.

Tri-City Voice, August 27, 2013, **Al Minard** writes, “Paintings created at Shinn Park”. Eight models in period costumes strolled in Shinn Park for 17 local artists. The exhibit is held at the Mission Coffee Roasting Company, with a reception being held on September 8, 2013.

Tri-City Voice, August 27, 2013, **Myrla Raymundo** writes, “St. Anne Gets SMART” it all started when a lady fainted at the 8 AM Mass one Sunday. That was the beginning of S.M.A.R.T (St. Anne Medical Action Response Team).

Tri-City Voice, August 27, 2013, **Al Minard** writes, “End of An Era”. The Hirsch Family, one of the pioneer families of Washington Township owned the last milking barn in Washington Township, located on Caldas Court. The City of Fremont allowed the demolition with no HARB hearing.

Argus, September 1, 2013, Angela Hill writes, “Newsroom Ergonomics by the Book”. Although Angela admits she has never read the book, she is using **Phil Holmes**, “Two Centuries of Mission San Jose, 1797-1998 for a shelf under her monitor. It’s the right height for her back.

Tri-City Voice, September 3, 2013, **Phil Homes** writes, “Free and Accepted Masons 150th Anniversary”. P. J. Walker and Howard Overacker were the first candidates to be installed. Howard donated an acre of land from his farm on Niles Road.

Fremont Bulletin, September 6, 2013, “No Takers for \$1 Historic Homes”. The 19th Century homes are no longer wanted by East Bay Regional Park or the Cities of Fremont and Newark. These buildings have been stored at Ardenwood Farm for nearly 30 years waiting for someone to develop them into a historic village.



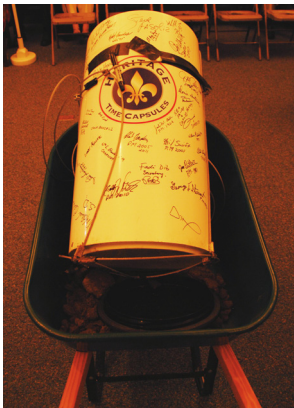
Banjo picker on Niles Canyon RR

Our Guest Speaker in September is Alberta Nunes George

We are very fortunate to have Alberta Nunes George as a guest speaker for our September meeting. Alberta Nunes was born and raised on Roberts Avenue in the Irvington district of Washington Township. Her father was a cobbler (for you young people that is a person who makes and repairs shoes) in Irvington. She attended Irvington Grammar School and then Washington Union High School. Alberta has a Portuguese background and will talk about growing up and living in Irvington from the 1920s through the 1950s. Please join us for this very special presentation.



Robert Dollar Steam engine, Niles RR



Masonic Time Capsule



Patricia Schaffarczyk and Jim Griffin

Paint Your Pumpkin Sunday, October 20, 2013



Noon to 4:00 p.m.



Shinn Historical Park 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont



We will provide pumpkins for the first 100 visitors at \$2 each. Ribbons can be won for the Best Painted Pumpkin in three age groups, 0-6, 7-12, and 13-Adult. We will give a ribbon for the best costume of any age. Judging will begin at 2 pm. There will be FREE games for the children to play

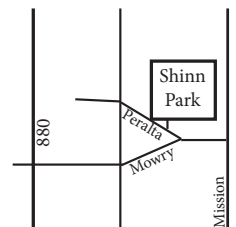


at which they can win prizes. Hotdogs, popcorn, cookies, coffee, soda and water will be for sale. Docents in period costume will provide tours of the Historic Shinn House for \$5 per adult and \$2.50 for children 5-12.

For more information call (510) 795-0891
or E-mail: alminard@comcast.net



This is a benefit for Mission Peak Heritage Foundation,
PO Box 3078, Fremont, CA 94539



Caravan along the Anza Trail

Uncover the local legacy of Spanish California's first settler families. Travel back in time by car caravan, retracing the Anza Trail. Follow in your own car or meet up at the stops that interest you most. Everyone is invited to join any or all of these events at no fee unless touring the inside of the Peralta Hacienda. You will have to provide your own lunch.

Saturday, September 28, 2013

11:15 AM Rancho Higuera Historical Park

12:30 PM. Alameda Creek at the near corner of Mission Boulevard and Niles Canyon Road.

1:45 PM, De Anza Park, Hayward at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and City Center Drive (near Chase Bank)

2:30 PM. Peralta Hacienda, 2465 34th Avenue, Oakland

HIGUERA ADOBE INFORMATIONAL KIOSK UNVEILING

The information Kiosk at the Higuera Adobe is being restored and new information panels are being placed inside the Kiosk. This has been funded by The Museum of Local History, Washington Township Historical Society, Mission Peak Heritage Foundation, The Mission San Jose Rotary and a private donation by Mollie Sinclair. The project has been coordinated by Lila Bringhurst with the Museum of Local History. The Schedule of events will coordinate with the Caravan Along the Anza Trail, which plans to arrive at 11:00 AM. The Information Kiosk will be unveiled at 11:15 with some speeches and introductions of the Boy Scouts who worked on this project. This will be followed by a tour of the Adobe at 11:30 AM led by Lionel Goularte and Vivien Larsen. The Anza Caravan will leave at 11:50 and those who remain will have an open house at the Adobe. This is a FREE event and we hope that many of you will attend and appreciate all of the work accomplished on this project.

Washington Township Historical Society Nominating Committee recommends the following officers for 2014.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted for any position, with approval of person being nominated, you may nominate yourself.

President: Al Minard

Vice-President: Gil Garza

Secretary: Timothy Swenson

Treasurer: Regena Dennie

Parliamentarian: Nancy Lorigan

Historian: Pat Bagwell

Patterson House Advisory Board: Patty Lacy & Bill Reynolds

Membership: Open

Director-At-Large: Open

Higuera Adobe: Open

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Alameda County Historical Society, Quarterly for July 2013. Dennis Evanosky writes, "Happy 100th Lincoln Highway". In 1913, Carl Fisher proposed that the country build a "Coast-to-Coast Rock Highway". By 1915 cars were able to make the 3,300 mile journey from Times Square in New York to the World's Fair in San Francisco. Fisher's Lincoln Highway disbanded in 1927, when the US Highway system took over.

Alameda Museum Quarterly, Summer 2013, Ron Ucovich writes, "Who remembers Outhouses?" Alameda has a very high subterranean water table. This was good news for the earliest settlers because they had a ready supply of drinking water without needing to dig a deep well. This convenience was short-lived. Right behind their family house stood the family privy, which readily contaminated their water supply. After toilet paper was invented, it was sold in a brown paper bag with no marking on it, and kept behind the counter. The customer would ask the sales-clerk in a hushed tone for, "privy tissue".

The Club Car, August 2013, Are you interested in becoming a part of the Train Crew? Classes have started in August. Everyone starts out as a student Brakeman under the supervision of a conductor.

Union City Historical Museum, September 2013, Anthony Gualco writes, "Alvarado's Artesian Wells", taken from the San Francisco Morning Call, July 10, 1892. The artesian wells were located on the property of Colonel F. B. Granger.

Commendation

In Honor of

Leal Ranch

A California Agricultural Heritage Club Inductee

On June 28, 2013, the Leal Ranch was inducted into the California Agricultural Heritage Club. The commendation notes that the ranch was established in 1887 and has been in continuous operation since that date and also fosters agricultural excellence in California for more than 125 years.

This Commendation was signed by John Garamendi, Member of Congress, 3rd District, California

Washington Township Historical Society congratulates Bernie and Marlene Leal for this wonderful commendation.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Edward Clauson and Eileen McDonald

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES SINCE OUR LAST MEETING

Beth Booth, Pat Bagwell, Paul & Jane DeWitt and John Croft.

.....
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

The CONFERENCE of California Historical Societies

Fall Symposium in Grass Valley from Thursday, October 17 thru Saturday, October 19, 2013. The headquarters hotel is the Gold Miner's Inn – Holiday Inn, 121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA. For more information and to register please go to: www.californiahistorian.com

Thursday is a welcome dinner after which we will join the Nevada County Historical Society in their monthly Speaker Program, with speakers on the Nisenan Heritage of Grass Valley.

Friday October 18, will start with a tour of Firehouse Museum No. 1, then to North Star Mine and Powerhouse Museum, with dinner in the evening at the Historic Holbrooke Hotel and learn of the history of this hotel.

Saturday, October 19, will include a tour of the South Yuba River State Park with the longest single span wooden covered bridge still in existence in the United States. Then on to the Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum, followed by a stroll down Mill Street with its beautiful historic buildings, followed by dinner and a presentation at Tofanelli's Gold Country Bistro, where speakers will talk about the strong ties California had with the South during the first decade of statehood.

