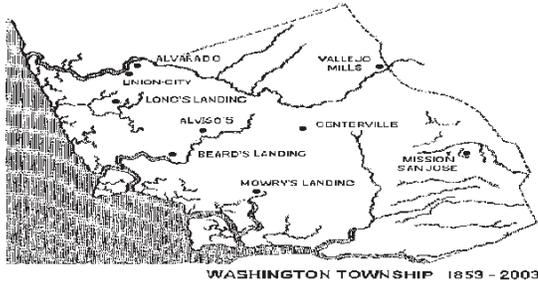


Washington Township Historical



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**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MAY 22, 2016, 7:15 PM at
MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY, 190 ANZA ST. FREMONT**

Washington Township Historical Society Editor Bruce Hevilen and Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My wife and I will be traveling during the month of May and we will not be in town for the May 22, 2016, Washington Township Historical Society meeting. John Weed our Vice-President will taking my position as chair of the meeting. My wife and I enjoy travelling to different areas and visiting the historic buildings, museums and sites in those areas. We recently returned from a trip to the Reno Nevada area and although this is our third time in the last three years that we have gone to the Reno area, we are still finding museums, historic houses and sites that we have not visited. When we talk to the local people in these areas we find that we have seen more sites than most of the local citizens. I find this

true here in the Washington Township Area also. Most people have visited Ardenwood and the Patterson house, fewer have visited the Shinn House and Arboretum, and fewer still have visited the Higuera Adobe. Here is a list of historic sites that are open to the public that I know of in the area: Patterson House, Ardenwood Farm, Coyote Hills, Don Edwards National Sea Shore, Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, Mission San Jose Museum, Higuera Adobe, Niles Veterans Hall, Union City Historical Museum, Olive Hyde Art Gallery, Old Saint Joseph's Church, and St James Episcopal Church. I challenge you to visit these buildings.

Al Minard

OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS DONALD BARSI

Our speaker this month is Donald Barsi. Donald is a recognized authority on local tokens. Tokens were a form of barter and were given to customers to get them to come back to their store or business to purchase goods. The tokens were usually only good in the originating store. A history of tokens is included in

this newsletter. Many of the businesses that provided tokens were bars and houses of prostitution and gambling. Donald is planning on focusing on the tokens in the Niles area primarily. Many of these tokens have more than face value due to their rarity. Please come out and listen to Donald talk about his tokens.

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

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN THE NEWS

Tri-City Voice, March 22, 2016, The Dominican Sisters invited the community to visit and help celebrate the completion of a major capital project. The event honored and thanked guests who supported the \$22.2 Million project. This project provided housing for active and retired sisters, and new facilities open to non-profit organizations focused on the arts, education, spirituality and wellness.

Tri-City Voice, March 29, 2016, Haarika Kathi, a senior at Irvington High School, gave a very special gift to Tule Ponds at Tyson Lagoon Wetland Center managed by Math Science Nucleus. Haarika created a mural highlighting the butterflies that can be seen flying within the milkweed jungle at the Tule Ponds.

Tri-City Voice, March 29, 2016, Kelsey Carmello writes about an exhibit in the Washington Township Historical Museum of Local History at 190 Anza Street, Fremont. History applauds just a few of the many women who have formed the backbone of society. The exhibit opened on Friday April 8, 2016 and will run for several weeks. This exhibit celebrates some of the Tri-City Women who were doing things like producing airplane parts for the war effort in the 1940's.

Tri-City Voice, April 5, 2016, Shape Our Fremont writes about the potential loss of seven historic homes along Peralta Boulevard. These homes were built mostly between 1906 and 1921 with one additional home built in 1947. This is a proposed development which would include 53 townhomes in 12 three-story buildings. These homes although they are all over 50 years of age with minimal modifications were determined by city staff to be ineligible for inclusion in the Fremont Historical register without being reviewed by the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB).

Tri-City Voice, April 5, 2016, Washington Township Historical Museum informed us of a FREE talk by Jim Griffin, great grandson of Irvington Pioneer, Angie Rix. This talk will be held in the Irvington IOOF Hall, 40955 Fremont Boulevard, on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, starting at 7 PM. Jim will talk about several of the early pioneer women and men who came here, lived, worked and stayed in this area.

Tri-City Voice, April 5, 2016, Lila Bringhurst, writes about the unveiling of the station platform and sculpture's on Mission Boulevard at the end of Mowry. The sculptures were created by Mario Chiodo, the train platform is designed by Kurt Hereld and built by Don Gottfredson. This is a delightful addition to our public art.

Tri-City Voice April 12, 2016, Pat Kite writes about "Tasty Tomatoes". She reminds us that now is the ideal time to put those tomato plants in the ground in your garden. Pat tells us that there are two types of tomato's, determinate which are usually bush form and all of the tomatoes appear within about a two week span, and indeterminate which continue growing until frost kills them in the fall with fresh tomatoes appearing all of the time. There are many varieties of both types of plants. The determinates were produced to be machine harvested all at one time.

Tri-City Voice, April 12, 2016, Al Minard writes about National History Day, which is an annual competition for elementary, junior high and high school children as either individuals or groups of up to five students. This year's theme was, "Exploration, Encounter and Exchange in History. Fremont had 15 projects with 23 students advancing to the California State competition.

Tri-City Voice, April 12, 2016, William Marshak writes about the unveiling of the new Niles Train Sculpture on Mission Boulevard at the end of Mowry Avenue. Niles was the terminus of the Transcontinental Railroad that ran across the country and opened up the West and everything to pioneers who wanted to come west. The sculpture includes a porter balancing a lot of suitcases and a chicken loose on the platform.

Tri-City Voice April 19, 2016, Hayward Area Historical Society celebrates 60 years of the shared history of Hayward, San Leandro, Castro Valley, and the surrounding unincorporated areas of Ashland, Cherryland, and Fairview. They held a gala on April 30 with dj's playing 50's music. This is a great museum with a nice Café inside.

Tri-City Voice, April 26, 2016, Hot Havana Nights, will be a fundraiser for Music at the Mission. It will include a Masquerade Ball (don't forget your mask), It will be held on Friday, May 6, 2016 starting at 6 PM, at the Double Tree Hotel, 39900 Balentine Drive, Newark. Harriet Whitney will be honored as the 2016 Volunteer of the Year. James Griffin Construction celebrated 100 years in business in 2013 and they have been responsible for several architectural preservation endeavors.

Tri-City Voice, April 26, 2016, Kelsey Carmello writes about Family Day at the Galindo-Higuera Adobe in the Warms Spring area, was open on Saturday, April 30, 2016 for an exciting day of family fun. Rattlesnake Roger, will bring his collection of spurs and leggings which were typical wear in the late 1800's. There were also rancho activities for the children including a piñata.

Trade tokens or barter tokens

Tokens are coin-like objects used instead of **coins**. Tokens are used in place of coins and either have a denomination shown or implied by size, color or shape. “Tokens” are often made of cheaper metals: **copper**, **pewter**, **aluminum**, **brass** and **tin** were commonly used, while Bakelite, **leather**, **porcelain**, and other less durable materials are also known.

The key point of difference between a token and a coin is that a coin is issued by a governmental local or national authority and is freely exchangeable for goods or other **coins**, whereas a token has a much more limited use and is often (but not always) issued by a private company, group, association or individual.

Coin-like objects from the **Roman Empire** called *spintria* have been interpreted as a form of early tokens. Their functions are not known from written history, but they appear to have been brothel tokens or possibly gaming tokens.

Medieval English monasteries issued tokens to pay for services from outsiders. These tokens circulated in nearby villages where they were called «Abbot's money.» Also, counters called **jetons** were used as small change without official blessing.

From the 17th to the early 19th century in the **British Isles** and **North America**, tokens were commonly issued by merchants in times of acute shortage of **coins** of the state to enable trading activities to proceed. The token was in effect a pledge redeemable in goods but not necessarily for currency. These tokens never received official sanction from government but were accepted and circulated quite widely.

In **England**, the production of copper **farthings** was permitted by royal license in the first few decades of the 17th century, but production ceased during the **English Civil War** and a great shortage of small change resulted. This shortage was felt more keenly because of the rapid growth of trade in the towns and cities, and this in turn prompted both local authorities and merchants to issue tokens.

Another period of coin shortage occurred in the late 18th century, when the British **Royal Mint** almost ceased production. Merchants once again produced tokens, but they were now machine made and typically larger than their 17th century predecessors, with values of a **halfpenny** or more. While many were used in trade, they were also produced for advertising and political purposes, and some series were produced for the primary purpose of sale to collectors. These tokens are usually known as **Conder tokens**, after the writer of the first reference book on them.

These were issued by merchants in payment for goods with the agreement that they would be redeemed in goods to an equivalent value at the merchants' own outlets. The transaction is therefore one of barter, with the tokens playing a role of convenience, allowing the seller to receive his goods at a rate and time convenient to himself and the merchant, to tie the holder of the token coin to his shop. Trade tokens often change slowly and subtly into barter tokens over time, as evidenced by the continued circulation of former trade tokens when the need for their use had passed.

In the United States of America **Hard times tokens** issued from 1832 to 1844 and **Civil War tokens** issued in the 1860s made up for shortages of official money.

The collecting of trade tokens is part of the field of **exonumia**, and includes other types of tokens, including transit tokens, encased cents, and many others. In a narrow sense, trade

tokens are “good for” tokens, issued by merchants. Generally, they have a merchant's name or initials, sometimes a town and state, and a value legend (such as “good for 5¢” or other denomination) somewhere on the token. Types of merchants that issued tokens included general stores, grocers, department stores, dairies, meat markets, drug stores, saloons, bars, taverns, barbers, coal mines, lumber mills and many other businesses. The era of 1870 through 1920 marked the highest use of “trade tokens” in the United States, spurred by the proliferation of small stores in rural areas. Thousands of small general and merchandise stores were to be found all over the United States, and many of them used trade tokens to promote trade and extend credit to customers. Aluminum tokens almost always date after 1890, when low-cost production began.

After the increase in the value of silver stopped the circulation of silver coins around 1964, casinos rushed to find a substitute, as most **slot machines** at that time used that particular coin. The **Nevada State Gaming Control Board** consulted with the U.S. Treasury, and casinos were soon allowed to start using their own tokens to operate their slot machines. The **Franklin Mint** was the main minter of casino tokens at that time.

In 1971, many casinos adopted the **Eisenhower Dollar** for use in machines and on tables. When the dollar was replaced with the **Susan B. Anthony dollar** in 1979, most casinos reinstated tokens, fearing confusion with quarters and not wishing to extensively retool their slot machines. Those casinos which still use tokens in slot machines still use Eisenhower-sized ones.

Staff tokens were issued to staff of businesses in lieu of coin. In the 19th century the argument supporting payment to staff was the shortage of coin in circulation, but in reality employees were forced to spend their wages in the **company's stores** at highly inflated prices—resulting in an effective dramatic lowering of their actual salary and disposable income.¹

Railways and public transport agencies used **fare tokens** for years, to sell rides in advance at a discount, or to allow patrons to use **turnstiles** geared only to take tokens (as opposed to coins, **currency**, or **fare cards**).

In **North America** tokens were originally issued by merchants from the 18th century in regions where national or local colonial governments did not issue enough small denomination coins for circulation. They were later used to create a **monopoly**; to pay labor; for discounts (pay in advance, get something free or discounted); or for a multitude of other reasons. In the United States, a well-known type is the **wooden nickel**, a **five-cent** piece distributed by cities to raise money for their anniversaries in the 1940s to 1960s.

Local stores, saloons and mercantiles would issue their own tokens as well, usable only in their own shops. **Railways** and **public transport** agencies have used fare tokens for years to sell rides in advance at a discount. Many transport organizations still offer their own tokens for **bus** and **subway** services, toll bridges, tunnels, and highways, although the use of **computer-readable** tickets has replaced these in most areas.

Churches used to give **tokens** to members passing a religious test prior to the day of **communion**, then required the token for entry. While mostly **Scottish Protestant**, some U.S. churches used communion tokens. Generally, these were **pewter**, often cast by the minister in church-owned molds. Replicas of these tokens have been made available for sale at some churches recently.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2016

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 _____

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