

Washington Township Historical Society



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MEETING DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019.

WTHS BUSINESS MEETING AT 6:15 PM

HISTORICAL SPEAKER, JANET BARTON AT 7:00 PM SHARP

held in the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anxa St.

Washington Township Historical Society Editor: Al Minard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**To the Members and friends of
Washington Township Historical Society,**

This is my last letter to you as President of Washington Township Historical Society. I have enjoyed being your president but disappointed in the declining membership and attendance at our bi-monthly meetings at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street. I have tried to get interesting speakers on the history of this area to speak to us and they have been interesting. One of the problems I heard was that visitors and speakers did not want to come down to the Museum and listen to 30 minutes or so of WTHS business before the program. In that regard, the executive board has decided that we will start the business meeting at 6:15 PM and have the speaker start at 7:00 PM Sharp. We would hope that early arrivals would not disturb the business meeting and also that the business meeting would finish early enough to allow a gap in time prior to the speaker.

I am proud to announce that the Washington Township Historical Society has produced text and picture files that were included on Historical Plaques for three buildings. We have installed and dedicated one at the Women's Country Club on Parish in Fremont, one at

the Old St. Edward's Catholic Church on the corner of Graham and Sycamore St, in Newark, and we have delivered a plaque to the owners of the Bronco Billy's Pizza Parlor in Union City. We are waiting for them to finish the work and install the plaque and then we will dedicate that one.

I met with the Washington Township Museum of Local History Guild at one of their recent board meetings to see what Washington Township Historical Society (WTHS) would have to do to become part of the Museum Guild. They said that we would have to give up our name as Washington Township Historical Society and our 501(c) (3) status, follow the rules of our bylaws regarding the ending of the Society, which means giving all of our assets to another historic, non-profit organization. I asked about the funds that we have dedicated for plaques and they saw no problem with designating those funds exclusively for the purchase and installation of the plaques. I asked about the bi-monthly historical talks and they were fully supportive of those talks. I asked about a board or committee to make the arrangements for speakers and to locate and gather historical data for future historical plaques, one of which I would like is the large Sycamore Tree on Rancho Higuera Road. The Museum was very supportive of the bi-monthly meetings and the plaques. They did not want an additional board person in charge

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of these items but they did suggest that we could have a committee similar to the one that the Museum has with the Chinese Bunk House group, and we could always run for office after becoming members. I felt that all of this was possible. The Museum is already listed as the “Washington Township Museum of Local History Guild” which has our name, the money for plaques would be held for future plaques, the bi-monthly meetings with speakers on Washington Township history were strongly supported. They would take over doing the newsletter, collecting the dues, paying the insurance, and providing an opportunity to continue what we do best: speakers about the history of Washington Township and the research, purchase and installation of plaques on historic sites, and all of our archives are already in the Washington Township Museum of Local History. Our membership dues have always been for a calendar year starting on January first each year. If we make this move soon all of our dues would go to the Washington Township Museum of Local History Guild instead of WTHS.

This item will be discussed at our Monday, November 25, 2019 meeting held in the Washington Township Museum of Local History at 190 Anza Street, Fremont, starting at 6:15 PM. All Members of WTHS are welcome to attend and comment on this and any other issue before the board.

Our speaker for November is Janet Barton, who will be talking about the Chinese Bunk House at Shinn Park. Since she is involved with the arrangement with the Washington Township Museum of Local History regarding the Chinese Bunk House arrangement, she would be able to inform us also about that arrangement and how well it is working. She will start her talk at 7:00 PM Sharp. The Chinese bunkhouse is one of the last Chinese bunkhouses in California, and only one tenth of one percent of historic buildings in California are listed as a Chinese building, that makes this Chinese bunk house very significant to the history of California and especially this area. Janet has done a lot of research on this item and is extremely knowledgeable about this Chinese bunkhouse. There will be refreshments after Janet’s talk. I hope that you will attend and I am sure that if you do you will be very impressed with this presentation.

As Minard



The Old St. Edward’s Catholic Church Plaque as it looks installed in front of what is now the “The Living Hope Foursquare Church” on the corner of Sycamore and Graham in Newark.

Guest Speaker for the Monday, November 25, 2019 meeting is Janet Barton.

Janet has worked in the gardens at Shinn Park for several years and a few years ago became interested in the history of the Chinese Bunk House at Shinn Park. She researched the building and now is working on researching the Chinese families that have lived and worked in this area. She is starting to collect oral histories of different family members about the Chinese families. She is an active member of the Chinese Bunk House Group which is a subsidiary of the Washington Township Museum of Local History Guild and is using their non-profit status to collect money for the restoration of the Chinese Bunk House. One of the other members of the Chinese Bunk House group has been doing a lot of research at Stanford University which also had some Chinese housing on the grounds which are now all gone, and she has found that there are only a handful of Chinese buildings from the late 1800’s and early 1900’s on the California State Register of Historic Buildings.

Do you enjoy history, dressing in period costumes, and meeting people? Do you want to help preserve the history of the Shinn family and the Washington Township?

Why not become a docent at Shinn Park?



- **Find out:** Come to one of the holiday house tours. Let the docent know you are interested and would like to see what they do: Dec. 4 (1-3:00) and Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15 (1-4:00)
- **Training:** You do not need to know everything at once. Your docent training will be staged. The training will be 1 hour and 30 minutes per week for one month. The docent manual contains everything you will need to know.
- **Meet the Shinn:** Docents will learn the history of the Shinn family. The docent creates life for this family during the Victorian era. The Shinn family was important in several ways in the Washington Township – the water district, child psychology field, development of horticulture, forestry, and agriculture.
- **Meet the House:** Docents will learn about the history of the Shinn House itself and many of the interesting artifacts from the Victorian era.
- **Regular house tours dates:** the first Wednesday and third Sunday of each month. The tours last 45 minutes. During holiday times, the hours may change.

Contact information:

Please RSVP to Dr. Marguerite McInnes, servus41@gmail.com

Training: Four Thursdays - January 9, 16, 23, 30 from 10:30-12:00

Meet inside the front door of the Shinn House at 1251 Peralta, Fremont.

Bring a small, convenient notebook. You will need this for reference as you progress through your training. The official docent training handbook will be provided.

The Washington Township Historical Society business meeting will start at 6:15 at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza St., Fremont. All members are welcome to attend and participate in this meeting which will be discussing a possible merger of The Washington Township Historical Society and the Washington Township Museum of Local History Guild.

Our Guest Speaker this month is Janet Barton. Janet will be talking and showing pictures of the Chinese Bunk House at Shinn Park. This presentation will begin promptly at 7:00 PM at the Washington Township Museum of Local History, 190 Anza St. Fremont.

MEMBERSHIP FOR ONE ADDRESS: ONE-YEAR \$10; FIVE-YEARS \$45; TEN-YEARS \$80
PATRON MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00 for one year

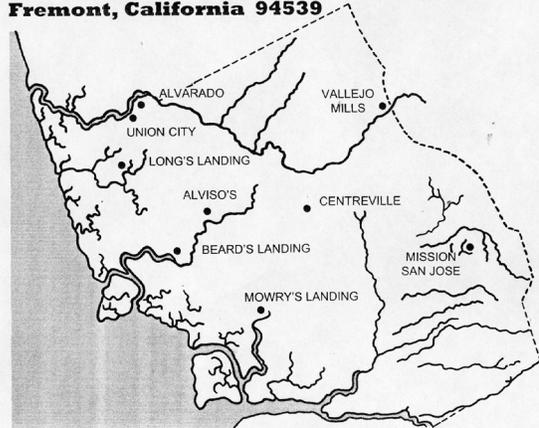
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