

SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

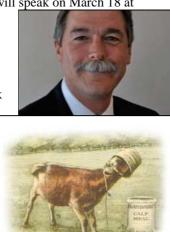
PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071 March 2014

●Free lecture on the History of Monte Sereno on March 18 ● save the date of March 22 for The Blossom Festival ● Have you renewed your membership?
● Don't miss the May program with Mary Jo Ignoffo
● Check Page 3 for more events

The History of Monte Sereno by Doug McNeil

Well-known historian Doug McNeil will speak on March 18 at

the Saratoga Historical Foundation membership program on interesting people and events associated with the history of Monte Sereno. Monte Sereno (aka Peaceful Mountain) is well-known for author John Steinbeck residing there—but what about Billy Jones and the Wildcat Railroad and his friend Walt Disney; the Hitt family who once had the largest fireworks factory in the West; the popular Claravale dairy that also served Saratoga and a few more surprises. The presentation will take place at the Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall at



14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The potluck begins at 6:30 PM—bring food to share, your own utensils, plates, and preferred beverage. Coffee and water will be provided. The lecture will begin at 7:30 PM. The event is free and open to the public. Don't miss this entertaining event!

Doug McNeil was recognized at Rotary Day at the White House in 2013 as one of 12 Rotarians across the US as a Champion of Change. He has been involved in many high technology companies but most recently is a senior director at Kinestral Technologies. When he worked for Lockheed Missles, he launched over 118 satellites from three continents. He has been involved in several youth service activities including the Sally Ride "reach for the Stars" at Stanford; Space Camp NASA at Los Gatos Union School District; Team America Rocketry Challenge for 7 and 8th grades at Fisher Middle School.



Blossoming Interest!

Don't miss pages 4-5 to see the exciting schedule for the Blossom Festival. Something for everyone whether it's tasting a prune or receiving a handmade blossom from the Girl Scouts!! I am going to the Blossom Festival!!



A "Note-Worthy Event"



After 22 years as the conductor and music director of the Saratoga Community Band, and many years as the band director and music teacher at both Saratoga High School and West Valley College, Craig Northrup is retiring. He started the band because local Saratoga area residents expressed an interest in having a "home town band". Northrup will remain as the assistant conductor of the Saratoga Community Band. He will also play clarinet and saxophone in the band, along with his wife Ann who has also played flute with the group for many years.

Northrup moved to Saratoga in 1948, when his dad, who owned a radio store in Boston, decided to move to the new budding electronic capital of the world...Silicon Valley. His dad got a job at the new start-up at the time, Hewlett-Packard. Craig went on after graduation from Oak Street School (1958) and Saratoga High School (1962) to the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific, and earned both a Bachelor and Master of Music degree by 1968.

After teaching music in Oregon, he returned to Saratoga to teach at Saratoga High. He took the Saratoga High band to perform the football halftime shows for both the Oakland Raiders and also the San Francisco 49ers. The band was invited to the Vienna International Youth And Music Festival in Vienna Austria, where they won the Prize of the City of Vienna for the most outstanding band of 20 groups from all over the world. The Saratoga band also played in several other festivals, parades and concerts in western Austria, Germany, Italy, France and Switzerland.

Saratoga Historical Foundation Officers

The mission of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is to preserve the unique history of Saratoga for the education and enjoyment of the community.

Executive Committee

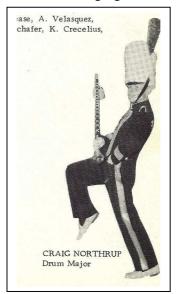
Annette Stransky, President Bob Himel, Vice President Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary Open, Treasurer

Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please call 408-867-7468 or e-mail: <u>annette@saratogahistory.com</u> *Museum and Gift Shop*

The Saratoga History Museum, McWilliams House and schoolhouse are open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Call 408-867-4311 to arrange group or docent-led tours.

Northrup established musical tour office collaborations in Japan, Mexico, England and Israel bringing musical groups to perform from North America to these destinations. He traveled American and Canadian orchestras, bands and choirs performing and bringing good will all over the world through the universal language of music!



Reminisced Northrup, "Looking at the January Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter...the Willys Peck story: he was my Sunday school teacher at the Federated Church when I was in grade school... and Vince Garrod was a long-time friend. I was close to his family and all the folks at the ranch I went to school with. I love Saratoga and treasure every moment I live here. I do have a Los Gatos mailing address, but my back fence is on the creek that borders the city of Saratoga ...so I still feel like I live in Saratoga!!!"

Great Sense of Humor

Craig Northrup is known for his sense of humor. On the Saratoga Community Band website, some of the following jokes are attributed to him:

How can you tell that a kid on a playground is a trombonist's kid?

He can't swing and he complains about the slide.

What do you call someone who hangs around with musicians? A drummer.

Why do clarinetists place their cases on the dashboard? So they can park in handicapped spaces.

What is the definition of a half step?

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Two oboes playing in unison.

How do you get an oboist to play A flat?

Take the batteries out of his electric tuner.

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To get away from the bassoon recital.

What do you call perfect pitch in an oboe?

In the dumpster without hitting the side.

What's the difference between a bassoon and a trampoline?

You take off your shoes to jump on the trampoline.

What's the difference between a saxophone and a vacuum cleaner?

You have to plug in the vacuum cleaner before it sucks. What's the difference between trumpet players and government bonds?

Government bonds eventually mature and earn money.

2014 Calendar of Events

Feb 14-	Exhibit at the museum—"School Daze" Saratoga schools from 1850 to the present
March 18	Membership potluck and meeting: 6:30 potluck; 7:30, presentation by Doug McNeil on the history of Monte Sereno
March 22	Blossom Festival held in the Heritage Orchard from 10-4 PM
March 24	Free concert at the Villages in San Jose
March 29	Sister City Open House Celebration
May 5	Free concert by the Saratoga Community Band in Wildwood Park
May 18	Free Fremont Older House Tour Call to make a reservation.
May 20	May Membership potluck and meeting:6:30 potluck; 7:30, Notorious Women, Mary Jo Ignoffo, lecturer

Free Concert with Community Band



The Saratoga Community Band will be providing a free band concert on March 24 at the Villages in San Jose. On May 5, they will have their traditional Concert in the Park at Wildwood Park from 4-6:30 PM on 4th Street. The Saratoga Community Band was founded in 1989 with 35

Fremont and Cora Older

house and Garden Tour on

led—you must call to get a

reservation. The only date you can call to make a

reservation is April 18

691-2153 to make a

May 18. The tours are docent-

beginning at 10 AM. Call 650-

members, and today numbers over 80 musicians ranging in age from 16 to 70+. The band is sponsored by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department, and is open to all interested musicians in the California Bay area.

Free Tour of Fremont and Cora Older House

The Mid Peninsula Open Space is having its annual tour of the



reservation.

In 1914, Fremont Older, an unconventional local newspaper editor and his wife Cora, an author and historian, moved into their "Woodhills" home. Designed and built by architect Frank Delos Wolfe, the home was quite unusual for the time. The Olders hosted many literary, artistic, and political guests during their years in the home. Older was good friends with James Phelan and helped him become mayor of San Francisco. Cora Older insisted on James Phelan planting pink geraniums (her favorite color) to line his driveway. Cora Older was distinguished in her own right having authored several books. She is also responsible for spearheading the rose garden in San Jose.

In 1975, the District purchased the property and the house was scheduled for demolition. Mort and Elaine Levine, local newspaper publishers, wanted to see the journalistic legacy of Fremont Older and "Woodhills" preserved. The District Board voted and approved a long-term lease with the Levines who absorbed the cost of the home's restoration, which was completed in 1979. The Levines still live at "Woodhills."

May 20—Noteworthy and Notorious Women

Local author and teacher Mary Jo Ignoffo will give a



presentation on Noteworthy and Notorious Women in California's History at the May 20 membership meeting. The life stories and legacies of some forthright nineteenth and twentieth-century California women are often absent from history books. But further investigation finds common ground in lives that demonstrated intellect, determination, resilience, and a belief in

woman's ability to accomplish great deeds. To remove the suspense in case you are looking for your name or names of friends-- among the ladies to be covered in the presentation will include pioneer Tamsen Donner, Gold Rush-era abolitionist Mary Ellen Pleasant, novelist Gertrude Atherton, philanthropist Sarah Winchester, architect Julia Morgan, First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, and civil rights leader Dolores Huerta. Each of these lives sheds considerable light upon her time and place in California's past.

The presentation will take place at the Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. The potluck begins at 6:30 PM—bring food to share, your own utensils, plates, and preferred beverage. Coffee and water will be provided. The lecture will begin at 7:30 PM. The event is free and open to the public.

Mary Jo Ignoffo has written articles on history for the San Jose Mercury News, The Californian, and Santa Clara Magazine. She has authored five books and teaches history at De Anza College in Cupertino, California.



Saratoga Sister City Celebration on March 29

Stop by the Saratoga Prospect Center (19848 Prospect Road) on March 29 from 1-4 PM and enjoy the Saratoga Sister City

organization's open house. The event celebrates the 30th anniversary of the sister city affiliation with Muko, Japan and Saratoga. Enjoy an afternoon of taiko drum demonstrations, cultural displays, crafts, games and more. Free to the public.

Come to The Blossom Festival---March 22

The pulsing beat of the Saratoga Taiko drums will open this year's Blossom Festival on March 22. Live music, artists, book authors, craftspeople, antique cars, food trucks, orchard walk and more are all part of the free event's offering. The event takes place at the Heritage Orchard and Civic Center



(13777 Fruitvale Avenue) and will run from 10-4 PM. Mayor Emily Lo will emcee the entertainment. **Event Produced by the Saratoga Historical Foundation** According to Saratoga Historical Foundation President Annette

Stransky, "The Blossom Festival originated as a celebration of Saratoga's agricultural and community-focused life in 1900 and ran for 40 years. By holding the event in the Heritage Orchard we can remember the beauty of the orchards and the importance of our roots. "

Dedicated to the Memory of Willys Peck and Vince Garrod

This year the Blossom Festival is dedicated to the memory of Vince Garrod and Willys Peck. Both were outstanding leaders in the community and contributed in many ways. The Garrod family has been involved in local agriculture for over 150 years. Willys Peck was not only the town historian but instrumental in keeping the arts flourishing in Saratoga. The Blossom Festival is a fitting tribute to the memory of both men.

Meet the authors-prunes, apricots, and bottles!



Three popular local authors will be on-hand to sell and autograph their books. The lineup includes Robin Chapman, author of , "California Apricots—The Lost Orchards of

Silicon Valley"; Tim Stanley, author of "The Last of the Prunepickers"—the story of the Pitman ranch; and Tobin Gilman, author of "19th Century San Jose in a Bottle"— describing his collection and finding of local bottles from the past including those from Saratoga's famous Congress Springs.

Dixieland Jazz, Barbershop Quartet and More Live music will be in two areas from 10-4 PM. One area will feature Saratoga Taiko; cowboy music with the Skillet Likkers; the Music-for-Minors choir and the Mustang Chorale from Marshall Lane elementary; the toe tapping Rhythmaire band; the award winning Four Gents in a Chord barbershop quartet; and the swinging sounds of the Toot Sweet Dixieland jazz band. The second area will feature local student bands playing a variety of music including classical, rock and roll and jazz—organized by Michael Okuno. Wandering musicians will also be on hand.

See, Taste and Learn About Saratoga

"There are so many activities and opportunities for people to see and learn about Saratoga's history, meet community groups, and even taste!," said Stransky. "Got a question about drought tolerant plants—see the Master Gardeners booth. Looking for an Easter gift?—see the many craftspeople. Or, want to learn the history of the Heritage Orchard—take a docent-led tour of the orchard. Never tasted a prune? Prunes are being handed out in memory of when the Santa Clara Valley was the world's largest provider of prunes and known as the Valley of Hearts Delight."

Many Children's Activities



There will be many activities for young children including a petting zoo of baby animals; story hour on the hour and sponsored by the Saratoga Library; old fashioned children's games led by costumed Saratoga

History Museum docents and three busy activity tables organized by the Girl Scouts, plus tables organized by the Japanese American Museum and MACC pre-school. Free stick-on tattoos will also be handed out to young and old. **Poetry by Local Poets**

Former Poet Laureate Parthenia Hicks and poets Mary Lou Taylor and former Poet Laureate Dave Denny will hold original poetry readings and will be selling some of their books. The readings will take place from 10:30-12:30 in the Warner Hutton house.

Artists from Four Local Organizations

Artists from four local art organizations will display and sell favorite paintings, cards and other items. Organizations participating include Saratoga Community of Painters, Saratoga Contemporary Artists and Los Gatos Art Association En Plein Air, and Santa Clara Valley Water Color Art Association.

Saratoga water color artist Kay Duffy and a participant says, "The Heritage Orchard has always had appeal to my artistic eye and I have enjoyed painting it over the years. I love to paint plein air under the blossoming trees while smelling the sweetness of spring time. I hope everyone comes to the event!"



Ginny Sampson shown here is one of many artists showing paintings in different media at the festival.

Blossom Festival cont.

Many Craftspeople and Organizations Many organizations will have informative displays including the Santa Clara Valley Beekeeper Guild, Master Gardeners, Wild Life Center of Silicon Valley, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, California



Native Plant Society, BookGoRound, SVDC and Hakone Gardens.

Over thirty craftspeople will be selling handmade wares of jewelry, olive oil, scarves, old fashioned aprons, scented soap, plants, baskets, decorative gourds and many other lovely items.

Old Films, Presentation on the Interurban Railway Enjoy two films depicting the Santa Clara Valley in the 1930's and the history of prunes from 10-2 in the Warner Hutton house. An entertaining presentation on the Interurban Railway which ran from 1904-1934 in Saratoga will be given by popular Saratogan Lecturer Ray Cosyn at 2:30 PM.



Photos, Local History Books and More The Saratoga Historical Foundation will have a wide selection of local history books to purchase including books on the Saratoga

volunteer fire department, Abolitionish John Brown's wife Mary, Saratoga, the local Mineral Springs and more. Aerial views of Saratoga, displays on the Blossom Festival, and Vince Garrod and Willys Peck will also be available. Vintage Vehicles



The Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford, the Santa Clara Model A Ford, and the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association will be showing a variety of cars and motors. The Saratoga vintage fire truck will also be in attendance sporting new paint and firefighters.

Historical Characters

Saratoga has always been a city with talented artists, writers, community

leaders, and more. Over 20 costumed historical characters representing those areas will be on hand to tell you their story.



Got a question for Senator Phelan (hint his home is the beautiful Villa Montalvo) or Isabel Stine who built Hakone Gardens? Or maybe Charles Blaney, **our first highway commissioner** and who is responsible for the Memorial Arch. Or how about Sunshine Williams who originated the idea for the Blossom Festival? Bring a camera and have your picture taken or come with a question or two and test their mettle!

Gourmet Food Trucks

A wide selection of gourmet food trucks will be on hand to satisfy the most picky food lover. Tables and chairs will be available so you can eat and enjoy the good music.



Once again the Girl Scouts are handing out handmade blossoms to attendees. The original Blossom Festival had guests leaving with bouquets of real flowers.

Thanks

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event happen! And a special thanks to the city of Saratoga for sponsoring the event.

Remembering the Blossoms

March 20, 1900 marked the first year the Blossom Festival was held in Saratoga. Launched by Everlasting Sunshine (Edwin Sidney) Williams, the festival was an overwhelming success and one to be repeated year after year until World War II. This charming poem was handed out at the festival and written by Clarence Urmy, a Saratoga poet.



Introducing the Sister City Organization



Three decades of education and fun have taken place since the original relations between Saratoga and sister city Muko-shi began in Muko-shi, Kyoto, Japan. A formal celebration will take place on March 29 at Prospect Center and is produced by the Saratoga Sister City organization.

Interest was first shown when Kiyoshi Yasui, an architect to the Imperial family of Japan, was consulted by the city of Saratoga to implement a master plan for Hakone Gardens. Yasui, a resident of Muko, Japan fostered a relationship with some of the residents of Saratoga. Soon the Saratoga Sister City organization was formed with Marion Card serving as the first president.

Saratoga's relationship was solidified in 1984 when 38 Saratogans traveled to Muko-shi, Kyoto, Japan, to sign the affiliation agreement on November 16, 1984.

Muko, a city of 55,000, was once the capital of Japan. From 784 to 794 the city was the cultural center of Japan until the capital was moved to Kyoto and then to Tokyo.

Since that time the Saratoga Sister City organization has celebrated each anniversary with flair. The fifth anniversary was celebrated with a Muko display at Villa Montalvo. The tenth anniversary was celebrated in Japan and was concurrent with Kyoto's 1200th Anniversary. The Saratoga contingent wore ceremonial costumes during the parade held in Kyoto. The fifteenth anniversary was held in Saratoga with the Muko delegation marching in Saratoga's Community Parade and an evening event in Hakone. The 20th anniversary included a celebration at the Saratoga library. And the 25th anniversary was marked with a tree planting, art exchange, and formal dinner.

The focus of the organization is to widen the community's knowledge and appreciation for Japanese culture. The



organization works with the Hakone Foundation to promote events and activities toward that end.

The Saratoga Sister City organization promotes student exchanges for students from the US to travel to Japan as well as to have students from Japan travel to Saratoga.

Traditional arts and crafts demonstrations; tea ceremony

participation; taiko drumming, opportunities to meet Japanese people and travel to Japan are all part of the organization's strategy for promoting interest. A display of some of the precious artifacts Muko-shi has given Saratoga can be seen in several display cases located in the Saratoga city office. But the best example of the friendship that spans an ocean is the continued growth and interest that thrives after three decades.

Saratoga Taiko – Thundering Rhythm



Saratoga Taiko is serious business. From the crisp rhythm of the drums to the philosophy of taiko. You can see Saratoga Taiko practicing at Prospect Center. They play local community events and perform at schools in the Saratoga area. Aki Okuno leads the group and is one of the founders.

According to one of the members, Louise Webb, the group came back from their first trip to Japan and wanted to start a taiko group. The first drums were made out of treated wine barrels. Muko on their next trip to Saratoga were so impressed they started their own taiko group. The two taiko groups played in a parade in Saratoga for the fifteenth anniversary.

Special clothing worn

The group wears the traditional clothing from the hachimaki headband to the happi coat. **Unique drums used**



The large drums used are made by the founding Saratoga Taiko members and smaller drums were purchased. In Japan taiko drums are made from whole pieces of wood that are hollowed out from a tree.

The spirit of taiko

The basic elements of taiko are attitude, kata, musical technique and ki. Together they provide the spirit of taiko.

An attitude of respect for the art of taiko begins with the best of one's mental and physical abilities. Taiko requires self-

discipline and physical stamina.

Kata refers to the low stance and coordinated arm and body movements. Each taiko composition has a prescribed set of movements along with rhythm that establishes a visual style for the group.

Musical technique includes the handling of the drumsticks; wrist movement; and maintaining coordination and tone.

In traditional Eastern philosophical thought, the spiritual unity of the mind and body is called ki. Attaining ki is the ultimate challenge as each member drums and moves together as one person.

Members of Saratoga Sister City will be demonstrating taiko -- the art of Japanese drumming -- as part of their education to the community of Japanese culture at 10:30 AM at the Blossom Festival.

On the Road A Little Bit of Russia

Driving down the narrow street of Elva in Saratoga you'll



suddenly see a building that looks like something Traveller Rick Steves might feature in one of his trips to Europe.

The St. Nicholas Orthodox church, located on 14220 Elva Street, has the Pussian architectura

charming gold dome commonly found in Russian architecture.



The gleaming onion- shaped dome is popularly believed to symbolize burning candles—a religious symbol. The shape of the church building also has symbolic meaning. One concept is that the church is the "Ark of Salvation as in Noah's Ark in which the world is saved from the flood of temptations." As such, most Orthodox churches are rectangular in design.

St. Nicholas Orthodox church

originated in May of 1951 when a group of Eastern Europe immigrants gathered together at the back of a real estate building in Saratoga and celebrated the birth of St. Nicholas, the Wonder Worker.

Michael Zelneronok, who was to become the first priest of the parish, came to Saratoga in the late 1940s and moved into Villa Montalvo as a gardener. He had had an interesting life. He was ordained a priest in 1936 and served in Latvia until 1940 when the Russian army overran the country. For the next six years he served in labor camps throughout Germany where he taught Russian and religion. In 1947 he fled to the US to escape Communism.

Zeleronok quickly connected with others who had left Russia and had settled in Saratoga. The parish was founded with six families in 1951. Services were held by Father Michael in the rear of the building that housed the Harless Moser Real Estate agency on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road.

The corner lot where the church is presently located was purchased in 1952. By 1954, ground had been broken, the site consecrated, and construction of the church begun.

The parish had grown to over 100 members in three short years, most primarily were European immigrants. The cost for building the church was \$5500. Most of the money had been raised through conducting picnics and bazaars. The picnics featured traditional Russian food, Russian ballet, colorful folk dancing, music concerts as well as a bazaar.

Growth came again in 1955 when the church began fund raising for a social hall. The hall was officially dedicated on May 27, 1956.

In 1959, a zoning change allowed the church to build a rectory/school building. Ground was broken and by 1960, the rectory was built at a cost of \$8000. During this time, the

church added a bell tower giving the church its Russian or Byzantine appearance.

By 1971 the church had grown to 150 members in the winter and with half that in the summer. Father Michael was reassigned to a church in San Diego in 1971.

His replacement, Father George Benigsen served at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church from 1970-1979. During that time he also taught at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. He introduced English into the church services as well as added traditional iconastas in the church. His wife added English music to the choir and was the choir director.

Today's minister is Father Basil who came in 1983 to serve



in Saratoga. The church hosts a Russian Festival each year in the September-October timeframe if you want to sample a variety of Russian food and drink. Traditional Russian music, dancers in colorful costumes are all part of the fun. This writer can recommend the tasty homemade

borscht soup made from beets!

Who was Saint Nicholas?

Does the name Saint Nicholas sound familiar? Nicholas was



the bishop of the Christian Church in Turkey during the fourth century AD. He is well known throughout the Orthodox Christian world for his kindness during his life and afterward. He is also called "Wonder Worker" for the miracles he performed.

In the Protestant West, where sainthood was suppressed, Saint Nicholas became popularly known as Santa Claus.

On the Street Where You Live



Geralde (Jerry) Zapelli was a well known educator in Saratoga. He served 16 years as vice principal or one of the longest times at Saratoga High School and was one of the most popular vice principals. Prior to

becoming the vice principal he taught at Saratoga elementary school. When he passed away in 1976 to honor his work, the back entrance street at Saratoga High School was named after him.

Find out more about this popular vice principal and schools by stopping by the Saratoga History Museum and see the current exhibit on "School Daze"—covering Saratoga schools from 1850 to the present.

In Memory

Shirley Guest Dr. Fred Armstrong



Saratoga Historical Foundation PO Box 172 Saratoga, CA 95071

Be sure to visit: <u>www.saratogahistory.com</u> or www.facebook.com/SaratogaHistorical Foundation NONPROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID SARATOGA CA PERMIT NO 99

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Donations

Long time member Barbara Voester recently donated several



beaded gowns and other clothing items from the 1920's and 30's to the Saratoga History museum. The gowns had been in the family for many years. Dave Pitman also

recently donated some items—a large, framed photo of his family ranch,

aerial photo of Saratoga in the 1950s and several farm implements.

Items donated to the Saratoga Historical Foundation are carefully stored. Some items are used in the permanent exhibits which can be seen during each visit to the museum. Others are used for special exhibits such as the "School Daze."

Donors are given a tax receipt for their donation.

Donations are appreciated inasmuch as they provide an opportunity to fill gaps in Saratoga's history; freshen exhibits; and add interest to exhibits.

If you have items to donate, you can call 408-867-4311 to make an appointment to meet with the Collections Director.

Membership Renewal Time

The label on your newsletter tells the story: it's time to renew



if you haven't for 2014. Your membership support enables the museum to continue preserving our local heritage and serve as a valuable educational resource. If you have enjoyed your

membership to date, consider renewing at a higher level. We have several projects underway for which we are seeking funding—including the new blacksmith exhibit.