

## What Is The McWilliams House?

The McWilliams house is the restored home of the James and Martha McWilliams family.

James McWilliams, born in Scotland in 1836, settled in McCartysville (later Saratoga) in 1864 with his wife Martha after purchasing this home and an adjacent blacksmith shop owned by Henry Jarboe.

For the next 16 years, the McWilliams' lived in the home, raising four of their five daughters while running the blacksmith business nearby. Built closer to downtown Saratoga (near the gas station across the street from the fire-house), the house remained in its original location until 1973, when the Saratoga Historical Foundation saved it from demolition by moving it to its current location near the corner of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and Oak Street.

A tremendous outpouring of support and community involvement has resulted in its restoration and preservation for the education and enjoyment of our greater community. The educational arm of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is now offering visits to the Museum and McWilliams house as well as classroom presentations for interested schools.

Step back in time with a visit to the historic McWilliams House and experience life in Saratoga as it was in the early days.



## THE DETAILS

**MEETS CALIFORNIA EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS:** All the options we offer can be used “stand-alone” or in conjunction with other offerings. We have designed these programs primarily for third and fourth grade classes studying California and local history, but the materials may be adapted for other grades and subjects. Each program is correlated to the Content Standards for California public schools and can be used to complement a fieldtrip visit or to learn more about local history in your classroom.

**PARKING:** parking at the museum is limited. Additional parking is available across the street in the public lot.

**SPECIAL ACCESS:** ramps are installed on both the McWilliams House and the Museum.

**OTHER PROGRAMS:** while these programs are targeted at 3rd and 4th grade levels, we offer tours and are designing other programs for K-12, as well as for adult groups, including developmentally disabled visitors. Home schools, scouts, daycare and other groups are welcome. Teachers, students, and families will find the Saratoga History Museum an exciting place for further explorations of Saratoga and California history.

**SCHEDULING:** The McWilliams House is available for field trips from October to June.

To schedule a visit or classroom presentation, call Linda Hagelin at 408-867-3763 or email [lhagelin@saratogahistory.com](mailto:lhagelin@saratogahistory.com) [www.SaratogaHistory.com](http://www.SaratogaHistory.com)



### SARATOGA HISTORY MUSEUM

*Preserving the Unique History of Saratoga for the Education and Enjoyment of the Community*

Open Fri, Sat, Sun 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. or by arrangement.  
20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd, Saratoga, CA 95070  
408.867.4311 ~ [www.SaratogaHistory.com](http://www.SaratogaHistory.com)

## LIVING HISTORY

*Educational Experiences for Schools*

### LIFE IN EARLY SARATOGA AT THE SARATOGA HISTORY MUSEUM AND THE MCWILLIAMS HOUSE

Field Trips  
Classroom Presentations



## FIELD TRIP

### THE MCWILLIAMS HOUSE VISIT WITH SARATOGA HISTORY MUSEUM TOUR

Your students will discover how ten year-old Clara McWilliams churned butter for her mother, how father James McWilliams kept his family warm, and how the McWilliams children enjoyed their free time.

Your class will love this hands-on experience at the Saratoga History Museum and the McWilliams House. Organized into four stations, each group of students (and one chaperone per five children) will engage in the following activities:

#### STATION 1: SCHOOL IN THE 1870's *(in the Museum)*

Students sit at Victorian-era school desks with slates and chalk. The school "Marm" will impart some fun and enlightening news about education in Victorian times as compared to today—great for a lively discussion. How many kids in a classroom? What were their ages? How far did they progress in school? Could Tom *really* put Becky's braids in the ink well?

#### STATION 2: MCWILLIAMS FAMILY *(in the McWilliams House)*

Group two assembles in the parlor of the historical McWilliams home and hears the McWilliams family story. Students try on period clothing, are introduced to Victorian manners and perhaps a song from those early days. What? No video games?!



#### STATION 3: KITCHEN AND BEDROOM AREAS *(in the McWilliams House)*

How does a wood stove work? Where did the ingredients for bread come from? Students try grinding corn, playing with dolls, and learn who takes out the chamber pot!



#### STATION 4: THE WASH ROOM

*(in the McWilliams House)* Students scrub with an old washboard and use old-fashioned clothes pins. How is this different from today's house cleaning? Who takes the last bath in the old tin bathtub?

#### OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY

*(Outdoors, weather permitting, or in the Museum)* Students reassemble for Victorian fun 'n games, including marbles, jacks, top spinning, pickup sticks, jumprope, and propeller spinners.



#### RECAP IN THE MUSEUM

Students will share insights from the visit, share family lore from their own family, and the docents will give a few final compelling facts about life in early Saratoga and about the McWilliams family.

## OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS

Created as an adjunct to a McWilliams House Visit or as a "stand-alone" experience, educational docents will come to your classroom and share the exciting history of Saratoga with a verbal presentation and some hands-on activities. We currently have two presentations to choose from:

#### SARATOGA TRUNK

We bring artifacts from the museum collection to your classroom along with stories about how they were used in early Saratoga life by the McWilliams family. Students have time to touch and ask questions, as well as play with some of the toys in this social studies lesson.

#### POSTCARD STORIES

This is a language arts/social studies lesson using postcards from the museum collection. Using museum gloves when handling, students analyze a vintage postcard for location, date, and differences from modern cards. They can write an answer to the sender, or make written observations about the picture and message on the card.

