



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

POST OFFICE BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

JULY, 2008

City Council Meeting, Annual Barbeque and Auction, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, New Exhibit Coming, and More!!

SHF Presents 2008 Highlights at City Council Meeting

Members of the Saratoga Historical Foundation (SHF) will meet with the City Council on July 2 for an annual meeting to discuss highlights and priorities of the organization. The Heritage Preservation Council (HPC) will also be attending and giving a separate presentation.

In preparation for the meeting, the Board prepared a seven-page document highlighting the achievements of the first six months of 2008. The following is just a snapshot of information.

SHF Highlights

- Membership has increased over 40% or up to 233--an all time record.
- Volunteers have grown in force to over 40, excluding students.
- Sponsored several fund raisers--supplementing monies received from membership so more activities can be funded.
- Produced three well-received programs for membership including Remembering Old Saratoga and The Lives of the Ohlone Indians, Parts I and II.
- Awarded the first annual Louise Garrod Cooper memorial award as part of History Week at Saratoga High School.



Museum Highlights

- Over 234 visitors have come to the museum.
- Two special exhibits: 50 Years of Warren B. Heid, Architect, held over from 2007 and the Early Healthcare in Saratoga. Saratogans in Wartime is scheduled for September.
- Installed a new alarm system for additional security for the Museum and the McWilliams House
- Added a new powerful computer system and software for easier information access.
- Donations continue to come in and include books and other items.

SHF website Highlights

• <http://www.saratogahistory.com> demonstrated an increased growth of 40% of usage over 2007

- Average visitor looks at 2-3 pages each visit
- Popular resource for historians.

McWilliams House and Educational Programs Highlights

- The McWilliams house is now listed in the Bay Area House Museums directory and guide.
 - Over 230 visitors excluding special events and tours.
 - The Educational program (see story inside) has reached over 250 students and adults with their programs.
- ### **Priorities for 2008 and 2009**
- Continue to promote SHF membership and recruit volunteers.
 - Completion of the Preservation Park landscaping in a timely manner.
 - Continue to grow all programs and services for a positive reflection on Saratoga and its history

Saratoga Historical Foundation Officers and Board of Directors

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

Chuck Schoppe, President, Technical Systems

Director

Jack Mallory, Vice President, Community Relations
Director

Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary

Bob Himel, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Nancy Anderson, Social Events Director

Ray Cosyn, Willys Peck Collection Project
Manager, Historian

Linda Hagelin, Education Programs Director

Bob Loudon, Newsletter Editor

Willys Peck, Members Programs Coordinator

Peggy Schoppe, Exhibits Chair, Gift Shop
Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, McWilliams
House Committee Chair, Archives and
Collections Coordinator

Jim Sorden, Facilities Director, HPC
Representative

Annette Stransky, Marketing Director

Gene Zambetti, Membership Director

Consultants and Volunteer Leaders

Jill Hunter, City Council Liaison

Ann Johnson, Jewelry Designer

Jeff Johnson, Webmaster

Laurel Perusa, Correspondence Secretary

Jenni Taylor, Museum Docent Coordinator

they carry on the tradition of our forefathers in their sacrifices for the well-being of our nation.

We've had some changes to our Board of Directors. After many years of volunteer service to SHF, Warren Heid has decided to retire and we will surely miss him. Warren has served in many capacities, most recently as Historian. Warren was also Architect of Record on the renovation of the McWilliams House which was completed last year. Warren's wife Sheila was also a volunteer for many years as a Board member, Historian, as the Museum's second volunteer Museum Director, and most recently as a member of the Exhibits Committee. The Heid family has certainly been an SHF family!

I want to welcome our newest Board member Annette Stransky, elected to the Board at our May members meeting. Annette is our newly created Marketing Director, a role that promises her great exposure in the community and to our membership, and she has approached this job with a great deal of enthusiasm. Past President Bob Loudon has asked for a leave from the Board in order to care for his wife Anne, recovering from a recent stroke and just returned home from the hospital. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Bob and Anne, and we pray for her speedy recovery. Annette will substitute for Bob in his role as Editor/Publisher during Bob's absence.

After almost eight years, April Halberstadt has left us to pursue other activities. April came to SHF to do some specific jobs such as organizing the vault and authoring a book on the Saratoga Volunteer Fire Department, which is soon to be published. Then for the past several years she was our first paid (part-time) Museum Director. April will be back from time-to-time as she will be working with volunteer Katie Alexander in compiling material for our new Arcadia book which we will report on in a future article. April made many contributions to the Museum and was well-known to the community. I know that you'll join me in wishing April well!

With summer now upon us and with vacations under way, I know that our days will be very busy in the months ahead. Please save September 21 for our annual barbeque and auction! This fundraiser, held at the historic Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery, has been a very popular event, and tickets are limited, so watch for details and your reservation form in the September newsletter and on our website: www.saratogahistory.com. Our volunteers - those who help keep the Foundation and Museum running - will receive invitations to our Appreciation Dinner to be held in August. Our Board members, museum and education docents, and our behind-the-scenes volunteers all give hundreds of hours each year, and we take this opportunity to celebrate their contributions as we give them our thanks and recognition. Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer! -- *Chuck Schoppe*

Message from the President

We celebrate the birth of the United States this week – Happy Birthday to our great nation! During the fireworks displays, parades and other events we should pause to reflect upon - and be thankful for - the courage, the commitment, the sacrifices made and the actions taken by the brave

founders of our great nation. So many changes have taken place in our country since those early days, and surely our forefathers would feel as uncomfortable here and now as we would feel if we were somehow transported back to that time – but what an adventure!. However, I am sure that they would be justly proud of the country that they created. Hopefully, we are proud also, and realize our great fortune to live when and where we do. As we celebrate our nation's Independence Day, we should also remember our members of the armed forces, for



A Decade of Fun

"Fun" is how Lynne Gurley describes her volunteer work at the Saratoga History Museum as a docent. Gurley says, "It's fun to talk to the people who come into the museum. And one of the best parts is I get a chance to look at all the photos and exhibits in the museum. I learn something new about Saratoga each time."

She's been a docent for 10 years and says "it's nice to be able to do something for the community." She works as a docent for three hours, one day each month. She adds that, "I remember working on the museum building when it was originally moved in 1976 from Big Basin Way to its present location. One of the people responsible for getting that done was my good friend and neighbor, Kevil Smith."

Gurley and her husband Jerry have lived in



Saratoga for 39 years on historic Oak Street and says "it's a wonderful place to raise children. Saratoga is a beautiful place to live with big trees and lovely old homes. The community is a great place to live, especially if you get involved in

some of the organizations like the Saratoga Historical Foundation. By getting involved you learn so much more about the area."

Gurley adds, "We have four children, Janet, Jim, Michael and Linda who loved growing up on Oak Street and all graduated from Saratoga High School. We now have seven grandchildren. (One is in high school, the rest in college and law school.) Our son Michael is a professional musician who wrote us a song entitled 'Saratoga' for our 50th wedding anniversary."

Gurley grew up in the San Francisco, San Bruno areas and remembers coming through Saratoga as a child on the way to Girl Scout camp. She said the bus would stop in the Village at the gasoline station for a "rest stop" (those were the days of unlocked and clean restrooms). She would be amazed at the warm sunshine since it was foggy when she left home.

In addition to her volunteer work with the SHF, she is also involved in MHANA--the Madronia Historic Area Neighborhood Association. The group is working to preserve the historic significance of the areas around the Village.

Gurley also enjoys painting with water colors and gardening. And, of course, grandchildren keep her busy!

Ask a Historian

Have a question about Saratoga history? Try "Ask a Historian", a popular section of the SHF website at <http://www.saratogahistory.com>. People can type in a question and one of our historians will respond.



As an example, one person asked, "Who was James P. Springer? And what is the history behind Orleans Court? Is there any relationship to the Orleans in France?"

And the response: "James P. Springer was one of the earliest American immigrants to California, arriving in 1841. He was also very unusual because he was a college graduate. He was born in Kentucky and had a sense of adventure.

Springer was one of the earliest horticulturists in the Saratoga area, experimenting with orchard fruits. His orchard covered 143 acres and included what is now Wildwood Park and most of Saratoga Village. He was elected to the California legislature, one of the earliest representatives from the area.

Biographic material on Springer can be found in Florence Cunningham's book on Saratoga as well as early histories at the library. The 1881 History of Santa Clara County by J. P. Munro-Fraser has a Springer biography. Springer Avenue was part of his orchard property." By April Halberstadt

Reading, Writing and the SHF Educational Program!

SHF Education Programs Director Linda Hagelin reports that the education program is gaining great momentum. In just six short months, she has contacted all public and private schools in Saratoga with an information packet on the education program which covers local Saratoga history. During the spring, a "Teacher Day" was conducted at the museum to demonstrate the history program to third grade teachers in Saratoga. The education group staffed a table at the Mustard Faire and presented an in-class Postcard Stories lesson.

To date, they have served 45 scouts, 65 adults, 145 public and private schoolchildren with a total of 16 sessions, 11 of them occurring from the end of March to early May! That's when third grade classes, teach "local history" in the curriculum. According to Hagelin, "Teachers say they appreciate our "active" program, where children play Victorian games, try scrubbing with a washboard, write on slates, and dress up in pinafores and blacksmith aprons."

Plans are in the works to extend the program to Cupertino as well as Campbell schools. With a hard-working group of 13 docents, Hagelin is looking for volunteers. If interested, contact her at: lhagelin@saratogahistory.com

A New Take on the Village People--Saratoga Style

Senator Phelan drove up in a 1931 sport coupe; Painless Parker showed up ready to work; and Joan Fontaine and Olivia deHavilland signed autographs. Of course, this was all to celebrate Living History Day in the Saratoga Village.

Living History Day, sponsored by the Saratoga Village Development Council (SVDC), took place on May 17. The objective was to involve everyone in learning more about Saratoga's history while enjoying the Village.

Young and old registered to take part in the event by picking up clue questions to ask each of the characters participating. Once they completed the questionnaire, they were entered into a drawing.

Many Saratoga Historical Foundation (SHF) members joined in the fun - not only dressing in period costumes but studying information about their characters. Some even carried crib notes! And all stayed in character in responding to questions for this interview!

SHF member Myrna Thompson dressed as Mary Brown and chose her because she said Mary married to Abolitionist John Brown had such an interesting life. "I hated to leave him and move to California!" said "Mary".

Paul Hernandez came as vintner Paul Masson and kept a bottle of vintage wine on hand...to keep his spirits up. He reminisced that in 1890 Saratoga became the home of his world-renowned Paul Masson Winery. He brought grape cuttings from his native land to plant on the hillsides along Pierce Road and then along came Prohibition..... he sighed.

Irrepressible Willys Peck came as the town historian and Betty Peck came as herself--one who has written two books and obtained a doctorate since

her 80th birthday! Both were popular stopping points for the people who participated.

Marilyn White aka famed architect Julia Morgan talked about Morgan's many architectural accomplishments including designing the Foothill Club. Marilyn is a member of SHF and said she had played Julia Morgan in a play at the Foothill Club so it was easy to respond to questions. She was impressed that many of the young girls recognized that it was tough for Julia Morgan to compete in what was then "a man's world."

Looking dapper in his bow tie and driving a vintage 1931 sport coupe, Tony Hoffman came as Senator James Phelan. He talked about building Villa Montalvo in 1912 but declined to talk about the parties that he used to have there.



Village People in Saratoga Style cont.

Patti Himel was elegantly dressed as Oscar winning actress Joan Fontaine. Joan Fontaine, sister of Olivia de Havilland grew up in Saratoga and went to school on Oak Street around 1930. Himel noted many of today's teenagers were unfamiliar with Fontaine's accomplishments.

Bill Kalogeras came as an Ohlone Indian-- he said his most interesting question was "where are you now?"

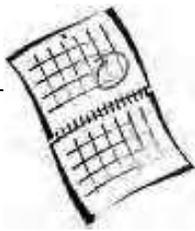
SHF member Laurel Perusa dressed as Oscar winning actress Olivia de Havilland. She noted that Olivia used to be Willys Peck's babysitter. Of course, many more people remember de Havilland for her Oscar winning role in *Gone With the Wind*. Perusa said her authentic vintage dress came from a friend who had purchased it at Harts (big department store from downtown San Jose) in 1944.

David Mantelli came as Edgar Randolph Parker aka Painless Parker. Parker was the famed 19th century dentist who used to wear a necklace of the 357 teeth that he had extracted in one afternoon on a vaudeville stage. At one time he owned 300 acres of land in Cupertino that is now the site of the homes on Parker Ranch Road.

SHF member and artist John Kimball and his wife Peggy posed in front of the Arthur Mintz Studio. The studio used to be known as the Corinthian Studio and still has the columns for which it was named. In 1918-1939 it was owned and used by artist Theodore Wores. Kimball is holding the oil painting Wores painted in 1928 and entitled "My Summer House, Saratoga." Wores is best known for his paintings of Japanese water gardens and for Impressionistic orchard paintings done near Saratoga.

Jenny Taylor aka Hannah McCarty stood in front of the McWilliams house and noted that her husband built the Toll Road and reminisced that what is now called Saratoga was once known as McCartysville. Hannah was the first woman in Santa Clara County to take out a license to operate her own business in 1852. Taylor is dressed in costume and is showing,





Save These Dates!

July 2	Joint Meeting with HPC and City Council
July 9	SHF Board meeting
August 2	Military Tank Tour (fund raiser)
August 13	SHF Board meeting
August 24	SHF Volunteer Appreciation Party- by invitation only
September 5	New Exhibit: Saratogans In Wartime
September 7	Exhibit Reception for Saratoga Veterans and Special Guests
September 10	SHF Board Meeting
September 12	SVDC Lantern Festival
September 20	Chamber of Commerce: A Taste of Saratoga
September 21	SHF Barbeque (fundraiser)

Tank Tour Scheduled August 2



Back by popular demand, Co-chairmen Jack Mallory and Bob Himel have scheduled a second Military Tank tour for Saturday August 2 at 10:00 AM. This will permit the 11 people on the waiting list to attend with openings for 19 more members, family, friends, and others. The tour is limited to 30 people--adults only.

The Military Vehicle Technology Foundation in Portola Valley oversees one of the largest and most significant collections of historical military vehicles in the world. The goal of the foundation is to acquire, restore, and interpret the historical significance of 20th and 21st century military vehicles. The collection includes over 150 restored tanks sheltered on 200 acres. An expert tour guide will lead the two-hour tour.

The tour costs \$35 for members of the Saratoga Historical Foundation; \$50 for nonmembers; and \$60 for nonmembers and a membership in the Saratoga Historical Foundation. Contact Bob Himel, PO Box 172 Saratoga, CA 95071 or call 408-xxx-xxxx or email Bob via the [SHF website](#). Checks should be made to the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

Thanks to these tours and earlier ones, SHF gained seven new members as well as generated funds for producing more SHF events.

Where's the Beef?--- It's Almost Time For the SHF Annual Barbeque

Circle Sunday, September 21 on your calendar and get ready to enjoy the ambience of a working ranch, good fellowship, and a wonderful barbeque.



The annual barbeque is one of the largest events of the year for the SHF organization and traditionally held at the historic Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery, in the

Saratoga foothills. If you ever wondered what Saratoga used to be like....it's the surrounding hills such as the location of the Garrod ranch that gives Saratoga its rural charm.

The Garrod Ranch and Cooper-Garrod Estate Winery is a popular location for events, guided horseback rides, winery tours or just looking at the spectacular view of the San Francisco Bay and Santa Clara Valley from a thousand foot elevation.

The Garrod family became involved in agriculture in 1893--making it one of the oldest working ranches locally.

Dust off that Stetson, get out the Tony Lamas, and get ready for a fun-filled afternoon. In addition to wonderful food, lively entertainment, the silent auction will once again provide an opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. Events will start around 4 PM. Tickets will go on sale in September.

Silent Auction Back By Popular Demand!

A vintage Lionel train set, gift certificates, beautiful plants, paintings--all were part of last year's silent auction. Laurel Perusa, the visionary and key driver behind the auction, is now in the process of collecting items for this year's auction. Various village businesses and friends of SHF have already stepped forward with donations. Perusa estimates that thirty plus items--more than last year--will be waiting for your bid! If you would like to donate an item to the auction please contact Laurel Perusa at 408-354-7153. Remember donated items are tax deductible. Monies from the auction are used to finance other SHF events and operation.

Remembering Wartime

A new exhibit will open at the museum on September 5 and promises to be special--"Remembering Saratogans at Wartime". A reception for the opening of the exhibit will be held September 7 for Saratoga veterans and special guests.

Do You Know?

While cleaning out old magazines and papers, a yellowing article from the "Southern California Journal" caught my attention. Do you know who the two people are that represent California in the National Statuary Hall (also known as the Old Hall of the House) of the United States Capitol?

Senator James D. Phelan did.



James D. Phelan

In 1864 Congress asked each state to choose two of their most prominent citizens and gift their statue to the Hall. The first statue was placed in 1870. The majority of the states, however, did not take the matter seriously and took their time with their selections. The California Legislature also

procrastinated until a statewide-movement was organized by the California Federation of Women's Clubs and the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West. In 1927 a bill finally passed naming Junipero Serra and Thomas Starr King as California's honorees.

Every fourth-grader in California is familiar with Father Serra, the founder of the California Mission system. His selection faced little opposition and at the unveiling of his statue, Governor Hiram Johnston, who at that time was a US senator, called Serra, "a pioneer of pioneers bringing Christian civilization to a primitive and savage land". Today, selecting him would not be free from criticism, the reasons will not be covered here – that is another story.

The selection of Thomas Starr King, however, was highly controversial. A precocious young man, born in 1824 in New York City, by the age of 27 he was installed as the pastor of the Hollis Street Society in Boston, a Unitarian congregation which he served for eleven years.

In 1860 King accepted the call to the San Francisco First Unitarian Church just as the free states of the Union and the slave states of the South began taking their sides for the coming crisis. California's governor and the state legislature were sympathetic to the Confederacy, and it is King's fiery oratory in support of the Union that is credited with California becoming a Union state. Traveling North and South, East and West, he captured large audiences. He later recalled, "I pledged California to a Northern Republic and to a flag that should have no treacherous threads of cotton in its warp, and the audience came down in thunder." And commenting on the experience of speaking in rugged mining camps he said, "I never knew the exhilaration of public oratory until I faced a front row of men armed

with Bowie knives and revolvers". Abraham Lincoln labeled him the "the orator that saved the nation".

The deliberations by the State Legislature in the 1920's were acrimonious. Names such as Muir, Stanford, and Fremont were proposed. One of the voices in opposition to King was Senator Phelan, then the head of the California Historical Society. He called him, "a transient minister and orator, who lived but three years in California". But the choice was made, and in 1931 the two statues were sent to Washington, D.C. and unveiled as the best representatives of the Golden State.



Be prepared to be surprised! I was. While doing research for this article I discovered that King's position will soon change. On the last day of the 2006 session, the California Legislature voted to replace the King statue with one of Ronald Reagan. That statue will be unveiled this summer in a ceremony in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol and then moved to a

permanent position in the Statuary Hall. But the controversy over King has not disappeared. His biographer, Glenna Matthews, called the unpublished resolution, "outrageous", saying, "there should have been robust public discussion", asking, "why not Muir, Chief Justice Warren, or Caesar Chavez?"

The King statue will return to California and will be placed in the State Capitol in Sacramento.

I wonder what Senator Phelan would say about that? - Written by Nancy Anderson.

(Photo of Senator Phelan courtesy of <http://www.Sfmuseum.com>)

Thanks Volunteers!

The Saratoga Historical Foundation is an all-volunteer operation. Volunteers serve as docents for the museum and volunteers serve as educational docents for the McWilliams House. Volunteers write the newsletter, organize social events, tend the garden, and even clean the museum!

Some volunteers work as little as three hours a month, others work as much as 30 hours a week. But all have this in common: an interest in history and a passion for Saratoga.

Once a year, a thank you dinner for volunteers is held and hosted by the Board of Directors. This year the event is scheduled for Sunday, August 24 and in the gardens of Nancy Anderson. Anderson prepares all the food in addition to her gracious hospitality. The event is by invitation only and will be one of the largest ever--with over 40 volunteers invited and recognized.

Good job, volunteers! And thank you!

Feeling Peckish?--Volunteer!

If you are in the mood to scan documents, file, and organize, Ray Cosyn has a project for you. Cosyn, a member of the SHF board, is involved in organizing the Peck Saratoga Historical Project. The Peck historic collection includes extensive historical records about Saratoga from about 1921 to the present as well as Willys Peck's writings. The collection also includes historic items his father collected as editor of Saratoga and Los Gatos Newspapers from 1921 to 1943.

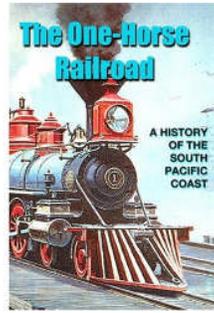
The Project involves inventorying, cataloging, and storing the extensive family historical collection. Funding for the project was allocated by the Saratoga City Council shortly after the city's 50th anniversary celebration.

Cosyn is in need of three or four people to work about a total of 20 to 25 hours sometime during the next 4 weeks. The work will be done in the museum at times convenient for those who volunteer. Cosyn will work with you.

If you have time to contribute, or want more information, contact Jack Mallory, 408-xxx-xxxx or email via [the SHF website.](#)

**Saratoga Historical Foundation
Post Office Box 172
Saratoga, California 95071-0171**

This Train is Bound for Glory



If you are looking to purchase an early Christmas gift for your favorite train buff--hurry to the museum gift shop. The One-Horse Railroad, a 54-minute DVD, covers the history of the South Pacific Coast and its creators. This narrow gauge line ran from the city of Alameda, down the East Bay to Santa Clara and San Jose, then up through seven tunnels all the way to Santa Cruz. It ran from 1880 to 1940. This line managed to be the most profitable railroad-per-mile in California at its time. The entertaining DVD provides both historical fact and lore. The DVD was produced by TollGate Productions and stars John S. McNerny, Miles Standish, Bill Peck, Bob Dodge, Harold VanGorder, and Willys Peck. Bob Ingle was the director. The DVD is sold for \$35.00.