



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071  
March 2010

**Put these dates on your calendar: Don't miss the Mustard Faire on March 7;  
New exhibit with historic art opens March 5 with reception on March 28;  
Special lecture on the history of Moffett Field and More!!!**

## The History of Moffett Field—a Special Lecture in March

Once upon a time, huge 785 foot long dirigibles quietly flew the sky over the Bay Area and called Mountain View, home.

“The History of Moffett Field”, will be presented on Monday, March 15 at 7:15 PM at the Immanuel Lutheran Church on Saratoga Avenue and is sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation. John Mascali will trace the 75 year history of Moffett Field beginning in 1930 to the present. The multi-media presentation is free to the public.

Those attending the potluck, should come at 6:30 PM, bring enough food to share and eating utensils. Coffee, tea and water will be provided.

Mascali, a director of Moffett Field’s Historical Society will recount stories of the construction of the historic Hangar One, the dirigible USS Macon, the squadrons and aircraft that have flown out of Moffett Field and some of the history of NASA Ames. The entire airfield is a US Registered Historic District and Hangar One is also a registered landmark.

Hangar One, built during the Depression, is one of the largest unsupported structures in the country. The floor covers 8 acres and can accommodate 10 football fields. The hangar's interior is so large that fog sometimes forms near the ceiling.

The base originally was dedicated as NAS Sunnyvale (it was thought that calling it Mountain View would cause officials to fear planes would collide into mountainsides) in April of 1933. After the death of Rear Admiral William Moffett, credited with the creation of the airfield, it was renamed NAS Moffett Field in September of 1933.

Hangar One was used to house the USS Macon, a 785 foot dirigible. The Macon could accommodate 100 officers and men; sleeping berths, a mess room, a galley and observation platform in the nose and tail.

The Navy used the dirigible for reconnaissance. The ship was useful because of its silent motion and speed (up to 80 mph) for long distance.

NASA Ames took over management of the site and it is the home to several wind tunnels including the Unitary Plan Wind Tunnel (a National Historic Landmark) and the National Full Scale Aerodynamic Complex (NFAC).

NASA Ames operates the facility as Moffett Federal Airfield today.

John Mascali is a retired Naval Reserve Captain with over 41 years of flying experience. He started flying in 1959 after graduating from the US Naval Academy and ended his career in 2000 retiring as a commercial pilot with Pan American World Airways and Delta Airlines. He credits his long career on the adage that “there are bold pilots and there are old pilots, but there are no old, bold pilots.” His career in the Navy included tours at Navy Moffett Field as Commanding Officer of VP 2920, Patrol Squadron 91, and VTU 8087.

He has lived in Saratoga with his wife for over 40 years.

Join us and find out more about this historical landmark and special time in history.



# This Faire Cuts the Mustard

The ninth annual Mustard Faire will take place at the Warner Hutton House and the Heritage Orchard on Sunday, March 7 from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Mustard sampling, guided tours of the Heritage Orchard and more will be offered for a day of family fun.

The event provides an opportunity to appreciate up close the agricultural heritage of Saratoga. Heritage Orchard as it's called by the old-timers is also known as Central Park and located at the corner of Fruitvale and Saratoga Avenues.

## All Day Fun

Start the day by sampling the pancake breakfast and save room for the mix of food various booths will be offering later in the day. Sip a variety of good tasting wine produced locally. Be sure to take your camera and walk through the orchard – blooming with bright yellow mustard flowers nobly nodding



(maybe bravely) above the blooming oxalis plants. SHF member Nancy Anderson aka Mother Nature is coordinating the docent-led walk.

If you are lucky, you'll see Mother Earth handing out good wishes and mustard seeds in the persona of SHF member Betty Peck.

Another SHF member, Chuck Schoppe has lined up antique cars, vintage engines as well as old time tractors and farm equipment to represent agricultural work.

A petting zoo provides opportunities for young children and the young at heart to meet a variety of young animals—nose to nose. Also a great time to snap a photo or two.

## Pardon me, do you have any Grey Poupon?

Be sure to stop in at the Warner Hutton house to sample a variety of mustard. Take a moment and find your house on some of the many old maps of Saratoga provided by the Saratoga Historical Foundation. Stay and watch an interesting slide presentation on the history of Saratoga –SHF member Bob Loudon is on hand to answer questions.

Many organizations are sponsoring booths including the Village gardeners, BookGoRound as well as the Saratoga

Historical Foundation education group led by Linda Hagelin. Live music including the ever popular Skillet Lickers and other activities are planned.

Of course many venders will bring items to sell including Peggy Schoppe of the Saratoga Historical Foundation who will be offering a wide array of local history books.

## History of the Mustard Faire

The Mustard Faire has its roots in an event launched in



1900 called the Blossom Festival. The Blossom Festival was a celebration organized by Edwin Sydney (Everlasting Sunshine)

Williams for marking the end of a devastating drought. Calling it a “thanks-giving jollification” the celebration had people travelling from as far away as San Francisco by train, buggy, and horseback. The Festival provided a feast for the senses with a sea of aromatic blossoms in the Valley of Hearts Delight; parade; tasty dried or stewed fruits with the local ranches competing for the best food; music and entertainment. At one time, the festival drew as many as 10,000 people. The festival was held each year up until World War II.

## History of the Heritage Orchard (Central Park)

The Heritage Orchard consists of 13.9 acres of apricots and prunes. It was created in 1984 to preserve the rich agricultural



heritage of Saratoga. Today it stands as a symbol of the period of time (1869-1906) when Saratoga had fruit orchards, canning and drying fruit operations. The site was originally part of Quito Rancho and was later owned in the

1880's by the Marion family. In the 1920's, the property changed hands and FC Cox farmed apricots and prunes. In the 1950's, the land was purchased by W. Seagrave until 1984 when it was designated as a Heritage Landmark.

Today it is a working orchard and managed by neighbor Matt Novakovich.

## Warner Hutton House dates to the 1890's



The charming Queen Anne style building which presently houses the Teen Center is called the Warner Hutton House after its original owner. Built about 1895 the house was once located on 13495 Sousa Lane as part of 200 acres farmed by Warner

Hutton and his parents. It was later moved to its present location and like the Heritage Orchard, is a prized Heritage Landmark.

## 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

Bob Himel, President  
Annette Stransky, Vice President, Marketing  
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary  
Jane Asher, Treasurer, Fund Development Director

### 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: [annette@saratogahistory.com](mailto:annette@saratogahistory.com)

### Museum and Gift Shop

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

Visit our website: <http://www.saratogahistory.com>.





## Save These Dates!

- March 5** New exhibit opens at the Museum—Saratoga Landmarks—Through an Artist’s Eyes
- March 7** Mustard Faire—Heritage Orchard from 10-4
- March 13** SVDC St. Paddy’s Day 3-5 PM
- March 15** History of Moffett Field at Immanuel Lutheran Church; 6:30 for the potluck, 7:15 for the lecture
- March 28** Exhibit reception, 1:00 PM at the Museum
- April 11** SVDC Wine and Wisteria, 5-7:30 PM

## Saratoga Landmarks—Through an Artist’s Eyes

A new exhibit opens at the Museum March 5 and will run through May 31—Saratoga Landmarks—Through an Artist’s Eyes.

Historic Saratoga has key landmarks throughout the city—streets; buildings; and other objects. Come explore some of these sites and learn the history behind them in this exhibit. Once a mecca for artists of all types—writing, painting, or drama it is not surprising that the creativity is still here.



The Saratoga Community of Painters are supplying a raft of paintings highlighting these sites through their interpretation and artistry. The above scene of the Methodist church on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road was painted by Jane Garrod.

President Judy Puthoff has provided the Museum with a wide range of paintings from the 20 artists in the group.

### About the Saratoga Community of Painters

The Saratoga Community of Painters primarily use water colors but some of the artists also use pastel chalk, oils or acrylics. The group met through classes held at the Saratoga Community Center 15 years ago. They are plein air painters—forgoing painting in a studio and using the natural light of the outdoors.

After the classes were discontinued the congenial group continued to paint together—meeting each Wednesday to paint on location in and around Saratoga. If the weather is

inclement, they paint inside the Community Center. Usually if they paint inside, they choose a theme—could be sky; portraits or another topic.

Puthoff says, “There is a great sense of camaraderie painting with other people; we draw inspiration from one another. There is just a joy of painting together.”

Puthoff, who calls herself the “facilitator” says the group is not competitive but enjoy one another’s triumphs.

She notes they normally don’t do shows but have had special exhibitions. In 1998, they were invited to Montalvo to paint the grounds for an exhibit in the gallery. It took one year to complete.

The group also did the same thing several years ago on the grounds of the Triton Museum in Santa Clara.

Puthoff sums up the group’s activities by saying, “it’s just a wonderful, wonderful experience.”

### Don’t miss the reception!!

A reception to celebrate this exhibit will be held on Sunday, March 28 at 1:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

### New heritage home bicycle ride

As part of the exhibit, an 11-mile bicycle tour focusing on



heritage landmark homes will also be made available. Termed a family ride, the self-guided tour pedals past 36 sites. Thanks to Denise

Goldberg of the Parks and Recreation commission, SHF members Katie Alexander, Ray Cosyn and Annette Stransky for putting this new map together. A second route, more difficult is planned along with a new walking tour.

One of the sites on the route is a recent addition to the Heritage Resource Inventory—a home called Almond Hill. Located on Oak Place the circa 1911 home has a charming Craftsman design. It was once owned by Mrs. Emily Bell built shortly after the death of her husband John. Her husband was the brother of David Bell of Bellgrove fame on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. The Bells originated from Minneapolis. Mrs. Bell purchased the land from her brother-in-law. David Bell and George Wood were prominent landowners and had donated the land for the Saratoga Federated church as well as the Foothill Club.



# “It Just Doesn’t Get Any Better Than This”

It’s one of those rather pointless questions on the order of: “how long is a piece of string?” Answer: Twice as long from one end to the middle. This one, however, has a little more substance: “When does a hill become a mountain?” The dictionary isn’t much help. A hill is described as being more than a hill, which leaves it pretty much up to the eye of the



beholder.

If so, what do we have to the west of Saratoga? Are these mountains or hills? Strictly speaking, they’re part of Santa Cruz Mountains, but I—and I think a lot of people—always thought of them as hills. Even the most distantly visible ridge seems somehow to fit in that category, although the people who live there probably like to think of themselves as mountaineers. A question of more substance is, what would Saratoga be without its hills (mountains)? The short answer is, Saratoga probably wouldn’t be, period. The town got its start because of lumbering; the valley floor was studded with live oaks, but the timber trees, redwood and Douglas fir, were back on the ranges between here and the coast.

In time, there no doubt would have been a settlement here anyway, as people moved into the Santa Clara Valley, but the hills definitely have established the character of the town. For one thing, at least two of its prime attractions probably owe their existence to the topography. It seems highly unlikely that James D. Phelan would have bothered to create Villa Montalvo on a prairie, and the same no doubt could be said of Mrs. Isabel Steine and Hakone Gardens. Hills or mountains, “conspicuous elevations of the earth’s surface,” to use dictionary language, have inspired some of civilization’s greatest creative efforts. From the psalmist’s beatific “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills” to the achingly poignant “Home to Our Mountains,” sung by the dying Azueena in Verdi’s “Il Trovatore,” the imprint is indelible. Valleys have done their share of inspiring too, but you can’t have a valley without hills or mountains, and Saratoga has the best of both.

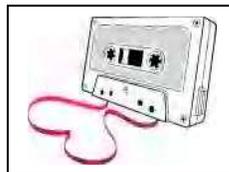
Just look around. If it had been possible to order topography from a cosmic menu, I submit that no more favorable combination could have been forthcoming. There are the lower foothills, stretching away to the north. There are the higher brush-and tree-covered hills, the “Sierra Azul” (Blue Range) of the Spaniards, looming protectively to the south and

west. In the distance is the jagged contour of Summit Rock dominating the skyline on the farthest visible range.

If while driving home, you somehow find yourself feeling out of sorts because of hard knocks from the software, lift up thine eyes unto the hills and recall that it just doesn’t get any better than this.

*By Willys Peck, Saratoga Stereoptican, and appearing on July 24, 1996 in the Saratoga News.*

## Preserving the Words of History



Many of the membership programs in the 1960’s and 1970’s were recorded in audio form in an effort to archive information as a source of future research.

Katie Alexander has gone through these tapes and transferred them to modern technology. They will be available in the Museum for anyone who would like to come in and listen. Keep in mind these are audio—no graphics. Most are one to one and one-half hours in length. It is hoped at a future date, photos and graphics can be added. If anyone has the time and skill to add these images, please call 408-867-4311. It would be a great project and an asset for the Museum.

There are over 50 tapes with topics that cover Ghost Towns of Santa Cruz Mountains; Haystacks to High Schools, Mines in Los Gatos and Saratoga; Congress Springs; Early Saratoga Schools, Rancho Quito, Peninsular Interurban Railroad, DeAnza, Indians in Santa Clara Valley and many more. Many were researched and presented by well-known local historians such as Willys Peck, William Abeloe, Clyde Arbuckle and local citizens such as RV Garrod, and Emma Garrod.

If you’ve got a yen to learn about Saratoga and local history—come to the Museum and listen to some of these special times.



## You’ve Got Mail--- E-mail Reminders

One way to ensure you receive a reminder to attend SHF events or to be notified of events, is to sign up to be on our e-mail notification list. Just go up to <http://www.saratogahistory.com> and sign up. You’ll always receive a reminder about events. Our thanks to webmaster Jeff Johnson for handling this task.



# “We Have Reached the End of Our Journey”

Artist Theodore Wores once wrote, *“Of all the countries I have visited in search of material for my brush, California ranks first as a land of sunshine and flowers, both in wild and cultivate. I have found endless possibilities in the colorful orchards in Spring blossom time in various portions of the state and especially in Saratoga...we arrived one beautiful day in the little town of Saratoga where thousands of acres of fruit trees were in bloom. We were quite overpowered by the beauty of this magnificent spectacle. As soon as I could articulate I exclaimed “we have reached the end of our journey.”*



Wores and his wife, Carolyn arrived in Saratoga around 1927 and promptly purchased the abandoned Methodist Church on Saratoga-Los Gatos road and remodeled it as a gallery with an adjoining studio. For the next 12 years he travelled the valley producing memorable paintings of the blossoming trees. Later he would say these works were the

finest of his career.

Neighbor Senator Phelan, of course, promptly commissioned the artist to do a portrait of his friend, Poet Edwin Markham.

Wores was born in San Francisco in 1858. At a young age he took instruction from Virgil Williams, founder of the San Francisco Art Association School of Design. When he was 16 years of age, he travelled to Munich, Germany which was considered to be the center of artistic creativity at that time. During that period he learned a new technique of nature painting from Frank Duveneck, called plein-air—in which artists painted out of doors.

Wores returned to San Francisco where he painted several paintings of Chinatown causing his reputation to soar. He was even invited to become a member of the Bohemian Club.



Unlike some artists, Wores never had to worry about money. After he made the acquaintance of Oscar Wilde, he

gained entry into the artistic circles of England. There he met James McNeil Whistler, the foremost artist in Europe at that time.

Whistler was fascinated by Japanese art and encouraged Wores to go to Japan. The country was closed to most westerners but he was able to gain entrance through friends. While there Wores produced 120 paintings in 15 months and further developed his painting technique.

He returned to San Francisco where he continued to paint landscapes. The 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed his home on McAllister street. He re-established the San Francisco Art Association Art School where he was dean until 1913.



He married Carolyn Bauer in 1910 at the age of 52. All his life Wores was an eager traveler and enjoyed painting expeditions to Hawaii, Spain, Samoa, Canada

and Taos, New Mexico.

Wores was also captivated by the beauty of the wildflowers and sand dunes from Monterey to San Francisco and produced many paintings of this area.



Wores left his studio in Saratoga in 1938 and moved to San Francisco. While preparing for an exhibit he died in 1939 at the age of 81.

His former studio in Saratoga still stands at 20490

Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. Some of his artwork can still be seen bordering the main room.

The Triton Museum in Santa Clara as well as Stanford University has a large collection of his art and papers.



# Swan Song and Membership

This newsletter may be your swan song. If you have one of those annoying inserts that fell to the ground when you opened this—it means you need to renew your membership now! If



you do not, you will no longer have membership privileges or receive the next newsletter.

Your membership dollars are important to SHF—each dollar goes towards funding programs, services, and the newsletter.

Membership Chair Ann WaltonSmith urges you to renew today and become involved with the Saratoga

Historical Foundation.

Have you ever wondered where the expression “swan song” originated? Long ago it was thought that a swan, unable to sing like other birds, would burst into song when it felt the approach of death. According to Plato, Socrates explained the song as one of gladness because the swan, sacred to Apollo, was shortly to be able to join the god it served. As Apollo was the god of poetry and song, it was also the belief that the souls of a poet passed after death into the body of a swan. From this we owe the allusion to the last work of any poet, writer, or orator as his “swan song” supposedly the culmination of all his artistry, his finest work.

So don't let this newsletter be a “swan song”... or in the words of another poet, the “best is yet to come.”

## On the Road

In the book, “Peninsula Tales and Trails,” author David Weintraub recounts the story of Crazy Pete. Was he an unkempt Irish hermit who lived alone in the Santa Cruz Mountains and worked as a woodchopper helping local farmers and ranchers clear their land? Or was he Pete



Martinez or Peter Feliz, and did he get his name because he was crazy enough to build the road with his name at Coal Creek Open Preserve? Or was he an ornery logger who controlled “his” road? Or was he the

mythical hermit created by “Sunny” Jim Rolf, a governor of California, who owned the nearby Skyline Ranch and who worried his children with stories on trips up Alpine Road, then fired his pistol a few times to frighten away “Crazy Pete”? Perhaps he is some of each of these.

The first account is best documented by Emma Stolte Garrod in her memoir. Crazy Pete O'Shaunessey worked for her father, and she describes him as having “piercing black eyes, a high-bridged nose, coal black hair and a beard too long

and uncombed,” and that his mind “was not right.” After O'Shaunessey left employment by the Stoltes, he was committed to the Agnews State Hospital in Santa Clara, where he died on the morning of the 1906 earthquake.

No one knows for sure the origin of the name of the road—but it all makes a great story.

*By Tom Davids author of the Weekly Walker website.*

## How Do Homes Get a Name?

Ever wonder how homes are named? Recently someone wrote



in to the “Ask a Historian” column on the Saratoga History Museum website ([www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com)) and asked about Woodleigh.

Woodleigh is the stately white house on 20375

Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga. The person writing called it the “Saratoga White House.”

The response was that the 1911 home was named after the people who paid to have the home built which is standard operation for naming homes. In this instance George Wood, a wealthy landowner and organizer of the Saratoga Bank, named the home Woodleigh. He and David Bell donated the land on which the Saratoga Federated Church is built as well as the Foothill Club.

## Where is Guberville?

Guberville, (Saratoga Avenue and Los Felice Drive in Saratoga) was named after Frank Gubser, a German immigrant and barber. Guberserville was an important stage, mail and teamster stop on the road between San Jose and Saratoga in the 1800's. Gubser served as the village's first and only postmaster beginning July 15, 1882. Guberville ceased to exist officially when the post office was discontinued on April 15, 1897. Today all that is left is this handsome plaque, California registered historical landmark #447.



# Talking History in the Community

The Saratoga Historical Foundation enjoys giving presentations to local groups. If you belong to an organization that would like to know more about Saratoga history, call 408-867-4311 and someone will contact you.



Volunteers for the Butter Paddle, a Saratoga Village icon, recently came to the Museum to receive a presentation on Saratoga history from Ray Cosyn. The group enjoyed the presentation which included old and new photos of Saratoga. Docents Linda and Ron Hagelin provided an interesting tour of the historic McWilliams

House. And afterwards the group munched food prepared by Ann Waltonsmith, Linda Hagelin, Jane Asher, and Annette Stransky. Two of the attendees said they owned Saratoga memorabilia—including the venerable “Adventures in Eating” book authored by Duncan Hines and a 1907 Blossom Festival pennant.

Chuck Schoppe gave a presentation covering the history of Pacific Congress Springs and the Congress Hall Resort to both the Saratoga Rotary and the Men’s Club. The presentation included historic information and photos as well as information from the recent Caltrans report. Schoppe participated in last year’s archeological study conducted by Caltrans of the old Congress Springs site. The area where Congress Springs was located is presently owned by the San Jose Water Company. Congress Springs dates to the 1860’s when the mineral waters flowed freely and it was the site of one of the largest resorts on the West Coast. Saratoga was named after Saratoga Springs, NY who had similar mineral waters.

The Montalvo Service Group recently requested a presentation on Saratoga history to be provided by Ray Cosyn for training docents. Cosyn also has a presentation on the Peninsular Interurban Railway which is very popular and was given at a membership meeting in 2009.



# Steinbeck Lecture a Hit

Steinbeck wrote the Grapes of Wrath, “one grape at a time” according to Steinbeck authority Susan Shillinglaw when she delivered a riveting lecture on John Steinbeck last month to over 155 people. John Steinbeck wrote the book from May 1938 to October 1938—in 100 days when he lived in the hills of Los Gatos. He scheduled his writing for Monday through Friday—weekends were open. He would sometimes visit college friend and Saratoga vintner Martin Ray on the weekend. The epic book was hand written in an old fashioned ledger book which his wife, Carol, later transcribed. The presentation covered the three years Steinbeck lived in the Los Gatos area.

The Julia Morgan-designed Foothill Club provided a historic setting for the lecture. The Saratoga Historical Foundation thanks the Foothill Club for the usage.



Fund Development Director Jane Asher reports her ear still aches after taking reservations for at least 130 of the 155 people attending. She also

coordinated all the food, venue, and reservations.

Congratulations and a big thank you to Asher for producing this great and successful event.

# Be Mine—Celebrating the Valentine—

The Be Mine—Celebrating the Valentine exhibit is over and it was both popular and well-received. The exhibit covered valentines from the 1900’s to the present. A special highlight of the exhibit were the four vintage wedding gowns on display.

These charming wedding gowns have been stored in the Museum’s vault for many years but unfortunately not much is known about the provenance or the people who once wore them. The top photo shows a lacey 1930’s wedding gown from the Cunningham collection. The 1920’s nightgown next to it is from a trousseau and the detail about it is known. The bottom photo shows: left to right a 1940’s wedding gown from Nadine Johnson; 1874 wedding gown from Mrs. Merrill and a circa 1880 wedding gown also from Mrs. Merrill.

If you have information, please help us improve our records by calling the Museum at 408-867-4311.



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## Shredding Documents

Looking for a source to shred your identity-sensitive documents? Look no more. The Senior Center is providing such a service at a low cost for Saratoga residents. Located at



19655 Allendale Avenue, you can bring in your documents to be shredded. Staples and an occasional paper clip are no problem in the shredding operation. The center is open on Monday from 12-3 PM and Wednesday through Friday from 10 AM to noon. For special arrangements, call 408-867-1257.

The cost is .25 per pound with a \$1.00 minimum. If you need to reserve a Banker's Box, the price is \$8.00.

This service is just in time for preparing your income tax if you have documents that you no longer need to save.

## With Condolences

Our condolences to the family of Helen Metcalf, long time member of SHF and Saratoga resident who recently passed away.

## New Donation

A flat file used for storing architectural drawings was recently donated by Warren Heid to be used in the Museum's resource center. The flat file will be used to store historic papers. Heid, an architect, had an office in the historic John Henry building on Sixth Street and Big Basin Way. Heid opened his office in 1958 and designed many private homes and commercial buildings in Saratoga and other locations.



## Carrying the Torch

As the Winter Olympics rolls to a conclusion—it is nice to remember that Saratoga has had four Olympic champions: Kerri Ann Walsh, volleyball; Patricia Noriko Miranda, women's wrestling; Carrie Steinseifer, swimming and Chris von Saltza, swimming.

