



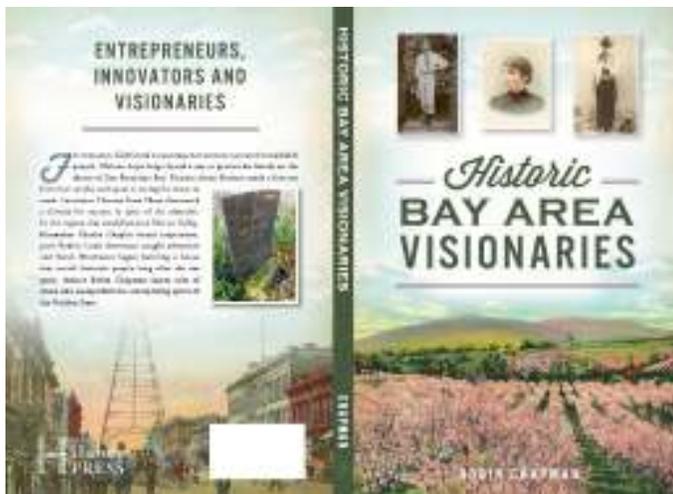
Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

July-September 2018

Circle These Dates on Your Calendar and Come to These Events!

Saratoga History Museum Presents Historic Bay Area Visionaries— Lecture Oct. 24



The Saratoga Historical Foundation and the Saratoga Library invites you to attend a free lecture by Robin Chapman based on her new book, “Historic Bay Area Visionaries”. The lecture will take place October 24 at 7 PM at the Saratoga Library (13650 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga).

Historic Bay Area Visionaries tells the story of this region’s history through the eyes of six people: Lope Inigo, born into a native village in 1781, found a way to protect his family on the land that became Moffett Field. Juana Briones found wealth and solace on the Peninsula. Poet Robert Louis Stevenson sought romance, yet took time out to change California history. Heiress Sarah Winchester longed for a second chance, far from her New England roots and ended up a wealthy landowner. Immigrant Thomas Foon Chew found success, in spite of the obstacles. Charlie Chaplin arrived and helped invent an international industry in film. Through the eyes of these six people, we see California as it grew and

thrived to become one of the most innovative places on earth.

About the Author

Robin Chapman is a longtime journalist and a native of Los Altos. She earned her Master’s Degree in journalism from the University of California, Los Angeles, before setting out on a long career in television news. In 2009, she returned to the Santa Clara Valley and published her first book about her home state: California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley . She now writes for a number of local publications and serves on the board of the Los Altos History Museum. Historic Bay Area Visionaries, also from The History Press, is her fifth book, her second about California.

For more information go to www.saratogahistory.com or call 408-867-4311.



Come to Mosaic Saratoga on October 5!



Sangam Arts in partnership with Mosaic Saratoga High School will present 12 traditions from 10 cultures using dance and music. History vignettes will be interspersed throughout the event and will be provided by the Saratoga Historical Foundation. The event will take place October 5 from 7-9:30 PM at the McAfee Center at Saratoga High School. Tickets are \$15-35.00.

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Thank You to Our Sponsors



The benefit held on May 19 at Old Grandview Ranch was extraordinary. A big thank you to Dr. Head for generously allowing the use of his estate as a venue. And thank you to the many sponsors and friends that enabled the Saratoga Historical Foundation to raise \$94,000 on the event.

Many thanks to the following **sponsors**: Sherril & Jim Kenny,* Star One Credit Union, Pamela and Stan Atwood,* Brandenburg Family Foundation, Steve McCarrick of Coldwell Banker, Gay & Ron Crawford, Mary Ellen & Michael E. Fox Family Foundation,* Marcia Hall, Dr. Donald Head, Noelle & Dave Henderson,* Polly & Jack Hillis of Hillis Financial Services, Laurel & Tony Perusa, Carol Mauldin of Alain Pinel Realtors, Kathie & Bob Maxfield,* Rene & John Saunders, Anne & Jim Sorden,* Marcia & Jon Tammel, Saratoga Monte Sereno Community Foundation, Dan Tellep,* Kay & Bill Walker, and Charmaine & Dan Warmenhoven.*

Legends & Leaders* Cynthia Chang, The George Family, Jill & Dennis Hunter, Reiko Iwanaga, Linda L. Lester, Sue & Jack Mallory.

Friends of the Museum. Bill Gorman of the Gorman Real Estate Group, Bette & David Loomis, Calvano Development, Donald Lee & Sally Steadman, and Lucas Foundation.



Saratoga Historical Foundation

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

The Saratoga Historical Park is open from 1-4 PM on Fridays and Sundays and from 10-4 PM on Saturdays. For more information, i.e. group tours, you can call 408-867-4311 or e-mail info@saratogahistory.com or check the website at www.saratogahistory.com. Newsletter suggestions can be sent to the editor at: annette@saratogahistory.com.

In Kind Sponsors: Plumed Horse, Lexus of Stevens Creek, JW Catering, The Napkin Ring, It's Not You, It's Brie, Edible Arrangements, Ridge Vineyards, House Family Vineyards, Mount Eden Vineyards, Testarossa Winery, Kathryn Kennedy Winery, Lexington Wine Co., Big Basin Vineyards, Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards, and Joseph George Fine Wines.

Honorary Committee: Dr. Donald Head, The Peck Family, and Doris & Bill Cooper.

Thank you also to the Committee: Bob Himel, Chair, Kathi Brown, Paula Cappello, Ray Cosyn, Gay Crawford, Linda Hagelin, Ernie Kraule, Paula Kraule, Dave Loomis, Marilyn Marchetti, Alexandra Nugent, Annette Stransky, and Mary-Lynne Bernald, Mayor.

Education Program Needs You!!

Education Director Linda Hagelin is looking for you! She



needs more education docents to support the pioneer living classes offered. Over 1000 students go through this program each year. Schools from all over the Peninsula participate--- especially the Saratoga schools.

The educational programs take place in the Museum, McWilliams House and one-room schoolhouse. These programs are targeted for 3rd and 4th grade California History/Social Studies Standards, but can be adapted for adults, scouts, and other groups upon request. The program provides students with a hands-on experience with family life in early Saratoga. Four docents handle stations that demonstrate laundry, life in the parlor and kitchen, one room school house and outdoor games. Many of the docents are former teachers but anyone can handle these simple but enjoyable tasks. Training is provided. If interested, please contact Linda at lhagelin1@gmail.com or call the museum at 408-867-4311.

UPCOMING Events

September 28

New Exhibit—Notable Saratogans

October 5

Mosaic Saratoga- culture fest

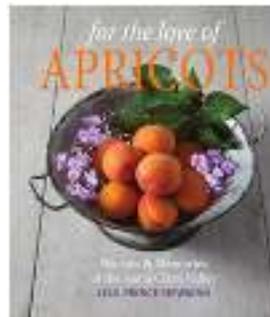
October 24

Historical Bay Area Visionaries-
lecture

November 23

Village Open House

New Cookbook—Just in Time for the Holidays

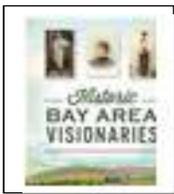


and buy a copy!

The Museum Gift Shop has “For the Love of Apricots” a new cookbook feature recipes using fresh and dried apricots. Purchase one for yourself or for a gift. The full color cookbook by Lisa Newman is packed with recipes and reminisces about growing up in Saratoga. Stop by

New Exhibit—Notable Saratogans —at the Museum!

A new exhibit, Notable Saratogans, will open September 28 at the Museum and run through Mid-November. The museum will feature 40 notable Saratogans from the 1850s to the present. The museum is open from 1-4 PM Friday and Sunday and from 10-4 PM on Saturday. Free!



Historical Bay Area Visionaries Lecture-- Free

Author Robin Chapman will talk about her new book on October 24 from 7-9 PM at the Saratoga Library. The free

event will cover six notable visionaries. See the cover of the newsletter for the complete article.



Thumbs Up for the Museum

This family came in to spend the afternoon in the museum and were pleased to find this scroll. Roughly translated the scroll says Saratoga is a beautiful city with beautiful people.

Olivia Lights Up the Theatre



Many know that Olivia deHavilland and Joan Fontaine attended school in Saratoga. They went on to become famous Oscar-winning actresses.

Lillian Fontaine, an actress in her own right, and the mother of Olivia, donated a makeup mirror many years ago once owned by Olivia. It can be found in Dressing Room #1 in the Theatre at the Civic Center.

The plaque reads: *Olivia deHavilland's Hollywood Makeup Table. Donated by Lillian Fontaine to the Community Players of Los Gatos-Saratoga.*

Incidentally Olivia turned 102 this year and still lives in Paris, France.



Come to the Village Open House

Stop by the Museum to see the holiday exhibit, enjoy live music and munchies on November 23. The free event will take place from 5-8 PM.

Big Thank You to the Breed Family

Russ, Lynette, and Allen Breed recently donated two US flags to the museum. One for flag for the flag pole and one hanging outside the museum door. Our



thanks for the lovely patriotic donation.

History in the Making



People strolling Big Basin Way just past Sixth Street frequently exclaim over the neat, green and white Cape Cod

house. A white picket fence surrounds the house—reminiscent of yesteryear Saratoga. The house has many companions nearby--- the 1870 John Henry House, also with a tidy white picket fence, located across the street and where John Henry, an engineer for the Saratoga Paper Mill once lived and walked to work at the paper mill. A few houses down, the 1898 Pettis Livery stable stands where spirited horses drew the stage that once connected Saratoga with Los Gatos. Next door a charming 1875 salt box house proudly stands that was built for John Chisholm who owned the stage line. The house later became a boarding house and a saloon. The neighborhood is a pocket of history—frequently photographed—and representative of Saratoga when early residents from the eastern part of the US built their homes in the style of their former homes.

The land where the homes stand was once owned by Martin McCarty who deeded the land to his wife in 1853. These properties are a few that remain from the period when Saratoga was known as McCartyville. McCarty, an enterprising young man, had platted the land in 1852 and for the next few years the town was known as McCartyville.

Big Basin Way was originally known as Lumber Street due to the timber industry until about 1926. The townspeople decided Lumber Street did not reflect the image they sought and named the street after Big Basin Park which was opening in the mountains and bringing in tourists.

But what about that Cape Cod house? What is the history of the house? Not much is known about the early residents of the property. It is thought that James Madison Whipple, town doctor (1819-1900) was the original occupant on that site



and had a house built. He was the second doctor to set up practice in Saratoga and had emigrated from New York to California.

The Cape Cod house was the vision of Holly and Thomas Davies who bought the property in 1960 because of the historic charm of the area. Tom Davies, a well-known attorney wanted to have his office in Saratoga. The house on the property purchased was run-down with little hope of restoration but the location was perfect.

The Davies are both Midwesterners. Holly is from St. Louis and Tom is from St. Paul. Holly could picture a Cape Cod style house fitting in nicely with the neighborhood. Although the style is considered pure Cape Cod, it can be seen in Europe, too, in places like Normandy, France, and also, throughout the Midwest.

On a trip to the historic Missouri town, Hermann, Holly snapped a picture of a very old house which she later



showed to her architect, Richard Stowers of Stowers Associates and Architects. Although he initially agreed to base the design on the picture she showed him, the architect decided to

re-imagine the structure to make it more contemporary, and interjected a glass front door, floor-to-ceiling windows, and a free-swinging coffered ceiling in the conference room to be suspended from the roof with chains. When Holly rejected these notions, the outraged architect consigned the whole project to his underling, Kaye Schmidt, who had just graduated first in her class from the University of Colorado School of Architecture. The Davies accepted the new arrangement without complaint.



Drawing the design was the easiest part of the process. It would not be until 1988 when the Davies would

receive approval from the City of Saratoga to build the house. Photo above showing construction.

Cont. from page 4

When Holly had purchased the lot from a Dutch contractor, it had been an unsightly dump because for years he had used the lot as a depot where he dropped off rolls of worn-out carpeting, broken windows, and rotten boards. There was even a rusted out old car at the back of the site. Probably he intended to clean it up at some point, but he went bankrupt and sold the property to Holly in 1988.

According to Holly, "In 1990, the town decided to clean up Big Basin Way with new sewers, to underground all wires, and to put in new street lights, too. "

The town's contractor asked if he could use their lot as a headquarters while this important work was performed in return for helping to finish clearing the site of all the debris and the Davies agreed!

The new office was completed in September 1991. The young Davies family held a celebration in the backyard of the new office to celebrate.



Tom is a third generation attorney. The inside of the office houses his extensive collection of books from both his grandfather who practiced law in Butte, Nebraska and his uncle, who practiced in Los Gatos. Architect Kaye Schmidt designed an interior as

charming as the exterior, with high wooden bookcases, coffered ceilings, and a central fireplace.

According to Holly, "She didn't graduate #1 in her class for nothing!"

The Davies family enjoys living in Saratoga and own a home on Oak Place that sits among many historic homes.

According to Holly, "we love living in Saratoga and appreciate its many charms. To us, every season holds its special delights which we especially appreciate because we come from a harsh climate. In spring, it is the roses that live in Saratoga and thrive here as nowhere else, and all the flowering trees and other flowers. In summer, it is the sight of billowing fog from the coast rolling over the mountains to cool our beautiful village like natural air-

conditioning in the late afternoon. In fall, it's the moody rains and the changing leaves of gingko, pistachios, and Japanese maples. In winter, it's the clouds that hang in pockets up against the mountains and the roar of the rushing creek at the base of the cliff behind the law office that never fails to awe and delight. Truly, Saratoga is a very special spot, and we are very blessed to live here!"

Toyon Lodge Listed on Wikipedia!

According to the listing: Toyon Lodge was a popular resort located in the Bay Area, and it was recommended as one of three lodging options for the city of Saratoga by Duncan Hines in his 1938 edition of "Lodging for a Night." His description of the property was:



"Guest House : Toyon Lodge. 1 Mi. W. on Vickery Lane. A quiet, beautifully located place in the foothills. Recommended. 16 rms. A. 2WB. \$10.00."

Famous guests who visited over the years included Joan Fontaine and her sister Olivia de Havilland, who both grew up in Saratoga, as well as Jean Arthur, Lotte Lehmann, and Hedy Lamarr. Previous owners of Toyon Lodge included Herman Hardtke (1922-1942) and Eugene Mancini (1949-1969).[2] Today it is owned by Joseph Montgomery, father of Paul Montgomery.

The Montgomery family, present owners, came to the Saratoga History Museum to research the history of the famous lodge. They used the information to create a Wikipedia site in honor of their grandparents. Our thanks to Katie Alexander who helped with the research.

Saying Goodbye to Summer or Your Cart or Mine?

As you are packing up your two-piece swimsuit or maybe a thong or two—think about what it was like to go for a swim in the 1800-1900's.

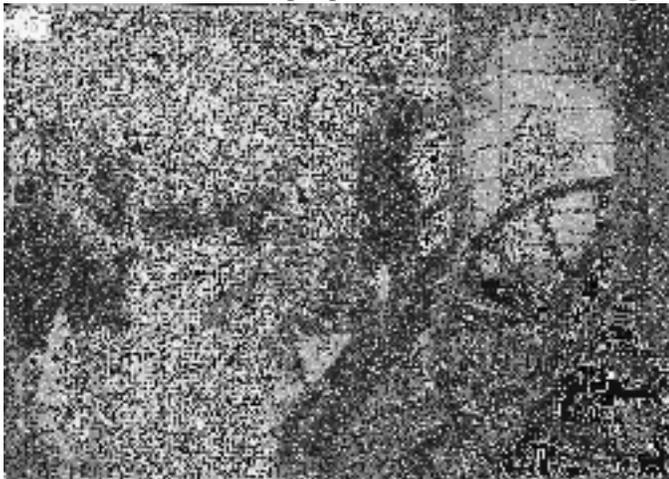
The bathing machine was a strange device that was popular throughout the 18th and 19th century.

Most often, these were roofed, and walled wooden carts which were rolled into the sea and people used them to change their outfit so to wade in the ocean



at beaches. Some carts were entirely made of wood, and others used canvas walls over a wooden frame. Some even had little windows on the side, often with curtains to make them more attractive for visitors.

Once it was their turn, people would enter the bathing



machine and change into bathing suits. The bathing machine would then be backed into the water until the rear door was on the same level as that of the water. Unlike today where people like to “let it all hang out” people would use the rear steps to get into the water, without being seen by anybody else, and enjoy a quick dip.

There weren't any beach balls or water volleyball games. Swimming was not a popular sport, and most did not know how to swim. Nevertheless, time spent on the ocean was considered time well spent for health benefits, and it was commonly consisted of sitting in the water.

For over hundred and fifty years, that was most likely the typical day at the beach. Things began changing at the beginning of the 20th century. By 1901, beaches stopped segregating by sex, and by then, bathing suits became more common, too. However, women still covered most of their bodies and used stockings to cover their legs. Standard bathing suits for men consisted of something like shorts and a tank top.

The bathing machines remained to fulfill their purpose as a changing room for a little longer, but they were parked on the beach instead of being rolled back and forth in the water. Most bathing machines disappeared by the 1920s.

Beautiful Homes in Saratoga

Many people who moved to Saratoga wanted to build a home similar to one that they might have owned



previously. Driving on Montalvo Road you might have passed this colonial mansion sitting back from the road.

The home was built in 1961 by EJ Peter, a specialist in colonial homes as a residence for his family.

The Georgian style home captures the feeling of a New England home built in the 1700s.

Remembering Dick Angus

Dick Angus was an active volunteer for the Saratoga



History Museum for many years — especially helping as a museum docent and with the Blossom Festival. He was someone who never refused a request for help and always with a smile. His recent passing

will be missed by all.

Spotlight-- Fred Gardner

Fred Gardner has been a Lifetime Member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County since 1975. Born in 1924, he attended San Jose High School back when it was on the campus of San Jose State, graduating in June of 1943. Before graduation, Fred and other students raised money for the war effort by selling iron from fences, railroad tracks, keys, & locks. They also sold stamps and bonds in the amount of \$2,193. By 1943 they were able to



fund a B-25 bomber, 16 jeeps and one PT boat. The jeeps alone cost \$14,003; they also raised \$297,000 for parachutes.

During WWII from July 1943 until March

1946, Gardner served his country in the United States Army, spending time overseas in New Guinea. For the last 14 months he was assigned to the Army Coast Artillery Core-Mine Planter Service and worked on a mine planting ship to place 2-ton mines at the bottom of the ocean outside the Golden Gate Bridge. He said that though he was in the Army he had to wear a navy uniform while serving on the ship and he wasn't happy about that. When he first arrived on the ship he immediately noticed thirteen 2-ton mines sitting on deck and asked, "What happens if they go off while sitting on deck?" The Captain answered, "If they do, you'll never know."

Returning home to San Jose after the war ended, Gardner went to work for the Bank of America. He was assigned to two downtown San Jose branches until he was transferred to the new Bank of America at Valley Fair on Stevens Creek Boulevard. He worked there for 14 years and was proud to be one of the initial employees at that branch. He always thought it would be a nice gesture to give the employees the old, dirty money scheduled for the furnace or shredder—but no such luck.

Fred Gardner was born in Saratoga as were many of his ancestors. In fact, there is a marker on West Valley College land that honors the history of the Gardner family and their involvement in Saratoga. Gardner's grandfather, Daniel Gardner and his wife bought 167 acres in 1862,



planting apricots and other fruit on the land where West Valley College sits today.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Fred Gardner served as an active docent at History San Jose and even conducted five different San Jose downtown walking tours. At that time he lived on W. San Fernando and Vine and knew the history of every building in the area. He also trained and evaluated docents for History San Jose and volunteered at the Japanese Friendship Gardens.

Gardner's wife, Marilyn, also a Lifetime Member of the Pioneers, passed away last year (Feb. 2017).

Recently Fred visited the San Jose High Heritage Room and generously donated yearbooks and other mementoes such as a belt and belt buckle with the San Jose High inscription and Bulldog design. He also donated a scrapbook of WWII articles from the San Jose Mercury.

These days Gardner enjoys his membership with the SIRS (Sons in Retirement) and plays a rousing game of bocce ball with other SIRS members. He told us, "I had such a wonderful life that I think I'll do it again!"

Written by Gayle Frank and first appearing in "Trail Blazer, the journal of the California Pioneers. Reprinted with permission of Gayle Frank. Photo courtesy of Lynda Martinez.

Editor's note—Fred Gardner is a long-time member of the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

In Memory Of
Marcia Summers
Dick Angus



Saratoga Historical Foundation
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Remembering Camp Wildwood



Camp Wildwood was one of the many private summertime family picnic and recreation areas in the West Valley area. Opened in 1910, Mrs. Alice Springer Sage and her daughter Mamie operated it for many years. They offered dancing, croquet, tennis, swimming, fishing and hunting. Guests slept in tents either furnished or unfurnished, or

even in the open air. The park remained in use as a private

campsite into the 1960's. Due to noise, traffic congestion and alcohol consumption, the city revoked its use permit. After the Parks Bond Issue passed in 1963, the city purchased the property. There was much discussion on the use of the four acre park. One development plan included a small dam to create a one acre lake and stock it with fish. But the lake was deemed too hazardous for children. The final plan included a rustic play structure, a large wooden platform to serve as a stage for performers, and an expanse of lawn for the audience. On May 14, 1972, Wildwood Park was officially dedicated as Saratoga's first city park. The Saratoga-Los Gatos Symphony performed the first music in the park at the dedication. *Written by Katie Alexander.*

Prune Picking Memories

One Saratoga resident reminisced about picking up prunes on his knees in his childhood. He noted that he used a coffee can because it seemed to take too long to fill a



bucket!!

