



**Welcome to the Exploring
Pioneer Living Activity**

**Produced by the Saratoga
Historical foundation**

**Located at 20450 Saratoga-Los
Gatos Road in Saratoga**

www.saratogahistory.com

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This is the McWilliams house located next door to the museum.



This is the McWilliams House next door to the Saratoga History Museum. Read the plaque to find out who lived here and what his job was. In 1865 homes did not have faucets for running water, bathrooms, or electricity in the house.

Pumping water

Since there was no water in the house, every day someone had to fill a bucket for water so:

- the family could wash their face and hands each morning

- the chamber pot could be rinsed if it was used

- the father could shave his whiskers with a razor blade

- the mother could use water for cooking-the family had water to drink

- the family could wash their hands before each meal

How many buckets of water did they use a day?

How many buckets of water would your family use a day?





Laundry in the 1880s

How did mothers use this setup to wash clothes?

Where did they get the water?

How was it heated?

What is the ribbed board used for?

How is the long handle in the picture used?

Taking a bath

Taking a bath took a long time.

The tub was filled once, and everyone used the same water to bathe!

If it took 10 minutes to fill a bucket—how much time do you think was spent to fill the tub?



This is the McWilliams House parlor. What could the family do here without electricity at night? What is missing that you have at your house?



This is Mom and Dad's bedroom. Why is there a bowl and pitcher on the dresser?



Why is there a large white cup under the bed?



How does this kitchen stove work? If you took away everything from your kitchen that needs electricity or natural gas, what would be left?



These are some of the kitchen tools used in the late 1800s. Which ones are similar to those we still use today?





In a one-room schoolhouse, children of different ages were together with one teacher. Teachers were very strict, and the rules must be followed.



Why is there a hole in the top of the desks? How is the black rectangle on the desk used?



When you come with your group to visit us, you can pump a bucket of water and wash some socks, play an indoor game in the Parlor, pretend you are a student in the one-room schoolhouse and follow the teacher's rules, and play old fashioned outdoor games for a "recess."

Saratoga History Museum
20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos
Road
Saratoga, CA

