



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

POST OFFICE BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071

May 2008

**Please join us for Part II of
"Lives of the Ohlone Indians"
6:30 PM Monday, May 19th, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church**

The Ohlone Indians - Part II

Join us for a potluck dinner and meeting on May 19th at 6:30 PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 14103 Saratoga Avenue. Please bring some food to share and your own dishes and utensils. Coffee and tea will be provided, but if green beer or wine is your choice then bring it with you! For information call Nancy Anderson.

Our second presentation on the Lives of the Ohlone Indians of the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Area will be the speaker's topic at our May 19th meeting. State Archeologist Mark Hylkema will tell how, in 1769, when the first Spanish expedition reached the San Francisco Bay area they encountered numerous tribal communities that lived in a bountiful landscape.

Mark Hylkema is currently the Santa Cruz District Archaeologist for California State Parks, and manages cultural resources within 32 parks in an area ranging from San Francisco to the Pajaro River. He was formerly a Caltrans District Archaeologist and managed archaeological resources within the nine Bay Area counties. Mark also works on many other projects throughout the state and has 27 years' experience in California archaeology with an emphasis on Native American culture. Mark has spent considerable time among various tribal communities, particularly in Central and Northern California. He did his graduate research on the archaeology of the San Mateo and Santa Cruz County coast and has directed excavations throughout the greater San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas. He works full time as the Santa Cruz District Archaeologist for California State Parks, and teaches part time at Santa Clara University, University of California at Santa Cruz, De Anza College, Ohlone College and Cabrillo College. He currently lives in Sunnyvale.

---Willys Peck

Our March Irish Potluck Meeting

Our March potluck and meeting, held on St. Patrick's

Day, proved to be a memorable evening for all who attended. Nancy Anderson outdid herself creating a fun and festive St. Patrick's Day theme, including a different Irish toast at each table, which were read and shared with all in attendance. As always, the dinner was delicious, with the appropriate corned beef and cabbage being a big hit.

The outstanding video about the McWilliams Family and House, created by SHF President Chuck Schoppe for this year's Mustard Faire, was shown. Many members had asked that it be shown again that night, as so much well-researched history was contained in the presentation, including photos not seen before by many members. This video will become a wonderful addition at the museum, and will be shown before tours of the McWilliams House are given to visitors.

State Archeologist Mark Hylkema captivated us with a very interesting lecture on the Ohlone, the Native American tribe whose ancestors lived in the Santa Clara Valley. So many interesting facts and concepts were presented. As a small sampling, we learned about the many ways abalone was used by the Ohlone, the items traded among the tribes, the detailed traditions of the beautiful and skillfully made Ohlone baskets. It was surprising to learn that the majority of Ohlone baskets are in Russian museums, as the Russians were interested in trade, while the Spanish in our area were interested in conquest.

Mark Hylkema will present Part 2 of this topic at our next general meeting on Monday, May 19th. This program promises to be as fascinating as Part 1 was in March. I encourage all to attend.

---Laurel Perusa, Corresponding Secretary

On Cloud Nine

Sam Cloud would be on "cloud nine" if he returned today and saw what was formerly called the Sam Cloud Hay & Feed Warehouse aka the Sam Cloud barn. The three-

story barn, circa 1890, has been lovingly restored by Saratogan developer Craig Awbrey and his partner Bob Hausmann.

The Sam Cloud barn stood for 118 years on Third Street just off Big Basin Way in Saratoga. The structure peeks out between the Inn of Saratoga and the Harmonie European Day Spa.

The restoration process took approximately 3 years and included taking the structure down plank by plank so it could be restored. Each piece of wood from the barn was labeled and warehoused before being put back in place when the structure was re-built. A new sprinkler system, elevator for access to all three floors (to be completed) and other retrofitting was done to meet current city building codes. Awbrey said the building contains 80-85% of the original wood siding. And the warm butter yellow of the exterior stayed the same. Architect and historian Warren Heid worked with Awbrey and Hausmann by drawing up plans for the renovation.



Sam Cloud's Barn as it appeared circa 1970

The Sam Cloud barn remains a registered historic landmark. A re-dedication and possibly a party is planned in the July timeframe.

Awbrey said he's going to name the building the Saratoga Barn, and it will house Awbrey's office along with an architect and several other businesses.

Walk in the entrance on Third Street and you will see a beautiful interior. The top floor, once a hayloft features a 19 foot-ceiling. The floors are a glowing Douglas Fir wood and the original unfinished redwood siding adds a rustic ambience. The original hay door is still in existence along with the original hay hoist and 1892 hardware. New windows fill the room with light.

The street level which once stored stagecoaches and buggies also features the original carriage sliding doors. The original unfinished redwood siding and burnished Douglas Fir floor are all original. Handsome office furniture in one corner stands ready for new occupants.

Walk down the ramp to the bottom floor where horses were once housed and you'll walk past the original stone retaining wall. You can almost hear the gentle neighs of the horses once housed. The third floor, still under construction, will be used for commercial offices. A basement is also being built for storage.

Awbrey noted that another building will be built and located adjacent to the barn and will have an elevator connecting the two structures.

A showcase of artifacts found during the renovation along with original photos of the barn is planned. Some of the artifacts include horse shoes, shovels, railroad spikes, bottles, shards of old pottery and handmade square head nails.

Craig Awbrey, a fifth-generation Californian whose ancestors came to California via the Oregon Trail has had fun with the project despite the challenges. He noted that the steep slop and the age of the building was a challenge. The Saratoga resident also oversaw the restoration of the bell tower of the Saratoga Federated Church. The church, circa 1923, is a registered landmark and was designed by architect Julia Morgan.

The Sam Cloud barn was built by Sam Cloud in the 1890's to house stagecoaches, buggies and horses. Since that time it has been used as a meeting hall, electronics repair shop, and was once home to the newspaper, the Saratoga News. Structurally sound enough to withstand two earthquakes it had developed a list which required the renovations. Now the building stands proudly waiting for its new occupants.

In front of the barn was the Cloud-Smith Building which was a general store and operated by Sam Cloud. The front of the store faces Big Basin Way. The eastern portion of this building was built by John Hutchinson in 1884. It presently houses the Harmonie European Day Spa. John Cloud built a home with Victorian trim and a wrap-around porch for a family residence. This structure is presently the Bella Saratoga restaurant.

Our President's May Message

We are alarmed! Obviously, as a small museum we cannot afford, nor do we have a need, for a guard service. However, our collections are unique and valuable, and as good stewards we have the obligation to maintain proper protection and security for our buildings and their precious contents. The major risks to our collections are fire, theft, loss, or damage, the latter either intentionally inflicted, such as vandalism, or the result of accident or natural disaster. We have been working with the City of Saratoga (who actually owns our Museum buildings), and almost three years ago began the process of getting fire and security systems installed. That meant going through studies of risk analysis and building evaluation, walk-through site inspections by fire officials, and meeting with security analysts and company representatives. All of this takes time, of course, but now I am happy to report that we have 24-

hour fire and intrusion security systems and alarms installed and operational!

Having security and fire alarms systems brings benefits other than the obvious. In the past we have turned away opportunities for "traveling" exhibits which were made available by other museums because we could not guarantee safekeeping of the exhibit materials. We will now be in a position to host these exhibits that are appropriate to our purpose, as they may be available to us, and I look forward, as I am sure you will, to seeing those in our museum!

I want to especially thank Thomas Scott, Saratoga City Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, for working with us and managing this project to completion, and the folks at Kelex Security. Also deserving of my thanks are SHF members Nancy Anderson, Lynne Gurley, Lyn Johnston, April Halberstadt, Jim Sorden, and Jenni Taylor for being available when I could not be on site as work was being done by the contractors. Training of docents and others who have after-hours access is almost completed, and is being done by April, Jenni, and yours truly.

Special thanks must go to Membership Director Gene Zambetti and the SHF membership committee. Our numbers continue to grow and now stand at an all-time high! We're looking forward to meeting all of our new members at our May 19th members meeting or at our special events held through the year. And to all of our new members – a very warm Welcome!

May 17th will be "Living History Day" in the Village. Jill Hunter will chair this event and her enthusiasm for Village activities certainly portends another great day. Please see Laurel's article in this issue, and come to the Village and the Museum to meet many of the characters from Saratoga's past. For dates and details of other events coming up visit our website: www.saratogahistory.com or watch for details in our newsletter.

If you missed the excellent presentation by archeologist Mark Hylkema at our March members meeting, you not only missed a great program, but also a great St. Patrick's Day traditional corned beef and cabbage meal! You won't get the same meal, but you will have another opportunity to hear Mark at our May 19th meeting, as he presents part two of his presentation on the indigenous people that inhabited our area. All of the comments about the March meeting that came my way were very

positive, so I know that you will not be disappointed. Also at our May meeting we will present new candidates for the SHF Board of Directors for you to meet and, hopefully, accept with your vote. I hope to see you there!

---Chuck Schioppe

Education at McWilliams House

We are delighted to report that the Education Docents have been kept very busy delivering programs to visiting groups at the Museum and McWilliams House. The response has been very favorable from school groups and adult groups alike:



Sam Cloud Building as it appears today

"On behalf of the Argonauts, I appreciate the planning you did to make this an enjoyable and informative event. Our Argonauts learned so much, and I believe we imparted some of our knowledge with your docents. Afterwards at lunch, I received so many praises on how much our members enjoyed your tour. Creating four groups and keeping the tour on time was very convenient and appreciated."

---Marvin Tanner,
Argonauts Historical Society of
San Jose

I spoke with one of the leaders of a large Girl Scout troop that our docent, Tina Liddie, arranged to visit. She said "The girls (there were 30 scouts) really, really enjoyed the visit. They all want to come back again."

We have quite a number of 3rd grade school groups coming in March and April. It seems the word is spreading that we have a worthwhile program! We are especially appropriate for 3rd grades since the CA Social Studies Standards focus on local community history at that grade.

It is personally rewarding to share some of Saratoga History with young people and adults and hear that our team is so successful. We always welcome anyone interested in joining us. You don't have to "know" all the answers, because we provide a binder with all the information you need. Visitors are divided into 4 smaller groups, so a docent only works with 4-5 visitors at any time. As a new docent you would partner with one who is more experienced. We are all learning as we go, and we even found out that it is FUN! Docents don't have to commit to a regular schedule. I call the list when we have a group date. Everyone participates as much or as little as they wish to. If you even have a tiny interest, call me and let me give you more information. You may want to just come and watch several programs before making

up your mind. You might also know of an adult or school-age group that would enjoy our program. I would love to hear from you!

---Linda Hagelin, SHF Education Programs

Your SHF Received 2 Donations

SHF has been very fortunate to have received two donations from Foundation members. We recently received a \$200 donation from a member who has asked to remain anonymous. This donation was given to us in gratitude to, and in the name of, Saratoga Mayor Ann WaltonsSmith.

In December, Rick and Ann WaltonsSmith presented us with a generous donation of \$20,000. Rick and Ann have asked that their gift be used for general operations or for a project to be named by the Board at a later date. Both Rick and Ann have been very supportive of the Foundation and Museum, and Ann served as our Foundation City Council Liaison for several years.

It is because of our passion for Saratoga's rich history and collective efforts that bring the Foundation such good fortune as these and the other significant donations

that we have recently received. We are indeed grateful, and thank these generous benefactors for their thoughtful and generous donations.

---Chuck Schoppe

Living History Day on May 17

Come to the historic Saratoga Village on Saturday, May 17th from 11:00 AM. to 2:00 PM, and enjoy the second Living History Day, sponsored by the Saratoga Village Development Council (SVDC). Saratogans will adopt the characters of famous historic personalities from our town's rich past. You will be able to visit with Olivia De Havilland, Joan Fontaine, and Senator James Phelan, to name just a few. Our own Nancy Anderson will portray Florence R. Cunningham.

Most historic characters will found up and down Big Basin Way, waiting to chat with you. Ms. Cunningham will be greeting visitors at the Museum.

This event is free and promises to be a wonderful event for all ages. Children will be given a historic Saratoga coloring book produced by Les Landin. For information contact Jill Hunter.

---Laurel Perusa, Corresponding Secretary

**Saratoga Historical Museum
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ADA Issues at McWilliams House

I wrote the report below in March, and the following day the Saratoga City Council held the public hearing on our ADA funding. Chuck Schoppe went to the hearing and secured about \$13,000 in funding to rebuild the ramps. The Public Works Department has reviewed the ramps and the requirements and is already talking with the appropriate contractors.

In the past few weeks I have had several conversations with some of you regarding ADA issues at the McWilliams House. As many of you know, I sit on several other history and preservation committees, and am fairly conversant with the current thinking of the Department of the Interior on the ADA issue. We want to move ahead with our plans for the interior of the McWilliams House and I thought I should write this little overview so that we all have the same information.

“Historically, most buildings and landscapes were not designed to be readily accessible for people with disabilities. In recent years however, emphasis has been placed on preserving historically significant properties, and on making these properties and the activities within them more accessible to people with disabilities. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, access to properties open to the public is now a civil right.” (Preservation Brief # 32)

The McWilliams House is owned by the City of Saratoga under the stewardship of the Saratoga Historical Foundation. It is the largest artifact in our collection and it is one of the most fragile. In looking through the buildings listed with the Office of Historic Preservation as California landmarks, this type of structure is rare indeed. So our little Jarboe-McWilliams House deserves every consideration.

Since the passage of ADA, curators and historic societies have grappled with the issues that emerge when it seems necessary to modify a historic structure in order to meet ADA requirements. There are now dozens of test cases and lots of guidance from federal agencies and historical consultants about balancing these two requirements, which frequently seem to conflict.

Because Saratoga is a small town with limited training for its commissioners and building staff, the integrity of buildings like the McWilliams house can easily be jeopardized by well-meaning but untrained community members. We have recently been through an exercise in balancing ADA requirements with historic preservation in the McWilliams House, with mixed result. The Brief tells us that under Title III we must make “readily achievable”

changes such as grab bars in the bathroom, and creating accessible parking. We have already accomplished many of these upgrades by improving the bathroom in the museum building. But we made other changes to the McWilliams House itself that were not appropriate. In the McWilliams House, the magic phrase that guides our restoration efforts is “reasonable accommodation”. It is not desirable to widen doors, windows and modify major elements of our historic structure in order to meet ADA recommendations.

It is not necessary for a disabled person to have complete access to every corner of a historic structure. The National Park Service (Department of the Interior) has addressed this issue and many similar dilemmas in Preservation Brief #32 entitled Making Historic Properties Accessible. This brief provides a very good overview of a complex subject.

The Brief also spells out the minimum requirements for the construction of ramps and other accessibility solutions. At the present time, we are currently not in complete compliance with our ramps and parking lot. The ramp can be no steeper than 8%, railings should be easily distinguishable from other features and should extend a foot beyond the end of the ramp, and the landings must be level and at least 5 feet square.

At the present time, the City of Saratoga is working with landscape architects to ensure that our site meets those requirements. Funding for the modifications will probably come from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, a federal fund that goes to cities to help them comply with various federal mandates. Saratoga has already applied for this grant money at our request.

At the present time we are discussing some interior modifications of the doorways to two rooms in the McWilliams House in conjunction with installing wallpaper. Both doorways have electrical circuits that should be removed or relocated in order to re-establish the look and feel of the original structure. The doorways themselves do not need to be 36 inches in width to meet the “reasonable accommodation” guideline.

Preservation Brief #32 also mentions the other standards that govern historic restoration. The two that are most frequently used are the Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards”, maintained by the National Park Service, the agency that administers the National Register programs, and the California State Historic Building Safety Code, the building code that allows considerable leeway when rehabilitating a historic structure. We have copies of Brief #32 and the “Standards” at the Museum – the Building Code is too bulky.

---April Halberstadt

5,103 Postcards!!

For the last three years, SHF has welcomed high school students to the Museum for 2 hours of community service. The students from Matt Torrens' APUSH classes (Advanced Placement U.S. History) have been showing up regularly, and they have managed to complete a number of tasks for us. They are required to give us two hours of community service and to write a short report on their visit. The students tend to show up in large groups at the end of the school year, partly because they forget about their service requirement until the last minute and partly because they have more free time over the Xmas holiday. Having a group is frequently interesting because they work as a team and because they converse among themselves, providing considerable amusement for old folks like me.

This winter they completed two projects for us. They identified and labeled two years of photographs from the Saratoga Register from 1960-1961. There is nothing more frustrating than a wonderful photo with no clue about the subject, so the students have written the names and dates on all of these images for us. If the photos get disorganized during scanning, it will not be a disaster. And they sorted and organized the Florence Russell Cunningham Postcard Collection for us. Florence saved stuff...all sorts of stuff, and when her friends found out she was collecting, they saved stuff for her. We had several cartons of postcards, and part of them had been organized, but there was no systematic inventory. They are now sorted by geographic location and by subject, and they are a wonderful collection. The students had some momentary difficulty with some cards - the ones from Greenland, for example, were tricky to translate. We have hundreds of cards that are seasonal greetings; beautiful Valentines and Easter greetings as well as birthday cards.

The Postcard Collection took the efforts of at least two dozen students, and when they were all organized, we did a count. The grand total is 5,103 postcards. Truly a magnificent effort!

What Happened to Miss Saratoga?

Working with the students from the Advanced Placement in U.S. History classes is highly educational for me. This group of students from Saratoga High School are high school juniors in Matt Torrens' history classes, about 90 students total. This year I decided to be a little more organized in talking about Saratoga History, and a little more assertive in finding out more about the students' backgrounds.

In general, the students are predominately Asian. All of them that I talked with take other Advanced Placement classes, sometimes three or four classes. I made a point of asking them how long they had lived in Saratoga, and most of them have lived in Saratoga nearly all of their lives. Only a few have only spent their high school years in Saratoga.

Almost none of the students had ever been to the Museum before. One had come to visit with with a scout troop. Since they have just finished the history unit dealing with the Civil War, they were all familiar with John Brown, and had heard that we had some connection with the famous Abolitionist. But seeing the pictures was very special for them.

The students have been working with the newspaper files, helping to sort and clip, which means they are reading the clippings. Without exception, every group comes across some reference to Miss Saratoga at one time or another, and they always want to know what happened to Miss Saratoga and why the community no longer sponsors this event. I can tell them about John Brown, but I haven't a clue about Miss Saratoga.

---April Halberstadt