



SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071
March 2009

Don't miss these events: special Brown presentations on March 8 and 22; New Harpers Ferry exhibit opens March 6; Interurban Rail presentation March 16; Civil War tours; Civil War exhibit and more!

Special Brown Event on March 8

"Abolitionist John Brown and Family Remembered"—a presentation by Alice Keesey Mecoy, the great, great, great granddaughter of John Brown will be given at the Saratoga History Museum on Sunday March 8 at 1 PM.

"There was more to Brown than a hatred of slavery," according to Mecoy. "Brown," she said, "believed in equality for all men and women - no matter what their race. He wanted his sons to know how to do women's work, and his daughters to be able to do the work of men. He was so radical in what he thought. I think a lot of people misunderstood him at the time," said Mecoy. Mecoy grew up in Palo Alto California and has spent 30 years researching Brown—especially the Brown women.



In addition to Mecoy, other Brown descendents have been invited to attend.

Light refreshments will be served. Nancy Anderson has been researching food for the Civil War era and promises interesting fare.

Autograph Opportunity

After Harpers Ferry—a book covering the Brown's move to California and authored by Jean Libby will be sold at the Museum on the day of the reception. If you would like an autographed copy by Libby and Mecoy—you can have your book autographed at that time.

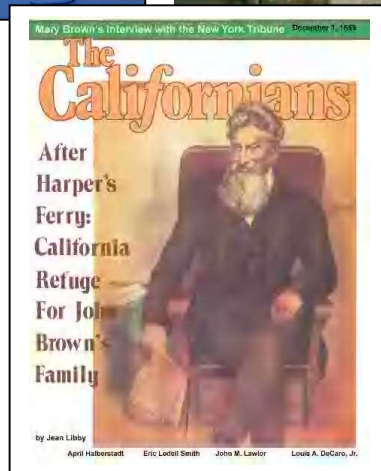
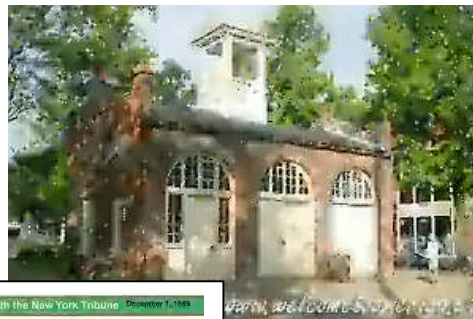
Harpers Ferry and the Brown Family—New Exhibit Opens

A new exhibit at the Saratoga History Museum opens March 6 and runs through the end of March highlighting Harpers Ferry and the John Brown family. Abolitionist John Brown and his actions at Harpers Ferry are often credited with causing the Civil War.

Mary Brown, second wife of Abolitionist John Brown moved to California with two of her daughters and one son after his death to begin a new life. The Museum's archives will provide a poignant portrait of the family moving to California. Mary Brown first lived on Bohlman Road and later on Saratoga Avenue with her daughter Sarah. Ellen Fablinger, another daughter and her husband lived where the Civic Center is presently located.

Local resident and Civil War collector Bill Cleary has built a special diorama on Harpers Ferry with Civil War artifacts for the exhibit. Dioramas are scenic representations in which sculptured figures and miniatures are displayed against a painted background. The Harpers Ferry diorama will include authentically dressed Marines, Jeb Stuart, Robert E. Lee, the firehouse, John Brown and his men.

Other highlights include never-before-seen photos and memorabilia of the John Brown family; art produced by daughter Sarah Brown; and the Underground Railroad (John Brown called his the Subterranean Pass Way).



Clang, Clang, Clang Goes the Trolley--March Program Features Interurban Railway

SHF Historian, Ray Cosyn will give a slide presentation on the Peninsular Interurban Railway--Saratoga's railroad-- at the March 16 meeting at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. The trolley began operation in 1903 linking the cities of "The Valley of Heart's Delight" for the first time. It continued both passenger and limited freight service up until 1934 before being replaced by Henry Ford's invention—the automobile.



The program will take place on March 16 at 7:30 PM. Those participating in the potluck dinner should arrive at 6:30 and bring food to share, your own dishes and eating utensils. Beverages of water, tea or coffee will be provided. The Immanuel Lutheran Church is located at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga. For reservations or additional information, call Nancy Anderson at 408-867-4383. The event is free and open to the public.

In addition to its normal route, the trolley frequently offered special excursions to its customers. Willys Peck said he can remember riding it for five cents.

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

Chuck Schoppe, Pres., Technical Systems Dir.
Jack Mallory, Vice Pres., Community Relations
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary
Bob Himel, Treasurer

Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please e-mail to:

annette@saratogahistory.com

Museum

The Saratoga History Museum and McWilliams House is open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Stop by and see the many exhibits. Visit our website:
<http://www.saratogahistory.com>.

Normally the line ran out of San Jose down what is today Stevens Creek Boulevard to Saratoga Avenue where it turned south to make its way to Saratoga. Once in Saratoga, a passenger could continue on to Los Gatos or change cars to go on to Congress Springs by Big Basin Way.

The white bench outside the Saratoga History Museum was once used by people waiting for a ride on one of the original stops of the line.

Putting the Cart Before the....

You can almost hear the gentle clip-clop of a horse pulling this circa 1880's Petaluma cart. Donated in the early 1990's to the Saratoga History Museum, the cart has languished in the outdoor exhibit until now.

The classic cart has been sent to History San Jose's Trolley Barn for a complete restoration thanks to a donation by Jim Sorden. Established in 1982, CTRC, the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation, is a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve the rich legacy of rail transportation in the Santa Clara Valley.

The original provenance as to who donated the cart to the Museum is unknown. The Museum is hoping someone reading this article might be able to supply this information.

The Petaluma cart was most likely manufactured by William Zartman and John Fritsch. They opened a wagon and blacksmith shop in Petaluma, California in the 1850's. A label on the cart indicates it was originally sold by Hooker and Company who had a retail carriage shop on Drum Street in San Francisco.

The popular vehicle was a simple wooden cart that typically carried one or two people and was pulled by an animal. Goods could be stored underneath the driver's and passenger's feet. No padded seat, no roof to keep the sun off, it can only be guessed that the destination was a short trip!

The outside exhibit at the Museum also has a "fruit wagon" circa 1890. Anyone interested in donating or sponsoring funds towards its restoration can contact the Museum at 408-867-4311.





Save These Dates!

- March 6 New exhibit opens at the Museum:
150th Anniversary of Harper's Ferry
— The Brown Family
- March 8 The Brown Family Remembered by
Alice Keesey Mecoy—special
presentation at the Museum—1 PM
- March 22 “John Brown, Bearded Patriarch”—
by Jean Libby presentation at the
Museum—1 PM
- March 16 SHF Program: Interurban Railway
by Ray Cosyn at the Immanuel
Lutheran Church at 6:30 PM for
dinner, program follows at 7:30 PM.
- March 17 St. Paddy's Party in the Village 3-
5PM
- April Walking tours—make an
appointment!
- April 3 New Civil War exhibit featuring the
collection of Saratogan Bill Cleary
- April 19 Wine and Wisteria--Village
Fundraiser at Hakone Gardens
From 4 to 7 PM
- April 28 1-5 PM book signing of the Saratoga
book at the Saratoga library by April
Halberstadt and Katie Alexander
- May 7 & 14 4 00 PM Civil War tours—for
a reservation e-mail Bob at
roberthime1@comcast.net or call
408 867-9727

John Brown, Bearded Patriarch - A Special Presentation



A chronology and interpretation of photo image presentation of “John Brown, Bearded Patriarch” will be given on Sunday March 22 at 1 PM at the Saratoga History Museum by Jean Libby. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Jean Libby is a retired instructor of US History and Ethnic Studies at

community colleges in Northern California. She has written, edited, and published widely on Abolitionist John Brown since 1978. The photo chronology of John Brown is also scheduled for presentation and exhibition at the

150th anniversary of the John Brown raid in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, in October 2009.

Civil War Exhibit Opens April 3

The Saratoga History Museum will launch a new exhibit on the Civil War with items from the collection of Saratogan Bill Cleary. The exhibit will open on April 3 and feature two new dioramas of major battles that Cleary has developed just for the Museum. Also on display from his collection will be flags, uniforms and other documentation of the era. Civil war music will also be played.

According to Florence Cunningham in, *The First One Hundred Years*, “The first wartime cavalry company of



home guards in Santa Clara County was organized in McCartysville on June 18, 1863, popularly known as the Redwood Volunteers.” The San Jose Mercury reported, “A fine cavalry company has been organized in McCartysville consisting of 80 members. This outfit, Company E. First Cavalry Regiment, drilled faithfully, and the following October joined with many other companies of home guards in a ten day encampment at Camp Allen, Encinal, Alameda County.” And Saratoga’s involvement in the war was on.

Savor Saratoga...Wine & Wisteria

Savor Saratoga..Wine & Wisteria will be held at Hakone Gardens, according to Councilwoman Jill Hunter. The



Village fundraiser will take place April 19 from 4 PM to 7 PM and feature wine tasting, munchies as well as a special auction. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of historic plaques for the Village as well as banners and summer flags. Tickets for the event will go on sale soon—watch the Saratoga News for more information.

Going Green in the Village

St. Patrick’s Day will be celebrated in the Village on March 14 from 3 to 5 PM with a bagpipe player, Irish dancers, green food, coloring for youngsters, a bunch of things. Local restaurants will have special tasty dishes and stores will have special displays and items to celebrate the day.



Dining With History

Now you have the opportunity to dine at Paul Masson's historic Mountain Lodge on Pierce Road in Saratoga. Masson built this country retreat in 1936 in the style of his homeland-- a Burgundy chateau shortly after his retirement from winemaking. The effusive Masson used the home extensively for wining and dining the rich and the famous.

Purchase a raffle ticket for \$20 and you have the opportunity, along with 9 friends of your choice, to dine in splendor. Sip vintage California wine on the patio, stroll through the surrounding peaceful vineyard, and then sit down to an elegant dinner. If you have the winning ticket, you choose the date and can enjoy a dinner for 10.

The drawing will be held July 9—you need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit the Saratoga Historical Foundation and will go toward funding events and services. Only a limited number of tickets have been printed—increasing your chance of winning. Buy one ticket or many and win a date with history.



To purchase a ticket, call Jane at (408)255-1883—during the day.

Paul Masson emigrated from the Burgundy region of France in 1878 to California where he met Charles Lefranc, one of a number of French immigrants who had expanded grape growing in the Santa Clara Valley.

In 1892 Masson's first sparkling wine under the name "champagne" was introduced at Almaden and Masson eventually became known as the "Champagne King of California".

Masson shifted part of his production to the Santa Cruz Mountains above Saratoga, California and built his



"chateau" overlooking the Santa Clara Valley in 1905. Now known as "The Mountain Winery", the Paul Masson Mountain Winery is on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.

Some say the ghost of

Paul Masson can still be seen walking the vineyard and checking the grapes.

Although mistakenly credited with the line, "we sell no wine before it's time," and uttered by Orson Welles in an advertisement—it is not a quote from Paul Masson.



It's Hard to be Green



Kermit the Frog would lament that it's hard to be green but new technology is making it easier and easier. The light bulbs in the Saratoga History Museum have been replaced with energy conserving lights. The new lights will not only provide improved lighting for viewing the exhibits but will reduce the Museum's PG & E bill, thanks to research by President Chuck Schoppe and a grant from PG&E.

Walking Tour

It's time to get out your camera and your walking shoes! The Saratoga Historical Foundation will be offering



historic walking tours on the weekend beginning in April. The docent-led tours last about 60 minutes with lots of easy walking. Meet your fellow "time travellers" and get some exercise at the same time. Make an appointment today by calling 408-867-4311 and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the history of your community. The Lunblad Lodge on Oak Street is one of the interesting stops on the tour.

History is Where You Find it

Jim Sorden reports that the movie Paleface and starring Bob Hope in 1948 was actually patterned after Painless



Parker (1872-1952), a flamboyant local dentist in the early 1900's who lived on the rolling hills of Parker Ranch. In the movie Bob Hope played "Painless Potter." According to Parker, "God hates those who do not take care of their teeth." Parker used to wear a necklace made of teeth he had extracted and it has been said he once extracted 357 teeth in one day.

Ridin' the Rails

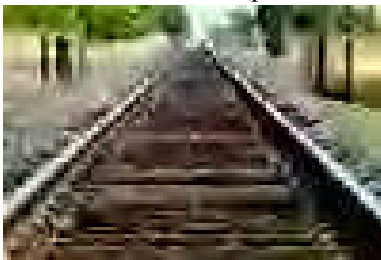


The Saratoga History Museum recently acquired railroad track laid in 1906 and manufactured by the Carnegie Steel Company.

The sharp eyes of Katie Alexander noticed that the vintage 1906 track was being removed and replaced by welded rail commonly used when heavier track is required. Jack Mallory and Ray Cosyn promptly met with railroad construction officials and acquired the 1906 track which will become part of an outdoor display at the Saratoga History Museum.

The track was originally placed by the Southern Pacific (SP) railroad (since taken over by Union Pacific). The line was established to haul passengers and freight between Campbell and the Mayfield Station in Palo Alto by way of downtown Los Altos.

Foothill Expressway, completed in the early 1960's replaced the railroad line between Cupertino and Los Altos. Since then, the Campbell to Permanente portion of the track has been used solely to supply coal for the plant's kilns requiring multiple locomotives to chug the steep grade north of Monta Vista. Finished cement is carried back on the return trip. The 1.7 mile spur used by Permanente is privately owned and the train used is called the Permanente Local (photo shown).



The cement plant continues to be an important part of the local economy and is the sole reason for the lone railroad line that runs through the city.

At one time the cement plant was one of the largest employers for the Cupertino area. Currently owned and operated by Hanson PLC, it was originally founded by Henry J. Kaiser as the Kaiser Permanente Cement Plant in 1939.

Rio Permanente (Permanente Creek) was so named by the Spanish in the 1770s because it was a "permanent" source of water even during dry seasons. Kaiser liked the name and called the plant Kaiser Permanente.

Its somewhat novel charter was to provide the majority of the cement used in the construction of the Shasta Dam. It achieved this goal by supplying 6 million barrels of cement over a dedicated nine mile-long conveyor system.

Don't Miss the Civil War Tours

Private tours of one of the largest Civil War collections in the US are being organized by the Saratoga Historical Museum for May 7 and 14 and starting at 4:00 PM. The tours will be held at the Saratoga home of Bill Cleary who will personally conduct each tour and explain his collection. Cleary is an entrepreneur, educator, and environmentalist and has been collecting Civil War artifacts for over 50 years.

The collection includes 12,000 items including soldiers, uniforms, rifles, documents, confederate money, and professionally prepared dioramas depicting battle scenes.

The major displays on the tour will include Civil War technology, Battle of Fredericksburg, Battle of Bull Run, Civil War encampments, naval technology, regimental displays, and weapons.

The tours are open to middle and high school children and adults.

The tours are very informative and take from one and one-half to two hours.

Tickets for the adult tours are \$20 for SHF members, \$30 for non members or \$45 for tour and family museum membership. Tours are also available for high school groups on different dates and times.

For tour tickets or school information, contact Bob Himel, Saratoga Historical Foundation, 20450 Saratoga, CA 95071 or e-mail Bob at roberthimel@comcast.net or call 408 867-9727. Send your check along with your name, e-mail, telephone number and address to SHF, PO Box 172 at Saratoga, CA 95071.



Diorama of a Civil War battle

On the Road to Austin Road

“There's a Heritage Lane in Saratoga and it concerns primarily the street itself rather than adjoining residences. This is the stretch of Austin Way that takes off from Highway 9 and Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. It is opposite El Camino Grande, makes a sharp curve where Bainter Avenue comes in, and proceeds on across Highway 9 to Austin Corners and the Quito Road juncture. From there it proceeds up the hill to rejoin Highway 9. This segment is in the city of Monte Sereno.

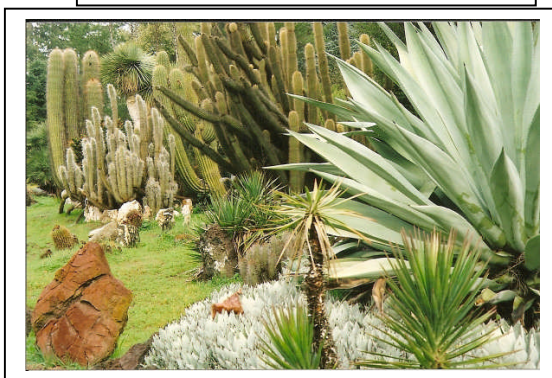
The concept of heritage pertains to that first segment of Austin Way, in the city of Saratoga, that is paved with brick. It's an interesting question as to just when this paving took place. My guess

would be around 1914 or a bit later when, I understand, other roads around Saratoga were paved. Brick was not an uncommon paving material back then. There was another such segment on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road on the hill north of the bridge over Saratoga Creek,

and I seem to remember brick paving in other areas.

I'd like to think there could be some more picturesque designation than "brick hill" for this section of Austin Way. Examine that surface. Over the years, age and wear from the passage of vehicles have given the bricks a kind of patina, an appearance of mellowness that--hey, that's it! The Mellow Brick Road! Follow the Mellow Brick Road! (Apologies to Judy Garland and the Wizard of Oz crowd.) We're off to see the Wizard, or maybe only the mayor, but it's Follow the Mellow Brick Road.

There's more than just a little history in this corner of Saratoga. Austin Way became a side street in 1940, when that segment of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road was straightened, thus eliminating--for through traffic--the hazard of Austin Corners. For many years, an auto repair garage on the site could count on the patronage of motorists who failed to negotiate the sharp corner and piled into a telephone pole.



The Peninsular Railway Interurban tracks adjoined the highway, and three years ago, the last visible segment of the rails at Austin Corners was paved over by the city of Monte Sereno. The tracks were laid in 1903-04 and were removed, except in that one segment, when the line shut down in March 1933. The Austin whose name commemorated was Daniel B. Austin, a Pennsylvanian who first came to California in 1853 when he was 18. He pursued various occupations until 1882, when he purchased 60 acres between Saratoga and Los Gatos. He was a founder of the Los Gatos and Saratoga Wine and Fruit Co., which operated a winery at Austin Corners from 1885 to 1919. In the last year, with the advent of Prohibition, the building was razed.

The building housing the Next Generation Child Development Center, at 19010 Austin Way, originally was the Austin School, serving the district which Daniel Austin helped to establish. The Austin district, along with the Booker district, near the present Saratoga Springs resort, was joined with Saratoga's school to form the Saratoga Union School District in the 1920s. “

Excerpt from a column written by Willys Peck originally printed on September 30, 1998 in the Saratoga News.

Sights to See

If you take a ramble down Austin Road, turn on Bountiful Acres. At the end of the road, you'll see an amazing, beautiful garden of prickly cactus growing on an acre or more of land.

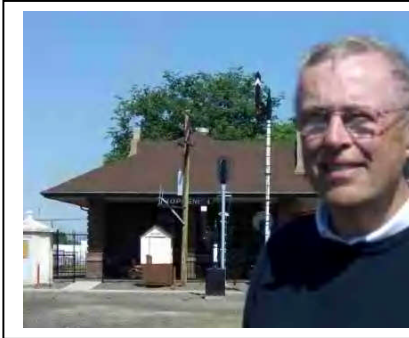
These stately specimens were once

showcased in a gardening magazine and noted both for the breadth of specimens and landscaping. The private residence should not be disturbed but you can easily see from the road the beauty of the many types of cactus handsomely landscaped with rocks and soil.

Cactus can grow in the snow-clad Alpines, arid plains, humid jungles in the Amazon, and of course, Saratoga. These hardy plants conserve moisture

and can survive drought conditions. In the March-April timeframe many of these will be in bloom. And some even bear fruit.

In Stride with Ray Cosyn



Ray Cosyn can frequently be seen walking along Saratoga Avenue to the Saratoga History Museum or cruising the area on one of his bicycles. He is a man who takes exercise seriously and has hiked and

biked all over the world. Last year he and his wife rode a tandem bike through Tuscany and they have cycled through most of Europe.

Cosyn is directing some of that energy to the Saratoga Historical Foundation (SHF) board by holding the position of Historian as well as working on the Peck Project. He also responds to the "Ask a Historian" section on the SHF website (<http://www.saratogahistory.com>).

Cosyn spent his formative years in Illinois where he received a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Illinois. Like LeRoy Brown of the famous song (Bad, Bad Leroy Brown) he is a native Chicagoan from the Southside.

He migrated to San Jose, CA in 1980—right at the time of 20% mortgages and stagflation. He came to San Jose to manage IBM's Marketing Support Center for Storage Systems on Cottle Road. Prior to that he spent time in all the Midwest hot spots, Springfield, IL, Kansas City, Omaha but probably nothing could really prepare him for living costs in California.

From IBM he moved to Hitachi Data Systems where he ran Product Management and Field Sales Support. And then he continued to work in Silicon Valley by working for three startups.

After retiring, Cosyn decided to go back to school and get an MA in his real passion—American history. He presently has one more year at San Jose State to achieve that dream, and then he says he might decide to pursue teaching and a lecturing career.

When Cosyn is not reading huge history tomes for school he sometimes has time for hobbies. He lists his hobbies as cycling, Interurban History, Broadway shows, touring Europe, the White Sox (everything you would ever want to know), the Kansas City Chiefs, Illinois basketball, Nebraska football, music, politics, and the History of our Republic.

Cosyn has provided the music for the last three war exhibits—he is also on the Museum exhibit committee.

Cosyn has served as a docent for the Villa Montalvo as well as is a member for four major railroad museums. In fact, Cosyn will be giving a presentation on March 16 on the Peninsular Interurban Railway – see page 2 of this newsletter.

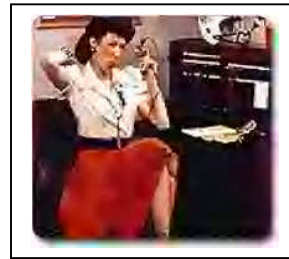
As a man who has been around the world, he lists his favorite places as Saratoga, Chicago, Providence, Paris, Provenance, and all of Tuscany.

Ray has four children and now four grandchildren.

Any words of wisdom for the rest of us? Cosyn advises, "you are only as old as you feel, don't hesitate to mix it up with other generations as I do at San Jose State University, have fun and don't take yourself too seriously!"

Volunteer Registrar Needed to Help With Events

The Saratoga Historical Foundation conducts a variety of



historical tours, programs, and fundraising events throughout the year. We are in need of a volunteer who can work at home by answering telephone calls and taking registrations for events. This volunteer job is for those who enjoy talking

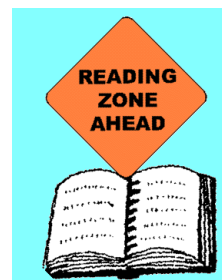
with people and periodically will involve about three hours a week.

If you would like to consider helping or want more information contact Jack Mallory at 408-252-7447 or email at: Mallory58@aol.com.

Little Known Fact...

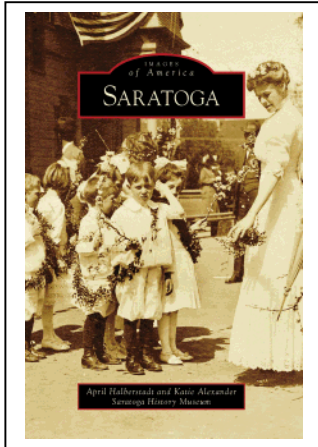
Book-Go-Round Manager Mary Jeanne Fenn contributes this "little known historical fact".... The Florence Cunningham Collection is housed in the Reading Room in the Saratoga Library on Saratoga Avenue. The Reading Room, also designated as a quiet room, has comfortable chairs and good lighting for curling up with a special book. The Cunningham Collection includes a wide number of books including *Baghdad by the Bay* by Herb Caen.

Florence Cunningham provided the seed money and many of the items in the Saratoga History Museum among her many accomplishments.



New From the Museum Gift Shop

Remember when the City Hall building was called a doll's house? A new book commissioned by SHF with photos of Saratoga from the early days to the present will be available for purchase on March 24. The new picture book

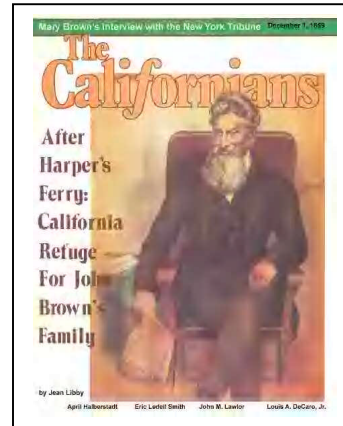


printed by Arcadia Publishing, called "*Saratoga*" will be available in the Saratoga History Museum gift shop. SHF members will receive a 10 percent discount. Also available will be packets of 15 postcards featuring vintage Saratoga images.

The book is authored by April Halberstadt and Katie Alexander. Images contained in the book are from the files of the

Saratoga Historical Foundation, Willys Peck, Warren Heid and others.

A book signing with Halberstadt and Alexander will take place at the Saratoga library on April 28 from 1-5 PM.



"*After Harpers Ferry*" —a book covering Mary Brown and her family's move to California by local author Jean Libby is available at the Museum.

"*The Browns of Madronia*" by Dr. Damon Nalty is another book on Mary Brown and family and is also available for purchase at

the Museum. There is also a bookmark with Sarah Brown and other Saratoga women available at the gift shop.

The Museum Gift Shop is open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday.

**Saratoga Historical Foundation
PO Box 172
Saratoga, California 95071**