



# SARATOGA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

PO BOX 172, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95071  
May 2011

**Special Exhibit on Suffrage ends May 26—Don't Miss It! Come to the Valley of Heart's Delight Lecture on May 16; Bring Your Camera and Attend Heritage Day on May 21; Relax and Enjoy the Concert on May 22!; And Be Sure to Attend the Special Memorial Day Observance**

## **Celebrate Heritage Day on May 21!! Learn a Little Saratoga History and Have a Lot of Fun!**

Saratoga will celebrate Heritage Day on Saturday May 21 with music, costumed historic Saratoga figures, and classic cars on Big Basin Way and at the Saratoga History Museum.

The event will start at noon in Blaney Plaza as over 50 costumed Saratoga historic figures will assemble to be introduced.

### ***Stroll Big Basin Way***

Visitors can stroll Big Basin Way from 12 to 3 PM to see classic cars, hear a variety of music, see a petting zoo and meet costumed historic Saratoga figures. A free souvenir autograph book, courtesy of Federated Church will be handed out so you can get each figure's autograph and ask questions about their life. Bring friends and have lunch at over 11 restaurants.

### ***Stop by the Saratoga History Museum***

Walk over to the Saratoga Historical Park to the Saratoga History Museum and meet more costumed historic figures. Enjoy pitching horse shoes; enjoy a free docent-led historic walking tour scheduled for 12:30 and 2:00 PM; free historic house bicycle maps; see vintage aerial maps of Saratoga; watch a video of Saratoga Then and Now and more. Town Historian Willys Peck will be available to autograph his books. Children's games of the 1800's will take place from noon to 4 PM. See

live demonstrations of blacksmiths making horseshoes, lacemaking, ropemaking, and carving wood. Outdoor displays will highlight the town's heritage. Buy a bottle of Saratoga Springs bottled water—supposedly with the same mineral content of Saratoga's Congress Spring's water. And don't miss the exhibit at the museum entitled, the Sixth Star—Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of California Women Receiving the Vote.

### ***Check out the BookGoRound's special display***

The BookGoRound, part of the Saratoga Historical Park, will feature a huge selection of gently used local Bay Area travel and history books for sale in addition to their normal wide selection of books on various topics. The BookGoRound will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM.

### ***Have your photo taken with one of the over 50 historic figures***

Over 50 costumed historic Saratoga figures representing all walks of life—from pioneers to the present will be participating. This is a great event to bring a friend, bring your family or come by yourself to enjoy the day. Learn a little Saratoga history and have a lot of fun.

### ***Bring your camera and have a great afternoon.***

"This is the second year Heritage Day has been celebrated," says Councilperson and SVDC President Jill Hunter. "Laurel Perusa has been coordinating the event each year and is doing a great job," adds Hunter. The event is sponsored by the Saratoga

Village Development Council (SVDC).



## Blessings on Valley Oaks and Saratogans

Arbor Day, held April 22 brought the Skillet Lickers



strumming songs of joy, Mayor Howard Miller, favorite Town Historian Willys Peck and Mother Earth Betty Peck and more to celebrate.

Held at Foothill Park on Seaton Avenue, a Valley Oak tree was carefully planted as part of the day's event.

Betty Peck

captured the spirit of the day with her blessings by saying in part, "and may Saratoga be blessed by all who are here today to plant more Valley Oaks to enrich the lives of those who come after us."

She introduced her husband Willys, by commenting it was appropriate to have someone who was born in Oakland to write a poem about oak trees.

Town Historian Willys Peck smiled with the introduction and read the following original poem:

*"Here's to trees like Valley Oaks  
Filled with wisdom for our folks.  
Leaves with autumn color fall,  
Giving name to season's call.  
All in all, this kind of tree's  
Exactly what we need to please  
Saratogans and their friends  
The satisfaction never ends."*

Packets of sunflower seeds, bags of compost, and literature were distributed.

### 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 Director  
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary  
Jane Asher, Treasurer, Social Director

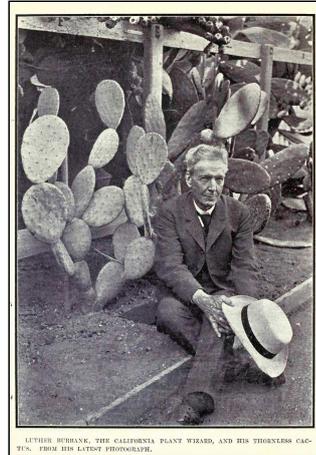
#### Newsletter

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>.

If you like french fries or Shasta daisies, thank famed horticulturist Luther Burbank. Born in Massachusetts in 1849, he worked tirelessly to improve and develop plants. In 1873, he introduced the Burbank russet potato, the sale of which provided the money for him to move to California. The potato is used at most McDonald's for making french fries and is one of the most popular potatoes used in food processing.



LUTHER BURBANK, THE CALIFORNIA PLANT WIZARD, AND HIS THORNTLESS CACTUS. FROM THE LUTHER BURBANK HOME.

Burbank settled in Santa Rosa, California where he used four-acres of land as his laboratory. During his 55 years of work, he developed over 800 plant species including the plumcot, (a cross between a plum and apricot) a spineless cactus (for cattle feed), Shasta daisy, the Fire poppy, Elberta peach, the Santa Rosa plum, the Flaming Gold nectarine, the Wickson plum, the Freestone peach, and the white blackberry.

Burbank became known through his plant catalogs, the most famous being the 1893 "New Creations in Fruits and Flowers," and through the word of satisfied customers.

Burbank died in 1926. His work inspired the Plant Patent Act and as a result several of his plants were awarded patents after his death. In 1986 he was inducted into the Inventor's Hall of Fame. Today the Luther Burbank Home and Garden is a historical landmark in Santa Rosa. Luther Burbank's Gold Ridge Experiment Farm located outside of Sebastopol is on the National Register of Historic Places.

March 7 is Burbank's birthday and is sometimes the date Arbor day is celebrated in California.

## The Sixth Star, Special Exhibit— ends May 26



Don't miss the special exhibit at the Saratoga History Museum celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of California women receiving the vote. The vote was so close, the San Francisco paper pronounced the amendment killed. The next day, however, after all the votes from the small towns throughout California were counted, the amendment was passed. Alameda and San Francisco, large counties with liquor lobbyists had voted against the amendment.

Local Saratoga citizen Isabella (Bella) Blaney supported the vote locally with funds and by writing letters to influential people.

Visit the Museum (open from 1-4 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and see the exhibit. And hear the music of the suffragists!!

# Save These Dates

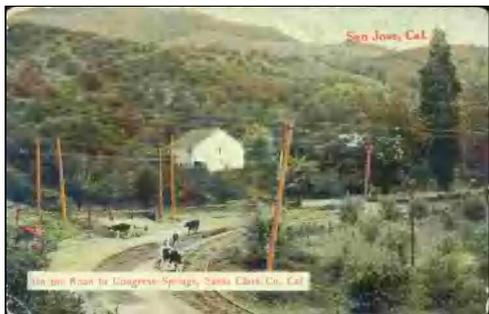


- Feb 4** Museum Exhibit: The Sixth Star —Celebrating the Anniversary of Women Receiving the Vote— runs through the end of May
- May 16** The Valley of Heart’s Delight, with Lecture by Darlene Thorne; 6:30 PM potluck; 7:30 lecture Immanuel Lutheran Hall
- May 21** Heritage Day, 12-4PM
- May 22** Saratoga Community Band concert, 4 PM Wildwood Park, fundraiser for Saratoga Historical Foundation
- May 30** Memorial Day observance, 9:30 AM
- June 1-June 30** Museum closed for refinishing floors and spring cleaning
- June 18** SVDC: A Sidewalk Affaire, 10-6PM
- July 4** Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Kevin Moran Park in Saratoga, 10 AM

## Host Chamber Mixer

The Saratoga History Museum will host the May Chamber of Commerce mixer on Thursday May 5 from 5:30-7PM. It is a great opportunity to showcase the museum and the historic McWilliams house and to meet fellow Chamber members.

## The Valley of Heart’s Delight



Take a sentimental journey through the “Valley of Heart’s Delight” with native Californian Darlene Thorne on

Monday, May 16 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church hall. The program, sponsored by the Saratoga Historical Foundation, will begin at 6:30 for the potluck, 7:30 PM for the lecture. Membership business will include voting on board members continuing their service.

The event is free and open to the public. The hall is located at 14103 Saratoga Avenue in Saratoga.

Enjoy the vintage postcard journey and see the Valley of Heart’s Delight from long ago accompanied with lively commentary Thorne is a native Californian and has served as executive director for two Santa Clara County Chambers of Commerce. She is currently on the board of directors of the Cupertino Historical Society.

## Saratoga Community Band Concert on May 22!!



Bring a picnic, lawn chairs and enjoy the rousing songs of the award winning Saratoga Community Band. The band will have a concert in Wildwood Park (20764 Fourth Street) on May 22 from 4-6 PM. A spic

combination of popular songs and Civil War songs will be played. A special musical tribute for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter will be included with a drum and fife corp. Conductor Craig Northrup (Saratoga Citizen of the Year in 1978) promises to deliver a great concert.

## Memorial Day Observed



Don’t miss the special Memorial Day program planned by the City of Saratoga and the Saratoga Foothill Club. The event takes place May 30 at 9:30 AM at the Memorial Arch with Alex Nugent, president of the Saratoga Foothill Club presenting the wreath. Then walk up Oak Street to Madronia cemetery for the 10 AM ceremony. According to Anne Kolb, co-chair “This

year’s speaker will be Laura Miller, a young woman who is a veteran of the Iraq war and a daughter of Saratoga, and David Mandell, a senior at Saratoga High. We have nearly 1,000 veterans interred at the cemetery now, so there are many families and friends who will be there, along with the public, to honor those who have served us.”

The Saratoga High School band and choir will also perform. Youth groups will lay flags and laurel wreaths on veteran’s markers.

## Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July

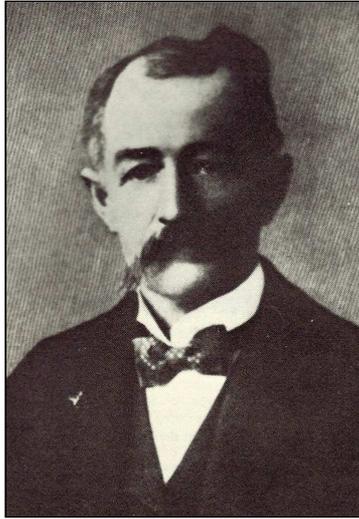


An old fashioned Fourth of July celebration is planned for 10 AM at Kevin Moran Park (12415 Scully Avenue). The McCartyville band,

speeches, American Revolution War enactors, free popsicles and flags all make a great day of celebration. Make freedom ring in Saratoga by joining in the fun.

# A Judicial History of the Town of Many Names

The first legal organization of Saratoga occurred on October 10, 1899, when the Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County enacted an ordinance that said that all territory in the election precinct of Saratoga shall be known as the Saratoga Township.



Township.

Since the birth of this state, each county has been divided into legal entities known as townships. Prior to this ordinance the Saratoga area had been part of the Redwood Township which also included Los Gatos and surroundings. Each township was entitled to a justice of the peace—the local official empowered to decide minor criminal and civil matters. The more populated townships were entitled to two justices.

## The first justice of

### the peace

Lewis A. Sage (above photo) of Congress Springs had been Justice of the Peace of the Redwood Township since 1887; he was elected to a similar post in the new Saratoga Township. The election results were listed separately for the Cupertino and Saratoga portions of the township. The combined final results were FM Farwell 221, and Sage 166, both defeating M. Lee who had 107 votes.

Although Farwell was very active in the community, he evidently did not hold court. Nevertheless, he was referred to as “Judge” Farwell thereafter. Sage was, however, active in his judicial duties. The Los Gatos Weekly News edition of December 13, 1889, under “Saratoga Notes” states: “(...) was tried in Judge Sage’s court on Saturday charged with battery on an Italian but was discharged for want of evidence to convict.”

### No legal experience required

In November 1894 James E. Foster, a roadmaster, was elected as Justice of the Peace defeating CF Boosinger, a builder, by a vote of 185-148. The elected constable was William H. Haun. Evidently by this time Saratoga was entitled to only one justice. We have a court docket, which commences on March 23, 1897, with a civil action for \$62. All of the entries are by the judge. Among counsel listed as having appeared before Foster was JR Welch, later Superior Court judge well known for his association with Welchhurst. The last entry with Foster as Justice of the Peace is dated September 24, 1898. Like his predecessors and successors, Foster was a non-lawyer. Also like the others, Foster held court in his home. He had been a bridge constructor for the Union in the Civil War and had lived in Missouri before making the trek to Saratoga.

The Justice of the Peace’s of that era had perhaps a more difficult job than their later counterparts because of the wide-

open frontier nature of the town. It was the first stop for thirsty lumbermen on their way out of the redwoods. At one time Saratoga was notorious for the amount of drinking that was done there. In 1890 the population was 600 but it had between, depending upon who did the estimating, between seven and seventeen saloons. To be a “drunk from Saratoga” was the last word in drunkenness. Other cases handled by Foster according to the local newspaper, The Saratoga Item, included “a man arrested and tried for destroying the Bible at the Methodist Church,” “man tried for beating a donkey but case dismissed for insufficient evidence” and “guardianship of a dog.”

The next Justice of the Peace was George O. Kinney, publisher of the Saratoga Item from 1896 until it ceased operations in 1899. An article in his paper on February 3, 1899 discusses the trial of “E. Foster, a stranger to this locality for beating a donkey. It was the initial trial of the new justice and some mistakes, more or less ludicrous or unfortunate were made.” District Attorney Jarman dismissed the action for insufficient evidence.

The name of Theodore V. Brown, a druggist, appears in the docket book with the initial date of April 10, 1901, as the next justice of the peace. His minutes, written in beautiful, clear style, continue to September of the same year. The only entry of special interest involves a dispute between Brown and Constable Haun as to whether a justice could issue warrants on Sunday and legal holidays. Brown’s position that he could so act was sustained by District Attorney James H. Campbell.

### Judicial business in the home, trials held at Kane’s Hall

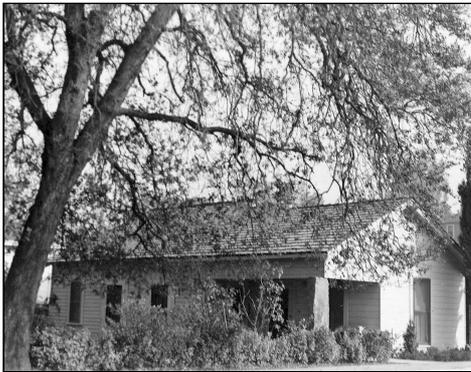
The first case in the book for the next Justice of the Peace, Martin Kane, was entered on September 15, 1901. Kane was of giant proportion to Saratoga, both in terms of length of service and his overall impact on the community. He served two terms as judge, the first lasting until the close of 1914 and the second from 1927 through 1930. He was a blacksmith and wagonmaker who in 1897 built Kane’s Hall, a two-story



structure on Lumber Street (later named Big Basin Way) near Third Street in Saratoga. Kane operated his shop on the ground level. The second floor was used for many years as a meeting place for local social, fraternal and business groups. Although Kane conducted all routine judicial business in his home, jury trials were held upstairs in Kane’s Hall. The writer is under the impression that other Justice of the Peace’s tried

their jury cases there also. Kane was a member of Saratoga's first Board of Trade, predecessor to the chamber of commerce, and he also took his turn as fire chief.

George Haun, brother of the constable, took office as Justice of the Peace in 1915 and served through 1922 when the Township Consolidation Act restored the court to the Redwood Township. Haun, then believed to be Saratoga's oldest native son, died in 1936 at the age of 80. His Mercury Herald obituary of some years later states in part: "Haun became an expert teamster and for years drove stages at various times to all nearby towns. When the Peninsular Railway put him out of business 30 years ago, Haun turned to other businesses- real estate, insurance, a bakery – and served two terms as postmaster here, going out of office during Wilson's administration. He was justice of the peace until townships of this county were rearranged a dozen years ago and Judge Haun found himself without a court." Photo of Judge Haun's home on Big Basin Way where court was held.



The Saratoga court was resumed in 1927 with Kane as Justice of the Peace. On June 1, 1927, Kane swore out a warrant for the search of a local residence. As a result the sheriff discovered "1/2

gallons of wine" and "1/8 gallon of whiskey" in the kitchen, "brandy in basement" and "4-50 gallons of wine in garage." The defendant ultimately pleaded guilty to "possession of liquor containing more than 1 1/2 of 1 per cent alcohol". The sentence was \$250 or one day in jail for each dollar unpaid. A balance of \$248 was collected.

In August 1930 William A. Rice was elected as Justice of the Peace, defeating Levi C. Renn 499-268. Rice remained in office until his death in 1943. His father, William Rice, having brought his son to Saratoga at the age of 5, had set out one of the first large orchards in the vicinity. William A. was an orchardist too, serving also at various times as postmaster, clerk of the school board, and clerk of the fire district.

### Spare bedroom becomes courtroom

Next to succeed to the Saratoga Justice of the Peace position was Charles W. Cobb, a native of England, who came here at the age of 13. He was the custodian of the local grammar school, clerk of the board of Fire Commissioners, and a deacon of the Saratoga Federated Church. The Cobbs lived near what is now the Saratoga High School. Greg Rose, his grandson, who often visited in the home, remembers that Cobb's courtroom was the spare bedroom.

No regular court hours or court clerks

Conversations with those who appeared as counsel in those days, Louis Doll (now Municipal Court judge), Peter Mancuso and Kenneth Malovos, himself once a Justice of the Peace in Mountain View, provide a comprehension of those old justice courts. There were no particular court hours and no court clerks. The hour of the hearing would be personally

prearranged with the justice so as not to interfere with his occupation.

The first entry in the minute book of the new justice, George H. Payne, described a drunk-in-public prosecution for which the defendant received a 30-day county jail sentence.



Payne was the son of G. Logan Payne, a former leading Hearst newspaperman who obtained the San Jose News in the late

1920s. The Payne family retained the News until the early 1940s. During the latter period of their ownership George H. was the publisher. He took a leading part in many activities throughout the state. At one time or another he was chairman of the California State Horse Racing Commission, the California State Athletic Commission, and the State Harness Racing Commission. He was a retired brigadier general having served in both World Wars. He did not seek re-election.

### Using a card table to dispense justice

Paul Crawford, who was to be the last Justice of the Peace of the Saratoga Township, was elected in June 1950 by a vote of 1110-618 prevailing over retired army Colonel AW Howard. Crawford had practiced law in the little mining town of Leadville, Colorado for many years and had retired here because he and his wife appreciated the area. He became active in local affairs and served as president of the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce. His minute book also cannot be found. Arvin Robb, now a Municipal Court judge, recalls trying a case in Crawfords home. The opposing attorney was Maurice Rankin. The three sat around a card table in Crawfords living room during the presentation of the case.

The nearby communities of Los Gatos and Campbell, being incorporated cities, had in addition to a Justice Court a "city"



or "police" court. Saratoga, not yet incorporated, had only the Justice of the Peace. All five courts were consolidated on January 1, 1953. Los Gatos Police Court Judge AE Merrill, former Los Gatos Chief of Police Lyman Feathers, and Fred H. Jacobs all sought election, but Crawford

prevailed. He retained the job until his retirement in 1958 when Richard Rhodes replaced him. The City of Saratoga was not officially incorporated until 1956. The lawyer who prepared the incorporation papers and who was the initial city attorney was Faber Johnston, Jr. His assistant city attorney at that time was William G. Clark.

*Written by Hon. Mark E. Thomas, Junior and printed in the In Brief, the Official Bulletin of the Santa Clara County Bar Association in the Summer of 1980*

## Saratoga Limericks

"There once was a housewife so flustered  
She forgot to put eggs in the custard;  
She sugared the steak,  
Set the Jello to bake,  
And served the ice cream drenched in mustard."

*By Author Ruth W. Wood, from the book Fifty Frivolous Limericks and printed in 1966.*

# Early Day Life in Saratoga

“My father Samuel Allison Blythe was born in Tennessee in 1826 and moved to Texas with his parents in 1835. In 1845 when war broke out between Mexico and the United States he crossed the Rio Grande and became a Cavalry officer in the US Army. When the war ended he returned to Texas and in 1849 after news of the discovery of gold in California he came to this state arriving first in Stockton. After casting his eye over the state he decided on the fertile Santa Clara Valley as having promise of the brightest future.



He built a sawmill in 1850 in the Santa Cruz mountains above Saratoga a little ways and there engaged in the lumber business

for several years. For many years the old mill wheel was to be seen on my father’s millsite. I saw it a number of times when I was young but suppose it is gone by now.

## Wheat as tall as a man

In 1853 he purchased a 200 acre rancho about 3 miles from the Village of Saratoga—at present known as the Sorosis Ranch...At that time all the country was covered with manzanita, scrub oak, lots of poison oak, etc. and had to be cleared. He used Chinese and Mexican labor to have it cleared and then sowed it out in wheat and grain which grew to amazing heights—taller than a man—on this virgin soil. My mother said the children were warned never to go into a grain field for fear of being lost. One day they just caught my brother when as a baby he toddled into the wheat...the children had to walk several miles to school and was warned to look out for wild cattle....

“My mother came to California from Ohio over the plains in 1853. Her name was Serena Cox. She was a sister to William Cox of Saratoga and came to visit her brother. Her father was with her but afterwards returned east. She remained and married my father in 1853. They built what in those days was considered a good house on the ranch. My mother had one of the first sewing machines and also one of the first carriages in the valley...

## El Quito olive orchard

I believe my father’s 200-acre ranch was part of the El Quito Rancho and he bought it from the Arguellos. Ramon Arguello was a great friend of my father. I think he was the one who managed the Arguello estate and he used to talk things over with my father. My father had a gang of Chinese workers clear his land and he supervised clearing the land for the Aguellos and also supervised setting out the El Quito olive orchard for Ramon Arguello.

My mother always loved flowers and even as a pioneer woman had a garden at great odds. There was no running water and they had to carry the water in buckets. Mother made the children help and gave them special plants of their own to inspire them. Mother was continually gathering slips and seeds and sometimes would travel considerable distance to get them

if she heard of some one with an attractive garden. The result of all this was that mother had a lovely garden for those days.

When Ramon Arguello wanted an olive orchard what was more natural than for him to bring the seeds to my mother whom he considered a wonderful gardener, and she started them in boxes. My father supervised planting them with Chinese labor when the seedlings were large enough.



Ramon also brought my mother some eucalyptus seeds that came to California from Australia. I think they were thought good to keep malaria away. My mother planted these eucalyptus seedlings and grew a great grove of eucalyptus trees on the creek in back of our ranch. Many times as we drove by the old ranch my mother pointed out this grove and told me she planted it in the early days....

When my father went to San Francisco in olden times he took a stage to Alviso and went the rest of the way on a little steamer...

Our family continued to reside at the ranch until 1872 when they moved to San Jose to educate the children in higher schools than the country school.”

*From a letter written by Ethel Blythe Cole to Florence Cunningham in May of 1939.*

Editor’s Note: Arguello’s death prevented him from further pursuing an olive orchard. The estate was divided and in 1882, the farm was acquired by Edward E. Goodrich. He expanded the orchard and eventually produced and marketed olive oil and pickled olives under the brand El Quito Olive Oil.

## Bull Expressway?

If Alfred Chester Bull hadn’t changed his name—Lawrence Expressway would have been named....”Bull”.



The proud name of Bull could be traced back as far as 1635 in England but when the family moved to Massachusetts—the traditional stiff upper lip trembled. Alfred had the family name officially changed to Lawrence because of all the teasing about his surname.

The Lawrences moved to California in 1849 in search of gold. He spent two years mining before turning to agriculture. The Lawrence Road dates to 1852 when it was laid out to enable lumber, wheat and hay to quickly travel to Alviso and be loaded onto waiting steam ships.

When the railroad was built between San Jose and San Francisco in 1863, Lawrence gave right away through his land and the station became known as Lawrence Station. Lawrence was station agent until his death in 1886. Nothing remains of the Lawrence Station today... and that’s no bull.

## On The Road— The Last Outhouse Standing?

An outhouse in tony, upscale Saratoga? According to Willys Peck, “Owners of today’s luxury homes wouldn’t like to think about it, but outhouses were once pretty common in Saratoga. I remember in my early childhood, when we lived on Marion Avenue (did somebody say “Road”?), our house was the only one of the three at the end of that street that had inside plumbing. At one of those houses, a small cottage, people had to walk over a little bridge to get to the outhouse on the other side of the creek.

The most architecturally pleasing outhouse I can remember was one that rancher Walter Worden had moved to a spot adjoining his dry yard, about where the Saratoga High School athletic field is today. This would have been in 1937, and it was for the benefit of the apricot-cutters working there. As a recent grammar school graduate, I was cutting ‘cots along with the other youngsters and several housewives. As I remember it, the outhouse was quite large, a two-holer, with ornamental trim around the room. I think it’s too bad that at



**This outhouse can be seen from Congress Springs Road just**

least one of these structures hasn’t been preserved as a relic.”

An outhouse, for those too young to remember, was sometimes called a privy. The outdoor building surrounded a pit used for a toilet. The door was decorated with either a moon (for women) or sun (for men) because in the early Colonial times, people were unable to read but could recognize symbols. As time went on either the sun was too difficult to carve or men were using other facilities but only the moon continued to be

used as a symbol during and after the 1800’s. The other functions of the decorative art were for ventilation and for letting in light.

Newspapers and retail catalogs were used as toilet paper. Of course, these played a dual role—something to read if the visit was going to take a long time. Papers were kept in a can to keep safe from inquisitive rats and other critters. Old corncobs, leaves and other types of paper were also creatively used--- putting today’s recycling to shame.

In some parts of the country, tipping over an outhouse was an annual prank on Halloween— with the hope of catching the occupant off guard.

Indoor plumbing became common in the 1930’s for rural parts of the US, slightly earlier for city folk.

*Portion of Willys Peck’s column originally printed in the Saratoga News on July 18, 2007. Reference: The Vanishing American Outhouse by Ronald S. Barlow*

## Docent-Led Walking Tours

Dust off those Adidas, it is time to get in shape. Join us the first Saturday of each month for a walking tour of the Historic Saratoga Village. It’s a great way to meet new people, learn about community history, and get some exercise. The average tour takes about one hour. If you would like to go on a docent-led tour, call 408-867-4311 to make a reservation.



A self-guided walking tour of Heritage Lane will be available at the end of May. Copies of this new walking tour will be in the museum

as well as available for downloading on our website:

[www.saratogahistory.com](http://www.saratogahistory.com). Do you know the origin of the “stone house” or sometimes called the storybook house? Take the tour and find out. History is just a step away.

The historical garden at the Museum is blooming with flowers—be sure to take a walk with the self-guided tour and enjoy the blossoms. The garden tour is also available online.

Calling all pedal pushers-- the historic home bicycle tour is also available both at the Museum and online.



## How You Can Help

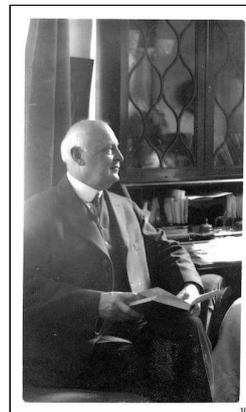
If you are looking for things to do, the Saratoga

History Museum could use your help with:

- transcribing old letters and manuscripts. You can do this at home and it would be a great service to the museum.
- if you have a video camera, record some of the lectures and events. This is a great way of preserving information for use by future generations.
- put your research skills to good use-- Jean Libby, a John

Brown historian could use your help.

If you are interested in helping, call 408-867-4311 and identify the project of interest.



### Can You Identify This Photo?

This photo was found in our photo archives, unidentified except for the note: “Portrait of Mr. Barnum?”. If you know who he is, please call 408-867-4311 and leave a message.

Thank you!



**Saratoga Historical Foundation**  
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## Do You Remember?

Do you remember the meaning of these words? The more you remember, the older you are!

**Frog belly:** bloated prune that lye did not wrinkle  
**Mumbeltypeg:** game of flipping knife to stick in ground  
**Flail:** wooden handle tool to thresh grain by hand  
**Toad stabber:** boys slang for pocket knife  
**Tin Lizzies:** Early cars—mostly model T's  
**Slumgullion:** plain meat stew  
**Grippe:** common term for influenza  
**Crupper:** harness under horse's tail  
**Slabs:** apricots too ripe to cut  
**Lazy Susan:** revolving tray to serve food  
**Spittoon:** polite word was cuspidor  
**Lady Fingers:** small sponge cakes  
**Coffee strainers:** overgrown mustaches  
**Long Johns:** long woolen drawers worn year round  
**Galluses:** word for suspenders  
**Flivver:** slang for any small, old, used car  
**Derby:** a hard, felt, domed hat  
**Marble game:** lag, taw, agate, puree, glassy, moonie  
*By Ralph Rambo, Pen and Inklings Nostalgic Views of Santa Clara Valley.*

## Current Donations

Recent donations to the collection of the Saratoga History Museum include a 5 foot long scythe. The donation came from the estate of long-time members Doreen and Bob Oliver. We've had other donations that are waiting to be reviewed by the Collections Committee—many thanks to all of you for your donation.



## Closed for Spring Cleaning

The Saratoga History Museum and McWilliams House will be closed from June 1 through the end of June for spring cleaning. The floors and display cabinets will be refinished. The museum will open again on July 1 in sparkling condition!!

## In Memorium

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Judy Craik who passed away recently.

