

Join Us For Heritage Day—June 19

Saratoga will celebrate Heritage Day on June 19 from 10-6 PM in a style that only a small town with a big heart can. Costumed Saratoga historic characters, food, classic cars, music, historic walking tours all make for an exciting day. Over 35 costumed historic characters will be introduced at 11 AM in Blaney Plaza and then spend from 11 to 2 PM strolling Big Basin Way or located in the Saratoga History Museum. Sidewalks along Big Basin Way will feature tasty food, local crafts, and entertainment. Be sure to stop and purchase a ticket to win one of 3 baskets of “local history.” The Redhouse band will get the dancing started from 3 to 5PM in the Bank of America parking lot. The Santa Clara Valley Ford Model T and Model A clubs will participate with their owners dressed in period clothing.

Local artists Ginny Sampson and John Kimball are decorating storefront windows with the images of Saratoga historic characters.

The Saratoga History Museum will offer free docent-led historic walking tours; free historic house bicycle maps; and more. Children’s games of the 1800’s will take place from 11:30 to 3:00. Stop by and play Lemonade, jacks, jump rope, roll the hoop and more! Blacksmiths will provide a demonstration. Stop by between 11 and 2 for the book signing by Town Historian Willys Peck of his new book Willys Peck’s Saratoga where you can also purchase the book. Connie Young Yu will also be on hand to sign her book, The People’s Bicentennial Quilt. And don’t miss the new exhibit at the museum entitled, Blossom Memories—Saratoga’s Heritage.

The BookGoRound, part of Heritage Park, will feature a huge selection of gently used local Bay Area travel and history books for sale. They also have promised a surprise or two.

Bring your camera and prepare to have an entertaining day in Saratoga. The event is sponsored by the Saratoga Village Development Council (SVDC).

More Information About Heritage Day

Stop by and meet some of the interesting people who helped make Saratoga so special. Special Saratoga characters--all dressed in period clothing will be found on Big Basin Way or in the Saratoga History Museum (20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road) between the hours of 11 and 2 PM on June 19.

Early day Founders

William Campbell (Jerry Campisi) came to Saratoga in 1847. In 1846, William Campbell moved to California where he established a wheat farm on a 160-acre tract of land two miles south of what would become the town of Santa Clara. Wishing to expedite threshing grain, he built his own threshing machine. It not only threshed but it separated the grain from the straw and chaff, having a capacity of ten to twelve bushels an hour. If not the first separator ever operated in the state, it was the first one built in the state. In late 1847, William Campbell, with the help of his sons David and Benjamin, began the construction of a sawmill along a creek, which in those days was called Arroyo Quito, and which today is called Saratoga Creek. His sawmill, completed in the fall of 1848, was only the second water-powered mill in northern California.

Martin McCarty (Jack Dunstan) came in 1850 and built a turnpike road, the one which now goes through the town into the mountains, upon which he expended \$12,000. The road enabled lumber to move more quickly through the town. After operating it as a tollroad for about a year, it was converted into a county road. The fee to pass the gate was three dollars for a double and six dollars for a four horse team. Hence the later name of Toll Gate. He also had the town platted in 1852, making it one of the oldest in the Santa Clara Valley. The town was known as McCartyville from 1852-1863.

Charles Maclay (Chuck Schoppe) came to Saratoga in the 1860’s. He bought Haun’s Redwood Mill and changed the name to Bank Mills. In fact, he even had the name of McCartyville post office officially changed to Bank Mills on December 22, 1863. Nine months later the town changed the name to Saratoga. Next, he planned a Maclaytown real estate development which unfortunately went defunct. He helped found the University of the Pacific, the Saratoga-Pescadero Turnpike (State Highway 9), the First Methodist Church in San Jose, and San Jose Normal School. He organized the Republican Party in California and served two terms in the state assembly and two terms in the state senate.

Contributing to the Arts

Olivia deHavilland (Laurel Perusa), famed Oscar winning actress, moved to Saratoga with her Actress mother (Lilian Fontaine) and sister Actress **Joan Fontaine** (Patti Himel) when she was 4 years old. Olivia and Joan attended Oak Street Grammar School in Saratoga and later went to Los Gatos High School (Saratoga did not have a high school at

that time). Olivia participated in many local plays. She received an Oscar for her role in *To Each His Own* and *Gone with the Wind*. Fontaine received an Oscar for her role in the Alfred Hitchcock movie *Suspicion*.

Theodore Wores (John Kimball) famed artist had a studio in Saratoga for 12 years until 1938 when he moved back to San Francisco and died while preparing for an exhibit. One of the earliest, most respected California artists—he said the work created while living in Saratoga was his finest. His Saratoga studio still stands at 20490 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road.

Mrs. Wores (Peggy Kimball)

Kathleen Norris (April Halberstadt) (1880-1966), the 20th century's most popular writer for women. Born in San Francisco, California married into the literary Norris clan, Charles G. Norris (brother of Frank). She wrote numerous short stories published in various magazines like *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Everybody's Magazine*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *Woman's Home Companion* and *Good Housekeeping*. Later wrote several famous novels including *Certain People of Importance* (1922). Her 200-acre home in Saratoga is still standing.

Famed Vintner

Paul Masson (Paul Hernandez) Paul Masson immigrated to the US in 1878. In 1892 Masson's first sparkling wine was marketed 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" on a knob overlooking the Santa Clara Valley in 1905. Known as La Cresta, Masson used the home and winery to wine and dine a wide range of politicians, movie stars, and others. Now known as "The Mountain Winery", the Paul Masson Mountain Winery is on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. He built a second home in 1936 after he sold the winery to Martin Ray across the road. Mountain Lodge was his home until 1941 until he died. It is also a heritage landmark.

Historic Figures

Mary Brown (Myrna Thompson) Mary Brown, wife of Abolitionist John Brown fled to California after his death with 4 of her children during the Civil War. She first settled in Red Bluff and lived there from 1863-1870. Then moved to Rohnerville where she lived for 11 years. In 1881 she moved with her two daughters to Saratoga and lived on Bohlman Road. She died in 1884 and is buried in Madrona cemetery in Saratoga.

Ohlone Joe (Bill Kalogeros) represents the many Ohlone Native Americans who once lived in this area. Historian

Florence Cunningham (Nancy Anderson)* Was known as the local historian in Saratoga. She became the history chair in the local organization called the Foothill Club in 1938; wrote columns about history for the local newspaper and gave presentations to schools. She and Reverend William Abeloe worked to get Saratoga recognized as state landmark #435 in 1950. In 1962 she formed the organization now known as the Saratoga Historical Foundation. Her research was published in a book called "Saratoga's First Hundred Years." The sale of her estate provided the seed money for the Saratoga History Museum.

Willys Peck (Willys Peck)* Prolific author and columnist—long time resident of Saratoga—Willys Peck is the recognized town's historian. Long time columnist for the *Saratoga News* and journalist for the *Mercury News*. A room at the *Mercury News* is named after him and he has been celebrating his retirement for the last 15 years with a party. Invitations are much prized.

Melita Hogg Oden (Jackie Welch)* Known mostly for her work in organizing the existing Saratoga History Museum. Her father was a respected physician who owned real estate in Saratoga and helped found the Saratoga National Bank.

Politicians

Linda Callon (Linda Callon) Linda was the first woman mayor and held the office from 1980-1983. Prior to that she was on the city council from 1978-1986; Planning Commissioner from 1974-1978.

Charles Blaney (Brian Berg) Charles Blaney, was Chairman of the first Highway Commission and responsible for the establishment of the many good roads in California. He and several other civic leaders were responsible for the first park in Saratoga—Blaney Plaza and the construction of the Memorial Arch in 1919. His home, Rancho Bella Vista, was designed by famed architect Willis Polk and still stands. He and his wife, Isabella were active in the establishment of the YMCA in San Jose.

Senator Phelan (Tony Hoffman) Mayor of San Francisco (1896-1902) and State Senator (1914-1920)—he had a major role in the Hetch Hetchy Water system as well as the organization of the Panama Pacific International Exposition (held in 1915 in SF). He built his home in Saratoga in 1912 and called it the beautiful Villa Montalvo. He entertained presidents, politicians, and people in the arts. After his death, the home was established as a foundation to the arts.

Charles Maclay (see information under Early Day Founders)

Famed Architect

Julia Morgan (Marilyn White) Julia Morgan (1872-1957) designed over 700 buildings in California including Asilomar, YWCA in SF, Hearst Castle and five buildings in Saratoga—including the Foothill Club, and several homes.

Movers and Shakers in the Community

Isabelle Stine (Paula Cappello) In 1915 San Francisco cultural leaders Oliver and Isabel Stine purchased 18 acres of Saratoga hillside to build a summer retreat for family and friends. Stimulated by displays at the 1915 Pan-Pacific Exhibition, Stine traveled to Japan to gather ideas and when she returned home named her retreat after one of her favorite places in Japan, Fuji-Hakone National Park. In 1966, the home was donated to the city of Saratoga as a park known as Hakone Gardens.

Sunshine Williams (Jack Mallory) the original Blossom festival in 1900 was called by its founder, the Rev. Edwin Sidney Williams, a "thanksgiving jollification" because it was inspired by rain that ended a prolonged dry spell. The initials of Williams, a retired Congregational minister, were applied to his nickname, Everlasting Sunshine, and his grave marker at Madrona Cemetery recognizes him as "Father of the Blossom Festival." The Blossom Festival was popular from 1900-1940's and was so imitated by San Jose when they initiated a competing event, the Fiesta of Roses.

Hannah McCarthy (Jenni Taylor) Wife of Martin McCarty, in 1853 McCarty signed over all his property to his wife, including all interest in the toll gate, and established her as a "sold trader" in a "boarding and eating house" situated at "McCarty's Stand." (Hannah later changed the spelling of her name to "McCarthy"). She was a business entrepreneur for her time, acquiring and selling property in her own name. Her summer home still stands on Lomita Avenue and two buildings on Big Basin Way.

Painless Parker (Dave Mantelli) Edgar Randolph Parker settled in Cupertino on 300 acres of land that he purchased from Henry Farr in about 1913. (This acreage is now the site of lovely homes on Parker Ranch Road area) Painless Parker was an incidental innovator who prided himself on his showmanship. He took the moniker, "Painless Parker" when he lived in Brooklyn, New York He would leave his office to pull teeth on the street, accompanied by a brass band, which drowned out the cries of his patients, who did not receive enough hydrocaine (used prior to novocaine). He would sometimes ride on the back of an elephant from town to town wearing a necklace of extracted teeth.

Miss Lyra Mills (Alex Nugent) First president of the Foothill Club, formerly known as the Foothill Study Club which was organized in 1907. The Club is known for its support to the community.

Betty Peck (Betty Peck)* Betty Peck, long time kindergarten teacher, established the Saratoga Community Garden for over 30 years. She is an author and a local leader.

Decorated Chinese WWI Soldier

Sergeant Sing Kee (Jay Lee) Sing Kee was a hero of World War I. Born in Saratoga in 1895, Sing Kee saw action with the 77th or "Liberty" Division in France's Argonne Forest. For extraordinary heroism, he was awarded one of only 22 Distinguished Crosses given during World War I. On June 13, 1919, Sing Kee was given a hero's parade when he returned to San Jose. He was awarded both the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre for his heroic actions. He is believed to be the first Chinese American in America to be decorated for bravery. After the war he remained in New York and worked in immigration services.

Education

Mrs. Whitehurst (Linda Hagelin) Mrs. Whitehurst was one of three teachers in the 1890's on Oak Street. Miss Carrie Wooster (Tina Liddy) was the principal as well as the music teacher. The curriculum included reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, and civil government for the upper grades. Drawing, music and poetry were also part of the program. In those days the boys and girls had separate play grounds.

Professional

Bill York (Dick Miner) Established one of the first furniture factories in 1852 on Saratoga Creek. Bill York, carpenter, conceived the idea of a furniture factory using sycamore, redwood, and madrone wood. York also established a gun shop. Hunting in those days was very popular because game was so prevalent. A butcher shop was forced to close after a short stint because game and wild cattle was so plentiful.

Clara Buckley (Jennifer Weeks) Buckley, the wife of the Saratoga Village druggist, was the first librarian for Saratoga in 1914 when the first library was established with a few boxes of books in the drugstore.

Olympic Medal Winner

Chris von Saltza (Ann Walton Smith) Von Saltza, a graduate of Oak Street Grammar School in Saratoga was a five-time gold medal winner at the 1959 Pan-American games. She went on to further her career achievements by winning three golds and a silver in the 1960 Olympics. She set a new world record of 4:44.5 to become the first woman to break the five-minute barrier. Besides her claim to fame as a five time Olympic medalist she was more properly known as the Baroness von Saltza. Her grandfather, Count Philip, came to America at the turn of the century. Until this day

she is sty recognized by her title name in the "Who's Who of Swedish Nobility".Took her lucky toy frog to the Rome Olympics.

Others

Mrs. Martha McWilliams (Peggy Schoppe)* Married to the town blacksmith, James McWilliams. McWilliams family lived in the house built by Henry Jarboe, the first blacksmith. Jarboe built the home of redwood. James and Martha McWilliams had five daughters and their home was known for its wonderful garden. The home still stands next to the Saratoga History Museum and is a historic landmark.

*Those marked with an asterisk will be located in the Saratoga History Museum (20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road). All others will be located along Big Basin Way.

MORE BELOW

Schedule of Events

Big Basin Way Events

All-day	Sidewalk sales, lovely crafts, tasty food
11:00 AM	Introduction of 35 costumed Saratoga characters in Blaney Plaza Vintage, classic cars parked along Blaney Plaza
3-5 PM	Buy a raffle ticket to win one of three “bit of history” baskets Dancing with the Redhouse band in the Bank of America parking lot

Events at Heritage Park

Saratoga History Museum Event Schedule

10:00-4:00	New exhibit: Blossom Memories--- Saratoga’s Heritage Free tour historic McWilliams’s House—1864 pioneer home Free maps of historic house bicycle tour
11:00 and 1:00 PM	Free docent led walking tours of historic landmarks
11:00-2 PM	book sale and signing by Town Historian Willys Peck: Willys Peck’s Saratoga Connie Young Yu: Patchwork History—The People’s Bicentennial Quilt
11:30-3:00	Free children’s games of the 1800’s
11:30-3:00	Live blacksmith demonstration
BookGoRound	
10:00-5:00 PM	Huge selection of gently used local Bay Area travel, biography, history books on sale Tasty treats and surprises...