

Milpitas Muse

October 2019

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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October Meeting: Who Was Matthew Dixon, for whom Dixon Landing Road was named?

The Milpitas Historical Society's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.



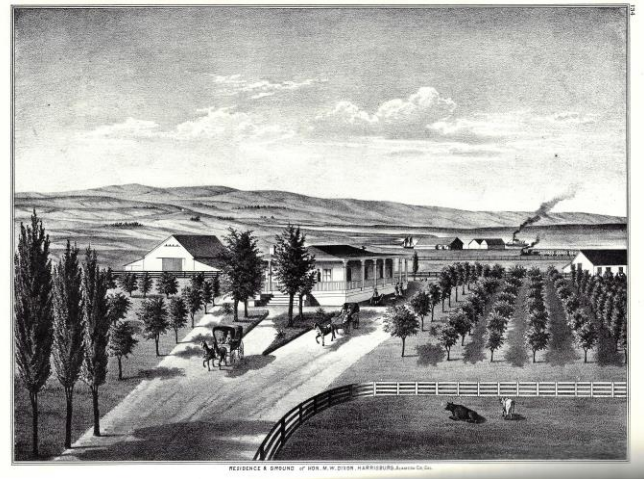
Joseph Ehardt

Our featured speaker will be Joseph Ehardt, Milpitas Historical Society's docent on our annual tour of historic sites in Milpitas and docent in the Society's Educational Outreach Program. He last spoke in 2015 on the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition held in San Francisco that was celebrating the completion of the Panama Canal.

This month he will speak about Matthew William Dixon, the pioneer after whom Dixon Landing Road and Dixon Road are named. Born in 1828 in Virginia, Matthew Dixon's parents moved their family to Jackson County, Missouri, in the late 1830s. Three days after his 21st birthday, Matthew migrated to California to mine gold in Hangtown (Placerville) briefly, after which he bought land and settled in our area. He had a major impact on the prosperity of all the local farmers. Please join us to find out about more how he did this.

This historical topic was chosen after the recent decision by the Milpitas City Council to rename part of Dixon Landing Road to Barack Obama Blvd. There has been considerable community discussion about this decision

Please join us for this informative presentation and stay for treats and conversation afterwards. Meetings are free and all are welcome.



A portrait of Matthew Dixon's residence, farm, and his landing on north Coyote Creek

Historical Society Field Trip

On Saturday, September 21, Milpitas Historical Society members were treated to an interesting tour of the Fire Museum at 201 N. Market Street, San Jose, next to San Jose Station 1. This original building was one of the earliest fire stations in San Jose, and contains many historic firefighting vehicles and wagons, including "The Engine That Saved San Jose" after the great earthquake of 1906.



"The Engine that Saved San Jose"

The tour was given by John McMillan, President of The San Jose Fire Museum, and decades-long veteran of the fire department, who spoke to our group about the museum, which was not yet opened at that time, in April of 2018.



John McMillan, telling us about the history and the plans for the historic Fire Museum building

Autumn Festival



On Saturday, September 28th, the Historical Society also participated in the Mid Autumn Tet Trung Thu Festival, which was held at SJCC Milpitas Extension 1450 Escuela Parkway next to Russell Middle School from 12 to 7 pm. Our October speaker, Joseph Ehardt, presented a program on Milpitas History from 1:30 to 2:00 pm. The Frontier Days jail was once again on display for picture taking and members were present with books on Milpitas and information on local history.

Milpitas Historical Society
160 North Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035

Join us on our Second Autumn History Tour!

On Saturday, October 19, at 10 am, our Society will take another interesting history tour, this one of the Peralta Adobe-Fallon House site in downtown San Jose. The Peralta Adobe, built in 1797, is the oldest building in San Jose that is still standing, and has a great amount of history to tell us, as does the next-door Fallon House, built in the 1850s by one of San José's earliest mayors. We can meet at 9:15am at the back of the Red Lobster parking lot to car pool if you want; please let Harriett McGuire know if you want to be included. Otherwise we can meet at the site, at 175 West Saint John Street. Parking is available at a public garage across the street. Hope you can join us then.



The Peralta Adobe

Milpitas Historical Society Board Meeting

The Board will meet next on Monday, October 7, at 2:00 pm in the Milpitas Library Group Study Room A. Subsequent meetings will be announced in the newsletter for each month. Members are always welcome.

Our Society's Contact Information

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by mail at 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA 95035
- by email to tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org
- from our website: www.milpitashistoricalsociety.org

You can see the traditional Milpitas history website here: www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html

First Class