



Milpitas Muse

April 2022

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXV, No. 3

April Meeting: Back in Person Again! The Story of the Pioneer Wade Family

Our April meeting will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 13 and we will resume our tradition of holding our meetings in person, in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library!

Pioneer descendent Janet Jensen will show and tell the story of her ancestors, the Wade family, led by Henry George Wade, who traveled from Illinois across the plains and mountains plains of the west and the Death Valley in a covered wagon in 1849.



The Wades settled in the town of Alviso and became very successful both through their businesses and as active community members.

This talk will take you through the Wades' journey and share what they did once they were in California. Today, a monument in Death Valley marks the approximate Wade Exit Route on Highway 127.



Henry. G. Wade

The former H.G. Wade Warehouse (which tragically burned down in June 2021) and the historic Wade family home have a historical landmark in Alviso.



The Wade warehouse in Alviso, before the fire

In the interests of keeping everyone healthy, the library requires that everyone wear a mask in the library building and sadly, so far, no food is allowed to be served in the building. So although we may very well have a good time socializing after the meeting, there will be no coffee and snacks served at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Did You Know This About Our Indigenous Neighbors?

Native Americans came to the Americas around 17,000 - 25,000 years ago.

According to National Geographic, the inhabitants of the Siberian region split into 2 groups and one of these travelled across the no longer existing land bridge of the Bering Strait that connected Siberia and Alaska.

One group settled in what is now the Ontario, Canada area and the other moved south and populated the southern part of the Americas.

This migrating group also split into 2.

The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe can trace its HISTORY BACK « THOUSANDS OF YEARS via Ancient DNA studies.

How many other ethnic groups can claim to have been in existence for such a LONG TIME? »

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Our Society's Contact Information

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Saratoga Blossom Festival Returns!!



Antique cars, live music, and old-fashioned fun—all will be part of the Blossom Festival held April 9 from 10-4 PM in Saratoga. Activities include live music performances, artists, craftspeople, and historical characters.

Children's activity tables, petting zoo, and more are planned. Antique cars and Early Day Gas Engines and Tractors will bring an assortment of interesting motors to see. Noted authors such as Tim Stanley, author of *The Last of the Prune Pickers*, and Lisa Newman, author of *For the Love of Apricots* cookbook, (who will be our Milpitas Historical Society speaker in May!) will be on hand to autograph books, along with a few other authors. Several museums such as the Saratoga History Museum and San Lorenzo Museum will also be on hand with an assortment of local history books and stories to tell.

The event features a wide range of live music including Parlor Tricks, a ragtime band, Toot Sweet Jazz band and Dolce Musica with a repertoire of jazz to pop music. The Spirit of Sunnyvale Dixieland band, Celtic Harmony, and No Direction will also be providing music.



Saratoga Blossom Festival in 1900

Gourmet food trucks will also be part of the fun. **The festival will be held in the Heritage Orchard and Civic Center area or 13777 Fruitvale Avenue in Saratoga.**

The Blossom Festival is unique to Saratoga's history. The first Festival was held in 1900 and ran until WWII.

It was revived in 2013 and has been held every year except for the last two years. The Blossom Festival is produced by the Saratoga Historical Foundation and sponsored by the city of Saratoga.

The event commemorates and preserves the memory of its historic celebration of Saratoga's agricultural and community-focused life. The valley was once the leading producer of prunes and agriculture was an important industry. Holding the event in the blossoming Heritage Orchard and the surrounding area is a reminder of the importance of the period.

For more information: 408-867-4311 or go to www.saratogahistory.com

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First Class