

Mission Peak Reporter

April - June 2012

Al Minard, Editor

2nd Quarter Calendar

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 1-3 pm
Shinn Open House, 1251 Peralta Blvd, Fremont



**Sunday, April 8,
2012, EASTER**

Monday, April 9, 2012 10 AM, BAHHM Meeting,
Sanchez Adobe, Pacifica call (650) 355-6447



Sunday, April 15, 2012, 1-3 PM
Shinn Open House, 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Thursday, April 19, 2012, 10:30-2:30

Special Shinn House Tour

Thursday, April 19, 2012, 7:00 to 9:00 pm,
MPHF Board Meeting Shinn House Archive Room
1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Friday, April 27-Sunday April 29, 2012
California History Day judging
Riverside Convention Center, Riverside, CA

Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 1-3 PM
Shinn Open House, 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Thursday May 3-6, 2012
California Preservation Foundation symposium
Oakland Marriot City Center
Oakland, CA

Thursday, May 17, 2012, 7:30 to 9:30 pm,
MPHF Board Meeting Shinn House Archive Room
1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park,
Sunday, May 20, 2012, 10 AM - 4 PM,
1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, for more information
contact Al at (510) 552-4839 or email at "alminard@comcast.net"



Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 10am - 4 pm
Conference of California Historical Societies
Workshop at Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum

Monday, May 28, 2012, 7:15 -9:00 pm
Washington Township Historical Society Meeting
Museum of Local History, 190 Anza St., Fremont, CA

Wednesday, May 30, 2012, 7pm-9pm
Patterson House Advisory Meeting
Patterson House Docents Room
Ardenwood Farm, Fremont, CA

Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 1-3 PM
Shinn Open House, 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Shinn House Update

Thursday, June 7, 2012, Noon

Sweet Violet Tea with master gardener, Jessi Stokes telling everyone all about violets. Cost \$23 with a tour of the Shinn House following the tea.



**Sunday, June 17, 2012
Father's Day**

**Sunday, June 17, 2012, 1-3
PM**

Shinn Open House, 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Thursday, June 21, 2012, 7:30 to 9:30 pm,
MPHF Board Meeting Shinn House Archive Room
1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Thursday, June 21, 2012, 7:30 to 9:30 pm,
MPHF Board Meeting Shinn House Archive Room
1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Wednesday, July 1, 2009, 1-3 PM
Shinn Open House, 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont

Wednesday, July 4, 2012, 9 am - noon
Mission Peak will participate in Fremont's Fourth of July parade. Call Joan at (510) 795-0891 if you want to be a part of our group. We will **NOT** hold the Shinn House open for tours



**Sunday July 15, 2012
Noon to 4 pm
Victorian Ice
Cream Social at
Shinn Park,**
We need volunteers selling food and scooping ice cream



We recently elected a new Board and now have some new members on our Board; they are Karen Mueller, Dottie DiFranco, and Sandra Woehl. We welcome them to our Board. Dick Shinn is now our Treasurer and since he lives in Hayward, Jessi continues to maintain the membership. Michi Yee, while very active with our teas, has chosen to concentrate more of her attention on her family and not serve on the Board. Jean Lucchesi has also chosen to give up her seat on our Board.

Jack Christian working on an Eagle Scout project cleared up most of the area that we have farm equipment stored as well as the Horse Drawn Trolley Car. He sold off most of the old scrap iron and installed packed granite on the ground. We also planted a new Spanish Chestnut to replace the American Chestnut that died from a disease that the Spanish Chestnut is not susceptible. There are signs identifying the farm equipment.

The City looked at the outbuildings including the Sim Cottage, the Redwood Bungalow, the Barn and the Packing Shed. They found severe paint problems and also some termite damage. The buildings with termite problems, the packing shed and the Japanese gazebo, were tented and fumigated. The Barn and Packing Shed were painted a more toned down red color. The Sim Cottage and the Redwood Bungalow were repainted with the same colors and patterns as the 1876 Shinn House. James Shinn and the Mission Peak Board approved the painting scheme.

We are planning on getting a preservation curator to look at the painted bamboo in the upstairs bamboo room. We want to possibly restore this bamboo or at least protect it from further damage.

Gerry Mooney and Joan Serafino have been pruning the apricot orchard and have planted some new apricot trees. Some of the trees originally planted have died from disease, so a hardier apricot tree was planted and look for it to produce in a year or two.

We have had minor vandalism in the park including tipping over the stone monument in the Japanese Garden, graffiti on the gazebo in the Japanese Garden and on the garden shed. We have also caught some young men in the top floor of the Barn. Thank goodness the barn has working sprinklers now. The City has secured the barn better so hopefully this will not happen again.

The Chinese workers bunkhouse is in serious condition. We need major money to restore this building. We need to get a structural engineering report. The City will only let us use this building as a utility building with no persons allowed inside for any length of time. The building sits right on the Hayward Fault and there is no other suitable location for this

The following is an excerpt of a Senate Report to the 32nd Congress for the year 1851 from the Commissioner of Patents, Part II, Agriculture. At the end of this article is a list of agricultural items of food and the amount is in bushels. A bushel is a container that holds approximately 35 liters. (Note: Alameda County did not become a county until 1853 so in this report they refer to Santa Clara County which ran all the way to Alameda Creek. The North side of Alameda Creek was Contra Costa County.)

Agriculture in California

An address delivered by A. Williams, Esq., at a meeting in San Francisco, for presenting the premium of a silver goblet, offered by Mr. C. A. Shelton for the best varieties of vegetables and grains, contains some interesting particulars of the agriculture resources of California.

Mr. Williams says that California is a State whose agriculture capabilities—a far richer treasure than her mineral wealth—are unsurpassed in any portion of the earth, and whose variety of useful products are equaled only by their unparalleled extent and adaptation to the varied wants of man. In most of the others, a single excellence is characteristic and predominant. The lumber of Maine, the granite of New Hampshire, the wool of Vermont, the manufactures of Massachusetts, the agriculture of New York, the coal and iron of Pennsylvania, the grain and fruits of the middle and western States, the copper of Michigan, the corn, tobacco, and hemp of Virginia and Kentucky, the cotton of Alabama and Georgia, the sugar of Louisiana, the sugar, cotton, and indigo of Texas, the turpentine of North and the rice of South Carolina, constitute, respectively, their most prominent and distinctive interests, and are the pride and glory of their citizens. But there is scarcely one of these that cannot be found or produced in our own State. In the natural productions of the earth conducive to sustenance of man, is our State abundantly prolific. As we approach the centre of the State, the banana, the orange, the lemon, the olive, the fig, the plantain, the nectarine, almond, the apricot, and the pomegranate of the South, mingle in the same luxuriant gardens of Los Angeles with the peach, the pear, the cherry, the plumb, the quince and the apple of the North...

I hold in my hand a statement signed by twelve citizens of the county of Santa Cruz, Messrs. McLean, Gibson, Mallison, Peck, Clements, Pedriet, Mills, Stevens,

McHenry, Sanborn, Kista, and Loveland, gentlemen of unquestionable veracity, and extract from which is as follows:

“On land owned and cultivated by Mr. James Williams, an onion grew to the enormous weight of twenty-one pounds. On this same land a turnip was grown which equaled exactly in size the top of a flour barrel. On land owned and cultivated by Thomas Fallen, a cabbage grew which measured, while growing, 13 feet 6 inches around its body. The weight is not known. The various cereal grains also grow to a height of from six to twelve feet. One redwood tree in the valley, known as Fremont’s tree, measures over fifty feet in circumference, and is nearly three hundred feet high.”

Added to these astonishing productions is a beet, grown by Mr. Isaac Brannan, at San Jose, weighing sixty-three pounds; carrots, three feet in length, weighing forty pounds. At Stockton a turnip weighed one hundred pounds. In the latter city, at a dinner party for twelve persons, of a single potato, larger than the size of an ordinary hat, all partook, leaving at least half untouched. These may be superlatives, but they do exist, and they show what our soil and climate are capable of producing. Nor are these more seemingly incredible than the well-known fact of a portion of our state, nearly six hundred miles in length, and fifty in breadth, whose every foot of land from hill top to valley more or less impregnated with gold of every conceivable form and size, from dust up to lumps weighing thirty pounds. But let us cast our eyes around this hall, and what do we see even from this hasty collection and casual contribution—an agricultural, botanical, geological, mineral, and floral exhibition, embracing nearly one thousand varieties of pressed flowers of every hue and of surpassing brilliancy, nearly two hundred varieties of which are illustrated by truthful and beautiful drawings; seeds of more than three hundred varieties of native flowers; twenty varieties of lily and other bulbous roots, embracing the remarkable soap plant, rivaling the finest boasts of the toilet, and adding to its healing qualities, as if provided by Nature for the double purpose of sanitary and abluent properties for the native sons of the forest; specimens of one thousand varieties of the principal grasses and clovers, many of the specimens pressed, embracing the burr clover, that feeds to fatness the “cattle of a thousand hills” when all other sustenance is parched and withered; Shelton’s mammoth clover, whose stalks from one root covered

an area of eighty-one square feet, some of the stalks six feet long a half-inch diameter, and the clover head five inches in circumference; single stalks of the white lily, producing one hundred flowers of indescribable delicacy and beauty; beautiful specimens of minerals and pressed flowers from H. Pratten, esq., of Nevada; stalks of the oat gathered by Mr. Shelton, thirteen feet high; specimens of wheat and barley having one hundred and fifty and two hundred mammoth stalks spring from one root, the produce of a single seed; the red sugar-beet grown by Mr. L. M. Beard, of San Jose, twenty-eight inches in circumference, and weighing forty seven pounds; a cabbage from H. Bolmer's ranch, mission of San Jose, weighing fifty-six pounds, and measuring seven feet in circumference, presented by Wilson & Co.; cucumbers raised by the same, eighteen inches in length; onions cultivated by Messrs. Smith and Broder, and contributed by Messrs. Chamberlain and Musser, five, six and seven inches in diameter, and weighing three and four pounds each, nearly seventy thousand pounds to an acre, and the whole number from the acre supposed to average one pound each; potatoes from Mr. H. Speel, of Santa Cruz, one hundred and twenty pounds from five vines of a single hill—one from Mr. B. J. Stevens, of Santa Clara, thirteen inches in length, twenty-seven inches in circumference, and weighing seven and a quarter pounds; the Russian bald barley, grown by Mr. Johnson on his ranch, upon the banks of Bear River, weighing sixty-six pounds to the bushel, with a kernel near double the size of large wheat; raspberries five inches in circumference; of barley from the San Jose valley, nine hundred and sixty-five bushels were produced from less than five acres of land—some from the farm of Madame Scoofy, of Sonora, where twelve acres, by ordinary cultivation, produced a crop of fifty-three thousand pounds. These walls are festooned with luscious grape from Capt. Malstry, of Los Angeles, single bunches from the gardens of Gen. Vallejo, at Sonoma, weighing ten pounds; apples, peaches, figs and other fruits of enormous size from the same; from Horner, tomatoes weighing two pounds each; pumpkins and squashes one hundred to one hundred and forty pounds each; cabbages two feet in diameter, and weighing over fifty pounds; onions, beets, and potatoes of enormous size, not isolated, but by hundreds of bushels; the top onion produced the first season from ordinary seed, with samples of wheat and barley of uncommon size and weight...

Indeed, there is scarcely a fruit or a plant, a shrub or a flower, a mineral or a vegetable, of which any land can boast, but what is embraced within the limits of California, a "bright particular star" in the constellation of States, the crowning gem in the tiara of freedom. It needs but encouragement to develop her exhaustless resources. Agriculture is the greatest and most important, as it is the first, occupation of man. Manufacturers, arts, sciences, commerce, inventions, all follow in her train. It is for the purpose of encouragement to the farming, as well as the horticultural, interests that we have here assembled; and this silver goblet, equally creditable to him who gives, and to him who receives, I am requested by Mr. Shelton, the giver, to present to you, Mr. Horner, as a premium for the best variety of vegetables and grains, as a testimonial of his and our and the public appreciation of your persevering and successful efforts here in the great and noble field of agricultural and horticultural industry. In your case we have seen while the public mind was absorbed by the irresistible maelstrom of the gold mania, a single individual in four years even more successful in developing the agricultural, than others the mineral, wealth which slumbers in the bosom of our soil, under peculiar disadvantages, from want of proper implements, proper seeds, and sufficient manual help—at first aided by the labor of only three natives of the forest, till the teeming soil, in grateful return for her cultivation, yielded her riches, in the fifth year enabling you the present season, with the average aid of 60 co-laborers, to realize from 800 acres of land in the Santa Clara Valley, of—

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|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Potatoes | bushels | 120,000 |
| Onions | bushels | 6,000 |
| Table beets | bushels | 4,000 |
| Turnips | bushels | 3,000 |
| Tomatoes | bushels | 1,200 |
| Barley | bushels | 5,000 |
| Pumpkins | | 20 tons |
| Solid-headed cabbage | | 108,000 |
| Chickens | | 600 |
| Egg | dozen | 1,200 |
| Onion seeds | pounds | 800 |
| Beet seed | pounds | 200 |
| Cabbage seed | pounds | 100 |

And thus, at a cost of about \$50,000, producing a crop worth, at present prices, some \$200,000.

Special Announcements

1. We are looking for new members if you know of someone that might be interested in learning more about the history of Fremont and the Shinn family, please give them an application. Please contact Jessi Stokes at (510) 797-5439 for more information.
2. The Conference of California Historical Societies is having their Annual Symposium in Santa Barbara. They give out awards in a variety of historical work recognition at this Symposium and it is always interesting. Go to the Conference's website at www.californiaHistorian.com for more information.
6. Our Shinn House Tea on Thursday, June 7, 2012, features master gardener, Jessi Stokes telling us all about violets. Michi Yee will once again coordinate this tea and if you have not attended one of Michi's teas, it is worth taking a day off of work to try one. The tea starts at Noon and is followed by a tour of the Shinn House for those who are interested. Call Michi Yee at (510) 793-9352 for more information or by email at, michi2yee@yahoo.com.
7. Our Arts & Crafts in Shinn Park event will once again be a feast for the eyes and ears. We will have a variety of music and dancing throughout the day as well as hotdogs, popcorn, nachos, soft drinks and coffee. The Cadillac Jack Band from San Jose will be playing music in the early afternoon. We also have square dancers which is fun to watch as well as to participate. Then Al's favorite, the belly dancers at about 2:30 PM. Please call Al Minard at (510) 552-4839 or email at, alminard@comcast.net.
8. The Fremont Art Association supports Mission Peak Heritage Foundation by displaying their art at our Arts & Crafts event. They have moved into a new location at 37695 Niles Boulevard. They have classes and art shows in their studios on a regular basis. Stop by and say Hi when you can.
9. The Olive Hyde Art Gallery at 123 Washington Boulevard, Fremont is a wonderful gallery with rotating shows. They are presenting a Textile Exhibit in April, In May they will have "That's Odd", featuring the sculpture and mixed media of Pamela Blotner and Jim Rosenau. In June they will feature, "From the Flame", a show featuring glass and ceramic art.
10. The Conference of California Historical Societies is sponsoring a workshop on May 23, 2012 at the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum at 37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont, CA . The workshop will begin with a meet and greet at 9:30 AM, followed by discussions still in the planning stages, but hopefully including, The Oakland Museum telling us about how they started the White Elephant Sale and/or how they get young people involved in the museum. We also expect to have the new graphic designer for the California Historian telling us about how to make a newsletter interesting we also hope to have the Candlelighters telling us what they are looking for when they issue their grants every year. Lunch will be included in the price. Contact Al Minard at (510) 552-4839 or email: "alminard@comcast.net".
11. The Washington Township Historical Society meets the fourth Monday of May and July. There is always a speaker who talks about local history. The event is free and you do not have to be a member to attend one of these meetings. Most meetings are held in the Museum of Local History at 190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA. The July meeting often has a more interesting speaker and is held in a larger hall.
12. The Museum of Local History, 190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA , has changing exhibits and they are doing a lot to preserve the history of this area.

The **Archive Room Library** is open the First Wednesday of each month from Noon to 4 pm for research. We also have the library set up so that certain books may be checked out for two weeks. The Library can also be opened for special research by contacting **Barbara Anderson at (510) 782-9663**. We are getting an impressive collection of books on the Shinn family and Alameda County. We have several of Charles Shinn's books available for check out as well as Milicent Shinn's, "The Biography of a Baby". Since most of the Shinn family attended the University of California, we are also getting a good collection of UC Berkeley books including several year books. To check out the books you do need to be a member of Mission Peak Heritage Foundation. If you are not a member you may not check out a book but you may do research using any of the books in the Library.



Mission Peak Heritage Foundation
Board Members

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