

MISSION PEAK REPORTER

MAY 2021 - JULY 2021

Editor, Al Minard

Dear Members and friends of Mission Peak Heritage Foundation

I am happy to inform you that the City of Fremont is allowing outdoor weddings at Shinn Park starting in June of this year. Maybe by Christmas we will be able to be back open for public tours.

Since none of us are getting younger, we are looking for some younger people to learn how to give public tours of the Shinn House. We have a wonderful person ready and willing to provide training and we are not charging anyone for the privilege of giving tours. You can start on a single room and work your way up to one floor or the entire house. We would love to have you as a member of our docent group. Some of the benefits of being a docent, besides the appreciation of the public with who you share your knowledge, is that we are members of the Bay Area Historic House Museums (BAHHM) that meets quarterly at different historic houses in the greater Bay Area. They provide tours of their historic house and a program that provides information about historic houses or tours and also a lunch that is generally priced at a reasonable price.

Many of you know that we have a bee hive in the apricot orchard that has been producing very good honey except for last year when the fires put so much smoke in the air that the bees did not work. This year our bee woman has added a second floor to her bee hive so we hope to have even more honey than we did in 2019. Another benefit of being a volunteer is that the volunteers get first chance at the honey.

Membership dues are due in January of each year for those of you who pay annually. You can also pay for 5-years, 10-years or Lifetime. Those of you who get the newsletter by the U. S. Post Office will have a notice on your address label as to when your dues are paid up to according to our records. Those of you who get the

newsletter by email will get a notice in the email as to when your dues expire.

Kathryn Kasch is transcribing letters to the Shinn family, written in long hand (cursive), into readable typed letters and we hope to have some of those letters to share with you in one of our future newsletters.

Several years ago, I printed a letter from an old magazine that I thought had been printed in the Overland Monthly. You are probably aware that Milicent Shinn edited this magazine from January 1883 until April 1894. All of the Overland Monthly Magazines are available on the internet on the University of Michigan's website under "Making of America". I don't try to remember the website I just do a google search for "Overland Monthly making of America" and look for the university that has the records. Most of the magazines that were published in the 1800's and early 1900's are available at some university's website under "Making of America".

The letter I was looking for was a letter to the editor and Milicent always put those in a section she called "Etc.". I went through all of the magazines and did not find the letter. I hope I can find out where it was originally published because I find it funny. It is a young woman writing to complain about the magazine promoting higher education for women, because she did not think they needed anything more than her education from "Madame de Sagresse" where they even teach calisthenics.

In my search for this letter I noticed several items of both poetry and prose from a "Lillian H. Shuey." I remembered that the Shuey name is associated with the Shinn family but did not remember how. I sent an email to Kathryn Kasch and she recognized the name but thought that James Shinn would have more information. I contacted him for more information about

Lillian Shuey. James sent me an email that informed me that his mother's maiden name was Shuey. James has a book "History of the Shuey Family in America" that he researched and found a little information about "Lillian H. Shuey". What he found is that Lillian Hinman born in 1853 married Marcus Martin Shuey and had no children. Lillian divorced Marcus in 1906 and he died of heart trouble in 1909. Other information says that she was a

teacher and wrote poetry and prose that was published. Several of her writings are published in the Overland Monthly and I am including one of her writings that was published February 1891 in the Overland Monthly. It is a rather sad bit of writing, but an all to frequent occurrence during the California Gold Rush.

Al Minard, editor and MPHF vice-president.

Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) By Al Minard

When Fremont was incorporated in 1956, the State of California required them to have a Planning Commission. At some time Fremont established a Recreation Commission. One of the commissioners on the Recreation Commission was Dr. Robert Fisher. Later the Historical Architectural Review Board was established.

All commissioners on the various Boards and commissions in Fremont are required to be residents of Fremont and are appointed by the Mayor of Fremont

with the approval of the City Council. An application is required and the applicant informs the mayor and city council of their qualifications and why they think they would be good members of whichever board or commission they are applying for. Fremont has more boards and commissions than most other cities except maybe Oakland.

I joined Mission Peak Heritage Foundation (MPHF) in 1992, when La Vonne, my wife, saw an advertisement about being a docent at the Shinn House. Shortly after we joined MPHF, the existing board was pretty much dissolved when many of the board members became board members of the Museum of Local History. The Museum was formed as a joint venture between Washington Township Historical Society and Mission Peak Heritage Foundation the two most prominent general purpose historical organizations in Fremont.

La Vonne and I were encouraged to attend The Conference of California Historical Societies that met three times a year in historic locations in Northern,

Central, and Southern California. We found them interesting, joined, and continued to attend most of the meetings. In about 1997, I was returning home from work at the NUMMI Automobile Assembly Plant and noticed the 1890's Victorian Pimental house about to be demolished. I stood alongside one of the Pimental daughters taking pictures and crying as the historic buildings were eaten by a backhoe. I found that the Historical Architectural Review Board reviewed these things and began to attend the HARB meetings as a member of the public. I also attended City Council meetings complaining about the loss of the historic fabric of our city.

In 1998 I was appointed to the Historical Architectural Review Board. I believe that part of the reason I was appointed was because I kept attending City Council meetings and complaining about the demolition of historic buildings. One of my earliest jobs on HARB was to work with Cecelia Weed to select a historical architectural review firm to do a historic survey of Fremont.

I served for 8 years on this board and attended several California Preservation meetings and also several National Trust for Historic Preservation Conventions. After 8 years, I was term limited off of this board. About one year later, I noticed that no one had been appointed to my seat on this 5 member board and re-applied to HARB. I was told that there was an 8-year limit. I told them I did not realize that it was a lifetime limit of 8-years. For whatever reason City Council changed the limits on HARB from 8-years to 12-years and reappointed me to this very interesting board.

I plan on adding pictures and stories of projects, during my time on this board, for future issues of the Mission Peak Reporter.

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021, 10:54 PM ALVIN MINARD wrote:

...Hello James, I hope this note finds you well and that you are enjoying New Mexico or where ever you are located now. I was reading some of the Overland Monthly magazines and noticed that a Lillian H. Shuey wrote several articles for the magazine in the 1892 and 1893 editions. I know that Shuey is a name that is mentioned in the Shinn family records and was hoping you might have some more information or know where I could look to find out about them. I sent a note to Kathryn and she told me to contact you. Thanks for any help you can provide. Al

Hello Al,

It was so nice to hear from you. I looked up Lillian Shuey in the "History of the Shuey Family in America" book(1919), There are quite a few Shueys in the Bay Area with no direct link to my family.

In case you are researching the Shinn/Shuey connection, my mother's maiden name was Shuey. Her father's family(Clarence Shuey) came across the plains before the Gold Rush, settled in the Owens Valley for some years, and eventually settled in Danville. Where my great-grandfather, John A. Shuey, was a prominent rancher with a large ranch below Mt Diablo. He was a grain merchant with a warehouse near the rail depot, and a house on Main Street. It is still there, with an historical marker on it. There is more information about John A. Shuey at the Danville Historical Society Museum at the train station.

The first Shuey, Daniel Shuey, was a French Huguenot, who in 1732 fled the religious persecutions in France after the "Revocation of The Edict of Nantes".

I have researched it in the Shuey history book, written by D.B. Shuey. As it turns out, my mother and Marcus Martin Shuey were distantly related, both being descendents of General Martin Shuey(War of 1812). D.B. Shuey wrote the bio of General Shuey for his book. General Shuey died in 1876 in Fruitvale, Ca. Marcus Martin, married to Lillian

Hinman, died in Walnut Creek in 1909(they had no children). General Shuey was Sevilla Shinn's great,great, grandfather. JWS

On Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 4:03 PM Kathryn K. wrote:

...OK - so was your mother Sevilla related to Marcus Shuey?! KK

On Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 12:58 PM James Shinn

From page 155 of the Shuey genealogy book: "Marcus Martin Shuey was born Oct. 9, 1845. He was a merchant and was a partner in business with his brother-in-law, J.H. Putnam, at Walnut Creek. He married Lillian Hinman. They had no children. He died of heart trouble in 1909". JWS

On Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 1:44 PM Kathryn K. wrote:

...always something when you dig into history! I googled Lillian Shuey (1853-1921) and found that she was born Lillian Hinman and married Marcus Martin Shuey. They divorced in 1906. on a Cal digital library site KK

On Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 8:34 AM James S. wrote:

There are several pages outlining the Parsons link to Florence in Milicent's "Pedigree Book", compiled for my - father's ancestry. The Parsons link goes back 10 generations from my father. Emily Parsons Rann was Florence's mother, born in 1845 in Eagle, Wisconsin. She died in Niles in 1927. Her father was Samos Parsons, born in 1804 in Colebrook, New Hampshire. He died in 1893. He married Sophronia Burt in 1832. Samos's ancestor, Benjamin Parsons, came from England to Springfield, Mass. in about 1650. JWS

January 1, 2021 Membership Dues become due.

Membership dues for one year at one address are \$10; Membership dues for five years at one address are \$45.00; and Membership dues for ten years at one address are \$75.00.

Please mail your check to: Mission Peak Heritage Foundation, PO Box 3078, Fremont, CA 94539.

We are always looking for new volunteers besides being a docent and these volunteer opportunities are: Ice Cream Scooper in July, Pumpkin Judge in October, Gift Shop Shopper, Wreath maker in November, House cleaner anytime, flyer distributor during special events, Letter writer sending thank you notes and requesting information, Gardener, Gift Shop Salesperson, Ticket Seller for special events, Christmas decorator, Researcher, Advertiser, Booth tender and seller during special events, Photographer (besides Gerry Mooney), and Help in the Library.

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Mission Peak Heritage Foundation
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