



NEWS from the MUSEUM

Washington Township Museum of Local History, for the preservation of the history of Fremont, Newark and Union City

190 Anza St., Fremont, CA 94539 — (510) 623-7907 — www.museumoflocalhistory.org

Come In and See Our New Exhibit on the California Gold Rush



DID YOU KNOW?!

In the 1850s, Mission San Jose quickly became an important stop on the way to the gold fields out east. Henry Smith's store, which was operated out of the Mission compound, sold supplies to those traveling through Mission Pass, the best way through the Diablo Range for those coming from Monterey and Salinas, Santa Barbara, L.A. and San Diego.

Come on in and see our new display on the Gold Rush!

Become a Docent at Shinn Historical Park in Fremont

Do you enjoy history, dressing in period costumes, and meeting people? Do you want to help preserve the history of the Shinn Family and Washington Township?

Why not become a docent at Shinn Park?

Docents will learn the history of the Shinn Family and the house itself. The docent creates life for this family during the Victorian era. The Shinn Family was important in several ways in the Township – the water district, child psychology field, development of horticulture, forestry, and agriculture.

For more information visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/shinn-park-volunteer-docents/home>.

Contact Dr. Marguerite McInnes at servus41@gmail.com if interested in this opportunity!



This is the official newsletter of the Washington Township Museum of Local History.

The Museum is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve Southern Alameda County memories, documents, artifacts, and structures from the past and share them with present and future generations.

— Board of Directors —
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The Museum Board meets
monthly on the second
Tuesday at 6pm.

The Museum is open every
Wednesday and Friday from
10am to 4pm, as well as the
second weekend of each
month from 10am to 4 pm.

Tours can also be scheduled
by appointment. Contact
the museum at
(510) 623-7907 or email
info@museumoflocalhistory.org
for more information.

The Centerville Horse Collar that Went to New York City

From L-R -- Ryan Young,
Heidi Young, Charlotte Fong,
Megan Au, Jill Fong-Au,
Mike Au, Polly Fong. (Heidi,
Charlotte, Jill, and Polly are
Joshua and Lena Fong's
daughters)



Last fall, Jill Fong-Au packaged up an eighty-year-old horse collar and sent it to New York City. This well-worn leather collar had been used on the farm of Jill's grandparents in Centerville. The Fong family farmed their property from the late 1920s to the 1940s. Belle, their workhorse, wore this collar when she plowed the fields, guided by Jill's father, Joshua Fong.

Today Belle's collar is on display in the exhibit "Gathering: Collecting and Documenting Chinese American History" at Museum of Chinese in America in New York City.

Twenty-eight U.S. organizations are participating in the Gathering exhibit. Each organization chose an object and its story to represent their work. Gathering "tells the origin story of historical societies, museums, and organized projects that document and make public the history of Chinese throughout America."

Belle's collar was chosen to represent the Chinese History Project, a subcommittee of the Washington Township Museum of Local History. The Chinese History Project's mission is to bring to light the stories of the early Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans in our historic towns. Their first exhibit, "Chinese Roots: Sketches of Life in the Washington Township" was on display at the Fremont Main Library for several months in early 2019. A portion of the exhibit is now on display at the Museum of Local History.

Also featured in the Gathering exhibit is the Chinese Bunkhouse Preservation Project at Shinn Historical Park & Arboretum. This group is investigating how the last remaining bunkhouse of the China Camp at the Shinn Ranch can be preserved and then used to tell the stories of the early Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans who helped build our community.

The Gathering exhibit in NY runs through March 22, 2020. For more information visit: https://www.mocanyc.org/exhibitions/gathering_collecting_and_documenting_chinese_american_history.

"Your Story, Our Story"

The Tenement Museum is also based in New York City, just 11 blocks from the Museum of Chinese in America. The Museum "tells the uniquely American stories of immigrants, migrants, and refugees in the ongoing creation of our nation."

The curators of the Gathering collaborated with the Tenement

Museum's digital project called "Your Story, Our Story."

Find Belle's collar and its story here: <https://yourstory.tenement.org/stories?tag=GatheringMOCA>.

You can also find the second local organization that participated in the Gathering exhibit: The Chinese Bunkhouse Preservation Project at Shinn Park. Three photos of the "Chinese Bunkhouse" represent

the Chinese Bunkhouse Preservation Project at Shinn Park. The photos were loaned by the Museum of Local History and show the Bunkhouse in 1975 around the time that the last resident, Jimmy Fong, left the premises. Other items were sent, such as posters and photos of National Night Out in the Shinn barnyard in 2018 with pictures of the popular "Wok Toss" game.

Seen here are two of the objects sent from Fremont: Belle's horse collar (the Chinese History Project of the WTMLH) and a photo of the Chinese bunkhouse at Shinn Park (Chinese Bunkhouse Preservation Project). Collar loaned by the Fong-Au family. Photo loaned by WTMLH.



Gerry Low-Sabado, Janet Barton, and Jill Fong-Au who are members of the Chinese History Project and the Chinese Bunkhouse Preservation Project. Gerry also provided an object and story of her project based in Pacific Grove, the Walk of Remembrance.

— MUSEUM CALENDAR 2020 —

JANUARY

- ⇒ **The Museum will be closed** during the holiday season from 12/21/19–1/7/20. We will resume our regular business hours on 1/8/20. Happy Holidays!
- ⇒ **Museum Open** 10am–4pm on January 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 24th, 29th, 31st

FEBRUARY

- ⇒ **Museum Open** 10am–4pm on February 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 14th, 19th, 21st, 26th, 28th
- ⇒ **TUES, 2/11 – General Membership Meeting** - 6pm.

MARCH

- ⇒ **Museum Open** 10am–4pm on March 4th, 6th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 20th, 25th, 27th
- ⇒ **SAT 3/7–SUN 3/8 – SF History Days**
- ⇒ **Women of Washington Township:** A wine, cheese and history event. Enjoy the company of others and learn about three notable women from our past. *Topics and Date TBD. Stay Tuned!*

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – Pay by Feb 29, 2020 to be entered into a raffle. Winner will be drawn at random at the March Board Meeting.

Want to renew your membership or become a new member?



You can now sign up and pay online by visiting our website at <https://museumoflocalhistory.org/support/membership/>. If you prefer to renew in person, please visit us during open hours. You can also mail this form and a check to 190 Anza Street, Fremont, CA 94539.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Goldminer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Settler	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40
Trailblazer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Pathfinder	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Business Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300
Pioneer Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
Lifetime	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000
Senior/Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
Senior Couple	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20
Donation	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____
Total Contribution:	_____ \$ _____



190 Anza St., Fremont, CA 94539

Return Service Requested

We've changed the design and size of our newsletter, but you will continue to receive it quarterly, as always. Generally, we will deliver this newsletter via e-mail, though you will occasionally see it in your home mailbox. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the content or delivery of this newsletter, please contact us at membership@museumoflocalhistory.org.

A list of current members will now be available on our website under 'MEMBERSHIP.'



Thank you to
our business
and
corporate
members for
their support
of local
history!

*Thank you to all of our members who are paid up through 12/31/2020!
If you do not see your name here, please pay dues as soon as you can.*

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