

Upcoming events:

- **July 27 & 28:**
Museum Open House
- **August 18:**
Potluck & Program:
“George Washington Webb & Family”
- **August 24 & 25:**
Museum Open House
- **September 28 & 29:**
Museum Open House
- **September 29:**
Trolley Tour — NEW!

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**JOHN DEWITT
MUSEUM**

2116 TAVERN ROAD
ALPINE, CA 91901

Open 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
last weekend of each month

Tom & Judy Myers, Editors
619-885-8063

PROGRAM & POTLUCK ■ SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019

George Washington Webb & Family

One of Alpine’s earliest and most influential settlers was **George Washington Webb** who, with his wife **Jane**, brought his family here in 1872.

Under contract to San Diego County, George, along with his son, **Sam** and 18 or so strong men built a toll road from present day **Alpine** through the **Valle de las Viejas** and **Guatay** up to the gold mines of **Julian** and **San Felipe**.

The Webb family built a home in Oak Grove, now called **Harbison Canyon**, and called it the **Alpine Ranch**. Here the Webbs established the **Alpine School District** and built the first schoolhouse in the settlement that was still without a name. George Webb and his family later moved to Arizona, but the name **Alpine** found a lasting home and became the moniker of our town. Although the Webb family only lived a few years in Alpine, the story of this industrious and influential family continues today.

Please join us in welcoming **Sam S. Webb**, a fourth generation Californian and family biographer as he tells us stories of his family and their many adventures in California



*George Washington Webb
(Photo not available
of wife, Jane)*

and Arizona.

Born in Holtville, CA, Sam’s lifelong interest has been photography and at age 12 he became the official photographer for the **Holtville Tribune** newspaper. After his service in the Navy as a Photographer’s Mate, Sam went to work for ITT Cannon, where he met and later married **Astrid**. They have two children, **Wendy** and, of course, **Sam**. After retirement, they moved to **Borrego Springs**, where they have volunteered at the state park Visitor’s Center for over 20 years.



*Three youngest Webb sons:
George Jr., Alanzo S., Warren W.
(Eldest son, Sam F.,
not pictured.)*



*Webb daughters:
Anna Jane, Emma Adeline
(Youngest daughter, Ida,
not pictured.)*

Please bring a potluck item to share at the luncheon which begins at 1:00 p.m. or arrive by 1:45 p.m. for the brief General Membership Meeting followed immediately by our program.

Admission is FREE, but your donation helps to defray the cost of programs.

Location: The Woman’s Club, 2156 Alpine Blvd. Seating is limited, so please make reservations early by calling Tom at (619) 885-8063 or send an email request to info@alpinehistory.org.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we are nearing our goal of \$8,000 for the **2019 Capital Campaign**. As of this printing, we have received **\$5,580** which means we need only \$2,420 more to reach our goal. With your help, we can reach our goal this summer and **YOU** can help make it happen. The funds are needed to make essential repairs to our failing sewage and plumbing systems at the historic Carriage House at the John DeWitt Museum. The work is now scheduled to start mid-July.

You can make your gift by sending a check to: Alpine Historical Society, PO Box 382, Alpine, CA 91903. If you prefer to pay by credit card, please call Lisa at (951) 704-8854. We are an all-volunteer organization, so 100% of your donation to this campaign will be used for these essential repairs. The Alpine Historical Society is a registered 501-c (3) non-profit organization.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Corinne & John Lewis
A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Lisa & Dave Celeste
Many thanks to the following for making generous financial donations to the Society: Genna Yoder

We are grateful to the following for their generous contributions to our 2019 Capital Campaign:
 Ann Hill, Carol Morrison, Kevin & Alejandra Schumacher, and Mark & Rhonda Turvey

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson • Roy & Willa Athey
 Franklin R. Ball • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey • Ted Christensen • James H. Cleland
 Peggy & Jim Easterling • Beverly Falor • Katie & Brian Ford • Vincent Fritts • Paul Gonya • Gail Wilson Guth
 Janet M. Harris • Linda Harshberger • Ann Hill • Leslie Holben • Ken & Denise Hujing • Ben & Kirby Johnson
 Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killon • John Krempp • Barbara Lea LaForce • J. Clayburn LaForce
 Joanne & Martin Marugg • Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter • Kurt Scherbaum
 Albert Simonson • Donna Sisson • Joseph Sisson • Virginia Sisson • Anne Tarr • Elma Terry
 Rodney & Guille Tuttle • Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth

RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking
 Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians • Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
 Tom Dyke Drilling • John Garbaczewski Family Foundation
 Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage • Turvey Granite Pit • RGT Charitable Trust

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 49, Supporting Members ~ 92, Members up for renewal ~ 8

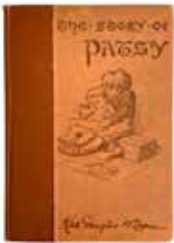
POP QUIZ: Answers can be found in articles in this newsletter.

- Which of the following is TRUE about *The Story of Patsy*?
 - It is a book of instructions for how to play “Patty Cake” with toddlers.
 - It is the story of Country singing legend Patsy Cline.
 - It was written in 1883 by Kate Douglas Wiggin who also wrote *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*.
- Which of the following is TRUE about the Sacatero Valley?
 - The Loveland Reservoir now covers most of this Valley.
 - Dr. Hereford had an apple orchard here.
 - Orphans were sheltered here by the Kosoman Faithist Community.
 - All of the above.
- Which of the following is TRUE about Sam S. Webb, our August program speaker?
 - At age 12 he became official photographer of the *Holtville Tribune*.
 - His first job was as editor of the famous Webster’s Dictionary.
 - When he retired from the Navy he started Sam’s Club.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND MORE...

Twenty-one years ago the Alpine Historical & Conservation Society christened a museum housed in the Dr. Sophronia Nichols house on Tavern Road. Although we call it the **John DeWitt Museum** for brevity, the full name is the **John DeWitt Museum and Library**. This month we will highlight several objects from the “Library” that are one hundred years or more old. You can view these books by visiting the museum during our regularly scheduled open house from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on the last Saturday and Sunday of each month.

The Story of Patsy, was written in 1883 by Kate Douglas Wiggin. Our copy of the book was published by Houghton, Mifflin and Company in 1895. This book is included in the Hazel Hohenshelt Collection, donated to the Historical Society by Mrs. Hohenshelt, well known as the last one-room schoolteacher in Alpine.



The author, Kate Douglas Wiggin, was born in Philadelphia in 1856, just 5 years before the onset of the US Civil War. Later her family moved to Portland, Maine, and then moved to Santa Barbara, CA in 1873, where she enrolled in a kindergarten training class. Her next move was to San Francisco, CA where she started the first free kindergarten there. In 1881, she married Bradley Wiggin and resigned her teaching job, as was the custom of that time. She began her writing career and her first book was *The Story of Patsy*. She went on to write many popular children’s books, as well as song lyrics and musical compositions, and some of her works were adapted to stage plays. One of her most familiar stories is *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*.

Here’s how *The Story of Patsy* begins:

It had been a long, wearisome day at the Free Kindergarten, and I was alone in the silent, deserted room. Gone were all the little heads, yellow and black, curly and smooth; the dancing, restless, curious eyes; the too mischievous, naughty, eager hands and noisy feet; the merry voices that had made the great room human, but now left it quiet and empty. Eighty pairs of tiny boots had clattered down the stairs; eighty baby woes had been relieved; eighty little torn coats pulled on with patient hands; eighty shabby little hats, not one with a “strawberry mark” to distinguish it from any other, had been distributed with infinite discrimination among their possessors; numberless sloppy kisses had been pressed upon a willing cheek or hand, and another day was over. No, not quite over, after all. A murderous yell from below brought me to my feet, and I flew like an anxious hen to my brood. One small quarrel in the hall, very small, but it must be inquired into on the way to the greater one. Mercedes McGafferty had taunted Jenny Crawhall with being Irish. The fact that she herself had been born in Cork about three years previous did not trouble her in the least. Jenny, in a voice choked with sobs, and with the stamp of a tiny foot, was announcing hotly that she was “NOT Irish, no sech a thing,—she was Plesberterian!”



If you want to find out how the story ends, *The Story of Patsy* can be purchased from on-line sellers, or you can download this story FREE from the Gutenberg Press by going to their website, <http://www.gutenberg.org>.

In the same bookshelf is a copy of Noah Webster’s *Original Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary*, revised by Yale Professor Chauncey A. Goodrich and published by Saalfield Publishing Company in 1911. Also a part of the Hazel Hohenshelt Collection, this dictionary was without doubt an essential volume



for Hazel as a college student in San Diego and for many years after as a schoolteacher in Alpine. Although it is very fragile, tattered and worn, it is a great example of early dictionaries in the early 20th century.



Also in the Hohenshelt Collection are five bound volumes of the *St. Nicholas Magazine* for the years 1882 through 1884. This popular children’s magazine was published from 1873 to 1940 and its first editor was Mary Mapes Dodge, author of *Hans Brinker*, aka *The Silver Skates*. Her editorial policy was:

Her editorial policy was:

- To give clean, genuine fun to children of all ages.
- To inspire them with an appreciation of fine pictorial art.
- To cultivate the imagination in profitable directions.
- To give them examples of the finest types of boyhood and girlhood.
- To foster a love of country, home, nature, truth, beauty, and sincerity.
- To stimulate their ambitions—but along normally progressive lines.
- To keep pace with a fast-moving world in all its activities.



The students in Mrs. Hohenshelt’s classes must have enjoyed many hours of interesting stories read to the classroom by one of Alpine’s favorite teachers of all time.

BOULDER OAKS STUDENTS KNOW THEIR ALPINE HISTORY



We were delighted to welcome the third-grade students from *Boulder Oaks Elementary School* to the John DeWitt Museum on June 6. Docents at the museum guided the classes through the museum exhibits inside our two pioneer houses and outside for the farm equipment exhibit and the historic Walker Buggy. Once again, we were very impressed by the students knowl-

edge of historical people and events in early Alpine — and by the brilliant and interesting questions they asked.

In the *Nichols House*, students visited the historic schools exhibit as well as the Dr. Nichols, Foss family, and Benjamin Arnold exhibits. In the *Beaty House*, students got to see and ask questions about historic

photos and artifacts from early Alpine in the “Then and Now” exhibit and they expanded their knowledge of John Harbison and the bee-keeping industry in Alpine in the 1870’s–1880’s. At the *Horse-drawn Farm Equipment* display they learned about each piece of equipment and the sequence in which each was used to prepare the

fields, plant the grain, and harvest the crops. The restored *1906 Walker Buggy* was an example of early transportation and students learned why a 10-minute trip today could take half of a day by horse and buggy a century ago.

This annual tour is one of the events our docents most enjoy and it seems that the students enjoy the experience as well.



Photos: Jessica Brodtkin Webb for The Alpine Sun

GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

Gardening for wildlife with native plants, such as *manzanitas*, *ceanothus*, *sage*, *buckwheat*, *coral bells*, *sunflowers*, and certain species of *milkweed* is a great way to share your landscape with a wide variety of critters that depend on native species for their sustenance. And, if your garden includes a source of water for wildlife, such as a natural pond or birdbath, along with plants that provide food, shelter or cover, and a place to raise their young, you can join with over 200 of your neighbors who, for over 20 years, have helped to make our town America’s first **Certified Community Wildlife Habitat**.



Natives are excellent choices in your landscape because, once established, they are very draught tolerant and require little or no irrigation. However, summertime in Alpine is **NOT** the time to start planting your native plants to attract wildlife. Southern California natives generally do poorly when they are planted in the hot, dry days of the summer. They are adapted to our Mediterranean climate where it most often rains in the winter and is dry in the summer. The best advice is to start **planning** your wildlife gardens now so you are ready to purchase and install the plants after the first rains come later in the year. You can find a good variety of plant information searching on-line for California native plants, or check out books at the Library where you can do research inside where it is **COOL**. For more information about how to certify your wildlife habitat, contact us at info@alpinehistory.org.



TIMELINE: ALPINE 1885 TO 1965

On November 11, 1885, the first Post Office was established with the name Alpine, California. This is often cited as the date that “*Alpine*” became the official name of this mountain settlement. In 1885 about 35 families had settled in Alpine, several of them situated in what was called *Sacramento Valley*, a name unfamiliar to most of us because it is now mostly under the waters of the *Loveland Reservoir*. One of the early settlers in Sacramento Valley was **Dr. Hereford**. According to historian Beatrice LaForce, Dr. Hereford “had an apple orchard in Sacramento Valley and is known to have done some emergency medical work, but did not, apparently, choose to practice.”

In *Japatul Valley*, just a bit east of Sacramento, the **Griebnow** family established two homesteads – Frederick’s 160 acres was recorded in 1893, and Mary’s 170 acres was recorded in 1894 on adjoining lands. All we know of the Griebnows is that they were close friends of the **Robert Micheler** family who settled in the Sacramento Valley.

The first of the Michelers to settle in Alpine were **Franz** and **Rosa**, who staked out a 160-acre homestead in Sacramento Valley. In 1885, before “proving up” his homestead, Franz

sold the property to his brother, **Robert**, who immigrated from Bohemia with his wife **Karolina** and two children, **Bertha** and **Ernest**. Eventually the family grew to eight, adding four more children – **Rudolph**, **Raymond**, **Anne**, and **Lily**. As a teenager Bertha took a job cooking and housekeeping for the Dr. Hereford family. Here she met **Joe Foss**, son of **Caroline** and **Edward Foss**, who worked as a farm hand on the Hereford Ranch.

The young couple married on June 11, 1911. In 1915, Joe and Bertha moved to Julian to manage Ed Fletcher’s Pine Hills Lodge. Bertha, along with one helper, did all the cooking and cleaning while Joe did the outside work. Working in Julian they saved enough money to build

a home on Joe’s 40-acre parcel in Alpine, where they lived out the remainder of their days.

Joe and Bertha had no children. Joe Foss died in May 1964 and Bertha Micheler Foss died the following year on November 3, 1965. They are buried side by side in the *Alpine Cemetery*. Anne Micheler (Bertha’s sister) married Frank Miner and had one child, Carolyn. The other siblings, Ernest, Rudolph, Raymond and Lily, remained single.

The Micheler homestead in Sacramento Valley later became the location of the *Kosmon Faithist Community*. The Kosmons cared for and nurtured children from a San Diego orphanage, giving them the wonder of growing up surrounded by nature.



Joe and Bertha Foss at home.

ALPINE HISTORICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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1st Vice President, Programs: Vikki Coffey	Director: Norm Kling
2nd Vice President, Membership: Judy Myers	Director: Jennifer Tschida, <i>Social Media</i>
3rd Vice President, Property: Dave Smith	Lifetime Director: Elma Terry
Secretary: Janet Harris	Webmaster: Pene Manale
Treasurer: Lisa Celeste	Caretakers: Baltazar & Laura Marquez

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the *Alpine Historical & Conservation Society* is to encourage the community in an effort to retain structures and sites of historical significance, conserve natural resources and parkland, make available the visible evidence of the history of our community, and develop historical programs which emphasize the contributions of the various cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups that comprise the Alpine area.

ANSWERS TO POP QUIZ: 1–c. Kate Douglas Wiggins wrote *The Story of Patsy* in 1883. (page 3); 2–d. All of the above. (page 5); 3–a. Sam S. Webb was the official photographer of the Holtville Tribune. (page 1)

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Address Service Requested

Trolley Tour of Historic Alpine

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019
Tours at 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. — Reservations Required



Mark your calendars and plan to join the Alpine Historical Society for our
FIRST EVER, DOCENT NARRATED, TROLLEY TOUR
of historic Alpine and Viejas valley.

The narrated tour will take you to more than two dozen sites in Alpine and Viejas Valley where historians will discuss the first people, the Spanish era, early settlers, and the growth and development of our town.



The tours start at the John DeWitt Museum. Please arrive 15 minutes early to register and board the trolley.

The tour ends at the John DeWitt Museum where it began. Each tour will take about 1-1/2 hours.

The museum is located at 2116 Tavern Road in Alpine.

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Reservations (prepaid) are required for these tours. Please call Lisa (951) 704-8854 to make your reservations.