

Upcoming events:

- **July 30 & 31:**
Museum Open House
- **August 21:**
Potluck Luncheon & Presentation by Richard Carrico, Author
- **August 27 & 28:**
Museum Open House
- **September 24 & 25:**
Museum Open House

Inside this issue:

- Welcome, Janet Marie Harris, page 2
- Membership Update, page 2
- Civil War Memorabilia Exhibit, page 3
- Beat the Heat, page 3
- Where Are You Going this Summer? page 4
- School Tours, page 4
- Timeline Alpine: 1850-1863, page 5
- AH&CS Board of Directors, Mission Statement, page 5
- Membership Application, page 6

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



POTLUCK LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION, SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016

History of Winemaking in San Diego County

Did you know that grapevines have been growing on southern California hillsides since 1769, and that wine has been produced in San Diego County since the year 1774? Early reports say that Father Junipero Serra, sometimes referred to as the “Father of California Wine,” planted grapes at the Mission San Diego de Alcalá. This first mission’s vineyard was so well known for the quality of its wine that the Spanish Governor of California sent bottles of it to Spain to show off the excellence of wine coming from the colonies.

These and other stories of the history of winemaking in San Diego County are the topics at our August meeting

(potluck luncheon & presentation) on Sunday, August 21st, at 1:00 p.m.

We are excited to have **Richard Carrico**, author, anthropologist, and professor extraordinaire, lead us in exploring this fascinating aspect of life in east county. His recent book, *History of Winemaking in San Diego County*, is a fascinating look into the deep roots of wineries and vineyards in our area.

Carrico is a well-recognized authority on southern California historical venues, with a special interest in Native Americans and he has an extensive list of publications on archaeological and historical topics. He is a principal in the firm Recuerdos Research and a lecturer in the Department



of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University and at Cuyamaca Community College. He has an M.A. in History from the University of San Diego and B.A. degrees in History and Anthropology from San Diego State University. While at SDSU, Richard served as the field director for large-scale archaeological excavations at the Bancroft Ranch House in Spring Valley and the Presidio of San Diego above Old Town.

He currently resides in Warner Springs, California with his wife where he raises wine grapes and makes wine under the Rockhill Vineyard label.

Please bring a potluck item to share for 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 Richard’s presentation.

Admission is **FREE**, but your donation helps to defray the cost of programs and helps us preserve Alpine’s historical artifacts and maintain the museum facilities.

The Potluck Luncheon and Program will be held at the Alpine Town Hall (Alpine Woman’s Club), located at 2156 Alpine Boulevard. Seating is limited, so please make your reservations early by calling Tom Myers at (619) 885-8063 or send an email request to info@alpinehistory.org.



The Alpine Historical Society is thrilled to welcome **Janet** to the Board of Directors.

Originally from Kansas City, Missouri, she moved with her family to El Cajon in 1955. After graduating from San Diego High School in 1965, she worked in administration in the nursing home industry for 10 years. Then, after completing machinist training, she started as a drill press operator, working her

WELCOME, JANET MARIE HARRIS!

way up to be an assistant foreman where she stayed for 21 years. She subsequently pursued a college education and graduated with a degree in American Sign Language Interpreting.

Her next job was with the San Diego Community College District in curriculum development, transferring after 5 years to San Diego Mesa College as lead administrative assistant in the Disability Services and Programs department. Her team assisted disabled students to get the services they needed to

succeed in college. After 13 years she retired and is now a full-time quilter and volunteer.

She currently belongs to the Alpine Woman's Club, the Sunshine Quilters of San Diego, the Pieceful Stitchers, and the Wool Club. She has also held memberships with the Old Town Historical Quilters, the San Diego Genealogist Society and the San Diego Quilt Show production team. Last month she joined the Alpine Historical and Conservation Society and is eagerly looking forward to working with us.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Special Thank You and Welcome to Our New Nonprofit Life Member: John Garbaczewski Family Foundation

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Janet Harris, James & Babra Rosenberg, Ray & Betty Sopfe, Deborah & Joseph Verfaillie, and Peter Voce

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Linda K. Dean, Greg & Patti Fox, Judy Grant, and Betty Jensen

Many thanks to the following for making a generous financial donation to the Historical Society: Ray & Betty Sopfe

Special Thanks of Appreciation to the following business for renewing its 2016 membership in the Historical Society:
Greg Fox, CORE California Options Real Estate

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson
Roy & Willa Athey • Claude Bailey • Franklin R. Ball • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey • Ted Christensen
James H. Cleland • Sharon J. Coop • Peggy & Jim Easterling • Beverly Falor • Katie & Brian Ford • Vincent Fritts
Paul Gonya • Gail Wilson Guth • Linda Harshberger • Ann Hill • Leslie Holben • Ken & Denise Hujing
Ben & Kirby Johnson • Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killon • John Krempp • Joanne & Martin Marugg
Mary McBride • Chris McCoy • Carol & Ed Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Mary Polk • Helen Porter
Mark & Pattie & Haley Price • Paul & Paula Saksa • Kurt Scherbaum • Pauline Silver • Albert Simonson
Donna Sisson • Joseph Sisson • Virginia Sisson • Anne Tarr • Elma Terry • Rodney & Guille Tuttle • Don Walker
Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth • Sam Webb • Stanley Wilson

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 • Tuttle Charitable Trust

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 57, Annual Members ~ 137, Members up for renewal ~ 21

If you would like to receive our newsletter [in color] by email, please send a note to membership@alpinehistory.org.

Civil War Memorabilia



Our summer exhibit showcases authentic and replicated objects from both the Union and Confederate Armies, *courtesy of Grady Grammer.*

Come and discover Alpine's connection to the Civil War:
 ~ who earned the Medal of Honor? ~
 ~ who carried a bullet in the leg for the rest of his life? ~
 ~ who fought in the Texas Militia? ~



About the Collector: **William "Grady" Grammer** is the Safety & Facilities Public Affairs Officer LCPO (Leading Chief Petty Officer) at Camp Pendleton. Grady is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans with family roots that go back to Lynchburg, Tennessee. Every generation of his family has served in the military and he can trace his lineage back for six generations to 1756 when his ancestors served under Colonel George Washing-

ton in the French and Indian War. LCPO Grammer has a passion for collecting military memorabilia commemorating the service of millions of American soldiers throughout the history of our country, and he generously offered to loan some of his Civil War era objects to the Alpine Historical Society for this short-term exhibit. *Thank you Grady for your generosity and for your service to our country.*

Dates: June 25-26, July 30-31, August 27-28

Museum is open from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, or by appointment by calling 619-885-8063



Beat the Heat

Summer is upon us and it looks like this might be the warmest summer on record. Maybe some of you will cope by staying indoors with the A/C running, while others escape by visiting a cooler climate for a much needed vacation. But what about the plants and critters who populate your garden, patio, or neighborhood greenspace? Here are some tips for helping them get through the coming heat wave.

WILD Life

Flying, crawling, burrowing and nesting critters often seek cover during the hottest part of the day, so it is best if the space you share with wildlife includes some shady or sheltered perching or hiding places. A pile of rocks works great for lizards, and tall

shrubs or trees can provide cover for winged wildlife. If your habitat includes

a bird bath, fountain, or butterfly puddle, be sure to keep the water fresh and clean to avoid breeding mosquitos, and don't forget to refill it regularly.

PLANT Life

If you have native plants in your garden, chances are they may not require much attention. Plants that are native to Alpine are very well adapted to the seasonal

variables. When temperatures soar, some plants need to go dormant while others wilt to conserve water. They rarely need supplemental water, but if you want to provide some irrigation to keep them looking perky, it is advisable to first check your favorite plant reference book to see if your plants will tolerate watering in the summer.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS SUMMER?

Do you have plans to travel to some interesting or exotic place this summer? Here are two ideas to add a little entertainment and culture to your trip at little or no cost.

Through the **Blue Star Museum Program**, all active-duty military service members and their families get **FREE** admission to over 2,000 museums nationwide from Memorial Day through Labor Day! Just go to the website: <https://www.arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums> then click on the map for your destination state and you will find a

list of cities with **Blue Star Museums**. This program is offered in collaboration with the *National Endowment of the Arts*, *Blue Star Families*, and the *Defense Department*.



Additionally, all members of the Alpine Historical Society now receive exclusive benefits and privileges at over 250 museums and historical sites nationwide through our membership in the **Time Travelers Network**.

These benefits may include free or reduced admission, gift shop discounts, free parking, and much more. But, be sure to take your **AHCS MEMBERSHIP CARD** with you to prove that you belong to a participating museum of the Time Traveler Network. To find out if there is a Time Traveler museum in your vacation spot, go to <http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/institutions>, then when you select the name of your destination state, a map and a list of museums in that state will pop up. Select the museum that interests you and read the details

to find your benefit – it's that easy. For example, if you are traveling locally, the **San Diego History Center** offers a discounted admission price and a discount in their gift shop; 26 miles across the sea, the **Catalina Island Museum** offers free admission to Time Travelers; if you are headed to Yuma you can get discounted admission to the **Arizona Historical Society –Sanguinetti House Museum and Garden**.



The Alpine Historical & Conservation Society is proud to be a member of both the Time Travelers Network and the Blue Star Museums Program and to offer these benefits to our members and military service personnel.

ANNUAL SCHOOL TOURS ~ JUNE 2016

Volunteers at the John DeWitt Museum were delighted to welcome over 120 third grade students from the **Shadow Hills Elementary** and **Boulder Oaks Elementary** schools on June 14 and 17 for the annual school tour. Upon arrival at the museum, the children were greeted by docents **Carol Morrison**, **Carlette Anderson**, **Janet Harris**, **Judy Myers**, **Tom Myers**, and **Bill Waterworth**. And **Rorie**, our gorilla in the tree, kept a

watchful eye on all the proceedings.

At the Sophronia Nichols House the children had an opportunity to learn about Alpine's first doctor as well as Benjamin Arnold, the Foss family, and the history of Alpine schools.

Next stop was the Beaty House where they explored the Civil War Memorabilia Exhibit,

learned about John Harbison and bee keeping, and visited the new Wildlife Habitat Garden where they learned the four elements necessary for wildlife survival.

The last stop was in the outdoor gallery where the students learned about the development of agriculture and inspected the restored Walker carriage.



These students were remarkably well prepared for the tour and asked very thoughtful questions. Parents and teachers alike can be very proud of these children and their educational accomplishments.



Boulder Oaks Elementary School



Shadow Hills Elementary School

TIMELINE APLINE 1848-1863

On September 9, 1850 California became the thirty-first state in the USA. This occurred just two-and-a-half years after the U.S. received title to the land as a result of the **1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**, which ended the Mexican-American War. At the end of the war, the **Rancho Valle de las Viejas y Mesa del Arroz**, which would later become Alpine and the Viejas Reservation, was owned by the brothers **Ramon** and **Leandro Osuna**. Not long after the treaty was signed, an English sailor named "**Cockney**" **Bill Williams** purchased the eastern portion of **Valle de Las Viejas** from the Osuna brothers. In

1851, the western portion of the Osuna land grant, called **Mesa del Arroz**, was purchased by **Jose Antonio Aguirre**, a Basque trader and wealthy ship owner.

In **Valle de las Viejas**, Cockney Bill set up a cattle ranch, raising hay and grain to feed them and also to sell to the Army in San Diego and Fort Yuma. On this property he also built the ox carts to transport the grain, and a two-story adobe home. By 1856 Williams was operating a very prosperous ranch and was the largest grain producer in San Diego County. Cockney Bill allied himself with the mountain and desert Indians and together

they transformed the Viejas Valley to agricultural lands.

Cockney Bill was pretty quick to seize an opportunity, so when he learned that **James Birch** was planning his San Diego-San Antonio stage route, he jumped on the chance to put a stage station on his property to provide Birch's Stage Line with fresh mules, feed for the animals, and some limited food and beverages for weary travelers. So in 1857, Williams established his livery and called it the **Viejas Stage Stop**.

That same year, Williams placed an ad in the *San Diego Herald* seeking a wife, and within one month he married **Doña Ramona Machado de Curley**, from the well-respected Machado family of Old Town San Diego.

Unfortunately, by the end of the decade, the stage line had ceased operations and Cockney Bill had accrued a large

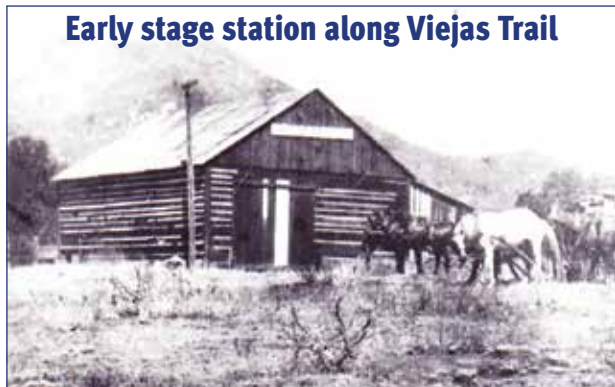
Alpine-style ox cart



debt due to lost income from the stage, mounting legal expenses, falling beef prices and failing crops due to drought. In 1860, in an attempt to avoid losing his property, Williams filed the first homestead declaration in the county. But his grand enterprise tragically ended in 1863 when Bill died at his Viejas ranch. His wife, Ramona, took his body for one last trip down the ox cart road to be buried in the El Campo Santo Cemetery in Old Town.

If you want to learn more about Cockney Bill Williams, Jose Aguirre, and the **Rancho Valle de las Viejas y Mesa del Arroz** please visit the museum or check out our website: www.alpinehistory.org.

Early stage station along Viejas Trail



ALPINE HISTORICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2nd Vice President, Membership: Judy Myers
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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.

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

Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Phone: 619-659-8740
E-mail: info@alpinehistory.org

We're on the Web!
www.alpinehistory.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address/P.O. Box _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Send Newsletters via: E-mail U.S. Mail

Membership Category (Please check one):

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (1) \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Life \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Life \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (2) \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 | | |

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Habitat Donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Volunteer Opportunities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Open Houses | <input type="checkbox"/> History Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs & Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Histories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Archival Data Entry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Please complete this form and include your check made payable to the Alpine Historical Society, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.