

President's Corner — Karen Stepper

Historical--my 7 year old grandson described that as something that happened a long time ago when we didn't have all the things that we have today. That's a pretty good description of why we work so hard to recreate those scenes in museums and in the stories we tell. And right now a number of us are trying to recreate the visions of riding, dancing, gardening, and conversations on the porch of the Harlan House in the 1850's. It was one of the five Grande Dames, the valley homes along the main road, that Beverly Lane is writing about today--the homes owned by McCamley, Thorup, Glass, Harlan, and Boone, as well as a separate history book of San Ramon.

Do you have stories about this striking home with three "gingerbread" dormer windows across the front--surrounded by lush gardens? If so, we hope you will share a brief memory with us at the next meeting on January 15. Regardless, Beverly has provided a wonderful memory from the establishment of the Harlan House, otherwise known as "El Nido:"

"Minerva and Joel Harlan married in 1849 and moved to the San Ramon Valley in 1852, using some of their mining and other earnings to purchase land from Amador and then from Norris. Minerva told her children there was so much gold around, she found it hard to believe that gold would be worth anything."

We will be voting on new officers at our meeting, so if you would like to join the Board, please call me at 925-998-8865.

It is such an honor to be part of an organization that gives our valley "roots" in tangible markers and in the precious stories of those families who moved here over a hundred years ago.

Karen Stepper
Outgoing President of the SRVHS

Museum News

Upcoming Exhibits and Walking Tours

2015 Exhibits

January 17 - March 14: Wedding Gowns through the Ages.

Walking Tours:

Town of Danville Tours

To schedule a tour, please contact Eve/Donna at the museum at 837-3750.

General

When the Museum is open, a trained docent is always on duty and can provide exhibit tours for visitors who drop in. Reserved tours are available during open or closed hours by appointment. Large groups are encouraged to call ahead to assure that a docent is available specifically for your group.

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley is located on the southwest corner of Prospect and Railroad Avenues [P.O. Box 39, Danville, CA, 94526, (925) 837-3750]. Hours: 1-4 pm Tuesday-Friday, 10 am.-1 pm. Saturday, Noon - 3 pm Sunday.

The information above was taken from the Museum's informative website, www.museumsv.org.

