



**history|san José**  
silicon valley from a to z

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# THE Exchange

HISTORY SAN JOSÉ

AUGUST 2005  
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*San Jose's Garden City Wheelmen with their competitors, Sanson Wheelmen of Stockton. Sixth from left is Clyde Arbuckle, HSJ's founder, October 26, 1919.*

## Inaugural Exhibitions at City Hall

**Exhibits give public first look at unique artifacts**

When the people of San José enter their new City Hall for the first time they will be greeted by their own history collection. History San José is honored to have been awarded the contract to create and install the first exhibitions in this remarkable building, and thus inaugurate a new public exhibition program for San José.

City Hall is now the focal point of a Civic Center complex complete with a sweeping public plaza that includes plenty of

seating, landscape and water features, permanent public art, and a changing exhibition program. The designer is internationally renowned architect Richard Meier, whose multitude of projects include the City Hall and Central Library in The Hague, Netherlands, and The Getty Center in Los Angeles. His design of San José's City Hall includes three major components: an 18-story office tower, Council Chambers, and an eight-story glass-domed rotunda. When the public attends

Inaugural Exhibitions, continued on page 4

# History Below the Equator

by David Crosson, President & CEO

This past April, my wife Natalie and I were fortunate to accompany friends to Peru. We did all of the things tourists usually do: visiting Lima's beautiful coast, magnificent Cuzco, mystical Machu Picchu and the Amazon Rain Forest—and drinking pisco sours. (I even out-shot local experts with a blow gun.)

We also had the opportunity to observe how history museums work in Peru. First, most of the museums we visited are of neither history nor art; they are cultural. They do not so much memorialize the past (history) or celebrate individual statements of creativity (art) as explore how the two intertwine in a continuing cultural legacy. They are not about time, but cultural persistence; not about persons, but peoples. There are heroes and villains to be sure, but their legacies rest in their culture, not in their individual successes or failures.

As intellectual products of the

“Gilded Age,” it is not surprising that museums in the United States are focused on individuals and individualism. Here, it is the individual by which we try to understand and define the group, whereas in Peru, individuals express their community. Both models—American and American—are perfect products and expressions of their cultures.

Second, for all practical purposes there appear to be no local history or local history museums in Peru. Yet, at the same time, all of its history is local, or at least site specific. The museums of Cusco, for instance, do not explain Cusco; they explain how Cusco explains the Quechua (Inca) people. Recently I visited a jewel of a museum in the United States that does much the same thing, using one location, Johnson County, Kansas, to explain an entire culture: the suburbs. Perhaps more of our museums could apply this approach.

Third, with the exception of one art museum, there do not appear to be many contemporary museums in Peru. Again, the reasons are cultural. Time is not so much *then, now* and *future* as it is *always*. The last 50 or 100 or 500 years simply are not understood outside of the context of the previous 3,000. There is, of course, *prehistory* (a term that I never will understand) and *conquest* and the republic. But these

Equator, continued on page 6



Natalie Hala  
David Crosson shooting a blowgun in Peru, April 2005.

### Correction

The article “Harvesting History” (*The Exchange*, May 2005), incorrectly stated that John Sorci’s parents started the Zoria brand name. In fact, the Sorci Ranch sold fruit to the Zoria family to be sold under the Zoria brand name. History San José regrets the error.

### HSJ LEADERSHIP

#### OFFICERS 2004 – 2005

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| Margie Matthews<br>Chair | Bonnie Bamberg<br>Secretary |
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Eva Guralnick  
Editor

e.g. communications  
Layout

### SPONSORS

Free admission for one year to History Park and Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site



#### Corporate Membership



History Park Interpretive Signage



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City Hall Exhibitions



Family Days



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Between Dirt & Sky Play



Comerica  
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The Last Harvest Film

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Dairy Hill Online Exhibit



# Who Murdered Mrs. Leland Stanford? A Very Cold Case

by Jack Douglas

One hundred years ago, while she was on vacation in Hawaii, Jane Stanford was poisoned. It was a murder most foul. A heavy dose of strychnine had been placed in her bottle of bicarbonate of soda. Her maid and secretary, the first to reach her, found her writhing in agony and exclaiming: "I have been poisoned."

A Dr. Humphris arrived, but not in time to reverse the effects of the poison. As her body twisted and convulsed, Mrs. Stanford's last words were: "this is a horrible death to die." Dr. Murray, who arrived in time to see her die, was careful to preserve everything that could be used as evidence, for he was aware that this was not the first time that an attempt had been made on Mrs. Stanford's life.

Two months earlier she had become ill from drinking bottled water at her Nob Hill mansion in San Francisco. The amount of strychnine in the bottle was so potent that it acted as an emetic, but it caused Mrs. Stanford to become very ill. In an attempt to get her away from a possible assassin, her niece, Miss Jennie Lathrop, and her private secretary, Miss Bertha Berner, brought her to a suite at San José's lavish Vendome Hotel. Private detectives were hired to scour San Francisco for possible clues. The *San Jose Mercury Herald*, trying to keep secret this attempt on her life, editorialized:

*Her illness here, it is clear, had no possible connection with her more serious and critical situation at San Francisco during the past week. The private*

detectives were unsuccessful in finding any evidence of guilt among the household staff.

## WHY WOULD ANYONE WISH HER DEAD?

After Mrs. Stanford's death, a *San Jose News* headline seemed to sum up the mystery. It read: *Mrs. Stanford's Death Could Have Benefited No One.*



Courtesy of Stanford University Archives

Jane Stanford, c.1904.

A co-founder of Leland Stanford Jr. University, Jane Stanford assumed control of that institution after the death of her husband in 1893. For

the next decade she had to cope with major financial problems that were caused by the enormous taxes on her husband's estate. Her personal wealth, including her jewels, were pretty much committed to keeping the university afloat during the early shaky years. By 1905, although her financial support continued to be crucial, she had put much of the control of the university in the hands of a board of trustees, of which her brother, Charles G. Lathrop, was treasurer.

Those in her household who were closest to her, Miss Hunt, her personal maid, and Miss Berner, her secretary/companion, had no motive for such a deed. Relatives who were mentioned in her will were not in danger of being disinherited. An article in the *Mercury Herald* quoted her sister-in-law, Mrs. Lathrop: *Who can this person be, and what is their object? The relatives are just as much in the dark as the public. Her sweet and kindly life has been an open book to the entire world.*

When the body was returned, the San Francisco police were called in to investigate. The *Mercury Herald* announced: *Many brilliant sleuths are at work.*

## THE COVER-UP

The same university officials who tried to keep the lid on the news of the first attempt on Jane Stanford's life, now were trying to explain away her death as one of natural causes. Dr. David Starr

Jordan, the highly respected president of Stanford University, would never accept the notion that she was a victim of a pre-meditated murder. The doctor

## Generations Come Together in New Partnership

History San José has joined the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and the Digital Clubhouse Network in a new partnership that will use the power of storytelling to bring generations and cultures together, foster mutual understanding, and build community. The new partnership was announced at a *Celebration of Community* at History Park on Saturday, June 25th.



Kymberli W. Brady, The Times Newspaper Group, used with permission

*The Digital Clubhouse Network and friends in front of the Paulson House, June 25, 2005.*

The Pioneers will move their historical collections for public viewing and use the Paulson House, one of the last buildings at History Park to be restored and opened to the public. At the same time, the Digital Clubhouse Network will relocate its youth-based volunteer programs within the more traditional Pioneer exhibits in the Paulson House. Together,

they will create a dynamic interplay of generations and cultures that will make history come alive at History Park.

The Digital Clubhouse Network runs a variety of programs that engage teenagers and their mentors in using digital technologies to record and share community stories. Founded as a NASA outreach program in 1996, the Digital Clubhouse Network has been without a home since September 2004. It has moved into the Chiechi House at History Park until the Paulson House rehabilitation can be completed.

The Santa Clara Pioneers, on the other hand, have been storing their extensive Santa Clara Valley historical collection in various locations around the county, including HSJ's Collection Center. This will be the first time that the Pioneers have secured a home that they can open to the public.

The Digital Clubhouse Network has created a variety of multigenerational stories through several different projects, including the African American *Digital Griot* (a griot is an African elder and storyteller) and *Latino Legacy*. *Stories of Service* is a nation-wide program that documents the lives of those who served in the field and at home during World War II. In these and other projects, teenagers interview seniors and other adults, research and document their stories, and produce high-quality documentaries that can then be shared at home and throughout the world in digital format.

There are many ways in which the Santa Clara County Pioneers, Digital Clubhouse Network, and History San José can enhance each other's programs and services in years to come. Together, we will create new energy and activity at History Park and engage new generations and cultures in the process of history.

Inaugural Exhibitions, continued from cover

the first Council meeting in the magnificent new Chambers on August 9th, they can also view two HSJ exhibits. And pending funding, a third HSJ exhibit will debut mid-October for City Hall's grand opening. The exhibitions will run for 18 months.

A programmatic framework for City Hall was created by an ad hoc committee of the San José Arts Commission comprised of representatives from a variety of cultural organizations. Adhering to the exhibition goals established by the Committee and adopted by the City, HSJ created two inaugural exhibitions.

For the first exhibit, *In Full View: Historic and Contemporary Panoramas*, HSJ selected 15 exceptional historic panoramas from the collection and created five new panoramas. HSJ Curator of Art and Photography Sarah Puckitt used a panoramic camera to capture the way people work and play in the capital of Silicon Valley today. Tight deadlines limited the number of photo shoots, but staff had so much fun documenting the Valley's continuing history that



Sarah Puckitt

*Contemporary panorama of an Intel Cleanroom, June 2005.*

you can be sure this will not be the last panorama exhibit.

The second exhibit, *San José: Generations of Innovation and Diversity*, focuses on the ways in which San José has always had a diverse citizenry, and has always been at the center of innovation, whether the economy was based on agriculture or high tech. Because City Hall will provide HSJ with the largest exhibition space it has had to date, expect to see very large artifacts from the collection that have never before been on display.



Antique Autos in the Park, August 2004.

Allan Greenberg

## Family Days at History Park

Children and their families are having a great time at History Park's summer series of Family Days! Spring in the Valley, Dia de Portugal and Archaeology Day brought over a thousand people to the park for a variety of fun, games and food. Join the fun for the rest of the summer. The last two Family Days are on August 21 and September 11, and are designed for families with children up to age 10.

### HISTORY MYSTERY

Our popular History Mystery returns this year with an all-new mystery for kids to solve. Upon entering the park, children receive clues which lead them to gather more clues at a variety of buildings in order to solve the mystery. At the end of the trail, they will learn about a special person from San José's past. This year's mystery features bright colors, big shapes and a story to cheer us all.

### ANTIQUE AUTOS

Antique Autos in the Park presents its annual show in History Park. Visitors of all ages will have a great time seeing and learning about antique automobiles, fire equipment, motorcycles and bicycles. The day features Dixieland music, trolley rides, and games that celebrate transportation.

## San José Safari Day Camp

History San José is pleased to participate again this year in the San José Safari Summer Day Camp. The camp is organized by the Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens and takes kids on a "safari" adventure to museums, gardens and other sites in San José. Last year's camp had three sessions but demand has convinced us to add another weeklong session this summer. Campers will visit History Park on July 1, July 22, August 5 and August 19 as they travel back in time and meet some of the Valley's illustrious citizens, including Elisha Stephens and Grandma Bascom. Campers pack the covered wagon for the journey overland to California, do chores at the Umbarger House, pick "prunes" at the Stevens Ranch Fruit Barn and take a ride on the trolley. Kids also get a chance to record their own histories and memories in a journal. Our partner organizations this year are the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, Winchester Mystery House, San José Museum of Art, Don Edward's San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Tech Museum. For more information, visit [www.grpg.org/safari.html](http://www.grpg.org/safari.html).

A Very Cold Case, continued from page 3

he hired to examine the post-mortem reports claimed that death was from natural causes. Jordan went so far as to challenge the medical examiner and the two doctors who were present at the death with conspiracy.

The Hawaiian police had no doubt that it was murder, but they passed the case to the San Francisco police to solve. At the same time that the police were trying to find the culprit, President Jordan and his public relations machinery were promoting the natural causes (or possible suicide) theory. With the paucity of suspects and the denials of the university, the myth that Jane Stanford died naturally gradually became the accepted solution. Thirty years later, in her published memoir, Bertha Berner, who was a witness to the crime, forgot her earlier statements and followed the party line. This erroneous document served as the source for all future accounts of the death.

President Jordan's motive for denying the obvious in the case is easily explained by his concern for the shadow that the event would cast over the new university. At the time, he was attempting to mold Stanford into the Harvard of the Pacific. The poisoner must have slept comfortably, knowing that a great scientist/educator like Jordan was working overtime to prove that his or her deed didn't actually happen.

### RECENT BOOK

#### COVERS ALL THE FACTS

Those who are intrigued by this story will want to get the new book on the subject: *The Mysterious Death of Jane Stanford*, by Robert W. P. Cutler, M.D. Dr. Cutler delved deeply into all the hearings, records and personal accounts, and he has no doubt that Jane Stanford was murdered. Being a medical man, he explains many things that were not clear back in 1905. Unfortunately, for all his research, he could not satisfactorily identify the killer.

The book was published by the Stanford University Press and is available at the HSJ Museum Store.

## Passing the Torch

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors on June 29, 2005, fellow History San José Board Members, HSJ staff and Affiliates extended appreciation and gratitude to Mark Ritchie for serving three terms as Board Chair. As Mark Ritchie stepped down to pass the torch to incoming Board Chair, Margie Matthews, gifts of appreciation were presented. Other officers for Fiscal Year 2006 include Vice Chairs Jim Towery and Steve Cox, Secretary Bonnie Bamburg, and Treasurer Tom Scott.



Alida Bray

Margie Matthews and Mark Ritchie, June 29, 2005.

Equator, continued from page 2

artificial overlays are understood and expressed only in a multi-millennial context. There is a down side to this, to be sure: an almost complete avoidance of the here and now. But how would our perspective change if we tried to understand the 50-year rise of *Silicon Valley* in the context of the full 3,000 years of human life in the South Bay?

And finally, the most powerful places in Peru are not museums, but the locations themselves, places where people live or lived. There are the archaeological sites, of course—the incomparable Machu Picchu and the massive fortress at Ollantaytambo. Thousand-year-old agricultural terraces still cling somehow to the perpendicular Andean slopes. And life continues in the Amazon in the only way that it can.

It was the occasional ironic turn of a particular place that led to my own small epiphanies. A few short weeks after being introduced to the word during a celebration of Cesar Chavez's life in San José, my way in Cusco's Plaza de Armas was blocked by 2,000 striking Peruvians, raising signs and yelling "*Huelga! Huelga!*" ("Strike! Strike!"). In Chinchero we viewed the magnificent original ceiling of a church that was constructed in 1607—the same year that Jamestown was founded. And in a Cusco cathedral painting, the very Quechuan figures of Christ and disciples addressed a Last Supper table replete with the uniquely Andean main course of roast guinea pig. Together, these moments prove once again that the most transforming experiences, even history, cannot be designed or planned. Isn't that a wonderful thing?

## LEAVING A LEGACY

History San José recently lost a dear friend, **Al Martin**. The vegetables, herb gardens, flowers and plants at History Park will no longer receive his love and attention to working the soil, seeding, clipping, watering and raking. The pathway to the one-room Santa Ana Schoolhouse will no longer exhibit the scrolling pattern Al left in the dirt, a pattern he would make with his rake, indicating his presence. Although, the City gardeners maintain and care for the plants and grounds, Al Martin gave the gardens some extra care. HSJ was fortunate to reap the contributions of such a wonderful person and volunteer.



Sallyn Fucukit

Al Martin.

Over the past few months many other History San José friends have left their marks on the organization. We remember... **Lani Evans**, a long-time volunteer in archives and education. Lani and her husband Tom Dews, served as the volunteer newsletter editors for many years. **Rosalind Moore** was a longtime volunteer for the San José Historical Museum Association. She would give one day a week as volunteer bookkeeper, tracking the nonprofit's retail operations. **Hal Janzen**, a longtime member, attended membership events and functions over the years with his wife Dulcie, who once served as a volunteer coordinator. We could always count on **George Talley** for a joke or two. George and his wife Frances have been longtime members and attended most membership events and receptions. Most recently, we say goodbye to **Enide Allison**, a community civic leader and member of History San José's Heritage 100 group, a group of individuals and families who have been part of the development of Santa Clara Valley over the past 50 years.

History San José would like to take this opportunity to express sympathy to the families of those who gave assistance and service to the organization. We care deeply about our members and volunteers and they all cared about the history of Santa Clara Valley. Thank you to everyone who has made a financial donation in memory of a friend or loved one.

## AUGUST – OCTOBER

**In Full View: Historic and Contemporary Panoramas** and

**San José: Generations of Innovation and Diversity**

**Tuesday, August 9**

*New San José City Hall*

Look for a special Members announcement.

*Free*

**History Makers: VJ Day 60 Years Later**

**Thursday, August 11**

**7:00 – 8:30 pm**

*Barnes & Noble Booksellers at the corner of Almaden Expressway and Blossom Hill Road.*

See description below.

*Free*

**Family Day:**

**History Mystery**

**Sunday, August 21**

**12:00 – 5:00 pm**

*History Park*

Solve a mystery from the past!

*Free*

**The Last Harvest Film Debut**

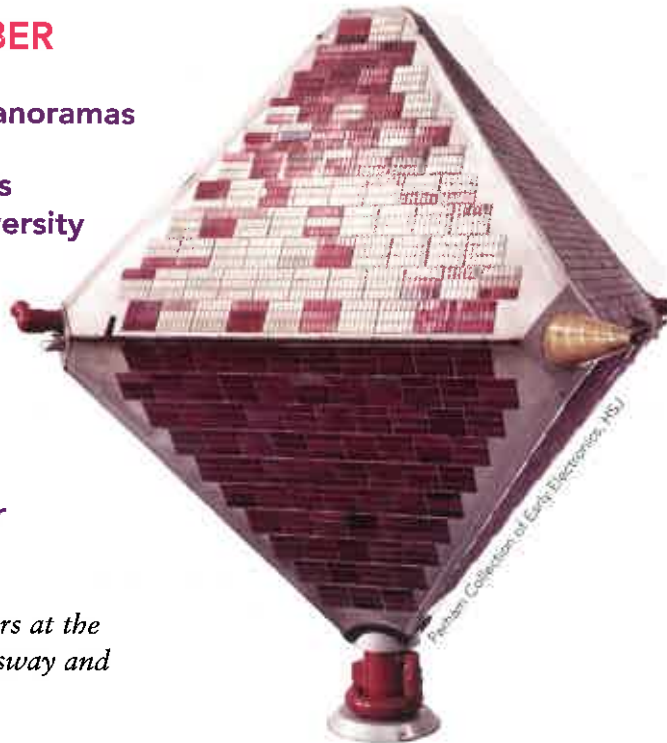
**Sunday, August 21**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**

*History Park*

Watch the film and bring the children for harvest activities centered around the Stevens Fruit Barn.

*Free*



*MILSAT 100 LB Satellite Mockup, c.1962.*

**Family Day: Antique Autos in the Park**

**Sunday, September 11**

**12:00 – 5:00 pm**

*History Park*

Ride a trolley, watch antique gas engines at work and see vintage cars, bicycles and tractors during this festival of transportation.

*Free*

## ONGOING

**Artists For Hire: Painting for the Market in Santa Clara Valley**

Extended through December 2005

**Tuesday – Sunday**

**12:00 – 5:00 pm**

*History Park, Pacific Hotel Gallery 1*

*Free*



*Eva Kottinger Burnett, a painting of the artist's sisters, Annie, Maggie and Martha Kottinger, c.1900.*

**The Leonard and David McKay Gallery at the Pasetta House**

Through February 12, 2006

**Saturday & Sunday**

**12:00 – 5:00 pm**

*Free*

**Dairy Hill Online Exhibit**

Don't forget to visit HSJ's first online exhibit at [www.historysanjose.org/dairyhill](http://www.historysanjose.org/dairyhill).

*Free*

## CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY AT AUGUST HISTORY MAKERS PROGRAM

Join History San José CEO David Crosson as he interviews a panel of guests who experienced firsthand the effort that led up to the Allied victory over Japan that ended World War II, including the impact of the struggle on the people at home and those who fashioned the peace that followed. *VJ Day 60 Years Later* will begin at 7:00 pm, Thursday, August 11, at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, at the corner of Blossom Hill Road and Almaden Expressway. The evening is cosponsored by the Digital Clubhouse Network.

The panel will feature Bob Infelise, a photographer who captured many of the dramatic images of the Pacific war under Douglas MacArthur, and Lavada Begley Peterson, who documented 20 young men from her small town who died in the war. A third panelist is yet to be named. This will be a powerful evening to remember as History San José and the community express appreciation for the sacrifices of a remarkable generation and contemplate the meaning of their legacy in our lives today.



*John Sorci, January 1971.*



## 8 WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU?



### Our California

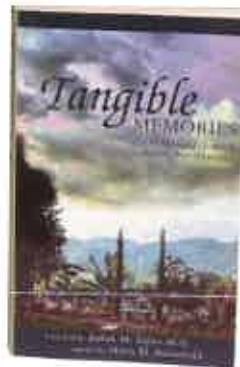
Take a stunning visual tour of every picturesque corner of the state with this beautiful book. For related gift ideas, try our 16 oz. California glasses, or the very popular Wildflowers of California, a seed collection of 12 annuals and perennials that will bloom throughout

the summer. Great souvenirs for your out-of-state guests.

### Tangible Memories:

#### Californians and Their Gardens 1800-1950

Innumerable gardens have been made since the Europeans first came to California, starting with the Franciscan missionaries. The Gold Rush was the defining period, leading to immense expenditures by newly rich miners. This book discusses many simple but beautiful gardens and includes a chapter on early Santa Clara County.

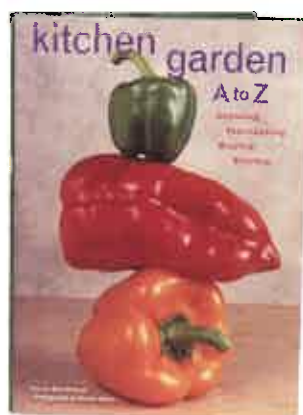


### Local Harvest

Willow Glen Honey, DeNapoli tomatoes, Cilker Olive Oil and Village Harvest are some of the quality foods in the Museum Store that represent the very best of the Valley of Hearts Delight heritage.

### Kitchen Garden A to Z

This is the perfect guide, whether you grow your own or buy your herbs, berries and vegetables in a farmers market or supermarket. How should you grow, select, harvest and store them to experience their absolute best and most complete flavors? The answers to all these and many other questions are answered here in a clear, easy-to-follow fashion.



photos by Sarah Fugitt

## MUSEUM INFORMATION

### SITES

#### History Park

Kelley Park, 1650 Senter Road  
San José, CA 95112  
408-287-2290, Fax 408-287-2291

#### Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site

175 W. St. John Street  
San José, CA 95110  
408-993-8300, Fax 408-993-8088

#### Administrative Offices

1650 Senter Road  
San José, CA 95112  
408-287-2290, Fax 408-287-2291

[www.historysanjose.org](http://www.historysanjose.org)

### RENTALS AND EVENTS

Call 408-918-1055 for information.

### ADMISSION

Free public admission to History Park and the Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site.

### GROUP TOURS

Groups of 10 or more who are interested in scheduling a custom tour should contact 408-918-1040.

### HOURS

#### SATURDAY & SUNDAY

History Park & Gallery	12 pm – 5 pm
Museum Store	12 pm – 5 pm
O'Brien's Café	12 pm – 5 pm
Peralta/Fallon	12 pm – 5 pm

#### TUESDAY – FRIDAY

History Park & Gallery	12 pm – 5 pm
Museum Store	12 pm – 5 pm
O'Brien's Café	12 pm – 5 pm

Research Library by appointment

Office Hours (Mon. – Fri.) 9 am – 5 pm

### PROGRAMS

All school programs must be reserved. Call 408-918-1040.

#### PUBLIC PROGRAMS

History Makers  
Family Days

#### OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Portraits of the Past

#### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

A Child's Life in the 1890s, Experience Adobe Days, Experience Victorian Days, Explore the Peralta Adobe-Fallon House, Gold Rush Adventure Kit, Historic Transportation Experience, History Hike, History Park Tour, Immigration, People at Work, Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Tour, School Days in the 1890s, Valley of Heart's Delight, Victorian Family Life, Westward Ho!