

TATTERED TIDBITS

ALPINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 9, Issue 4

October 2015

Upcoming events:

- October 18: Potluck Luncheon & Presentation by Donna Sisson
- October 24 & 25: Museum Open House
- November 28 & 29: Museum Open House
- December 26 & 27: Museum CLOSED

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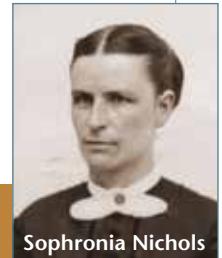
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Donna Sisson

DR. SOPHRONIA NICHOLS RETURNS TO ALPINE OCTOBER 18!

POTLUCK LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015



Sophronia Nichols

Alpine's most famous doctor, **Sophronia Nichols**, who established Alpine's very first physician's office in 1896, will return through a reenactment presentation by her great-great-granddaughter, **Donna Sisson**. Donna, who very closely resembles Sophronia Nichols, will be dressed in period attire to give us a glimpse into the life and legacy of her great-great-grandmother. The presentation takes place in the year 1885, when Dr. Nichols comes to Alpine to visit her sister, Carrie Foss.

The engaging and inspiring tale that unfolds explores Dr. Nichols' background, her travels, and introduces some of the people who inspired her and contributed to forming her outlook on life. Through extensive research of early family writings, Donna has been able to crystallize the essence of Dr. Sophronia Nichols, and has received standing ovations from delighted audiences. This is a "*must see*" program for everyone interested in the history and heritage of Alpine.

Donna Sisson is a Life Member of the Alpine Historical Society and a frequent visitor to Alpine. She works for the National Park Service at the Grand Teton National Park. Her biography is an equally inspiring tale and snippets of her life journey can be found on page 4.

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

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 Donna's presentation. Admission is **FREE**, but your donation helps to defray the cost of programs and helps us preserve 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 Carol Morrison at (619) 445-2544 or send an email request to info@alpinehistory.org.



ELMA TERRY RECEIVES HONORARY LIFETIME DIRECTOR AWARD

For over 20 years **Elma Terry** has, in countless ways, volunteered her help to the Alpine Historical Society. She has served as docent at the museum, provided fresh flower table decorations at nearly all of the General Membership meetings, assisted with Alpine History Day celebrations, served on the Board of Directors, participated in local parades, and provided a warm and happy welcome to all. In recognition of over two decades of service to the Society, the Board of Directors awarded Elma Terry the title of **Honorary Lifetime Director**. Next time you see Elma, please thank her for her extraordinary volunteer service to the Alpine Historical Society.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Special Thank You to Our New Life Members:

- Elma Terry
- Stan Wilson

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members:

- Roger & Bonnie Brown
- Karen Wiley

Many thanks to the following who made generous financial donations to the Historical Society:

- Karen Wiley in honor of her father, John K. "Jack" Wilson
- Helen Porter

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • Mark L. Anderson

Roy & Willa Athey • Claude Bailey • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey

Ted Christensen • Sharon J. Coop • Beverly Falor

Katie & Brian Ford • Vincent Fritts • Paul Gonya • Linda Harshberger

Ann Hill • Leslie Holben • 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 & Suzanne Norman

Helen Porter • Mark & Pattie & Haley Price • Paul & Paula Saksa

Kurt Scherbaum • Pauline Silver • Albert Simonson

Donna Sisson • Joseph Sisson • Virginia Sisson • 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

Ewiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians • Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Tom Dyke Drilling • Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage

Turvey Granite Pit • Tuttle Charitable Trust

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 49, Annual Members ~ 84, 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.

REMEMBERING “JACK” WILSON

John K. “Jack” Wilson, the first child of Gordon and Mava Wilson, was born on November 20, 1922 in Spirit River, Alberta, Canada. There he grew up loving horses and hockey. When the family moved to Alpine in 1936, Jack stayed behind in Canada with his horse, Shiner, for a little longer before joining them in 1937. He became a U.S. citizen in 1940, and in 1943 enlisted in the Army, receiving five medals

while serving in Northern France and Africa. He returned after the war to study business at SDSU and served in the Air Force Reserves from 1950 to 1953.

In Alpine, Jack spent much of his time helping his father at the Alpine Store, which many still call the *Wilson Store*. Jack assumed management of the store in 1953, and operated it until 1964.

One day when Jack was working for his dad, a lovely young

woman came in the store and Jack was so impressed with her that he declared “That’s the woman I will marry.” And so he did. On May 6, 1951, Jack married Mimi Schaeffer and they had 64 wonderful years together before Jack’s death on July 17, 2015. Jack Wilson is survived by his wife, Mimi; daughter, Karen Wiley; son, Kirk Wilson; three grandchildren, Neal, Claire, and Christopher; his brother, Stan; and his sisters, Dr. Gail Guth and Jean Christianson.

Jack was a Life Member of the Alpine Historical Society. We greatly appreciate his support for the society and service to our community. We believe that Alpine is a better place because Jack and his family lived here.



AN UNSOLVED HISTORY MYSTERY

We received the nicest note from **Karen Wiley** on August 28, saying that she enjoyed visiting the Alpine History Museum when she was in San Diego for the memorial service of her father, Jack Wilson. Karen sent us a generous contribution in memory of her father and she sent us an unsolved mystery as well. Here's what she said:

“I’ve enclosed a scan of a photo composite I took several years ago at the old store—when it was an Indian arts shop. The sign was in the back room where the butcher shop used to be. I understand the sign has gone missing, so here at least, is photographic evidence of its existence.”

Our mystery is: do you have this sign or do you know where this sign is? It's a wonderful piece of Alpine History, perhaps dating back to the late 1930's. If you can solve this mystery or can give us a clue where we should be searching, please call Tom Myers at **619-885-8063** or send an email message to: **mystery@alpinehistory.org**.



Donna Sisson

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF AN AMAZING WOMAN

We came to know Donna as the great-great-granddaughter of Dr. Sophronia Nichols, but Donna has had her own amazing and inspiring journey through life.

She grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, daughter of a pathologist and a nurse, studied business at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and earned a master's degree in business at the University of Texas at Austin. During her college years she was a competitive bicycle racer in both road racing and cyclocross. She studied and worked abroad in the Czech Republic as part of her graduate school studies and upon her return to the U.S.

traveled to California in search of employment—a migration route she shares with her great-great-grandmother.

In 1998 she embarked on a two-year road trip to test her rock-climbing skills at various rock climbing destinations in the U.S. This naturally led her to Yosemite National Park, a rock-climber's paradise. There she started her career with the National Park Service as a Search and Rescue Technician, conducting high-angle technical rescue, swift-water rescue, emergency medical response, helicopter rappel and search response to assist Yosemite visitors who found themselves in trouble.

At the end of 2003 she combined her business background with her love of the outdoors and her interest in cultural and natural resources, working first at the Danali National Park in Alaska, then returning to Yosemite in 2009 to serve as the superintendent's liaison to gateway communities. Four years later she transferred to the Grand Teton National Park to manage the park's concessioners and other commercial operators who provide lodging, food service, mountain guide services, fishing and floating trips, guided hiking and bicycling trips, and similar operations.



"It is because I believe there is value in connecting with our history, and because of my family connection that I am inspired to study Dr. Nichols story and attempt to make it come alive for myself and others. I am indebted to the Alpine Historical Society and am honored to join them as a caretaker of the Sophronia Nichols' story."

"The stories of our ancestors help us to understand our culture and ourselves and they also connect us to the landscapes and physical resources around us. Through history, we make a deeper connection with both the present and the future."

— Donna Sisson

ALPINE HISTORICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Carol Morrison
1st Vice President, Programs: Vikki Coffey
2nd Vice President, Membership: Judy Myers
3rd Vice President, Facilities: Tom Myers
Secretary: Volunteer needed!

Treasurer: Bill Waterworth
Director: Anne Tarr
Director: Elma Terry
Director: Norm Kling
Director: Katie Ford
Website: Carol Walker
Property Caretakers: Baltazar & Laura Marquez

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Alpine Historical 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.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES MAJOR COUNTY GRANT

San Diego County has awarded a *Community Enhancement Grant* to the Alpine Historical Society for the fiscal year beginning June 2015. The funds will be used for three critical maintenance projects at the John DeWitt museum facilities.



Nichols Porch Repair

In November 2014, a wind storm broke several large branches from the eucalyptus tree on Tavern Road, causing damage to the Nichols porch. The structure and painted finishes will be repaired with new material. We are thankful that the County Department of Public Works has already removed the eucalyptus tree that caused the damage.

Eucalyptus Tree Removal

A very large eucalyptus tree growing within ten feet of the Carriage House/Caretaker's Residence poses threats from falling limbs to this vintage structure and has already caused upheaval damage to the foundation. This tree will be removed in order to protect the building and its occupants.

Beaty House Roof Repair

The Beaty House roof has exceeded its expected lifetime and is showing signs of severe deterioration. In order to protect the Beaty House structure and the museum artifacts and exhibits inside, we will hire a contractor to replace the roof and flashing materials to ensure a continued watertight building.

We are working with contractors to establish a work schedule for these three projects, and we expect to begin work soon. Next time you pass the museum and see the work in progress, you can thank your County Board of Supervisors, especially **Dianne Jacob**, for their continued support of your Alpine History Museum.



Scavenger Hunt Challenge

Write the number of the picture in the large box, and check the small box where you found it.

- THE OUTHOUSE
Used before modern indoor plumbing.
 Nichols House, Beaty House, Outdoors
- SCHOOL BELL
Used to tell students when class is starting.
 Nichols House, Beaty House, Outdoors
- FARM TRACTOR
Used on farms to plow the fields.
 Nichols House, Beaty House, Outdoors
- OLDEST CAMERA
Made in 1893, used a wet plate process.
 Nichols House, Beaty House, Outdoors
- RORIE
Used to live in the oak tree at the Log Cabin Restaurant.
 Nichols House, Beaty House, Outdoors
- BEEHIVE
Used by bees to store their honey. Nichols House, Beaty House, Outdoors



KID'S CORNER

Alpine History is not just for adults—we have lots of fun things for kids of all ages to see and do at the John DeWitt Museum. A new feature is the Kid's *Scavenger Hunt Challenge* which encourages children to explore the two museum buildings and the grounds to search and find specific items of historical interest. In the process they will learn a bit of Alpine History and gain a better understanding of life before touchscreens and joysticks. No need for virtual reality here, these are the real objects and some of them are over a hundred years old! So bring the kids to our next open house and try your hand at the *Scavenger Hunt Challenge*. It's FUN! And, if you succeed in identifying all the objects, you win an **ice cream treat!**

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

Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL
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"/> Family \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Org. \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Life \$1,000 |

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$_____

Areas of Interest for Volunteers:

Donation \$_____

Building Preservation

TOTAL \$_____

Technical/Clerical

Where Needed

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