



The Heritage Junction Dispatch

A Publication of the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society

Volume 38, Issue 5

September - October 2012

Calendar

Monday, September 24

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Sunday, September 30

Free talk on Legendary Locals of
the SCV. See page 3
2:00 PM, Saugus Station

Monday, October 1

Deadline for the November -
December *Dispatch*

Saturday, October 13

Friday, Saturday October 19-20

Friday-Sunday, October 26-28

Heritage Haunt, *The Resurrection*,
6:00 - 10:00 PM Heritage Junction
Tickets \$15; See pages 3 and 8

Monday, October 22

Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Saugus Station

Check www.scvhistory.org for
other upcoming events.

Articles and inquiries
regarding *The Dispatch* may
be made to 254-1275

President's Message

by Alan Pollack



Traversing the border between Newhall and Valencia, and stretching from Interstate 5 to the tracks at Railroad Avenue, is a road named after two brothers from Maine who became early pioneers of the

Santa Clarita Valley. Some have claimed that Lyons Avenue is actually a misnomer, as it is named after Sanford and Cyrus Lyon. The Lyon brothers were twins born to Henry and Betsy Lyon in Machias, Maine in 1831. Their ancestor, another Henry Lyon, had emigrated to the English colony of Connecticut in 1648.

As with many of California's pioneers, the Gold Rush lured the Lyon brothers (see page 5) away from their east coast home in 1849. They traveled on a ship named "Oxnard" from Maine,

taking the long way around Cape Horn at the tip of South America. Instead of continuing to the gold fields of Northern California, the brothers ended up in the tiny pueblo of Los Angeles, where they first worked as clerks at Alexander and Mellus, a mercantile store partly owned by their first cousin Francis Mellus.

LYONS STATION AND THE BUTTERFIELD STAGE

After a few years, Sanford and Cyrus had bigger plans. In 1855, a stage depot built in 1852 at the base of the Fremont Pass on the Rancho San Francisco was up for sale. Thought to be located somewhere in the vicinity of present day Eternal Valley Cemetery, the depot was purchased by the brothers and renamed Lyons Station, to be distinguished as the first American business in the Santa Clarita Valley. Recognizing the need for an overland mail route to California, John Butterfield established the Butterfield Overland Stage Route with its first run from

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FREE TALK ON LEGENDARY LOCALS OF THE SCV!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2:00 PM

SAUGUS STATION SEE PAGE 3

President's Message

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Tipton, Missouri to San Francisco on September 16, 1858, and Lyons Station became a regular stop on the famous Butterfield Route. Reports at the time claimed that the Fremont Pass was the most difficult crossing of the entire route. Butterfield was forced out of the business in 1860, when the route was taken over by the Wells Fargo Company. In anticipation of the upcoming Civil War, Congress voted to discontinue the southerly Butterfield Route in March, 1861, replacing it with the Central Overland California Route between St. Joseph, Missouri and Placerville, California. Lyons Station, which started as a meal and rest stop on the Butterfield line, eventually grew into a multi use complex consisting of a depot, tavern, store, telegraph office, and post office.

CYRUS LYON AND THE LOS ANGELES RANGERS

While Sanford primarily took care of the business at Lyons Station, Cyrus led a busy life in the Los Angeles pueblo. Los Angeles of the early 1850's represented the epitome of the Wild West, and was considered the most dangerous town in America. A volatile mixture of American and Irish gold seekers, Mexicans, Californios, and Native Americans resulted in an astounding 44 homicides between July, 1850, and October, 1851, in a town with a population of about 1600 people. By 1853, the law-abiding citizens of the pueblo had had enough. During the tenure of Mayor Ygnacio Del Valle, a volunteer mounted police unit called the Los Angeles Rangers was established and partly funded by the State Legislature. One of the founding members of the Rangers was an Indiana born Southerner, Horace Bell. Bell had come out to California seeking gold in 1850. He moved down to Los Angeles two years later where he married a Californio woman and became active in politics. After helping form the Rangers, Bell appointed 21 year old Cyrus Lyon as a Captain. Another Captain was William W. Jenkins, a future resident of the Santa Clarita Valley and participant in the long running Castaic Range War. The 60 active members of the Rangers, under the command of Captain A.W. Hope, served as a relentless fighting unit, effectively cleaning up the lawless streets of Los Angeles within 2 years. Lyon was considered one of the most efficient of the Rangers. In 1881, Bell wrote the first book published in Los Angeles, a memoir of his life in the pueblo called "Reminiscences of a Ranger".

During the 1850's, Cyrus Lyon also became one of the first American property owners in Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley, with purchases in the Rancho Cahuenga, Los Feliz, and Providencia. Cyrus was to have a son Jose Enrique, known as Henry Lyon, whose mother was Californio native Nicolasa Triunfo, a descendant of one of the original 11 families who settled Los Angeles in 1781. A present-day descendant of Henry, and great-great granddaughter of Cyrus

Lyon, Victoria Carrillo Norton has spent many years compiling a genealogy of her family and has provided much of the information that we now know about the Lyon brothers.

HARRIS NEWMARK'S VISIT TO LYONS STATION

Aside from his lawman duties, Cyrus also spent time helping his brother at Lyons Station. Harris Newmark, in his landmark 1916 book "Sixty Years in Southern California", describes a visit to the Lyon brothers in 1856:

"We left Los Angeles early one afternoon, and made our first stop at Lyons's [sic] Station, where we put up for the night. One of the brothers, after whom the place was named, prepared supper. Having to draw some thick blackstrap from a keg, he used a pitcher to catch the treacle; and as the liquid ran very slowly, our sociable host sat down to talk a bit, and soon forgot all about what he had started to do. The molasses, however, although it ran pretty slowly, ran steadily, and finally, like the mush in the fairy-tale of the enchanted bowl, overflowed the top of the receptacle and spread itself over the dirt floor. When Lyons had finished his chat, he saw, to his intense chagrin, a new job upon his hands, and one likely to busy him for some time.

Departing the next morning at five o'clock we met Cy Lyons [sic], who had come to Los Angeles in 1849 and was then engaged with his brother Sanford in raising sheep in that neighborhood. Cy was on horseback and had two pack animals, loaded with provisions. "Hello, boys! where are you bound?" he asked; and when we told him that we were on our way to Fort Tejon, he said that he was also going there, and volunteered to save us forty miles by guiding us over the trail. Such a shortening of our journey appealed to us as a good prospect, and we fell in behind the mounted guide."

SANFORD LYON AND THE BIRTH OF THE CALIFORNIA OIL INDUSTRY

In addition to his enterprise at Lyons Station, Sanford Lyon became an active participant in the birth of the oil industry in Pico Canyon. As early as 1854, Sanford, along with Los Angeles Ranger William W. Jenkins and Placerita Canyon gold discoverer Francisco Lopez, visited Pico Canyon to see (according to Jenkins) "the oil springs, from whence the Mission San Fernando took the oil in rawhide bags to the mission where it was distilled for lighting purposes." By the mid 1860's, former Pennsylvania military surgeon and Los Angeles chemist Vincent Gelcich began advising some of his friends to file claims in the oil rich canyons of the Santa Clarita Valley. From these claims were born canyon names such as Wiley, Rice, and Towsley. Although there is no definite evidence of any official claims by the Lyon brothers, Lyon Canyon (just north of Towsley) became their namesake. The canyon may actually have gotten its name in 1880, when Sanford purchased 110 acres of the canyon from the Federal

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government. In 1865, Sanford teamed up with Edward F. Beale, Andres Pico, and others to form the first Star Oil Company, with the intention of building a refinery based on a process developed by Gelcich. By January, 1869, Sanford, Jenkins, and Wiley sank the first oil well in Pico Canyon using the spring-pole method. Based on Sanford's involvement in the oil industry, a post office with the name Petroleopolis was set up at Lyons Station in 1867. The Petroleopolis post office operated until 1871, with Sanford Lyon acting as its postmaster starting in 1869. The refinery designed by Gelcich was finally built at Lyons Station in 1874. It was unable to produce smoke-free kerosenes and was a failure, taking down with it the Star Oil Company. Seemingly a man of many talents, Sanford also became involved with mining claims in the Soledad Mining district in 1870, and made an unsuccessful bid to become County Supervisor in 1880.

THE TWILIGHT OF LYONS STATION

The downfall of Lyons Station began in 1876 with a dispute between Sanford Lyon and his Polish immigrant employee Andrew Kazinski. Kazinski would have the last laugh as he departed from Lyon's employment and set up his own station in Railroad Canyon (now Pine Street). Unlike Lyon, Kazinski had the foresight to see the coming of the Southern Pacific Railroad as it was headed for completion at Lang Station. A month before the Golden Spike ceremony in Soledad Canyon, Andrews Station was completed along the Southern Pacific railroad tracks and was ready to handle the commerce brought in by the new railroad. Bypassed by the railroad and no longer needed as a stagecoach stop, Lyons Station was choked off and died. The California Star Oil company, having been formed earlier in the year, moved the remains of the failed refinery at Lyons Station to Andrews Station in August, 1876. They ultimately added three more stills at the site. The next month, Alexander Mentry brought in a gusher as he drilled the first commercially successful oil well in the West at Pico Canyon. The prolific flow of oil from Mentry's California Star Oil No. 4 well was sent by pipeline to Andrews Station, where it was processed at the newly created refinery. Now known as the Pioneer Oil Refinery (and the first productive oil refinery in the West), the stills at Andrews Station remained in operation until 1888, when a big new refinery was built to the north at Alameda. The remains of the Pioneer Oil Refinery, now the oldest existing refinery in the world, can still be seen on Pine Street. Of note, the California Star Oil Company eventually evolved into the Standard Oil Company of California.

The story of the Lyon brothers of the Santa Clarita Valley ended with the deaths of Sanford at age 51 in 1882, and of Cyrus 10 years later. Sanford is buried in the Pioneer section of Eternal Valley Cemetery in Newhall, while Cyrus resides

at the Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles. Lyons Station has been honored with a plaque at Eternal Valley as California Registered Historical Landmark No. 688.

HAPPENINGS AT THE JUNCTION

From Native Americans to Spanish explorers to the Missions and Mexican Ranchos, to Gold Rush pioneers to Hollywood movie makers and all the way to the movers and shakers of the present, the Santa Clarita Valley has always had its share of colorful and legendary characters. Co-authors E.J. Stephens, Kim Stephens, and Alan Pollack will give a free talk on the prominent contemporary people and historical figures that comprise their new book "Legendary Locals of the Santa Clarita Valley" before the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society at 2:00 PM on Sunday, September 30, 2012, at the Saugus Train Station. The talk will be followed by a book-signing session with the authors.

"Legendary Locals of the Santa Clarita Valley" is the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's "Legendary Locals" book series. Each book in the series delves into the history of some of the unique individuals and groups, past and present, who have made a memorable impact on their community throughout its history.

Come celebrate the triumphant return of the Haunt! Christened "Heritage Haunt: The Resurrection", Heritage Junction's annual Halloween haunted wonderland returns this October. The Haunt will be scaring Santa Claritans on Oct 13, Oct 19-20, and Oct 26-28, and will be open from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Also featured this year will be the Pumpkin Festival and Zombie March on October 13, and the Haunted Car Show on October 20. Come out and support the Historical Society this October. Tickets will be \$15 per person, with all proceeds benefiting the Historical Society. Bring two cans of food for the SCV Food Pantry and get \$5 off admission! Admission includes entrance to all events! For more information, check out <http://www.scvhaunt.com/>, but go there at your own risk...you've been warned!!

Speaking of ghosts, you now have the opportunity to book your very own paranormal investigation of some of the most haunted buildings at Heritage Junction. Investigation sites will include the Saugus Train Station, Newhall Ranch House, Pardee House, and Mitchell Adobe. All proceeds will benefit the Historical Society. For more information contact Linda Casebolt or Bridget Odien at SCVGhostHunts@gmail.com or phone 661 513-3604. You can reach their website at <http://www.scvghosthunts.com/>.

We wish you all a great fall season and hope to see you at our exciting upcoming events.

Alan Pollack

A Day at the Ranch is Coming by Rachel Barnes



The 230-acre Horseshoe Ranch here in Newhall, California, was never a working cattle ranch as owner William S. Hart wanted. However, 100 years before Bill Hart ever set foot on his property, most of what is now the western Santa Clarita Valley and parts of Ventura County were a 48,000-acre ranch that belonged to Mexican Lieutenant Antonio del Valle. Antonio (and later his son, Ignacio) was part of a key moment in the history of the Santa Clarita Valley and of California in general – the days under both Spanish and Mexican rule when most of the land was large sweeping cattle ranches, managed by the Spanish *dons* and Mexican *Californios*, and worked by the *vaqueros* or cowboys.

The William S. Hart Museum celebrates this history with the upcoming *Day at the Ranch* program on Saturday, September 29, 2012. Designed to introduce children aged 3 – 7 to this important time period and the daily life of the great cowboy, *Day at the Ranch* offers a series of family fun activities including a “cattle round up” scavenger hunt, a “cattle trail drive” nature walk, arts and crafts (design your own cowboy vest, cattle ranch brand, or your own WANTED poster), hands-on cowboy items, and so much more. Participants will also have the chance to visit an actual ranch house, built in 1910, practice their lassoing skills, see some ranch animals, and even visit a herd of American bison, who admittedly were not part of California’s ranching landscape, but definitely an important part of the Old West.

Day at the Ranch runs from 9:30 AM until 12:00 noon and is completely FREE to attend! So make sure the kids don their Western gear and mosey on down to the William S. Hart Park and Museum on Saturday, September 29 for a fun-filled and informative program on a day in the life of a real cowboy. For more information, please contact the Hart Museum by calling 661 254-4584 or emailing information@hartmuseum.org.

Were School Tours Popular This Year? by Barbara Martinelli

Yes indeed. For the 2011/2012 school year Heritage Junction was the destination of choice for 57 classes from 16 different schools, plus Scouts, YMCA, a foster families group, Chinese exchange students, and third grade teachers. And most of those tours were during the months of March, April, and May!

This would not have been possible without the dedication of the Questers chapters, Laurie Cartwright, and Harold Hicks. Thanks to all of you.



A Quester comments on the Kingsbury bedroom



Learning about the locomotive from Harold Hicks

Ramona Comes Home Again by Maria Christopher

Five years ago the Rancho Camulos National Historic Landmark Museum forged an historical partnership with the Ramona Outdoor Play which has been performed in Hemet since 1923. On September 29th, 2012, performances by the core cast and dancers from the play "Ramona" (California's Official Outdoor Play) will again highlight the annual "Ramona Days" from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM at Rancho Camulos Museum in Piru. Helen Hunt Jackson's 1884 classic California novel, Ramona, will come to life at the "Home of Ramona" in a festival celebrating all things Ramona.

In addition to watching vignettes from the play (11:00, 1:00, and 3:00), visitors can view the 1910 Mary Pickford movie which was filmed on location at Camulos, see unique memorabilia and historic displays, experience living history and attend presentations by Ramona experts such as "Ramona Memories" author Dydia DeLyser, Ramona pageant historian Phil Brigandi, and film maker Hugh Munro Neely. Among the new additions for this year's festival will be an opportunity to watch and learn the art of flamenco with Sakai Flamenco featuring Linda "La Matadora" Andrade.



Also, food, music, a used book sale, art and craft sales and demonstrations, original artwork by local artists, museum and garden tours, free children's activities, and more will be available. Visitors are encouraged to come in costume and character for a fun experience.

There is an excellent video of the 2009 event that was filmed for Roger Martin's *Out and About* series that can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UmGbXwCMao.

In order to encourage wide community participation, admission fees are reasonable with advance tickets for \$5.00, and gate admission \$10.00. Children aged 12 and under will be free. Advance tickets can now be purchased in person Sundays from 1:00-4:00 PM at the museum gift shop,

via email (info@ranchocamulos.org), phone 805 521-1501, and at will call. Additional details will be posted at www.ranchocamulos.org as available. Vendor, volunteer, and sponsorship opportunities are also available for this unique event. All proceeds benefit the historical preservation, restoration, and educational efforts of this 501(c) 3 museum. Rancho Camulos is located on HWY 126, 2 miles East of Piru and 10 miles west of the I-5 Newhall Ranch Road exit.

Quester News by Roberta Harris

A big thank you to the Quester docents who greeted visitors at the Kingsbury and Edison Houses, the chapel, and the schoolhouse during SCV Wild West Days. It was fun to explain the interesting furnishings and answer questions about a bygone era.

Do you have family heirlooms or a vintage collection you would like to learn more about? Do you like reading and researching history? Do you like touring historic homes, sites and museums? If the answer is yes, you might enjoy:

The Questers

An international organization founded in 1944 that promotes the study and research of antiques; supports preservation and restoration of artifacts, historic buildings, and sites; and offers scholarships in the field of preservation and restoration.

There are three Quester chapters in the SCV. Oak of the Golden Dream chapter will hold their fall meeting on Sept 25th.

For more information, contact me at: roberta@myquesters.com, or visit our website at: www.CalQuest.org

Lyon Brothers



Cyrus Lyon



Sanford Lyon

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Elmer Fudd for Walk o' Western Stars

by John Boston

For years, sneaking up on decades, I've been lobbying to get Thornton Doelle on Newhall's Western Walk of Stars.

Thorny's a natural. The SCV's first cowboy poet, he penned some beautiful and plentiful stanzas about our pristine valley. He was a bona fide cowboy. In the 1920s, he was the local forest ranger AND editor of The Signal. He was involved in the winning end of gunfights, and capturing bank robbers and all manner of miscreants. This was is perhaps the ONE PERSON who deserves to be immortalized on the gum-encrusted pavement of Downtown Tijuana - excuse me, Newhall - because he didn't play a Western hero. He was one.

But to heck with it. I'm giving up.

To be sure, there are many wonderful souls whose names are emblazoned forever in those bronze saddles. Gary Cooper, Herb Jeffries, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, our godfather of Things Truly Western - William Surrey Har, Hopalong Cassidy, and James Arness are just some of the growing list of those remembered.

My late friend, Jack Williams, Agua Dulce rancher and stuntman since the tender age of 2, is also immortalized, and that is fitting. I miss that darn rascal Jack. I think if that full-o-beans cowpoke was still around, he would have supported my new efforts to enshrine a different sagebrush legend and giant in Western film heritage - Elmer Fudd.

Fudd? Yes. Fudd.

Few people realize that it was Fudd who sang the original theme song to the hit TV series, "Maverick," starring James Garner. Here. I just happen to have the original sheet music in my dayplanner:

"Who is the tawl dock stwane-jer thayoww, Mav-o-wick is his name. Widin' the twail to who knows way-o, wuck is his com-pan-yun. Gambwin is his game."

Second verse: "Wivvuhboat wing yore bewuhl. Fay-thee-well Annabewuhl. Wuck is the wady that he wuvs the best. Natchez to Nu O-weens. Wivin' on jacks and queens. Eton a pwate uv beans. Dancin' naked wheel-wee obscene. Mav-o-wick is a weh-gend uv duh West. MAVOWICK IS A WEHGEND UV DUH WEST!!"

I'm not going to mention names (Virginia Mayo), but there have also been some rather dubious selections. Do Katharine Ross and Virginia Mayo belong in the same memorial as a Tom Mix or John Wayne?

Well, Virginia Mayo did do that sprawling Western epic: "Seven Days Ashore." And the one about the famous prairie gunfighter, "Capt. Horatio Hornblower." And the oater, filmed a smidge back east titled: "Congo Crossing." Then, there was Ms. Mayo's big Western: "Won Ton Ton, The Dog Who Saved Hollywood."

Dear Mr. Santa Clarita Valley:

OK. We've taken just about enough of your senseless carping about some of the choices made by the City of Santa Clarita as to who gets enshrined in the Western Walk of Stars.

Granted, some of the movie stars and crooners may not have the same Western biography as a John Ford, Tom Selleck or whatzizname - Clint Eastwood. Yes, sometimes the criterion for immortality is: "Will they buy a ticket?"

But everyone on the WWoS (pronounced, in the industry as: "Wah-Wooz") richly deserves to be there, as we are all cowboys at heart. I, for one, know the heartbreak of being up for the lead in "Have Gun, Will Travel," only to be stepped over by some scowling over-the-top poser.

To show my undying support for the City's Wah-Wooz, please put me down for two comp tickets to next year's macaroni-&-cheese fest.

**Hopeful Wah-Wooz Nominee for 2013,
Sir Anthony Hopkins**

Thank you, Tony.

Anyway, Fudd. If for no other reason, we should enshrine the Warner Bros. giant for his tireless work of spending a lifetime trying to eradicate bunnies.

You know, Wabbits? Cwazy, skewy, wabbits? Those foul creatures who made the frontier - and our lawns - look like Swiss cheese with all those wabbit holes?

Granted, after tens of thousands of rounds of ordnance expelled, clever traps and even burrowing into the very bowels of the Earth itself to seek not justice, but a reckoning against a wanton, lawn-ruining varmint, Fudd never even wounded Bugs.

But the important thing is that against all odds, Elmer tried. And isn't that the true, non-Congo-crossing meaning of the Old West?

I think Elmer deserves a permanent place in our hearts and valley. And, if I may be so bold, might I suggest that

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John Boston

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the august Santa Clarita Council float a trial balloon. Let's set aside one special day a year where everyone in Santa Clarita talks like Elmer Fudd.

Drop your "R's" and replace them with "W's." End every sentence with a wittuhl chuckle and a mirthful "Huh-huh-huh-huh-huh..." Conduct an entire city council meeting in ElmerFuddSpeak. I dare you.

And next year, let us enshrine Hopkins and Fudd onto the Western Walk of Stars. I can hear the two of them doing a duet to the Steven Miller Band's hit: "Space Cowboy."

Come. All of us.

Up from our desks, lube racks and oxygen tents and let us sing, con gusto:

"Ahm a spaaaa-ace... cowboy. Bet you wuhnt weady for dat yeah-yeah-yeah..."

With 119 major writing awards, John Boston has been noted as one of America's top humorists and political satirists. He has taught the History of the SCV for nearly 20 years and author of "Images of America: The SCV." Look for his major monster boffo new multimedia international news, humor and entertainment website coming out this later this fall.

Recent Docents

Thank you to the following members who served as docents during July and August:

Phyllis Berman	Catherine Hartneck
Wendy Beynon	Harold Hicks
Laurie Cartwright	Anna Kroll
Linda Casebolt	Theresa Marg
Sioux Coghlan	Barbara Martinelli
Evan Decker	RuthAnne Murthy
Sarah Floyd	Alan Pollack
Linda Fogarty	The Questers *
Francesca Gastil	Gordon Uppman

Also, thank you's to the following, who opened the doors so that the docents could do their jobs:

Linda Casebolt	Alan Pollack
Duane Harte	Scott Sivley
Cathy Martin	Ethan Tratnor
Barbara Martinelli	Sue Yurosek

* Don't know who the Questers are?
See www.questers1944.org

Gift Store News by Cathy Martin

Did you know, as a current member of the Historical Society you get another perk to your membership? Besides getting great articles on local history, you can receive a **10% discount** on purchases made at the S.C.V.H.S. Museum Gift Store. It's simple. Just bring **your** current copy of the Dispatch that has your name and address printed on it. Present it to the docent at the time of purchase and receive a **10% discount off your entire purchase**.


Please remember **all** of your purchases at the Museum Gift Store help the S.C.V.H.S. maintain the buildings, grounds and preserve our valleys colorful history. We couldn't do it without your continuing support and generous donations.

Happy Shopping!

Join the SCV Historical Society Today!

Life Member	\$350.00
Life Member with spouse	\$500.00
Corporate	\$200.00
Non-profit	\$50.00
Family Member	\$50.00
Regular member	\$25.00
Senior Member (60+)	\$15.00
Junior (18 & under)	\$9.00

Memberships make great gifts for your historically-minded friends and family! To join or renew online, visit <http://www.scvhs.org>.

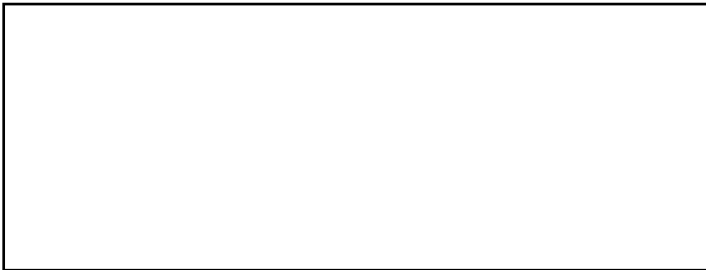


**Heritage Junction
THE RESURRECTION**

GATES OPEN 6:00 - 10:00 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19-20
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26-28

HERITAGE JUNCTION
ADMISSION \$15.00

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 Open to the public each Saturday and Sunday
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 Kingsbury House open the first Sunday
 of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

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"Preserving the best of the past for the good of the future"

Society Info: www.scvhs.org
Photo, Text Archives: www.scvhistory.com