



Summer 2010

# The Sentinel

Newsletter of the San Ramon Historic Foundation

## The Glass House at Forest Home Farms is Open

The restoration is complete, the furniture is in, and the staging has added the perfect touch to an exquisite recapturing of the house once lived in by the Glass and Elissondo families.

David and Eliza Glass built the house in 1877, farmed the land and raised 7 children there. In 1931 upon the death of Loretta, the last daughter, the house was sold to the Elissondo family. For a time it was a restaurant called the Farm House Inn. Then it provided a home to the Elissondos where they raised two children. In later years, it was leased to a sanitarium and eventually became office space for local businesses. In 1998, it was moved from its original location to become part of Forest Home Farms.



### SRHF Sponsors Reception

On May 6<sup>th</sup> a special reception was hosted by the Foundation for descendants of the Glass and Elissondo families. Attended by about 60 descendants, it was a grand event, and for some it was filled with emotion. Docents in Victorian costume were placed in each room, ready to answer questions about the families and history of the house. When not touring the house, the families enjoyed a picnic of chicken and a variety of salads catered by Faz Restaurant in Pleasanton. The picnic was held in the Boone House on the opposite side of the park.



*The extended Glass family enjoyed a dinner and tour of their ancestral home on May 6*

### Grand Opening

On May 15<sup>th</sup> the Grand Opening of the Glass House was held. The public was invited to the ribbon cutting and to tour of the house. Approximately 300 visitors waited patiently in the warm sunshine for this long awaited tour.

### Open to the Public

The Glass House is now open to the public on the second Saturday of each month. Docents will give tours of the property. A tour of the house costs \$5.00 per person. For a docent led tour of the Boone property and the Glass House purchase a same day tour package for \$8.00 per person. The Boone property includes a welcome center and the Foundation's Gift Shoppe at Forest Home Farms, a large barn full of restored vintage tractors, a walnut husking plant designed by Travis Boone and a number of other buildings including a barn built in the 1850s. A separate tour of the Boone property is \$5.00.

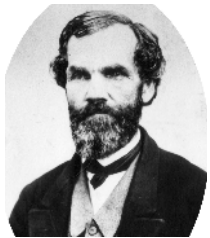
# The David Glass Family

Compiled from a larger article by Jane Jennings  
For the City of San Ramon

David and Eliza Glass emigrated from the east originally in pursuit of the gold rush, found agricultural California more promising and shared in the growth of the Valley from a very rural area to a thriving agricultural community. By February 1851 they settled in what is now Alamo and built a succession of larger, more comfortable homes where four children were born.

In the fall of 1858 David and Eliza purchased the ranch property three miles south of San Ramon where they moved in the spring of 1859 and built a house. Three more children were born in that house. In 1877 their final home known today as the Glass House was erected.

In 1894, David was appointed a representative from San Ramon to a committee handling the organization and subscriptions to bring the railroad from Martinez. In 1890 he and his neighbors gave the railroad free right of way across their land. The railroad line ended on the property purchased by Minnie Boone in 1899.



Clement Rolla, David Glass's son, described David Glass: "In politics he was among the democratic voters – Then he cast his vote for Lincoln and has been a Republican ever since." Continuing with his description of his father he commented that "He was always religious and quite distressingly so to his children on Sunday."

Eliza is described in 1887 by Clement Rolla as a "strong, thick set woman though she had been slender when young. She is 5 feet 4 inches tall and of dark complexion. She was raised a Methodist. She was always eminently respectful and morally correct like David, but her opinions



were tinged to a greater extent with up-to-date rationalism."

## The Children:

There were a total of nine children in the family, seven of whom were born in California. Two of the children died early.

**Albert William**, the eldest son, married a year after the Italianate Victorian was built, and he erected a copy of it across the valley on a portion of the ranch he bought.

**Clara Isadora** married in 1871 and never lived in the Italianate Victorian. Her husband, E.D. Ivory became superintendent of the Marsh Grant, and they lived in the Stone House there.

**Anita Idell** and **Loretta Irene**, both unmarried, remained at the ranch, which became known as "LoraNita", until their deaths. Anita studied art and one of her paintings has been restored and is currently hanging in the home.

**Franklin Lafayette** was very active in the community: the Contra Costa County Clerk for four years, Postmaster in Martinez, and Justice of the Peace. His home in Martinez remains an historical landmark.

**Frederick Elmer** also received part of the San Ramon land and built a home; however, that venture was not successful. He eventually became a land appraiser for a bank in Reno, Nevada, living in Reno and in Piedmont, CA.

**Clement Rolla** earned a mechanical engineering degree at Berkeley. He was drawn to the Klondike Gold Rush in Alaska in 1895 and from there he migrated to Bolivia, where he owned and managed several tin mines. He was in partnership with his brother Franklin in several mining supply operations. He reportedly employed Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid to guard payroll shipments there. He was murdered in Bolivia.

# Foundation Updates

**Paul Truschke joins Board** Born and raised in Chicago, Paul graduated from Loyola University, Chicago. Upon graduation, he joined the Navy and received his commission as an officer and a gentleman the day President Kennedy was assassinated. He served on a destroyer and was home ported in Long Beach. Paul went to work for Pacific Telephone in 1966, was transferred to the Bay Area in 1978 and retired in 1989. He has had several careers after that and finally fully retired in 2002. He married his college sweetheart in 1967 and they travel extensively and truly enjoy life. Paul has been volunteering as a docent at the Blackhawk Automotive Museum since 2007 and at Forest Home Farms for the last two years.

**Donor Board** Hermann Welm took on a challenge when he agreed to design and build a donor's board to honor all the major contributors to the San Ramon Historic Foundation. We expected a great effect, but were still amazed by the result. It is large and very lovely, with a shelf, slots for flyers and a beautiful oak tree etched in the middle and of course lots of place for donors' names. A number of dedicated individuals and businesses have supported the Foundation over the last 10 years and some have made very substantial donations which enabled the renovations and educational programs to progress. Plus, a new memorial category has been added to the donor's board to honor loved ones. *What a wonderful remembrance of special people, especially those who loved the farm!*



**Planting Project** Started in March with ditches being dug and irrigation pipes installed, the project continued in April when Dall Barley and Paul Truschke worked with a large group of volunteers and planted over 150 plants on the north side of the Glass House. In May another work party completed the task.

**Art and Wind Festival** The Foundation, under the direction of board member Donna Kerger, ran a very successful hot dog stand at the popular San Ramon Art and Wind Festival. Profits this year were the highest ever for the Foundation.

**Victorian Tea** Preparations have begun for the September 12, 2010 Tea honoring Ruth Boone. This event is very popular and usually sells out. Tapestry, a singing, bell ringing group, will provide entertainment. The event will be catered by Checkers and opportunity baskets will be an important part of the event. Please contact Carol Lopez at 828-0586 for tickets or additional details regarding this exciting annual event.

**Fourth of July** The city sponsored a children's play area beginning at 1:00pm by the basketball courts at Central Park. To enhance the festivities, non-profits sold food items. The San Ramon Historic Foundation sold Kettle Corn and soft drinks to raise funds.

**Crab Feed: Save the Date!** This popular annual event will take place on January 29, 2011 at the Dougherty Community Center here in San Ramon. Plan on a great community event and a fun-filled evening with lots of great crab and pasta.

**Gift Shoppe at Forest Home Farms** The gift shop is now open Saturday from 9:00am to 1:00pm with a nice selection of jewelry, parasols and purses to add to your Victorian Tea ensemble. Of course gift items including toys are available also. Still available are our popular bags perfect for your Farmers Market purchases.

**San Ramon Historic Foundation**  
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**President**..... Jean Ohman  
**Vice President** ..... Dall Barley  
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Dale Halterman  
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Carol Rowley  
Paul Truschke  
Sue Yura

**Sentinel Editor** ..... Sue Yura  
**Contributors**..... Jane Jennings

## **Summer Events at Forest Home Farms**

### **Farmers Market:** Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

Back again this season through October, the Farmers Market features a variety of vendors selling local produce and home made foods. Live entertainment adds to the festivities.

### **Gift Shop:** Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

The Gift Shoppe at Forest Home Farms is now open featuring new merchandise and a friendly atmosphere. Operated by the Foundation, all profits benefit Forest Home Farms and its programs.

### **Glass House Tours:** Second Saturday of the Month, 10:00am, 11:00am, Noon, 1:00pm

The Glass House at Forest Home Farms Historic Park is now renovated and furnished in period pieces. Come see the home and wander over the bridge to the Boone property to see additional historic buildings. Purchase a same day tour package of both properties for \$8.00.

### **Victorian Tea:** Sunday, September 12, 2010

A long time Foundation signature event, the Tea features traditional tea sandwiches and desserts along with an entertainment segment and opportunity baskets to highlight a fun afternoon. Get your tickets now. Tickets are NOT available at the door. For tickets please contact Carol Lopez at 828-0586.

**San Ramon Historic Foundation**

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