

Latest News of Restoration Progress

John Marsh Historic Trust Quick News Update

John Marsh Historic Trust, P.O. Box 272 Concord, CA 94522
Phone: [925] 459-2541 www.johnmarshhouse.com

John Marsh Remembrance Day

On September 24 a ceremony was held at the John Marsh Memorial in Pacheco marking the 150th anniversary of Dr. John Marsh's murder. Numerous dignitaries representing the California Department of Parks, Martinez, Pacheco, Brentwood and the State spoke on the historical contribution of John Marsh to the settlement of California. Resolutions were presented from the state legislature and the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors supporting the restoration of the Stone House and a new state historical park at the Marsh House. A color guard from the Sheriff's Department added to the solemn event. Television station, CCTV, taped and broadcast the ceremonies.

Mary Piepho, County Supervisor, gave an eloquent speech reminding everyone how much her father, Senator Nejedly, supported the proposed Marsh park and old Stone House. An ardent conservationist, Senator Nejedly passed away this year. He generously lent his name and support to the John Marsh Historic Trust. He will be missed.



Mary Piepho (left) and Carol Jensen, JMHT board member and organizer of the Marsh Remembrance Day shared the podium. Over a hundred and thirty were in attendance to honor the memory of John Marsh and his contributions to California.

Grants Approved to Save the Marsh House

Our \$200,000 California Cultural & Historic Endowment planning grant to fund the architectural and engineering documents for restoration of the Great Stone House has received final approval. The John Marsh Historic Trust will administer the grant. Hiring of the architectural/engineering firm is now beginning.

Another CCHE \$819,000 grant (with Brentwood matching funds) for the stabilization of the Stone House has also been given final approval. This grant was a joint effort of Brentwood, State Parks and the Trust and will be administered by the city of Brentwood and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Cowell Foundation recently gave a grant of \$25,000 to the John Marsh Historic Trust. The grant will be used to hire a consultant to advise the JMHT on how best to raise the five million dollars or more needed for the complete restoration and refurbishing of the Marsh House.

We are delighted that Rebecca Bloomfield, a long time East County resident, has agreed to join the JMHT Board of Directors.



Rebecca Bloomfield

The Bloomfields own the Bloomfield Vineyards located in the Brentwood area.

Rebecca and her husband have been long time supporters of the effort to save the historic Marsh House.

January 1, 2007

William Mero, Editor

Special points of interest:

- *John Marsh Remembrance*
- *Restoration Progress*
- *New JMHT Board Member*
- *Vision Statement*

April 2007 Party Time!

More details will follow but please consider spending a special afternoon at the Marsh House in April. We are planning a fun afternoon of wine tasting, good food and music. We are planning a real "fandango."

All of the profits will go towards the restoration of the old Stone House.

Space will be limited so reservations will be on a first come basis. Check the Marsh website regularly and look for the announcement of the event in your mail.

www.johnmarshhouse.com



John Marsh Historic Trust Quick News Update January 2007

A Big Thanks to the Friends of John Marsh

Without the financial and political support that the Friends have given over the past year, most of the progress made in 2006 would not have been possible. We now can begin planning for restoring the Stone House to its former glory. The estimates are that at least five million dollars will be required. The large grants necessary for this task usually require matching funds. Here are a few things that we can do to raise these funds.

- ◆ Donate appreciated securities to the Trust.
- ◆ Ensure that any gifts to the JMHT be matched by your company whenever possible.
- ◆ In 2007 those making required withdrawals from their IRAs can donate directly to the Trust tax-free. Check with your tax advisor.
- ◆ Renew your membership in the Friends and encourage others to join in saving the Stone House and honoring the memory of a great pioneer.
- ◆ Remember the Marsh project in any bequests.

The Marsh video biography DVD will be sent free to any Friends upon request. This bio has been featured recently on local TV.

The DVD will include a 10 minute tour of the House by Gene Metz describing its current condition and plans for its repair. Also included will be a short video arguing for a new John Marsh State Historical Park.

“Historical Snapshots” will return with the next issue of the Friends Newsletter.



Vision Statement For The John Marsh House And The New State Park

The great stone House, when restored, will be majestic in its beauty and provide a cultural resource for the region. The Park should be multifaceted and provide for a wide range of activities with the house serving as a center piece and constant reminder of the unique history of the site. The House must be restored to its original 1856 character, especially the exterior, and be treated with museum dignity. However, carefully selected parts of it should be used for functions that respect its fascinating history. The surrounding verandah and rear entrance giving direct access to the stair and upper levels lend themselves to organized and controlled program use of an educational and historical nature. Interior spaces can provide support functions for activities that take place mostly outside.

Our vision is that the site will be proactive for youth groups, families, and for school field trips especially in the areas of history, the environment and cultural understanding. Some areas, including the House, may be reserved for special events, lectures, celebrations, weddings and receptions. Carefully selected parts of the House and site should display historic artifacts and present the House in a way that best reflects its character in the mid 1800s. This might be done using advanced presentation techniques that are not obtrusive to the use and spatial character of the House.

Other areas, primarily on the upper levels, might be used for historical groups, archives and youth activity support. Medical utensils, tools and farm equipment of the type used by Marsh should be represented on site and within the House. The stone House, the adobe and the los Meganos rancho as a whole can best represent the link between earlier historic sites such as Sutter's fort, gold rush sites and other significant houses built in the late 1800s

and turn of the century. With the stone House as a focal point and as a symbol of early California history the entire park site must be brought to life to remind and teach us about the dynamics of California history.

The adobe should be rebuilt and the original gardens, orchards and vineyards should be replanted. A Miwok village must be resurrected to commemorate the past and help relate to the present Native American cultures. The village including a sweat house and ceremonial areas should be prominent on the site and parts of the House might be used to support current Indian activities such as arts and crafts. The juxtaposition of the stone House, adobe, and Indian dwellings and artifacts can lead to a better understanding of the relationship between the Marsh family and the Native Americans.

The recent discovery of prehistoric remains near the House dating back more than 8,000 years provides additional opportunities to honor, preserve, interpret and learn of past cultures. The work of the archeologists is not complete at this time, but we are committed to support the development of these significant discoveries as part of the new historic park's overall goal of honoring the contribution of all Americans to the heritage of California.

Gene Metz, President, JMHT

