

# Know History?

Do you know the history of Washington Township (Fremont, Newark, Union City)?

Do you want to know more?

Have a school local history project that you need help with?

Washington Township has a number of historical groups that can assist with all matters dealing with local History.

Washington Township has six Museums, two historic railroads, and a number of historical groups that can help you learn about and research local history.



## **Museum of Local History**

190 Anza St.  
Fremont, CA 94539  
(510) 623-7907  
[www.museumoflocalhistory.org](http://www.museumoflocalhistory.org)  
Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday & Friday  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. second weekend of the month.

Museum of Local History Guild meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Museum.

Located in an the old Mission Fire Station, the Museum has changing displays on the history of Washington Township. Schools may schedule field trips to see the Museum. The Museum sells a variety of local history books written by local writers and historians. Local history information may also be found on the Museum website.

## **Washington Township Historical Society**

P.O. Box 3045  
Fremont, CA 94539

Meets the last Monday of every other month at 7:00 pm at the Museum of Local History.

The Washington Township Historical Society is the oldest historical society in Washington Township. The purpose of the Society is to record the history of Washington Township in writing, pictures, recording, collecting, and preserving the documents and relics, and to foster an interest in Township history. The Society also provides docent led tours of the Higuera Adobe, in southern Fremont.

## **Mission Peak Heritage Foundation**

4035 Central Ave.  
Fremont, CA 94536

Shinn House  
1951 Peralta Blvd, Fremont

The Mission Peak Heritage Foundation provides docent led tours of the Shinn House and arboretum.

The purpose of the Heritage Foundation is to coordinate the efforts of concerned individuals and organizations to preserve those historical resources which represent the heritage of Washington Township; and to supervise the organization of those resources to a functional use for their recognition, education, and enjoyment.



## **Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum**

37417 Niles Blvd.  
Fremont, CA 94536  
(510) 494-1411  
[www.nilesfilmmuseum.org](http://www.nilesfilmmuseum.org)  
Hours: Noon – 4 p.m. Saturday  
Runs a Museum and Silent Film Theater in Niles.

The Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum is dedicated to the acquisition and historic preservation of the artifacts and local history as it pertains to film making in Niles. Furthermore, the Board of Directors is dedicated to the sponsorship of various activities, such as the annual Niles Silent Film Festival and to educate the public about silent films and the unique role of Niles in the movie industry.

## **Union City Historical Museum**

3841 Smith St.  
Union City, CA 94587  
510-324-3298  
Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday - Friday  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday

Meets the first Monday of the month.

The Union City Historical Museum focuses on the history of Union City, including the original towns of Alvarado and Decoto. The Museum has displays on the history of Union City. It has an Oral History project documenting the histories of long time local residents. The Museum has a local history library including old newspaper clippings from The Argus.

## **Niles Depot Historical Foundation**

### **Niles Depot Museum**

P.O. Box 2716  
Fremont, CA 94536  
<http://nilesdepot.railfan.net>  
36997 Mission Blvd. in Niles.  
Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

The Niles Depot Museum's primary focus is early railroads of Fremont, Newark and Union City, with an emphasis on the Niles District of Fremont – mainly the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific Railroads. Exhibits include photographs, track equipment, signals, locomotive artifacts and uniforms as well as many other local area items. The Museum also has a library with 1,000 railroad books and videotapes, which are available for public viewing.

The Tri-City Society of Model Engineer keeps a model train layout in the basement of the Depot. The Society hold work nights every Tuesday and Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., except the first Tuesday and Friday of the month.



### **Pacific Locomotive Association Niles Canyon Railroad**

P.O. Box 2247  
Fremont, CA 94536  
(925) 862-9063  
[www.ncry.org](http://www.ncry.org)

### **Sunol Depot**

6 Kilkare Rd.  
Sunol, CA 94586

### **Niles Station**

Mission Blvd @ Sullivan Underpass

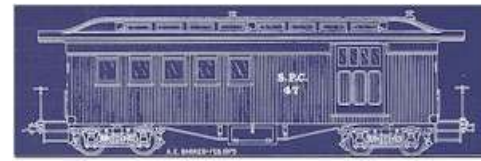
### **Brightside Yard**

5550 Niles Canyon Rd  
Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday

The Pacific Locomotive Association operates the Niles Canyon Railway as a living history museum interpreting the importance of our heritage railroads in the development of California and the nation.

The museum is designed to increase public education, enjoyment, and appreciation of the significance of America's western railroads by:

- Operating historic railroad equipment using standard railroad practices for train crews, signals, block operations, and equipment maintenance.
- Preserving the atmosphere of railroads in small-town America before the 1960's by connecting the historic communities of Sunol, the Niles District of Fremont, and eventually Pleasanton.
- Providing educational programs for schools, civic organizations, and community events.
- Instructing the public in railroad history, tradition, and the evolution of rail transportation technology.



### **Society for the Preservation of Carter Railroad Resources**

P.O. Box 783  
Newark, CA 94560  
[www.spcrr.org](http://www.spcrr.org)

The mission of the SPCRR is to locate, preserve, restore and interpret the products of the first industry of the City of Newark, Carter Brothers, for the historical and educational benefit of the general public. To accomplish this purpose, the SPCRR will support a program of research and restoration of Carter Brothers' railroad artifacts, including collections of photographs, documents, drawings, and physical remains of railroad cars and equipment that represent the era, the locale, and the uses which applied to Carter equipment, or related equipment, including other railroad builders who had a significant influence or impact upon the operation of the South Pacific Coast Railroad.

The SPCRR operates a recreation of the Centerville Branch of the South Pacific Coast Railroad in Ardenwood Historic Farm Regional Park using draft horses to pull a picnic car on 1½ miles of 3' gauge track. We built a replica of a single truck flatcar used on that line in 1994.

### **Historic Patterson House Foundation**

The Historic Patterson House Foundation raises money to maintain the Patterson House and provides the Docent led tours of the Victorian mansion. The Patterson House is located in Ardenwood Farm Park. The Park is owned by the City of Fremont, but maintained and run by the East Bay Regional Park District.

### **Natural History Museum Math/Science Nucleus**

4074 Eggers Dr.  
Fremont, CA 94536  
(510) 790-6089  
<http://www.msncucleus.org/>  
M-F 9:30 - 4:30

The Natural History Museum is managed by the Math/Science Nucleus and contains the following halls; Wesley Gordon Fossil Hall, Nature Hall, Tools of Early Humans, Mineral & Rock Hall, & Halls of Small Wonders. There is also a Museum Shop.

The Math/Science Nucleus is an organization that serves as a science resource center to assist local school districts, teachers, and administrators.

### **CalNurCo Legacy Council**

P.O. Box 2278  
Fremont, CA 94536  
(510) 797-3311  
[www.fremontica.com/CNCo/](http://www.fremontica.com/CNCo/)

The purpose of the CalNurCo Legacy Council is to preserve the history of the California Nursery in a museum containing the archives, including catalog's, photographs, records, landscape design plans, 16mm films, nursery equipment, etc., and for the restoration of the original horticultural planting for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. The California Nursery Company was founded in 1865, and for most of its life, was located in Niles.

### **Old Mission San Jose & Museum**

43300 Mission Blvd.  
P.O. Box 3159  
Fremont, CA 94539  
(510) 657-1797

Museum open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily  
Closed New Year's, Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas  
Admission: Adults - \$3 Child - \$1

The Museum is in one wing of the Mission, containing nine rooms telling the history of the Mission from the Ohlones, the founding in 1797, and up to the restoration of the Mission Church.



### **Pacific Bus Museum**

P.O. Box 601105  
Sacramento, CA 95860  
[www.pacbus.org](http://www.pacbus.org)  
(The Pacific Bus Museum maintains some of their collection in Fremont)

The Pacific Bus Museum is strictly a "rolling" museum, where operational coaches are driven to various events where the public can view them. With the buses, volunteer docents attend the events providing information about the buses and the museum. The museum also publishes "The Paddle", a bi-monthly newsletter for the organization.

### **Niles Coach Line**

The Niles Coach Line bus is a project of the Niles Golden Spike Association, Niles Canyon Railway, the Pacific Bus Museum and American Stage Tours.

Bus operates from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in conjunction with arrivals and departures of the Niles Canyon Railway trains. Operates 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in February, March, October and November. April – September the bus runs every Sunday.

### **Local History Papers**

[www.geocities.com/unioncityhistory/](http://www.geocities.com/unioncityhistory/)

Website with a number of local history papers, all released under the Creative Commons license. Papers on the crash of United Flight 615, Civil War Hero – Charles Eigenbrodt, Airfields of Washington Township, etc.