

Sites related to Mary Brown's descendants in the Santa Clara Valley – then the “Valley of Hearts’ Delight”– known today as “Silicon Valley.”

First Stop: Collins School, the De Oro Club

24401 Homestead – near the corner of Homestead and N. De Anza Blvd.

Preserved one-room schoolhouse where Mary Fablinger and Frances Swane, daughters of Ellen Brown Fablinger, were teachers. Restored inside, but exterior only generally available; parking lot by a large oak tree is easy to miss. Look for lovely Victorian amid the gas stations & fast food. Now a private women's club.

Second Stop: Saratoga Civic Center and Heritage Orchard

13777 Fruitvale Avenue



This property, the home & orchards of Tom and Ellen Fablinger, is now the Civic Center complex, acquired by the City of Saratoga in 1953. The old house (now a teen center) is not the Fablinger home. Sarah Brown's orchard, just across Wildcat Creek, is now owned by Sacred Heart School. The Heritage Orchard on the corner property was owned by R.E. Cox. This is a public location (with restrooms) which is open on weekdays.

Third Stop: Saratoga Historical Museum

20450-60 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road

Courtesy Saratoga Historical Museum

Recently remodeled museum has artifacts of the Brown family—the newly conserved charcoal portraits of her parents made by Sarah Brown from photographs, some smaller pictures (including Ellen), furniture, and other artwork by Sarah. The museum is open on Friday through Sunday afternoons, staffed by volunteers.

Fourth Stop: Madronia Cemetery

14766 Oak Street (corner of Sixth)



The Brown family plot is in the original burials section, between the two roads.

On weekdays the office is open, with a list of family burials as well as a portrait of Mary Brown, their most famous gravesite. You are at the bottom of Bohlman Road, a long, winding hill where her farm (later the “John Brown lodge”) was located. The property has passed from the Boy Scouts to Open Space Preserve. The house is no longer there; no property entry.

Hakone Gardens, a historic (1918) community Japanese garden in Saratoga, is not the one built for Sarah Brown—which is no longer extant—but the setting is wonderful for appreciating California culture and history. **21000 Big Basin Way, Saratoga CA 95070.** There is an entry fee of \$4 adults, \$3.50 seniors and students. Fee includes parking.