

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, February 2007

Spring Yet?

Janessa Gonsalves, Program Coordinator

January went by so fast with planning for Free Museum Day, the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, the City of Sacramento Birthday Party, Women's History Day, and the Bonnet Parade that I am ready for spring and all of these events.

Plans for adding an architectural tour to the summer Walking Tour schedule are underway with the help of Ken Knott and the Architecture Department at Sacramento State.

Also coming soon, Ruth Chambers and Richard Vincent will be visiting twenty local Title 1 Sacramento schools presenting their characters and sharing Sacramento's history. This project was made possible by a generous grant from the Setzer Family Foundation.

Sparkling Clean!

Thank you to everyone who lent a hand cleaning the Living History Center over the last few months. A small group of us tackled the old supply room closet and the clutter that has been building up in the hallway after the January 13th meeting. The light bulbs have been changed, the library and costume closets reorganized, bookshelves were moved around, the storage room was organized, and the exhibit room cleaned! We all really appreciate it, and the Center has never looked so clean and tidy!

New Library Fund!

A library fund was discussed and passed at the January 13th meeting. The library is now open to suggestions. If you would like to see a specific book added to the library please let the librarians know.

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From the President's Inkwell

Ken Knott, President

Looking over the calendar for the next three months, there appear to be plenty of interesting, challenging and informative classes and activities for OSLHP members! You can make a bonnet to wear to the Bonnet Promenade, portray your character to the public during Free Museum Day, attend a class on Men's Hats, visit the Button Bazaar, make a corset to wear to Women's History Day, and learn how to research and develop an historic character.

Over the past year, the Living History Program has had a great variety of interesting and edifying classes, workshops and activities, and this year promises to be a continuation of the fun. If there isn't something happening in the next three months that you are very interested in, you just aren't trying!

Now is an excellent time of the year for new people to learn about the Living History Program and what we have to offer. You can do your part by inviting friends, neighbors and co-workers to attend a class, workshop or event, so that they too can experience the magic of living history. On Saturday, April 14th, OSLHP will have an Orientation Open House, which is a wonderful opportunity for new people to find out more about the Living History Program and how they can join in the fun!



Upcoming Events

Spring Yet?

(continued from page 1)

Free Museum Day: February 3rd

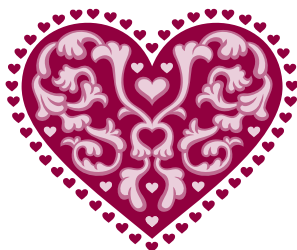
Free museum day is quickly approaching. Quite a few people have signed up for the event, and the following exhibits will be open and shared with the public:

- Doctor's office featuring the collection of Terry Melau and the knowledge and presence of Dr. John Frederick Morse and Dr. Logan.
- Professor Flatbroke B. Dodge and his collection of phrenology tools and maps of the human brain.
- A ladies dress shop presented by JoAnn Peterson.
- A collection of mourning buttons presented by Barbara Alfidi.
- Parlor entertainment featuring an Old Sacramento Puppet Show presented by Ruth Chambers.
- Games of Chance and Fortune featuring Eileen Carey, Terry Eargle, Ray Eargle, and Roger Quinn.

If you would like to showcase your collection or help with one of the featured exhibits please send me an e-mail!

Crab Fest!

Coming soon, February 10th! Volunteers are needed to serve crab and assist with the event. Volunteers will receive free crab dinners, and a donation will be made to the Old Sacramento Living History Program. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer.



Women's History Day 2007

Jill Quinn

This year's Women's History Day promises to be quite a splendid affair. The event is planned for Saturday, March 24th at Waterfront Park, and it will be quite different from events we have done in the past. Historical women from our era will be featured in small individual venues with appropriate props. Each featured woman will then interact with the public in her character. Some of the characters that will be portrayed will include Mother Baldwin and Mary Frink. If you would like to portray your character or another woman from the era, please contact me. We are still looking for volunteers.

Men, do not despair! Greg Tracy has planned a Living History Day event for both days of the same weekend. So this will be a combined event that will feature the usual Living History Day events as well as venues for women to portray their characters. Mark your calendars now to make sure you do not miss out on any of the fun.



Bonnet Promenade

Yolanda Starr

Plans for the Bonnet Promenade, scheduled for April 7, 12:00-1:00 p.m., include taking a meandering walk through Old Sacramento and ending up at the Earl Grey Manor Tea Salon, 916 2nd Street. The "Promenaders" et al will then partake of afternoon tea at the Earl Grey Manor, whilst whiling away the afternoon in gracious surroundings. Tickets will be issued for advance payment of the afternoon tea and delicacies. Price per person and menu will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact me at ystarr@cde.ca.gov or at 916-704-0207.

Upcoming Events

Classes and Workshops

Ken Knott, Training Coordinator

We have an exciting variety of classes and workshops coming to the Living History Center in February, March and April, starting with “Creating a Beautiful Bonnet” by Lynne Taylor, on Saturday, February 3rd, followed by a class on Men’s Hats on Saturday February 17th. Then, on March 3rd and 4th, Barbara Muran’s two-day Victorian Corset Workshop will take place at the Center.

To assist our new members in their mission to develop a historical character, we will be conducting a class in Research and Character Development on Saturday, March 10th at 1:00 at the Center. This class will be taught by Catherine Hanson-Tracy, Senior Librarian at the California State Library, a Guest Instructor from the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center (SAMCC), and yours truly. This will be a required class for all new members.

Corset Workshop

JoAnn Peterson

You can still sign up to attend the Victorian Corset Workshop scheduled for the weekend of March 3 and 4. This is a wonderful opportunity for the stitchers among us. Use the form below to register. Contact me if you have questions: joann@lafnmoon.com or 916-455-4527.

Shooters, Arise!

Ray Eargle

I am trying find out how many people would like to learn to shoot, plan to shoot, and are willing to go to a training classes for gun safety. Please e-mail me at rayeargle@hotmail.com or call me at 916-296-3440. I hope to set a shoot practice date for this month.

Corset Workshop Signup Sheet

March 3rd and 4th, Living History Center, 10 am to 5 pm (center opens at 9 am)

Name _____

Address _____

Are you a member or OSLHP? _____ email _____

Phone number _____

Choose a color for your corset fabric White _____ Peach _____ Black _____

Choose a trim and embroidery color * (the kit will contain embroidered panels and trim)

White _____ Peach _____ Black _____ Pink _____ Blue _____ Red _____ Yellow/Gold _____ Purple _____

*The usual choices are white or peach trim for peach fabric, pink or blue trim for white fabric, and red, yellow/gold, or purple trim for black fabric, but you can choose whatever you want.

Please send your check for \$150 for members and \$160 for non-members to:

JoAnn Peterson, 2131 51st Street, Sacramento CA 95817

Your place will not be assured until your payment is received. This fee is not refundable unless another student takes your place from the waiting list, but will transfer to another of Barbara’s classes.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

January Class

Jill Quinn

Many thanks to JoAnn Peterson for doing such a wonderful presentation on "The Look of the Gold Rush for Men, Women and Children". The period extant garments were exquisite to look at, delightful to hold and much treasured by those in attendance. In addition to a hands-on with the garments, JoAnn's wonderful presentation outlining specific garment characteristics as well as accessories and hair styles was valued by the group. The take-home literature contained even more information related to the era, and it was very much appreciated by our membership. Thank You, JoAnn.



Living History Day

Greg Tracy

Gold was discovered in January 1848, and January 28th kicked off the rush for this year's Living History Days. Argonauts, gamblers, punters, city ladies and militiamen were all in attendance for the initial surge of this year's commemorations. Our LHD was well attended, plus everyone lent a hand where necessary and the camp came together quite nicely.

The work crew arrived promptly and extracted the saloon from the Center with minimal effort. The loading and transport went smoothly as usual. The work crew grew as the saloon arrived at Waterfront Park; with sufficient hands available the camp was together and operational in short order.

OSLHP commemorated the 159th year of the gold discovery with 14 members spreading gold rush lore with the many visitors to our historic district. Vast sums were exchanged at the chuck-a-luck table, and four-card monte was also popular. Many members were spotted strolling the boardwalk and exchanging niceties with the visitors.

Everyone appeared to have fun and the day passed quickly. Tear-down, transport and storage of the saloon went smoothly due to adequate help. A big THANK YOU to everyone who made this LHD such a great success. Our next LHD is February 25. See you then!

BUTTON BAZAAR

*The place to find extraordinary
old Victorian buttons at affordable prices.*

Saturday, February 24

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Carmichael Park Community Club House
5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael

Entrance and parking in the rear of the building.

Donation \$2.00

Contact Barbara Alfidi, 916-363-0273

Presented by the Camellia and
Sacramento Button Clubs

SEEKING STRUMPETS

**Attention! Women of Easy Virtue!
Strumpets needed for Women's History Day!**

**Mr. James Lee is looking for Fresh Talent
for his "fair and honest" establishment!**

Miscellanea

Library News

Catherine Hanson-Tracy

Your librarians have been busy taking inventory in the OSLHP library. We found some books that were not appropriate for the time and place that we portray. These books have been removed from the library, and they are available free to members on the labeled shelves outside the library door.

We also discovered that a number of books were on our inventory list but not on the library shelves. These titles are listed to the right. If any of these books have made their way into your personal library, please bring them back. OSLHP library books are stamped, often inside the front cover, "Property of OSLHP."

Finally we discovered that there are books that we need to buy to add to our library. If you would like to submit titles for the library wish list, please let me know.

Historical CD's

Richard Vincent

I have available two CD's of information that I have compiled about Old Sacramento.

- Historical Buildings of Old Sacramento. This is a compilation of articles, old drawings and photos, and modern photos of all the buildings now standing in Old Sac. The CD includes a building directory organized by address, by map location, and by building name.
- A 1958 report by the State Department of Natural Resources that reported the initial historical research for the renovation of Old Sacramento. It includes pictures and histories of the buildings that were demolished to make way for I-5 and other buildings that are no longer extant.

To obtain copies, send a stamped, self-addressed CD mailer to me at 1442 Ascot Ave, Rio Linda, 95673.

Missing Library Books

Author	Title
Connolly, Elaine	Capital women : an interpretive history of women in Sacramento, 1850-1920
Pratt, John	Currier & Ives chronicles of America
Kalman, Bobbie	Early health and medicine
Time-Life	End and the myth
DuBois, Ellen	Feminism and suffrage : the emergence of an independent women's movement in America, 1848-1869
Time-Life	Forty-niners
Time-Life	Gamblers
Brown, Dee	Gentle tamers : women of the old Wild West
Time-Life	Great Chiefs
National Guard Assoc. of CA	Heritage Days : souvenir publication
Time-Life	Mexican war
Time-Life	Miners
Egli, Ida Rae	No rooms of their own : women writers of early California
Fischer, Gayle	Pantaloon and power : nineteenth-century dress reform in the United States
Time-Life	Pioneers
Pratt, Lucy	Shoes
Seagraves, Anne	Soiled doves : prostitution in the early West
Time-Life	Spanish West
Time-Life	Townsmen
Setnick, Linda	Victorian costume for ladies, 1860-1900
Time-Life	Women
MacDonald, Fiona	Women in 19th-century America
Seagraves, Anne	Women who charmed the West

Miscellanea

Member Notes

From Penny Adams:

I am happy to say that we have finally moved back into our home. It has been a long 13 months but the burden has been lessened by the support each of you. Dick and I will be having an open house as soon as our landscaping is done and window treatments are in. We hope that will be sometime in the next month or so. I will be letting you all know the date of the open house as everyone is invited. (I will not use the term "house warming" because the house has already been "warmed!")

Victorian Dance Lessons?

Victorian dancing no longer appears on the web site schedule of the Sacramento Ballroom Society. Does this mean we have to hang up our dancing shoes?



Newsletter Submissions

All members are invited to submit items for inclusion in the *Argonaut Gazette*. Articles, letters to the editor, calendar items, and personal news announcements are welcome. The submission deadline is the 20th of the month before publication. Articles are limited to a maximum of 350 words. Submissions may be modified at the discretion of the Editor.

E-mail articles to Catherine Hanson-Tracy at:

chanson-tracy@library.ca.gov or
cht2@sbcglobal.net.

For those without e-mail access, submissions can be mailed to: 1179 Theo Way, Sacramento CA 95822. Or submit your piece to Catherine at a general meeting.

Missing

Bloomers: white with blue ribbon, yoke front with ties. Lent for the Santa Parade. Please contact either Janessa Gonsalves or Yolanda Starr.



Old Sacramento Living History Center

Located at 1101 Second St., lower level
Corner of K & 2nd Streets, Old Sacramento

Janessa Gonsalves, Program Coordinator
(916) 445-3101

Janessa@oldsacramentolivinghistory.com

Write to:

Old Sacramento Living History Program
1002 Second St., 2nd floor
Sacramento CA 95814

Web site:

www.oldsacramentolivinghistory.com

OSLHP Officers:

Ken Knott, President
Penny Adams, Vice President
Jill Quinn, Secretary
Roger Quinn, Treasurer
Jan Bullard, Member-at-Large
Greg Tracy, Member-at-Large

OSLHP is sponsored by

The Historic Old Sacramento Foundation
Vicky Baxter, Executive Director
1002 Second St., 2nd floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
February				
3 - Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Bonnet Workshop	Living History Center	Jill Quinn
3 - Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Museum Day	Living History Center	Janessa Gonsalves
10 - Saturday		Crab Fest		Janessa Gonsalves
13 - Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa Gonsalves
14 - Wednesday	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Ken Knott
17 - Saturday	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Men's Hat Class	Living History Center	Ken Knott
24 - Saturday	10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Button Bazaar	Carmichael Park Clubhouse	Barbara Alfidì
25 - Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Living History Day and Stroll	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
March				
3 & 4- Saturday & Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Corset Workshop	Living History Center	JoAnn Peterson
6 - Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa Gonsalves
10 - Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Ken Knott
10 - Saturday	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Research & Character Development Class	Living History Center	Ken Knott
TBA		Volunteer Appreciation Day Planning Meeting		
16 - Friday	12:00 noon	Sacramento City Birthday Party	Chavez Park	Janessa Gonsalves
17 - Saturday		St. Patrick's Day Parade	Old Sacramento	
24 - Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Women's History Day	Waterfront Park	Jill Quinn
25 - Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Living History Day and Stroll	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
April				
7 - Saturday	12:00 noon	Bonnet Promenade and Tea	Old Sacramento	Yolanda Starr
10 - Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa Gonsalves
11 - Wednesday	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Ken Knott
14 - Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Orientation/Open House	Living History Center	Ken Knott
29 - Sunday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Living History Day and Stroll	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy

LOVE LETTERS FROM EARLY CALIFORNIA

*Letter from John Bidwell to Annie Kennedy,
February, 1867*

“I have thus far lived alone amid the turmoil of worldly cares, but it has been an unnatural life. Instead of having an Angelic being to love and cherish, business engrossed all my mind. I desire to return to California changed in habits and purposes and lead a different and better life. If I go there I fear that I may fall back into the same dull, aimless routine, unless my resolves are supported by a change of life—from a single to a wedded life.

“I do not want a companion to take care of me, for I can take care of myself, but I want one to depend on me, to lean on me for protection and support. The more slender and frail, the more I would delight to protect, cherish and adore her. And in all this wide world there is to me only one such being, but one whom I can and do love—and that is you, Annie. You fill my thoughts by day and often through sleepless nights.”

*Letter from Annie Kennedy to John Bidwell,
October, 1867*

“What would you think were I to say that your naughty, trying, vexing, obstinate and otherwise culpable friend, concludes, on mature reflection, to repent these graceless traits, and commending herself to your clemency and affection, ask your forgiveness?”

“Yes, it is ever so, General; I find myself conquered—by your constancy, and the many noble traits of character developed by time and circumstances, as also by a mysterious providence which constrains me to make this confession. Mama assures me of Papa’s and her cordial approval of our marriage, and even insists she believes I have loved you from the very first!!! Do you believe it?”

From *Love Untamed: Romances of the Old West* by JoAnn Chartier and Chris Enss (TwoDot, 2002).

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