

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, December 2008

Seasons Greetings, OSLHP!

Janessa West, Program Coordinator

This month we do not have a general membership meeting due to the busy holiday season. We do, however, still have plenty of activities. So enjoy the festive season and have a happy new year!

Living History Center on the move

The Living History Center may be moving soon to the Eagle Theatre, located on the 1849 Scene. This decision is due in part to the city's current economic struggle and the benefits that being on the 1849 Scene will bring to living history.

The benefits of the move far outweigh the disadvantages. First and foremost, the Eagle Theatre is a reproduction of the first theater in California. Being on the 1849 scene will bring us in closer proximity to the Sacramento History Museum and will allow us more freedom for joint programming. Also, the Eagle Theatre is at street level and will make it easier for people to find us! Setting up for living history days may change, and we may spend more time doing things in the anteroom of the Eagle, making use of the stage and the bar.

The final agreements are not yet in place, so there is not a date for the move. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

Office and library move

My office and the OSLHP library have moved to the Sacramento History Museum. If you would like to check out a book from the library, feel free to visit Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Also, the list of our library books will soon be available on our website so that I can bring requested books to our meetings. My phone number and email are still the same, and you can visit me at the museum on the mezzanine.

The President's Quill

Greg Tracy, President

Wishing you a splendiferous holiday season, my fine Argonauts. The impending move to the Eagle Theatre certainly offers us a marvelous opportunity to do living history in a most proper way. Having a historic building will give our program a big boost in the right direction. We will have the best of both worlds, an all-weather venue with the option of setting up our outdoor venues as well.

This year has really been a blast from the past. Living History Days have been very well received by the visitors to Old Sacramento. I think it has finally become part of the régime of the historic district, and with its new chairman, Richard Vincent, it should continue to improve. With all our other activities—Museum Day, St. Patrick's Day, Women's History Day, Gibson Ranch, Columbia Diggins, Volunteer Appreciation Day, Fourth of July picnic, Gold Rush Days, our excellent training classes, and Ghost Tours—it is no wonder the year passed by so quickly.

The best thing is that 2009 promises to be even better. I would like to thank everyone for all your hard work. Without your efforts none of this would be possible. Again thank you ever so much, and I look forward to our fun and frolic in the year to come.



BRING IN GOOD CHEER!
DECEMBER 13TH, 2008.

**MERRIMENT BEGINS AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE
HISTORIC EAGLE THEATRE,
FRONT STREET, OLD SACRAMENTO.**

☛ *featuring* ☛

**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT,
GOLD RUSH STYLE!**

FREE! LIVE MUSIC WITH HISTORY!
PRESENTED BY THE OLD SACRAMENTO LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM
& A DOCENT FROM THE SACRAMENTO HISTORY MUSEUM, FOLLOWED BY
FOOTLIGHTS AND SHADOWS.

FOLLOWING, WITH ADMISSION, ENJOY FREE FESTIVITIES AT THE
**SACRAMENTO HISTORY MUSEUM,
101 I STREET, OLD SACRAMENTO.**
REFRESHMENTS, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARRIVAL OF
THE PONY EXPRESS CHRISTMAS CARD RIDE.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO HISTORY MUSEUM!
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH GET \$10 OFF FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS!
"BRING IN GOOD CHEER" IS SUPPORTED BY THE
**SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
THE HISTORIC OLD SACRAMENTO FOUNDATION,
& CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS.**

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Strolling with Father Christmas

Janessa West

Everyone is welcome to join Father Christmas in strolling and caroling in Old Sacramento. Please contact the "Fathers" directly to find out where they will be and what time they will be strolling.

Saturday, December 6th: Doug Peterson
Sunday, December 7th: Terry Melau

Saturday, December 13th: Doug Peterson
Sunday, December 14th: Terry Melau

Saturday, December 20th: Ray Eargle
Sunday, December 21st: Doug Peterson

Christmas Caroling

Janessa West

Join Richard, Jason, Jane, Jan, Ashley, Alana, Kari, Terry E., Ray and myself as we sing Christmas carols on Friday December 19th at Merrill Gardens at Greenhaven from 6-8 p.m. Merrill Gardens is located at 6350 Riverside Blvd.

Santa Parade

Janessa West

The Santa Parade had a very bumpy transition this year as it was first cancelled due to lack of funding, and then it was saved and sponsored by mayor-elect Kevin Johnson, but moved to December 20th. If enough OSLHP members are available, we will have a simplified parade entry (e.g., a carriage instead of a float) this year. Let me know ASAP if you would like to take part.

However, plans for next year are already underway and a foundation for fundraising and organizing the event is being created. Please put your thinking caps on and help us come up with a theme for next year so that we can start planning early.



Other December Events

Catherine Hanson

49er Bottle & Antique Show

Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., free
Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn
Gold Rush bottles, insulators, pottery, advertising, marbles, mining, photographs, ephemera, antiques of all kinds

Christmas Memories at the Governor's Mansion

Saturdays, December 6 and 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Admission: Adults 18 and over \$5.00; Youths ages 6-17 \$3.00

Pioneer Demonstration Day: An Emigrant Christmas

December 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sutter's Fort

Sacramento Ballroom Society Christmas Dance and Showcase

Saturday, December 20
Dancing from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., with a half-hour showcase at 8:30
Ultimate DanceSport, 9181c Kiefer Blvd.
Admission is only \$5 for members and guests alike

Victorian Christmas, Nevada City

Wednesday nights, December 3, 10, 17
Sunday afternoons, December 14, 21
Christmas melodies, costumed characters and the glow of gas streetlights remind visitors of another time and place.

Cornish Christmas, Grass Valley

Fridays, December 5, 12, 19
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Mill and W. Main Streets
Carolers, carriage rides, jugglers, musicians, the Grass Valley Cornish Choir, cloggers, bell ringers, harp music and, of course, Santa Claus.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

What to do at the Dickens Christmas Fair

Ken Knott

[Editor's note: This article was originally published in the January 2008 issue of the Argonaut Gazette.]

1. First thing to do if you arrive in time to be there when the Fair opens, go into Fezziwig's Dance Party for the Opening Tableau.
2. Second thing to do is to obtain tickets to the Saucy French Postcard Show from the Telegraph Office.
3. Register at TIMEGAMES, as your own character or pick one from a list. Now you will be a player that the Dickens characters will interact with.
4. Go to Mad Sal's Dockside Alehouse and catch the Ladies' Oratorical and Recreational Society's song and dance show.
5. Go back to Fezziwig's Dance Party and take a turn on the dance floor.
6. Look for Dickens characters to interact with:
 - Ask Bob Cratchit what he thinks of Ebenezer Scrooge.
 - Ask Mr. Bumble if he has seen any runaway orphans.
 - Ask a member of the Pickwick Club to tell you about one of their humorous adventures.
 - Tell Jacob Marley's ghost that he is a drag.
7. Ask Charles Dickens what character you would be in one of his novels.
8. Visit the Adventurers' Club and introduce yourself to any notable personage there.
9. Find the Dark Garden Corset Shop and do some window shopping.
10. Find the guy who looks like Gyro Gearloose and ask him about his flying contraption.
11. Find the Jules Verne Exhibit and watch the Magic Lantern Show.
12. Have a glass of ale and a meat pie for lunch at the Green Man Public House.
13. Go to the Victoria and Albert Music Hall for the Saucy French Postcards Show.

Language Guidelines

Excerpted from the Great Dickens Christmas Fair web site: www.dickensfair.com/languageguide.htm

Useful short phrases for middle or upper class characters:

Compliments of the season!

Most excellent (as in "a most excellent fowl," "a most excellent evening")

Good riddance to bad rubbish.

As good as gold and as true as steel.

This is most irregular.

We had the most agreeable things to eat for tea.

I shan't think such things.

I daren't go out at night with these ruffians.

Stuff and nonsense, oh fiddlesticks!

Thoughtful thanks and pardons:

I beg your acceptance of my very hearty thanks.

I have great pleasure in being useful to you.

I thank you for your kind inquiries.

Why, the pleasure is all mine, I assure you.

Pray do not mention it, it's of no consequence.

You are most kind.

Permit me to thank you.

I thank you for the compliment.

My dear, you look radiant.

A thousand pardons.

Replacements:

Money – farthings, ha'penny, sixpence, shilling, half-a crown, pound sterling, sovereign, guinea

Candy – sweets, confectionary

Bathroom – water closet

Pants – trousers

Lawyer – barrister, solicitor

See – try ("Let's try how this works.")

Sentences for the genteel:

I trust that you've found everything to your liking?

If there is anything I can do to assist you in any way, do not hesitate to ask.

Have a Happy Christmas and a very merry New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sacramento History Museum weekend programs

Janessa West

In an attempt to bring “life” to the museum, I am looking for ways to incorporate living history into the weekend programs at the museum. Weekend programs take place either inside or outside depending on the activity and are free with admission to the museum. Getting involved will benefit Living History because we will have a venue and an audience already interested in Sacramento’s history.

Over the next few months we will be trying a few tours, a class, a puppet show, and a day of character presentations. Thank you to all of you who have so willingly signed up to help with the weekend programs.

- January 10th – Architectural Tour led by Dr. John Frederick Morse, 1:00 pm
- January 24th – Old Sacramento Puppet Show led by Ruth Chambers, 1:00 pm
- February 28th – Living History Character Presentations from Margaret Frink (Penny Adams) and the Crockers (Sandra Hand and Doug Peterson), 1:00 pm



Women’s History Day

Janessa West

Believe it or not it is time to start thinking about our plans for our Women’s History Day celebration on March 28th and 29th. If you have an idea for a theme or if you are interested in chairing with me, please let me know!

Mentoring Class

Ken Knott, Training Coordinator

One of the changes to be made to the Training Series in 2009 is the assignment of mentors to each of the new members. Accordingly, a class on “How to Be a Mentor” will be held on Saturday, January 10th after the General Members Meeting; the location is to be determined.

It is generally accepted that people new to the program will favorably respond to an offer for guidance in such topics as selecting a character, assembling proper historical attire and finding a suitable method of presenting an historic interpretation.

The 2009 Training Program will be restructured to emphasize character development with the aim of having new members be able to do a first-person presentation after successfully completing the program. In order for the Mentoring Program to be successful, committed members are needed to advise new members in a friendly and supportive way to help them get started. Come to the Mentoring Class on January 10th and learn how you can be a Mentor.

Free Museum Day

Janessa West

Once again, the Sacramento Association of Museums will be hosting Free Museum Day on February 7th. In the past OSLHP has set up different venues in the Living History Center. Since we are, at the moment, unsure as to where we will be come February, I am proposing that we try to incorporate our venues with the Sacramento History Museum.

If the weather is nice, there is room out front for gambling, blacksmith, and any other venues. The inside of the museum is packed with patrons that day. However the museum staff invites Living History members to come in historic attire and help greet patrons and introduce them to the museum’s many exhibits. Please let me know if this sounds interesting to you or if you would be interested in setting up a venue on the museum’s front porch.

Miscellanea

Raising the Streets

Richard Vincent

I recently visited the Sacramento Room of the public library to study *Early Attempts to Save the Site of Sacramento by Raising Its Business District*, by Barbara Lagomarsino (1969). I did not have time to read it thoroughly (117 pages), but I did glean some interesting information.

The standard description that we tour guides give for the street-raising is a highly simplified version of the actual process. That process was quite disjointed in its planning, engineering, coordination, and conduct. Some filling occurred as early as 1853. About two feet of fill was laid in 1863. The final major effort ("high-grading" in the parlance of the time), in which the bulwarks were constructed at the edge of the streets, began in 1864 and was essentially completed by 1873. It was not one city-wide coordinated effort. Rather, each block had to petition the city independently to commence its own project.

Over the period when the various blocks undertook this, engineering standards changed. In addition, many property owners raised their

buildings and the adjoining sidewalks on their own, to heights of their own choosing. Several types of pavement were used on the various blocks. The result was a hodge-podge of elevations and pavements.

The list of buildings that were raised to the new grade is surprisingly long. It is not clear how often the raising of the buildings left the old sidewalks as "tunnels". But it appears that the number of old ground floors that became basements was not great; so, the extent of the old "underground" might be less than what is popularly assumed.

The raised buildings that still exist are: Firehouse, Lady Adams, National Hotel, What Cheer, Ebners, Morse Building, Tehama Block (the brick building that replaced the wooden one that was rebuilt for Old Sac), Dingley Mill, US Hotel, Bennet's Masonic Hall, Brannan/Vernon House, Pioneer Bakery, B.F. Hastings, Mechanics' Exchange, Sazerac, Schroth, Booth & Co., Baker & Hamilton, Heywood's, Bank Exchange, Pacific Stables, Hotel de France, Union Hotel, Orleans. Other buildings, now gone, were also raised.



View of J Street, Sacramento, during the Flood of March, 1852.

ENGRAVED EXPRESSLY FOR THE SACRAMENTO GAZETTE.

Miscellanea

Gentlemen's Etiquette

Jason Hollingsworth

Here is the third of a series of articles taken from Routledge's *Etiquette for Gentlemen*. Remember, quotes from the book are printed in *italics*. It appears that in Victorian times, as now, conversation was in control of women.

Conversation

Let your conversation be adapted as skillfully as may be to your company. Some men make a point of talking common-places to all ladies alike, as if a woman could be a trifler. [Really.] Others, on the contrary, seem to forget in what respects the education of a lady differs from that of a gentleman, and commit the opposite error of conversing on topics with which ladies are seldom acquainted. A woman of sense has as much right to be annoyed by the one, as a lady of ordinary education by the other. You cannot pay a finer compliment to a woman of refinement and esprit than by leading the conversation into such a channel as may mark your appreciation of her superior attainments.

When talking to ladies of ordinary education, avoid political, scientific, or commercial topics, and choose only such subjects as are likely to be of interest to them.

Remember that people take more interest in their own affairs than in anything else which you can name. [I think that most people will find this true today.] If you wish your conversation to be thoroughly agreeable, lead a mother to talk of her children, a young lady of her last ball, an author of his forthcoming book, or an artist of his exhibition picture. Having furnished the topic, you need only listen; and you are sure to be thought not only agreeable, but thoroughly sensible and well-informed. [This might be valuable if attending Dickens Fair.]



Be careful, however, on the other hand, not always to make a point of talking to persons upon general matters relating to their professions [unless this female person is a prostitute]. To show an interest in their immediate concerns is flattering; but to converse with them too much about their own arts looks as if you thought them ignorant of other topics. [Humph! Unless your profession is listed above].

There is a certain distinct but subdued tone of voice which is peculiar to only well-bred persons. A loud voice is both disagreeable and vulgar. It is better to err by the use of too low than too loud a tone.

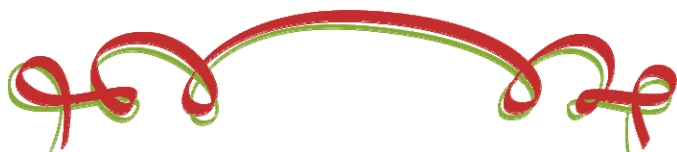
Remember that all "slang" is vulgar. It has become of late unfortunately prevalent, and we have known even ladies pride themselves on the saucy chique with which they adopt certain Americanisms, and other cant phrases of the day. [Remember, this book is British.] Such habits cannot be too severely reprehended. They lower the tone of society and the standard of thought. [Saloon girls rise up!] It is a great mistake to suppose that slang is in any way a substitute for wit.

Here is a list of things to avoid in conversation: proverbs, puns, long arguments, religion, speaking in foreign tongues in front of those who don't speak the language, interrupting a speaker. *It has been aptly said that if you interrupt a speaker in the middle of his sentence, you act almost as rudely as if, when walking with a companion, you were to thrust yourself before him, and stop his progress.*

Good things: LISTEN WELL! Or at least appear to be listening.

There is more to this chapter which really doesn't pertain to us, unless you need to know how to address a noble.

The next article will address DRESS.



Miscellanea

Member Notes

Condolences to **Jill and Roger Quinn** on the passing of Jill's father, Chuck. Many of us met Chuck when he joined us at the Dickens Fair and at our Christmas Party a couple of years ago, and we enjoyed conversing with him.

Virginia Brumm is in the process of moving back to Sacramento.



From your Editor

Catherine Hanson

All OSLHP 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 25th of the month before publication. Submissions may be modified for length and readability at the discretion of the editor.

E-mail articles to me at:

chanson@library.ca.gov

For those without e-mail access, submissions can be mailed to: 1179 Theo Way, Sacramento CA 95822.



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Jason Hollingsworth, Vice President
Ken Knott, Past President
Jan Bullard, Secretary
Bob Flaherty, Treasurer
Terry Melau, Member-at-Large
Richard Vincent, Member-at-Large

OSLHP is sponsored by
the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
December				
6 – Saturday		OSLHP trip to the Dickens Fair	Cow Palace, San Francisco	Janessa West
9 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
13 – Saturday	2:00 p.m. -	Bring in Good Cheer	Eagle Theatre & Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
19 – Friday	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Caroling	Merrill Gardens, Greenhaven	Janessa West
20 – Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Santa Parade	Downtown Sacramento	Janessa West
Saturdays & Sundays	TBA	Strolling with Father Christmas	Old Sacramento streets	Father Christmas
January				
6 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
10 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Greg Tracy
10 – Saturday		Mentoring class	TBA	Ken Knott
TBA		Women’s History Day Planning Meeting		
February				
7 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Free Museum Day		Janessa West
10 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
11 – Wednesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Greg Tracy
TBA		Women’s History Day Planning Meeting		



History Museum Decorating Party



OSLHP
101 I Street
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