

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

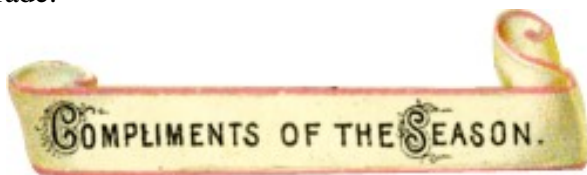
SACRAMENTO, December 2006

Happy Holidays!

Janessa Gonsalves, Program Coordinator

With Thanksgiving here and gone again, we are almost ready for Christmas. The winter months are ahead of us, and it is time to start planning for the new year. Starting in January we should begin making plans for Women's History Day. Also beginning in January a new series of historic attire classes taught by our very own JoAnn Peterson will start to make their way into our class schedule. December and January are the best months to start planning ahead, so be on the lookout for new projects underway!

Each month it seems I am borrowing props, equipment, or odds and ends from a variety of groups and merchants. This month I would like to thank the Old City Cemetery for their loan of a microphone and speaker for our use in the Santa Parade.



OSLHP Members out and about!

Members of the Old Sacramento Living History Program are involved in a variety of things around town to promote Living History. Here are just a few of the members participating in other events:

- Richard Vincent—John Frederick Morse at the California Medical Association
- Ruth Chambers—in the *Christmas Ship* performed at the Eagle Theatre
- Doug Peterson—Father Christmas for the HOSF Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Terry Melau—also Father Christmas for the HOSF Tree Lighting Festival

From the President's Inkwell

Ken Knott, President

Merry Christmas to you and to all who 'round your table grow! 'Tis the season for warm reunions with family and friends, and evenings spent in front of the fireplace reminiscing about days gone by. So pass around the Wassail Bowl and let the festivities begin!

OSLHP festivities commence on Saturday, December 9th, with caroling on the streets of Old Sacramento, beginning at 2:00 p.m. and the OSLHP Christmas Party at La Terraza Mexican Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. Hopefully, you have given Janessa your menu selections by November 22nd, and you will remember to bring \$5 for your dinner and \$9 for any guests. Soft drinks are included, but if you want a libation you're on yer own.

JoAnn Peterson has graciously volunteered to become the Sewing Workshop Coordinator to assist members with historical accuracy, and she will be teaching the Costuming Class in January. She has already convinced me to ditch my baggy-butt trousers! Plans are underway for other new and interesting classes after the first of the year in bonnet making, gold rush medicine, research and character development.

You should consider attending the Sacramento County Historical Society meeting on December 19th. Dolph Gotelli will talk about his Victorian Christmas ephemera collection at SAMCC at 7:00 p.m.

And last but not least, I would like to extend my personal congratulations and warmest wishes for a happy marriage to Jason and Jane (Clapp) Hollingsworth!!

SANTA PARADE

Penny Adams

We could not have asked for more perfect weather for decorating and participating in the Santa Parade. Well, maybe we could have asked for it to be a bit warmer, but both days were clear and sunny and there was no wind. Our float turned out to absolutely beautiful; the general consensus was that it was “the best ever!” We created Booth’s Mercantile and Grocery, and we were able to borrow a lot of our props from the display windows at the Living History Center.

Thank you to all of our members who joined us in the parade: Ray and Terry Eargle, Jill and Roger Quinn, Terry and Sandy Melau, Greg Tracy, Catherine Hanson-Tracy, Richard Vincent, Dorothy Picanco, Jan Bullard, Ken Knott, Dennis “Biscuits” Brehm, Barbara Rothermel and her niece Mariah, Yuanda Dumas, Gena Jones, Yolanda MacFarland, and Randy Brink. Jeff Bush was also there to help ensure we got all things ready to step out in the parade.

A very special thank you goes out to Richard Vincent for lending us his voice. Richard sang Christmas carols the whole parade route, which gave us the much needed added ambience.

Thank you also to all who participated in the “decorating party,” which included Ray and Terry Eargle, Mel and Dorothy Picanco, Greg Tracy, Catherine Hanson-Tracy, Jan Bullard, Ken Knott, Biscuits Brehm, Jeff Bush, Yuanda Dumas, Gena Jones, Barbara Rothermel, and Ray Closs. We were able to make short work of decorating and were done by 1:00 p.m., with my van loaded with everything for the next morning by 2:00 p.m. This was one of the fastest decorating parties on record! The many hands made light work.

Of course, I can forget to say thank you to three very special people who came down to the float at

7:15 a.m. to help get it ready and then move it over to the parade site; thank you Jan Bullard, Ken Knott, and Biscuits who met me there so early in the morning. That takes special dedication and a bit of lunacy.

We also had a great group who stayed and helped take apart the float. We were actually finished and on our way home by 12:45 p.m.

Thanks are also in order for those who helped me organize and get everything timely moving. Thank you to Catherine Hanson-Tracy for being my co-chair, to new member Gena Jones for coming up with the theme idea of the 1850’s grocery

idea, to Jan Bullard for ideas that made the theme work, and to Janessa Gonsalves for signs and pulling our props together. Also, thank you to all of those who made the November 4th work party.

For me as the chairperson, this year’s parade has been the most fun to put together and to be in. This is due to all of you who helped lighten the load. Thank you again. If you were unable to participate this year, I hope you will be able to join the fun with us next year.



Holiday Festivities

Old Sacramento Heritage Holidays

Old-fashioned holiday cheer comes to life throughout the Old Sacramento Historic District in December with a 70-foot holiday tree, holiday decorations, and thousands of white lights.

Enjoy weekends filled with holiday fun including:

- a special telling of the "Christmas Ship" with puppets and pageantry at the Eagle Theatre on December 2 and 9 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- Steam train rides with Santa December 9-10, hourly departures 11 a.m.-4 p.m.;
- a Pony Express Christmas Card Ride December 9, 9:30 a.m.
- Gingerbread Holidays at the Old Sacramento Schoolhouse December 2 through 23.
- Visit with Father Christmas December 2-3 and 9-10, portrayed by our own Doug Peterson and Terry Melau.
- Enjoy holiday carolers at the Holiday Tree at Front & K Street.

On December 9th OSLHP presents the 12 days of Christmas at 2:00. On December 10th OSLHP joins Father Christmas on his stroll of the district, singing carols and enjoying the winter weather!

Dickens' Christmas Fair

Our plans for the excursion to the Dickens' Christmas Fair at the Cow Palace have been finalized for this year, but you can still go on your own. Go to www.dickensfair.com and order advance tickets for \$17 for any Saturday or Sunday in December, until the 23rd. Or if you can't make it this year, keep it in mind to plan for it next year; it is a wonderment!

Nevada City Victorian Christmas

On the downtown streets of historic Nevada City, cars are replaced by horse-drawn carriages and vendors in Victorian attire sell baked goods and crafts, hot roasted chestnuts, hot cider, etc. on Sunday, December 17th from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m., and on Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20, 6 to 9 p.m.



From Sacramento County Historical Society
Golden Nuggets:

Christmas Ephemera

Throughout the Victorian Home

“Father Christmas” Dolph Gotelli

Tuesday, December 19, 7:00 PM at SAMCC

Dolph Gotelli, also known as Father Christmas, presents a multi-media talk, drawing on his extensive collection of Christmas ephemera. Gotelli will elaborate on rituals and traditions dating from the Victorian era. Topics may include the holiday table, tree ornaments, parlor games and play time.

An internationally acclaimed collector, curator, designer and lecturer, Gotelli owns one of the nation's most extensive collections of Victorian Christmas ephemera, including cards, prints, tree decorations, toys, books and games.

Gotelli is Professor Emeritus of Design at UC Davis, and Director Emeritus of its Design Museum, which he founded. Seating may be at a premium for this presentation so plan to arrive early.

Upcoming Events

Sewing Workshops

JoAnn Peterson

The Old Sacramento Living History Program has a new Sewing Workshop Coordinator! I am the owner of Laughing Moon Mercantile, purveyors of sewing patterns in real life, and I am Mrs. Albert Utter, the bathhouse lady in the Living History Program. My goal is to provide sewing workshops for those who sew. For those who do not sew I will provide information and resources for costumes in the newsletter. Although the years we represent in Old Sacramento are 1848 to 1870, initially we will be focusing on the first five years of the Gold Rush of 1848 to 1852 for the workshops. If you have any special requests let me know at my email, joann@lafnmoon.com, or say hello at a Member Meeting.

We will kick off the New Year with a presentation of "The Look of the Gold Rush for Men, Women, and Children". I will present images of people, garments, and accessories. I will also bring some period extant garments from my collection for you to look at first hand. The presentation will be on January 13th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for admission. The presentation will be held at the Living History Center.

Such a handsome group!



Creating a Beautiful Bonnet

Jill Quinn

OSLHP is proud to present a millinery workshop on February 3rd, 2007, 10am-5pm. We will construct a wired, buckram bonnet frame, learn how to cover it with fashion fabric, and line it. The pattern for this class is a mid-Victorian bonnet, fashionable in the late 1850's -1865.

The instructor for our class is Lynne Taylor (Seavers), an accomplished milliner with a love of teaching others this beautiful art. Lynne loves to create new hats and restore old. Her new hats are historically inspired, due in part to a long love of vintage fashion.

The cost for this workshop is \$55, which includes handouts, pattern, foundation materials, and wire needed for one bonnet. Attendees will receive a supply list upon registration for the class. Students need to have good hand sewing skills, and they need to supply their own portable sewing machine (with zigzag setting).

Lynne must have at least 6, but no more than 12 students. Payment must be made by the general meeting in January to reserve a seat in the class. If we do not have the minimum paid by then, we will open the class to other groups.

Upcoming Events

Living History Center clean-up and organize day!

Janessa Gonsalves

Following the January 13th meeting and class, I will be organizing the Living History Center. Anyone interested in helping me with this task is much appreciated! The clean-up day can also be a day for the costume committees to catalog new historic attire or for new books to be added to the library. If you have something you would like to work on please feel free! Some of the things on the list are:

- Change light bulbs around the center
- Clean out the closets
- Re-organize the kitchen cabinets
- Clean the refrigerator room
- Organize the exhibit room
- Up-Date Living History Character wall
- Clean out the back hallway
- And many more!



Strolls

Ken Knott

At last, we have renewed one of our activities that gives the group some of our best exposure in Old Sacramento, the Stroll, or as some say, “circumambulating the town”. Strolling gives us the opportunity to show off that new bonnet, frock or waistcoat! The winter months, as long as it’s not raining, is a great season for wearing our heavy coats, capes and shawls, not to mention long undergarments!

We will continue to schedule strolls in the afternoons after our Saturday meetings, and in conjunction with living history days, the last Sunday in the month. January strolls will be on Saturday the 13th and Sunday the 28th.



OSLHP at the Antique Fair

Ken Knott

It was a beautiful November day at the Antique Fair; good frock coat weather, a day that lots of Sacramentans came down to peruse the endless variety of oddities and curiosities under the freeway between W and X streets, and 20th and 22nd streets. Greg Tracy, Biscuits, Yolanda Starr, Terry & Sandy Melau and myself gathered at space number A4 to distribute new OSLHP brochures by Jill Quinn to many people who wandered over, attracted by our historic attire. On exhibit at our table were maps, coins, and a foldout display panel featuring photos taken at the Miner’s Diggings in Columbia last June.

We had a chance to circumambulate the rows of vendors’ stalls, getting numerous compliments on the way we were dressed, visit with friends, acquaintances and perfect strangers, and sample the delicious tamales and other delights. We were at the very end of the Fair, at 20th St., so in order to find us, one would have had to be tenacious and resolute.

For the next few months, our attendance may be irregular depending on the vagaries of the weather and our own inclinations, but if you get down there, look us up and say “Hi!”

Costuming

LADIES' SHOE TIPS

JoAnn Peterson

The following is information only. Please do not consider it a requirement or "rule".

It is a rare and happy circumstance that we can incorporate modern clothing or accessories into our period costume. It happens that there is a modern shoe available now (actually it's been made for many years) that looks very much like a mid-19th C. "slipper". These shoes are what we would now call a pair of "flats".

The photo below is of a pair of 1830's-1850's brown leather slippers which recently came up for auction. These shoes were popular with Californios, Americans, and Europeans. I have seen many more examples of similar shoes, both plain and decorated with bows. At the time they could have been made of leather, satin, or even wool.



The black pair at right is a style called "Liberty" by Enzo Angiolini. They have the same high vamp and square toe of period shoes. I have not found a local store that carries them but they are widely available online. They come in a variety of styles but I would stay away from patent leather, two tone, or crocodile, and stick with the plain leather for your costume. They come in black, navy, bone, and white. The bone and white could be dyed by a shoe repair shop to any color you please. You can purchase blank shoe clips and then fashion a bow or rosette to compliment your dress if you like. They are available, depending on color, from \$53.95 to \$65.95, which is a fair price for an all leather shoe. There are a limited number available for \$39.99 at the time of this writing at Amazon and Smart Bargains. Some custom reproduction shoes cost several times that. Add to the fact that these shoes can be worn either with your costume or modern clothing and that adds greatly to their value.

I am familiar with these shoes, own several pairs, and can vouch for their quality. Maryland Square has the widest choice of sizes and widths. You can compare prices by going to www.shopping.com or other shopping sites.

The purist might say the Liberty has a bit of a modern heel. As flat as it is and hard to see, it has a little curve to it. Also period slippers were "straights", meaning there was no left or right shoe when purchased. Afterward you always wore them on the same feet so they eventually conformed to the left and right feet. And perhaps the construction of the Liberty is a bit more complicated than the simple slipper. However, considering the availability, cost, quality, range of sizes, and versatility, I believe them to be worth recommending. One note – they do not have any arch support so if you need this you would need to add it.

Wear them with plain black, white, or pink knee high trouser socks and you have a very nice impression at a reasonable cost.

Some resources:

www.smartbargains.com

www.marylandsquare.com

www.zappos.com

www.shopping.com

To visit a virtual shoe museum and see shoes from the 17th C to present visit

<http://eng.shoe-icons.com/museum/shoes.htm>



Miscellanea

Member Notes

Jason Hollingsworth announced at the November 11 meeting that he and **Jane Clapp** had been married. Best wishes, Jason and Jane!

From **Penny Adams**—The house is almost completed and we plan on moving back into it by the first of the new year at the very latest. Besides going nuts with all of the decision making and dealing both the contractor and insurance issues, we are going to love it when we are finally in our new home! We will be having a huge open house once we are settled in and everyone will be invited to come and share our joy. A party is the only way we can say thank you to everyone for all of the support we have received for the past year, so I hope everyone will be able to come.

Recollections

Terry Eargle

This is a great website for women's period clothing. They are not inexpensive, however, the workmanship and style are great, especially if you are not into sewing your costumes/clothing.

www.recollections.biz

Here's additional info:

Recollections, Inc.

P.O. Box 65

7956 County Road 451

Hawks, MI 49743

1-800-452-5925

sales@recollections.biz

Are you an Amazon shopper?

Jill Quinn

Just a reminder, if you purchase any books or any other items from Amazon.com during the holiday season, you can help our group earn revenue as well. If you enter the Amazon website via our OSLHP website, our group receives a small amount for each purchase that is made. This is a great way to shop as well as help out our cause.



The construction crew starts the show on the road.



The ladies fluff bows in a desperate attempt to keep warm at the decorating party.



Biscuits provides some comedy at the back of the float.

Miscellanea

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.



This morning we got up by daylight. As we had no invitations to any Christmas parties: and feeling no inclination to go on a bust, we thought we might spend the day as profitably by going down to our diggings and working like fine fellows, even if it was Christmas.

*Andrew Hall Gilmore
December 25, 1851
Pine Cottage, Hangtown*

Photo Credits

Thanks to Leslie Emery, HOSF intern, for her photos of the Santa Parade in this issue, as well as those of Ghost Tours in the last issue. Jeff Bush also contributed his photographic talent on some of the Santa Parade photos.



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
December				
9 – Saturday	2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling and Stroll	Old Sacramento	Terry Eargle
9 – Saturday	6:00– 8:00 p.m.	OSLHP Holiday Party	La Terraza Restaurant, Old Sacramento	Janessa Gonsalves
9 – Saturday		An Emigrant Christmas	Sutter’s Fort SHP	Sutter’s Fort
10 – Sunday	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	OSLHP Dickens Fair excursion	Cow Palace, San Francisco	Ken Knott
10 – Sunday		Caroling and Stroll with Father Christmas	Old Sacramento	Janessa Gonsalves
12 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa Gonsalves
17 – Sunday	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Victorian Dance Lesson	Ultimate DanceSport	www.sacballroomsociety.org
19 – Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	SCHS meeting with Dolph Gotelli (Father Christmas) program	SAMCC	Sacramento Co. Historical Society
January				
9 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa Gonsalves
13 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Ken Knott
13 – Saturday	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Look of the Gold Rush class	Living History Center	JoAnn Peterson
13 – Saturday	12:00 – ? p.m.	Stroll Day	Streets of Old Sacramento	
13 – Saturday	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Center Clean-up Day	Living History Center	Janessa Gonsalves
TBA		Women’s History Day Planning Meeting		
21 – Sunday	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Victorian Dance Lesson	Ultimate DanceSport	www.sacballroomsociety.org
28 – Sunday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Living History Day and Stoll	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
February				
3 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Bonnet Workshop	Living History Center	Jill Quinn
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
TBA		Bonnet Promenade Planning Meeting		
18 – Sunday	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Victorian Dance Lesson	Ultimate DanceSport	www.sacballroomsociety.org
25 – Sunday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Living History Day and Stroll	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy

HOLIDAY CUSTARD

From the Kezia Darwin Benton Curtis Receipt
[Recipe] Book, 1851, 60 p.
Contributed by Jill Quinn

The Gold Rush presented many opportunities for women, and Kezia did a lucrative business selling pies and pastries to the miners. She also managed a store at Tuttletown. Her recipe book reveals a versatile pioneer woman prepared to serve as cook, pharmacist, brewer, and even cleaning supply or cosmetic manufacturer as the occasion demanded. Interspersed with recipes for cake frosting and grape jam are recipes to treat small pox and diphtheria and recipes to relieve rheumatism and "putrid sore throat." The resourceful Mrs. Curtis recorded formulas, as well, for making hair dye, cleaning black silk, and mixing up cologne water. Everything was made from scratch including this custard dish:



Floating Island

Let a quart of milk to boil, then stir it into the beaten yolk of six eggs; flavor with lemon or rose, and sweeten to taste; whip whites of the eggs to a strong froth. When the custard is thick, put it into a deep dish, and heap the frothed eggs upon it. Serve Cold.

OSLHP
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Sacramento CA 95814