

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, March 2007

Busy Month!

Janessa Gonsalves, Program Coordinator

We have quite a few activities and events planned for this month. Starting on the 3rd and 4th we have a corset workshop, then a class on research and character development on the 10th, a birthday celebration for the City of Sacramento on the 16th, a Saint Patrick's Day Parade on the 17th, Women's History Day on the 24th, and Living History Day on the 25th! With so many activities and events it is hard to choose! Gold Rush Days will be here before we know it!



On the Lookout for Tour Guides!

School tours are booking quickly! A number of tours are booked from March to June for weekdays. If you would like to be a tour guide, please come on down and meet with me. Tour guides take privately scheduled tours November-April, and walk-in tour groups May-October. Walking tours last one hour and show off the sites of our historic district. Join the docent team!

Free Museum Day: A Success With the Public!

Fun was had by all on Free Museum Day. The Living History Center opened its doors to guests and delighted small groups with collections of mourning buttons, bottles, and medical tools. People were fascinated with spinning and blacksmith techniques. Brave visitors had their heads examined and played a game of chance. A puppet show entertained children and adults too!

From the President's Inkwell

Ken Knott, President

At our March General Members Meeting, our business will include some bylaws revisions and the selection of a Nominating Committee for the election of officers in May.

Also, now is the time to register your character if you have not already done so, and if you have, please check with me to make sure our records are complete. We should have on file in Janessa's office a Character Registry form including a biography of your character and a photograph of yourself as your character. If you have not registered your character, but would like to, please contact me to be put on the meeting agenda for a first-person presentation and then provide the completed form, biography and photo, and you're all set.

By the way, I'm looking for someone to do his or her character presentation at the next meeting.



Mrs. Booz (Barbara Rothermel) demonstrated spinning at Free Museum Day.

Upcoming Events

What's Your Story?

Catherine Hanson-Tracy

Where did you come from? Why did you come to Sacramento? How did you get here? Are you married? What do you do for a living? What sort of leisure activities do you enjoy? What was the last book you read? How do you feel about the man in the White House?

Of course, you know the answers to all these questions for yourself. But do you know the answers that your character would give?

Come to the Research and Character Development Class on Saturday, March 10th, and discover the details that you should know about your character. Learn how to research these details at the Sacramento Archives and at the California History Room (California State Library).

Developing a believable character is the core of living history. If you haven't attended this class before, don't miss this opportunity, especially if you are a new member.



Biscuits the Blacksmith showed off his skills at Free Museum Day.

Firearms Inspection and Training,

Ray Eargle, Safety Officer

All members with firearms and/or an interest in learning about firearms are welcome to attend an informal information session on Saturday, March 10th from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. I will be available to inspect your firearms and answer any questions regarding their usage, and I will provide a how-to demonstration of storing, cleaning, loading, and firing all weapons safely. (Note: No ammunition will be used in the demonstration.)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding firearms and safety in their use.

Sacramento City Birthday Party

Janessa Gonsalves

The City of Sacramento will celebrate its birthday with a party in Caesar Chavez Park (across from City Hall downtown) on Friday, March 16th at lunchtime. The organizers have asked OSLHP members to attend in historical attire, portraying characters from Sacramento History.

I know many of you will be working, but we would love to have as many members turn out as we can. If you are able to participate, please let me know. I will let you know where and when we will meet.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Ken Knott

Get out your green historic attire and practice your best Irish brogue for we're going to have a gala time at the St. Paddy's Day Parade on Saturday, March 17th! We will form up under the freeway at Lot W at the north end of 2nd Street by the Railroad Museum at 5:30 p.m., where we will be decorating our carriage with green bunting and bows. The parade starts at 6:00 p.m., so don't be late!

And remember, on St. Paddy's Day, everybody's Irish!

Upcoming Events

Women's History Day

Jill Quinn

Can you believe March is already upon us?! Women's History Day will be here before we know it. Plans are progressing nicely for this very special event. So far, we will have the following characters represented by our very own membership: Mrs. Margaret Frink, Dame Shirley, Mrs. Withington, Charlie Parkhurst, Mother Baldwin, Eugenie Dumas Hunt, and Ysabel Catarina De Las Nubes y Consuelo Leon. Our much appreciated bath house will also grace the event.

If you are interested in portraying your historical character or even someone else, don't hesitate to let me know. We are still looking for a few good women to work in the saloon. Since this event is combined with our Living History Day, there will be plenty for everyone to do even if you don't want to commit to being a character. Just come down and join the fun for a while. Lunch will be provided on Saturday.

There will be a meeting for Women's History Day participants at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 10th before the General Members Meeting.



Rabble-rousers at Women's History Day 2006

Orientation and Open House

Ken Knott

April 14th is the date of the OSLHP Orientation and Open House, and all who are interested in finding out who those crazy people are and what they are doing and why may come to the Living History Center and find out!

Our Orientation is an introduction to the Living History Program and includes what Living History is, what historic interpretation is, information about the Old Sacramento Historic District as a site for historic interpretation, what events we participate in during the year, what our training classes and workshops have to offer, and how someone can get started.

Our Open House features tables set up with displays for some of our classes, with one of our members at each table to explain what is shown or to demonstrate an activity such as gambling. Members are needed to staff the tables during the Open House. We would like to have tables for: Sacramento History, Material Culture, Popular Culture, Men's Historic Attire, Women's Historic Attire, Gold Rush Medicine, Etiquette, and Firearms. Members are also needed to socialize and make our visitors feel welcome and to answer questions about the Living History Program.

This is our best opportunity to introduce ourselves to potential members and invite them to join the program. Please see me to volunteer for this important event!

Bonnet Promenade Update

Yolanda Starr

The Bonnet Promenade, scheduled for April 7th, will begin at 12:00 noon in front of the Discovery Museum and end around 1:00 p.m. at the Earl Grey Manor Tea Salon on 2nd Street.

The cost for our Earl Grey Manor Tea Salon destination is \$5.00 person, to be paid in advance. I will have tickets available for purchase during the next General Meeting on March 10th. The cost of the tickets covers finger sandwiches, quiche, fresh fruit and three tea selections. Anyone who wants to purchase tickets before March 10th may contact me by e-mail at ystarr@cde.ca.gov or at 916-704-0207. For hardship or concern regarding the \$5.00 cost, please contact Janessa Gonsalves at 916-445-3101 or Janessa@historicalsacramento.com

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Bonnet and Hat Class

Catherine Hanson-Tracy

Several OSLHP members took advantage of the hands-on opportunity to learn millinery skills on February 3rd. Our instructor, Lynne Taylor, showed us how to construct a frame from buckram and millinery wire, and then how to cover it with our chosen fabric. It was quite a bit to learn in one day, and none of us finished our projects that day, but Lynne demonstrated each step and sent us home with a handout to help us remember what we had learned.

Participants included Penny Adams, Sandra Hand, Rose Kohn, Cate Jinneman, Jill Quinn, Doug Peterson, Becky Rogers, Yolanda Starr, and me. When you see us at the Bonnet Promenade, be sure to compliment us on our new headwear. Some successes are shown below.



Sandra Hand models the new bonnet that she made herself.

Living History Day

Greg Tracy

The inclement weather was not enough to dishearten five of our finest from participating in February's Living History Day. The center was converted into a saloon and gambling hall, and it worked quite well. Unfortunately, the weather discouraged many of our members and decreased the presence of visitors in old Sacramento City, but gambling and tales of the Gold Rush persisted.

Miss Addie Carter administered Chuck-a-Luck to the unwary punters. Dr. John Morse was available for medical advice, plus he provided a midday snack for the hungry living historians. Ysabel Catarina De Las Nubes y Consuelo Leon supplied charm and beauty to a Gold Rush city usually lacking in both, and Justice D.B. Fry was there to keep the peace. Finally, Jeff Bush gave logistical support that is quite welcome and so desperately needed at these events.

Remember, March will host Women's History Day and Living History Day the same weekend. This two-day event is an opportunity to have multiple days of fun. If you have a venue for either or both of these days and would like to participate, talk to either me or Jill Quinn for accommodation.



Doug Peterson shows off his new sky-high dandy.

Miscellanea

Library News

Ruth Chambers

Most Argonauts had access to at least two books: the *Bible* and *Shakespeare's Works*. These Gold Rush settlers were literate people with an enjoyment for the sound of words.

Often we forget Nathaniel Hawthorne (born 1804) was still writing about meeting the Devil in the forest with deals for success in exchange for the loss of a soul. Emily Dickenson (born 1830) was also writing, as was Edgar Allan Poe (born 1809).

And even families fleeing Europe (and other countries) to come to American and the Gold Rush, still had memories of dead bodies rotting in the street and of people being tortured and hanged in public places.

Mix all this together and a person comes to view with compassion for the less fortunate (*The Bible*), aware of a second son stealing a crown (*Hamlet*), understanding deals can be made (Hawthorne), plus knowing of gothic horror and madness (*Macbeth*). To this day, the British call *Macbeth* the Scottish Play, and do not mention by name this study in evolving madness.



Ruth Chambers entertained with a puppet show on Free Museum Day.

Then two brothers came West in a stage coach – two adventurous young men accompanied by a heavy dictionary. The men were named Orion and Samuel Clemens (born 1835). With them came a breath of fresh literary air and a hearty knee-slapping laugh.

The Living History Library has a copy of *Roughing It* written by Mark Twain in 1872. This is my favorite Twain book. It covers the time in the West before Twain was a successful and rich writer. *Roughing It* covers the story of a poor, young man having adventures in the silver and gold fields (early 1860s), and is the best record of what life was really like. Do take time to read this wonderful book.

A good companion book for *Roughing It* is *On the Road with Mark Twain in California and Nevada* by George J. Williams III. It's a travel book with maps of where Mark Twain was during his stay in the West. This book is available through: Tree By the River Publishing Trust, P.O. Box 20703-01, Carson City, NV 89721, (775) 887-1394, www.autographed-books.com, \$16.95, ISBN 0-935174-25-7

Soon this book will be available at the Visitor's Center in Old Sacramento at 1002 2nd Street. We will also be adding this book to our Living History Library as soon as we can.

Old Sacramento Parking

Yolanda Starr

Parking cards may be obtained at the City of Sacramento Parking Office located on 10th Street between I and J Streets. Contact Janessa at 445-3101 or Janessa@historicsacramento.com, and she will issue you a letter to take with you to the parking office.

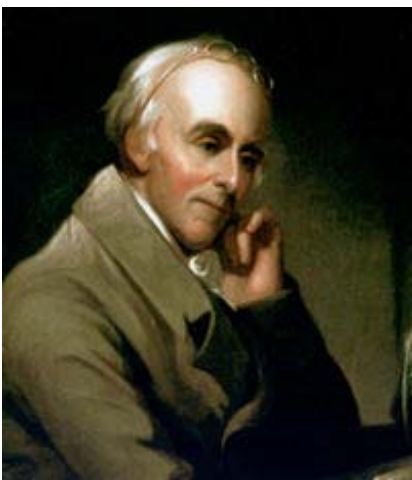
Example of savings: a 2-3 hour stay in the parking garage across from the Railroad Museum, with a parking card costs about \$2. This is a significant savings as opposed to paying \$5-\$6 dollars for the same amount of time.

Miscellanea

Staying Healthy

Richard Vincent, aka Dr. John Morse

At the request of President Jefferson, Dr. Benjamin Rush assisted with the medical preparations for the Lewis and Clark expedition and prepared this list of directions to help preserve the health of the expedition's personnel. Although it was written 50 years before the Gold Rush, the advice might have been given then, too.



*Dr. Benjamin Rush, painted by Charles Wilson Peale, c. 1818
(from Wikipedia)*

“Dr. Rush to Capt. Lewis for preserving his health. June 11, 1803.

1. When you feel the least indisposition, do not attempt to overcome it by labour or marching. *Rest* in a horizontal posture. Also fasting and diluting drinks for a day or two will generally prevent an attack of fever. To these preventatives of disease may be added a gentle sweat obtained by warm drinks, or gently opening the bowels by means of one, two, or more of the purging pills [known as “Thunderbolts”; a mixture of calomel (mercurous chloride) and jalap, both powerful purgatives].
2. Unusual costiveness is often a sign of approaching disease. When you feel it take one or more of the purging pills.
3. Want of appetite is likewise a sign of approaching indisposition. It should be obviated by the same remedy.

4. In difficult & laborious enterprises & marches, *eating sparingly* will enable you to bear them with less fatigue & less danger to your health.
5. Flannel should be worn constantly next to the skin, especially in wet weather.
6. The less spirit you use the better. After being *wetted* or *much* fatigued, or *long* exposed to the night air, it should be taken in an *undiluted* state. 3 tablespoonfuls taken in this way will be more useful in preventing sickness, than half a pint mixed with water.
7. Molasses or sugar & water with a few drops of the acid of vitriol will make a pleasant & wholesome drink with your meals.
8. After having had your feet much chilled, it will be useful to wash them with a little spirit.
9. Washing the feet every morning in *cold* water will conduce very much to fortify them against the action of cold.
10. After long marches, or much fatigue from any cause, you will be more refreshed by *lying down* in a horizontal posture for two hours than by resting a much longer time in any other position of the body.
11. Shoes made without heels, by affording *equal* action to all the muscles of the legs, will enable you to march with less fatigue than shoes made in the ordinary way.”



*Lewis and Clark on the Lower Columbia by C.M. Russell
(from Wikipedia)*

Miscellanea

Looking Back into History

Lesley Clarkson

When I was working at the Humboldt County Historical Society, I was assigned the job of cataloging the “miscellaneous file” which was in fact a bookcase that covered a space of about twenty feet long and six feet tall. It was filled with small boxes containing letters, pictures, and other ephemera and memorabilia. Each item was taken out, listed, photocopied, and then returned to the originator's box as a “collection.” Items like broaches and ceramics had already been removed and relocated to a museum in town.

One of the greatest things that I found was a ticket written in 1908 by a local policeman. At first glance I knew something was wrong. Not only was the memo area full of explanation, but every border was written on, and the diatribe extended to the back of the ticket. The feeling I got was that this poor policeman had been through a harrowing experience. As far as I can remember, this was his story...

He was sitting alone on a downtown block in the police car late one night when he heard a raucous sound and the back-fire of a car. The car that passed him was driven by a 12-year-old boy, and the policeman knew that this boy was driving his father's car. It was fortunate that it was so very late, for no one else was on the street. The boy was wildly weaving from side to side, barely missing the streetlights and buildings.



Jan Sorci and Eileen Carey at Women's History Day 2006

The policeman sped off in pursuit as the boys hung out of the window, yelling and singing. It turned out that there were five boys in the car, ranging from 9 to 12 years old and drunk as heck. By the time he caught up with the car, it was on the judge's front lawn, stuck in the damp mud. The car almost didn't make it back to the roadway, but the boys jumped out and pushed it, and up the street they went. At this point they still did not know they were being followed.

The policeman followed them for quite a while, watching them go over several teachers' lawns, more careening than actually turning corners. The light was on them from the policeman's car, but they never looked back. Every so often they would aim for the center of town, and in this way they circled and crossed town several times, all along the way hanging out of the car and howling, singing, grabbing trees and waving liquor bottles. Who would ever know what had inspired them to earn the thrashing that they would certainly receive when they returned home?

After the car ran out of gas and the boys saw the policeman, they greeted him casually. He was too upset to punish them then, instead his shaking hand wrote as much of the incident as physically possible upon that ticket, which some clever soul had preserved for all of posterity.

As I read this account, I was sure there would be a horrible ending but there wasn't. To my relief, no one was hurt except some landscaping and five bottoms. With this trivial ending, it becomes an amusing account of mischief in a simpler time.



Preparing for the 2006 St. Patrick's Day Parade

Miscellanea

Membership

Penny Adams, Vice-President

We have enjoyed meeting all the new members that have joined Old Sacramento Living History Program in this past year. We are so fortunate that we have so many new and enthusiastic new members!

We are, of course, always seeking others who would like to join us. If you know of anyone who likes history, acting, reenacting, research, or just likes to be involved with an active organization, invite them to one of our meetings as a guest. Or, better yet, invite them to attend our upcoming Orientation and Open House on April 14.

There are almost unlimited ways a member can participate in the program, and all are wanted. Members do not need to dress in historical attire if they do not wish to do so. There are always areas in which we would treasure their help.

We would love to have the opportunity to meet your friends to let them know what we are all about. Let me know if you are bringing guests to a meeting so I can properly introduce them during our meeting introductions.

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.



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
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	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Women’s History Day Meeting	Living History Center	Jill Quinn
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
10 – Saturday	2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Firearms Inspection and Training	Living History Center	Ray Eargle
TBA		Volunteer Appreciation Day Planning Meeting		
16 – Friday	11:30 a.m.	Sacramento City Birthday Party	Chavez Park	Janessa Gonsalves
17 – Saturday		St. Patrick’s Day Parade	Old Sacramento	Ken Knott
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	Meet in front of Discovery Museum	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
15 – Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Tour of USS Potomac		
29 – Sunday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Living History Day and Stroll	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
May				
8 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa Gonsalves
12 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting and Election	Living History Center	Ken Knott
12 – Saturday	1:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Class TBA	Living History Center	Ken Knott
18 – 20 Friday – Sunday		NCWA Civil War Living History Event	Gibson Ranch	www.ncwa.org
25 – Friday		Jazz Jubilee Parade	Old Sacramento	

Lament of the Irish Gold Hunter

Written for the *Alta California*, July 19, 1849

Tune: "*I'm sitting on the stile, Mary*"

I'm sitting on the stile, Mary
 Away up in the mines,
A looking out for lumps of gold,
 And pockets all I finds.
But the lumps I find is precious small,
 And very few at that,
And I feel that I have been, Mary,
 A most almighty flat.

There's lots of change up here, Mary,
 Tho' you'll find none in me,
For I spent the whole that I was worth
 In coming o'er the sea:
And though they says you've only got
 To take your pan and pick
A pocket full of gold you'll find
 It isn't quite so thick

I bless you for that nice hung beef
 You put into my trunk,
For when I got it 'tween my teeth
 I felt that I was hunk.
I bless you for the sausages
 That lasted me so long--
Tho' I'm thankful they are gone, Mary
 For they smelt a little strong.

I'm very dirty now, Mary,
 For water's hard to get
Unless it rains, and then you're sure
 Of getting pretty wet,
For there are no umbrellas here,
 And the rain comes through the roof--
And then you'll have a cold or cough,
 Unless you're waterproof.

Additional verses can be found at
www.maritimeheritage.org/tales.htm#lament

OSLHP
1002 Second St
Sacramento CA 95814