

ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, December 2007

Happy Holidays!

Janessa West, Program Coordinator

Once again Old Sacramento is decorated with evergreen boughs, pine cone wreaths and a 50-foot Christmas tree at the end of K Street. With all the lovely decorations it is hard to not get caught up in the holiday spirit.

I propose we do a Christmas or Holiday Card exchange. How does it work? Well, you draw the name of another fellow member of OSLHP and at our December 12th meeting you bring a card and possibly a small holiday candy for that person. Only those who are giving a card will receive a card. If you would like to participate please let me know, and I will add your name to my list!

Annual New Membership Contest

At our last general meeting, the members voted to make our membership contest a year-round event. For any member that you bring in you will receive a point. The person with the most points/new members will receive a prize at our annual volunteer appreciation lunch. Membership applications are available on our wonderful website, oslhp.net, as well as here in the Living History Center.

Architectural Tour: December 15th

The first public architectural tour took place November 17th and went just splendidly. If you would like to join the ranks, please join Richard on December 15th at 1:00 p.m. at the Living History Center.

Living History Day: December 23rd

Due to a miscommunication, the date of the December Living History Day has been changed from December 30th to December 23rd.



From the President's Quill

Greg Tracy, President

Holiday seasons greetings. This year has been a very fruitful year for the OSLHP. Our programs and events have been quite successful, and some were even more successful than expected. Living History Day is developing a fair amount of interest, and many Old Sac visitors are visiting specifically to see LHD.

Women's History Day, Gibson Ranch, and the Santa Parade were all quite triumphant. Ghost Tours were very profitable as were Gold Rush Days for the group. Our training program has realized some valuable results with continued historic education and some hands-on courses dealing with historic attire. The *Argonaut Gazette* has contributed greatly to making our program such a success with interesting and valuable information, and it is an excellent depiction of our group. Probably the best result of our work and dedication is having the OSLHP being declared and included this year with the 'Best of Sacramento.'

The Dickens Fair is just around the corner, along with Living History Day towards the end of the month, and these could be great opportunities for a memorable year's end. I would like to personally thank everyone who has made our program such a success and contributed to keeping Sacramento's rich history alive.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Santa Parade

Penny Adams, Vice-president

What a great weekend for the parade! On Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, about a dozen of us gathered to decorate the float. It was work that was efficiently done considering it was such a windy day. This year we went with the theme "Party like it's 1849." Our party was in the park.

We covered our rail posts on the float with red fabric "socks" in many different prints with a white rope threaded between them. Our special thanks to Jane Hollingsworth for doing such a wonderful job of making all of those socks. Dennis Brehm and Ken Knott made an emergency run to Home Depot to get our Astroturf that we believed we had, but did not. Then with Richard Vincent's help, they got the carpet laid.

Sandra Hand and Doug Peterson got all of our red bows fluffed and looking great as well as decorating our live Christmas tree for the pickup truck bed. Unfortunately, due to all of the wind, we had to lay the tree down and then redecorate it on Saturday morning.

Returning member LaMona Hoover and Catherine Hanson were instrumental in making sure the front of the float was properly decorated and the bows topped each rail post. One of our new members, Maylene Jackson, did an extraordinary job of fluffing out our greenery swags and wrapping the permanent railings with them.

As always, Jeff Bush was there to assist with anything and everything that needed to be done. We were also fortunate enough to have a young man, Kevin Emery that helped us to earn volunteer hours for his school project. And besides me running around like a chicken with its head cut off, we had Randy Brink to encourage us to hurry with our work so we could go to lunch.



Just getting started—affixing the banner to the float.



Installing the park "grass."



Wrapping it up. (Really, there is a float under there!)

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Santa Parade

(continued)

On Saturday morning, Jan Bullard, LaMona Hoover, Richard Vincent, Terry and Sandy Melau, Dennis Brehm, Maylene Jackson and I met at 7:30 a.m. to ride the float over to the parade start. We made short work of decorating the truck and finishing the float. We had a very large, lovely old book that we hung on the back of the float after the stairs were raised. Hopefully, we left nothing undecorated.

Old Sacramento Honorary Fire Marshall, Randy Brink, rode in the cab of the truck with our driver, Tom. Riding the float were Dale Shinn, a new member who played his hurdy-gurdy, Doug Peterson who played his violin and the concertina, and Richard Vincent who sang Christmas carols, with the rest of joining in. Ken Knott and Catherine Hanson danced and toasted the season. Jane Hollingsworth brought two of her grandchildren, but I must say, her grandson Robert was the hit of the float as he tried to get a bite out of the apple dangling from the pole Jane held for him. Jan Bullard and LaMona Hoover graced the back of the truck while Jill and Roger Quinn, Dennis Brehm, Maylene Jackson, Terry and Sandy Melau walked with the float, adding to the picture of a party.

All in all, I heard that audience members shouted out that this was our "best float ever." I sure thought it was! Thank all you for all of your energy, time, and creativity. I could not have done it without all of you.



Our talented and handsome musicians.



The well-dressed Melaus



The well-dressed Quinns



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Candlelight at Sutter's Fort

Terry Eargle

On Saturday, November 17, Ray and I, Jill & Roger Quinn, and Sandy & Terry Melau traveled back in time to November 1846. We landed at the entrance to Sutter's Fort, dimly lit by candled lanterns. (It was Sutter's Fort 23rd annual candlelight historic walking tours!)

The tour traveled through time and stopped along the many rooms of the fort. The spirits of the time discussed the issues of the Mexican-American War, Colonel Fremont, the native chieftain Yellow Serpent, and a missing dog, Fluffy! The stories at each venue carried a thread of history of the time period, as well as providing some humorous and comic relief, too. The costumed docents were well-rehearsed and soon we happened upon OSLHP's Biscuits! He does show up everywhere, doesn't he?! The tour ended in the great room of the large building in the center of the fort. We each received a warm libation in a souvenir drinking cup along with a delicious piece of pie. The time passed quickly and before you knew it, we were back in modern-day Sacramento.



The newly lit Old Sacramento Christmas tree

November Living History Day

Greg Tracy, President

Great grand Living History Day! The work was slight and the fun was grand. As Living History Day builds momentum, so do the resources. November's LHD was a dream come true. We had 10 volunteers that helped tote-haul and set-up, and 5 volunteers that helped tear-down and haul-tote back to the center. AmeriCorps is a national service program that allows people of all ages and backgrounds to earn help paying for education in exchange for a year of service. The corps provided the 10 men and women who comprised the set-up crew. The Alpha Phi Omegas from UC Davis made up the tear-down crew, plus they showed interest in our program.

LHD was also well attended by our members. We had enough living historians to have gaming all day, caroling throughout the historic district plus lots of meeting and greeting of old Sacramento visitors. Hopefully future LHD's will be as easy.

Remember the date for December LHD has been moved up to the 23rd. For those hardcore members who are interested the 30th could still be an option for Auld Lang Syne. We will discuss this issue at the general meeting on December 12th.



HOSF elves at the Christmas tree lighting.



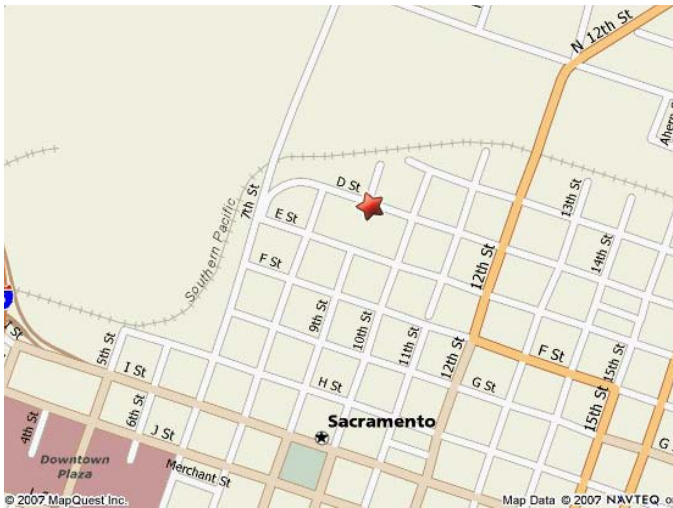
Upcoming Events

Dickens Fair

Janessa West

All the arrangements for our trip to the Dickens Fair on December 8th are set. If you would still like to join the group and make your way to the Dickens Fair on our chartered bus, **it is not too late**. The deadline for the group rate has passed; however individual tickets can still be purchased at the gate for **\$22**. Please let me know if you are joining us on the bus ride down.

Meeting Place: KCRA, 3 Television Circle, Sacramento (on D Street between 8th and 10th Streets, next to the Crystal Dairy)



Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m. (Please arrive on time, **the bus will not wait for late guests**)

Return Time: 8:30 p.m.

Good things to bring:

- A bottle of water for the bus ride
- Extra snacks
- Umbrella
- Camera
- Coat
- \$2 to tip the bus driver
- \$\$\$ spending money

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

Christmas Caroling

Terry Eargle

Ray is scheduled to play Father Christmas on Saturday, December 15 and 22. He plans to stroll Old Sacramento from noon to 4 p.m. For those interested in caroling, I'll plan on being at the Living History Center by 12:30 p.m., and we'll start caroling by 1 p.m. We can carol for a few hours depending on the number of carolers and/or the weather! I'll ask that Janessa set out the caroling books. I'll bring along "The Twelve Days of Christmas" movements cheat sheet, too. Remember, singing ability is not a prerequisite, however, your holiday spirit is!

Please RSVP to me at earglet@sbcglobal.net, or call (916) 486-8787 if you are interested.

SCVB Holiday Party

Janessa West

The Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau is having its holiday party on December 5th. We have been asked to come and greet people as they enter the party, from 4:20-6:00 p.m. Contact me if you are interested.

Photo Credits

Thank you to Sophie Flaherty for her photos of the Old Sacramento Christmas Tree Lighting!



What is Sophie doing to Father Christmas?!



Free Museum Day

Janessa West

Free Museum Day, February 2nd, will be here before we know it! I am starting the layouts for the rooms, so please let me know if you are planning on coming and displaying your collections. Please let me know what equipment you need and how much space you require.

If you have not been to this event, it is a family friendly event with crowds of people up and down the boardwalks. Old Sacramento is home to five museums. Museum-goers start their day in Old Sacramento and walk right past our door. This is a great day to promote our membership!

New Member Training Program

Ken Knott, Training Coordinator

We will be having an Open House on Free Museum Day at the Living History Center for new and prospective new members. I will present an overview of what the Living History Program is all about and what events our members participate in throughout the year, and I will discuss the curriculum for our training classes and workshops from 11:00 – 2:00.

All new members are required to attend 18 hours of training classes within their first year of membership. Two-hour classes are held once a month and include such subjects as Early Sacramento History, Historical Interpretation, Men's and Women's Historic Attire, Popular Culture, Language, Improvisation, Gold Rush Gambling, and more. **Our first class will be held on Saturday Feb. 23 at 10:00 – 12:00 at the Center.**

Invite everyone you know to our Open House on Free Museum Day!

Miscellanea

The Wagon

Lesley Clarkson

My life is a wagon filled with cotton and corn, “on its way to market.” At least that’s what I tell people, that I have a buyer in the next town. And where is that town? Oh, yes, I remember now.

My sons have grown tired of living on corn, and each has taken work in a town we passed along the way. The eldest kept our plow-horse, only the nag is left. She is weary of the load, but it grows lighter each day by one ear. The youngest son implored me to take work in a big house on the river, but I would have been working with the Negroes, and their master’s intentions were clear. His women on the porch, my son too innocent to understand. How could I allow my son to watch that?

I’ve heard that we have relatives in Seminole country. It’s heavy swamp and far away, wagons will not pass there. I miss my land, the moss hung trees, the creek. Mother’s tea-roses grow wild on that creek.

Sally doesn’t need to be driven, she stays on the road and plods along. She prefers to bear right. I pull her to the left fork sometimes, just to keep from going in a circle. It’s best not to cover the same ground.

Once when I was pulling her to the right, you saw me rise. Most people are not intrigued by an undrawn wagon. After all, it’s just cotton and corn. They assume there is a drunk in the cotton, but you happened to notice. You hooked your mule to the wagon to relieve Sally for a while, I didn’t wake up. Isn’t it amazing how safe a white woman is in this country? That’s how civilized we have become.

You told me that you were surprised I was not an old woman. I said that I was. That was the next day, after a bitter cold night for the winter was on its way. That’s all I said, we females are better spoken to than out-spoken. That is our way. You noticed my bodi-bag, what’s left of my ancestors that I wear between my breasts. It labels me esquway, little more than a slave, and I didn’t mean to let you see. You smelled of coffee and pine trees. You had some tack so I made a pancake for you. Then I washed Sally and myself, and you were still there so I washed your horse as well. You just sat on the bank and glared at us.

A few days later you were back. Some people say “down river” like it’s a bad thing, but they don’t know how frosty the winter will become. I hear that they

don’t have frost in The Seminole, so Sally and I will just keep going east. Sally understands. I don’t know where you are going. You are an unusually strong man and I wonder why you don’t have land, why you aren’t settled, for you could be. It would be rude to ask something so intimate. Lord knows what could have happened. It’s none of my business.

The nights are so cold. You’ve been hunkering with me, having your way. Your arm over me at night feels so good it is surreal. I wonder if perhaps there really is a benevolent god, like the good women say when they make me go to church with them. Between the tears and the bitter cold you offer comfort. You’ll mutter “foolish women, always crying.” You seem to find me each nightfall, and head out just before dawn. If you can’t find me on a night, then the next you will be angry and I wonder who you are, where you are from, what you will do.

When the sun is high I sleep in the wagon, otherwise it’s best to walk beside and relieve the nag. I traded a bale of cotton for tack today, so I feel a bit better. If you find me tonight we’ll have soup and the biscuits she gave me. One night you spit a turkey over my fire and ate almost all of it and it made me laugh. There were coyotes following you for the scraps but you didn’t seem to notice. Late at night they spooked the horses so you shot at them but missed, of course. There was no moon that night.

Sometimes you talk to me and I answer. One night while lifting my petticoat you found the knot of coins in my hem but didn’t take it. It’s a pitiful small knot. You held it out to me in your big hand and looked at me with a stern face. “What’s this?” you said and I replied just a little silver. “Silver?” “Yes sir, it’s not gold,” I lied and was more afraid, but even as gold it was not worth much. I started to shake with the lie, that I would be found out and beaten like I should be. You were angry and pushed me away and left. The moon was full that night and you didn’t return to the wagon but I think you were nearby. I think you knew I lied.

Sally has bad teeth and she will die soon. Perhaps I’ll make a raft for the river and just float downstream. I wonder if you will be able to find me then.



Miscellanea

Member Notes

From **Yolanda Starr**: I wish to express my appreciation to all those who have called and sent me get well cards and post cards. These cards have helped lift my spirit tremendously. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and caring. In addition, I want to especially thank Greg Tracy, Christie Schauburger, Lesley Clarkson, Jim Lundsten, and Dennis Brehm for the time and effort they all spent in taking care of me. Without their help, my initial recovery would have been a lot harder and slower. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing all of you soon!

PhotoMax Pays Dividend

Greg Tracy, President

The first dividend from PhotoMax has been paid to OSLHP. For those who do not remember, PhotoMax offers cool items, with images of Old Sacramento and our events placed on coasters, mouse pads, mugs, puzzles and more. This is a fundraising project by Jeff Bush. All proceeds will be donated by Jeff to OSLHP.

These items will make great Christmas gifts or souvenirs for those who have everything. To see what is available from PhotoMax, go to www.jeffbush.myphotomax.com, sign in with email jeffbush@bigplanet.com and password oldtown. Thanks, Jeff. Great effort.

From your Editor

Catherine Hanson-Tracy

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-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.

Lost & Found

Lost at Gold Rush Days: One stainless dinner knife in the Stinking Tent Saloon or nearby. Please notify Jason Hollingsworth if found. Mr. Lee will be very pleased.



Old Sacramento Living History Center

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

Janessa West, 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:

Greg Tracy, President
Penny Adams, Vice President
Ken Knott, Past President
Yolanda Starr, Secretary
Lesley Clarkson, Treasurer
Jan Bullard, Member-at-Large
Jason Hollingsworth, 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 2007				
1 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Firearms safety session	Living History Center	Ray Eargle
1 – Saturday	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	49er Historical Bottle Association Show	Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn	
5 – Wednesday	4:20 – 6:00 p.m.	SCVB Holiday Party Meet & Greet		Janessa West
5, 12, 19 – Wednesdays 9, 16 – Sundays	6:00 – 9:00 p.m. 1:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Victorian Christmas	Nevada City	www.ncgold.com/Events/Winter/Victorian.html
8 – Saturday	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.	OSLHP trip to the Dickens Fair	Cow Palace, San Francisco	Janessa West
8 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	An Emigrant Christmas	Sutter's Fort	
11 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
12 – Wednesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Greg Tracy
15, 22 – Saturdays	1:00 p.m. – ?	Christmas Caroling	Living History Center	Terry Eargle
15 – Saturday	1:00 p.m.	Architectural Tour	Living History Center	Janessa West
23 – Sunday	11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Living History Day	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
January 2008				
8 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
12 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Greg Tracy
TBA		Bonnet Promenade (March 22!) Planning Meeting		
TBA		Women's History Day Planning Meeting		
27 – Sunday	11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Living History Day	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy
February 2008				
2 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Free Museum Day/ OSLHP Open House	Living History Center	Janessa West
12 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Living History Center	Janessa West
13 – Wednesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	Living History Center	Greg Tracy
TBA		Bonnet Promenade Planning Meeting		
TBA		Women's History Day Planning Meeting		
23 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Training Class	Living History Center	Ken Knott
24 – Sunday	11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Living History Day	Waterfront Park	Greg Tracy

The Back Page



Christi Schauburger and Greg Tracy at the tree lighting



Doug Peterson as Father Christmas

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