

# ARGONAUT GAZETTE

“KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE”

SACRAMENTO, July 2010

## A Summer of Fun

Janessa West, Program Coordinator

*A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay.  
A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon.  
A swarm of bees in July is not worth a fly.*

- Unknown



Welcome to July! We have a busy Old Sacramento this summer. On June 19<sup>th</sup> the Street Theatre Program began. For those that don't like to set up or tear down, this is the best time to come out and play. Stages, sets, and props are setup around Old Sacramento and they are ready to be used. Come out on any weekend day and time travel.

Also starting this summer is the Underground Tour which will begin on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Tours will take place on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Between Street Theatre and the Underground Tour, Old Sacramento is going to be a busy place all summer long.

Meanwhile, we still need to get our plans in order for Gold Rush Days. Venue forms were handed out at the last meeting. We have many new venues this year, so make sure you get your prop list in quickly. Tents, chairs, and tables are in high demand and those that request them first, get them first!

If you are new to Gold Rush Days, think about where your character would have gone when he or she was in town. Read the venue descriptions on pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter. For questions about any of the venues, just ask the venue chair!

## From the President

Jill Quinn, President

As we welcome July, I would also like to welcome our newly elected board members to the Executive Board of Old Sacramento Living History. We have a great new team. I would also like to thank the past board members for their contributions to OSLH. This coming year promises to be as busy as ever and has the addition of Red Barn Productions activities and the start of the Underground Tours.

I would encourage everyone to participate in activities with Red Barn Productions. I have found “playing” with them to be enriched by meeting fellow re-enactors as well as learning new ways of doing things. It also offers a great opportunity to brush up on our venues for GRD.

Do you know in which year the first Independence Day was celebrated in Sacramento?



*Madam President prepares to fry chicken for dinner at the American Hotel in Columbia. It was delicious!*

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## COLUMBIA DIGGINS

### Love and Loss in the Gold Fields

#### *An interested observer*

While visiting Columbia this past June, Miss Vikki once again found herself in the middle of scandal. Caught in a love triangle, she was accused of polygamy!

Before following her older sister, Miss Addie Carter, to California, she was known as Miss Victoria Carter. She had lived a comfortable lifestyle while growing up on the family plantation, but when told of her arranged engagement to the owner of a neighboring plantation, she fled in fear.

Penniless, Miss Vikki had few options. Using her charm, she was able to secure herself a suite in a hotel in one of the towns nearby. While staying there, Miss Vikki met a young handsome sailor. After she confessed to him that she was a runaway, he gave her an offer she could not refuse! He would buy her passage around the horn so long as she agreed to keep him “company” during the voyage.

Over the course of the journey the two began to fall in love, and two weeks prior to docking in San Francisco they had the Captain marry them. The lovebirds arrived in Sacramento, but her husband broke her heart when he went back to sea. He promised he would return quickly, but as weeks turned into months, Miss Vikki began to suspect he had run off and did not intend to come back.

She once again found herself without money. Luckily though, this time she had her dear sister to turn to for support. Miss Addie, who was employed by Mr. Lee, was able to secure her baby sister a job in the saloon. Together they were unstoppable, bringing in plenty of gold dust...



*“Are you sure the marriage vows say that?”*



*“I couldn’t afford a real wedding ring. I hope this forged horseshoe will do!”*



*“Wait! I haven’t said you could kiss the bride yet!”*

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## COLUMBIA DIGGINS

### Love and Loss (continued)

After a while though, Miss Vikki began to grow restless and decided it was time to explore the rest of California. She traveled to Columbia after hearing many wonderful things about the town from customers. The Professor was kind enough to offer her temporary employment in the Star Spangled Banner Saloon. She quickly settled in, becoming close to Flora, the Lily of the West, and even closer to Biscuits, the blacksmith. Miss Vikki was much too embarrassed to admit her husband had left her and instead told them she had fled from an abusive marriage.

While working in the saloon, she had had many marriage proposals, but legally could not accept them... at least not until she was either widowed or divorced. The news she had been praying for finally arrived on Saturday morning. The Captain of her husband's ship had written to her telling her that he had fallen overboard and had drowned off the coast of the Sandwich Islands.

Shocked by the news, Miss Vikki went running through the streets yelling, "Biscuits! Biscuits! We can get married now!" An hour later the two said "I do" with Charles Nahl as their witness. Flora was the maid of honor, nearly upstaging the bride with her beauty.



*"I told her she could have time off from work for a honeymoon as long as it didn't take more than 20 minutes!"*



*"That honeymoon sure was a humdinger of 20 minutes!"*

Sunday morning, being their first day as man and wife, was supposed to be wonderful. However, the stagecoach was carrying a ghost from the past whom Miss Vikki was not expecting. As her first husband stepped onto the dusty ground, she nearly fainted. Thinking quickly though, she ran to him and showered him with kisses, thanking God for the miracle.

Accusations of polygamy began right away, and Biscuits was certainly not happy either. Knowing she had to explain her second marriage, she told her first husband that she had been violently forced into the marriage. She told him she had been mourning his death and had even become ill. Miss Vikki had a reputation to uphold, and she would not let it be ruined. Although Biscuits argued against the lies she was telling, her first husband believed her. She later had her second marriage annulled, and the two returned to Sacramento City together.

All's well that ends well.



*The first husband's arrival causes a debate on the merits of polygamy.*

## JAZZ JUBILEE PARADE



*Harm Wilkinson and Dave Dutton on banner duty*



*Yolanda and Biscuits make a big hit with the audience.*



*OSLH is a family friendly parade unit!*



*Flora and Professor Dodge generate an enthusiastic response from the crowd.*



*Candi Zizek and Karen Wilkie represent the well-attired proper ladies.*

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## Upcoming Events



### Independence Day Celebration

*Yolanda Starr*

The potluck and variety show are on for July 3 at Waterfront Park. I met with Kevin Patterson of Red Barn Productions, and we went over the logistics. We will share the shade with them. The grass area is ours to set up as we please for the croquet and horseshoes. Part of the shady area will be used for the potluck. We will be using their stage (in the other part of the shady area) for the variety show.

The following are the times for set-up/take-down, the potluck, and variety show:

- Set-up time: 10:00 a.m., meet behind the Eagle Theater. Everyone is welcome to come and help—the more the merrier, and less work for everyone!
- Potluck: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Croquet and horseshoe games: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- Take-down: 1:00 p.m. Again, everyone is welcome to help take down the tents, flies, tables, chairs, and take back to the Eagle Theater.
- Variety Show: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you all there to partake of a delicious repast with great company! If you need assistance or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

### July Enrichment

*Jill Quinn*

Dave Freeman will do a presentation on packing and transportation in the Gold Rush era after the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. He is very knowledgeable on the Northern trails and transportation system of 1850.

## THE HOLLINGSWORTH MEMORIAL ANNUAL CROQUET TOURNAMENT

ATTENTION OSLH CROQUET PLAYERS!

Our annual croquet tournament will be held on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 in Waterfront Park.

This year we are dedicating the tournament to the memory of Jason Hollingsworth, the tournament organizer.

The defending champion, Flatfoot Jim Lundsten will be pulling every trick to defeat all challengers!

Deadeye Ken Knott, who came in second place last year, will be bringing the Official Croquet Rule Book to make sure this year's match will be fair and square for all players who wish to have fun and join in the action.

**COME ONE, COME ALL!**



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## Upcoming Events

### Old Sacramento Street Theatre Calendar

*Janessa West*

July 3 & 4 - Independence Day (picnic, croquet, military parade, declaration reading, little patriots parades)

July 10 & 11 - Politicians, patent medicine men, and other purveyors of pomposity

July 17 & 18 - Politicians, patent medicine men, and other purveyors of pomposity

July 24 & 25 - Horse Power: When horses meant power (horse auction, local teamsters honored, stagecoach rides)

July 31 & August 1 - Civil War in Sacramento (NCWA camps, demos, parades, drills)

August 7 & 8 - Civil War in Sacramento (NCWA camps, demos, parades, drills)

August 14 & 15 - Founders of Sacramento (featuring Sam Brannan and the Founding of Sacramento Pageant, road raising debates)

August 21 & 22 - Pioneer skills (mountain men camps, demos, contests of skill and wits)

August 28 & 29 - Ballroom dance & the era of romance

Every day will feature roaming entertainers, period musicians, audience participation melodramas, make-and-take craft activities, and the New Golden Melodeon Review at 2:30 in the Eagle Theater, where all performers and special guests from the audience will gather to honor the city of Sacramento and the great California Gold Rush!

### Red Barn Productions and OSLH Collaboration

*Harm Wilkinson*

If you haven't already, I suggest you make it a point to go down to Old Sacramento and see what Red Barn Productions is all about. I planned to go on June 19<sup>th</sup> and ended up going on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> as well, and I plan to go every weekend day that I can get down there.

They have a tremendous amount of energy and a great rapport with the people. Their performers come in all shapes and sizes and the variety of characters on display is quite amazing.

I have watched as streams of people follow the sandwich-boarded barker down Front Street to the Old Eagle for the afternoon Melodeon. Pulling people up out of the audience to participate in the stage theatre is something to see, adults and children alike throwing their hands up and hollering "Pick me, pick me" so as to be included in whatever melodrama is scheduled for the day.

I had previously arranged to harangue with "Sam Brannan" when he began his real estate pitches from the stage as he introduced the acts, and I laughed as hard as anyone at the antics of "the Professor" and "Mr Swindler...Swindon, Mr Swindon" as they hawked their snake oil/liniment/lotion brought back from "the five corners" of the earth. Lola Montez showing ankles as she danced the "Spider Dance" and little "Lotta Crabtree" did not fail to elicit cheers from the packed house.

So, as I said at the beginning, if you haven't gone yet, I think you would be well served to get down there and see what is going on in Sacramento City weekends through August. I also think it could serve as a great launching platform for us to do more and possibly be more creative and involved in more productions in the future.

See you in Sacramento City!

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## Upcoming Events

### Summer Collaboration in Historical Street Theater

Red Barn Productions has been asked by the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation and California State Parks Gold Rush District to join forces with Old Sacramento Living History in bringing history to life in the streets of “Sacramento City”. We love what we have learned about the origins of Sacramento and are excited to learn more as we evolve the program throughout the summer.

Creating historically authentic, theatrical presentations for the public is our passion!

We look forward to working with everyone in Old Sacramento, from the Museum docents and tour guides to all the members of Old Sacramento Living History and other local groups.

We would like to personally invite every member of Old Sacramento Living History to participate in this summer's program. We hope to instigate some real fun with character collaboration and interaction in the streets. We look forward to meeting you at the Eagle Theater ANY weekend day between now and August 29<sup>th</sup>.

The greenroom basement has been transformed into a combined kitchen, production office, and rest area with couches and carpets. This set-up is for you and everyone who will be joining us in the streets of Old Sacramento. We will be hosting a tasty “Players Lunch” each and every day of the program, for everyone who puts on a costume and ventures forth in character. Please RSVP to [Robert@redbarnproductions.org](mailto:Robert@redbarnproductions.org) each week by Wednesday evening. This helps us plan our food purchase.

We look forward to meeting you in person, introducing you to the performers from Red Barn Productions, and bringing history to life TOGETHER in Old Sacramento!

If you email [Robert@redbarnproductions.org](mailto:Robert@redbarnproductions.org) with your character information, we will add it to the list we are putting together AND add you to the email list for regular updates.

Most Sincerely,  
Kevin Patterson and Red Barn Productions



### “Time Travel Weekends” Program Details

Saturdays and Sundays  
June 19<sup>th</sup> to August 29<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### How to participate

Show up with your costume and place your photo and character name on the “Big Board.” Talk with other performers about your character interaction ideas and “hit the boards.”

Again, we would love to have you join us for our hosted lunch so please RSVP each week prior to the weekend days you plan to join us.

### Character & program development

As things evolve during the entire summer, we will learn about each other’s characters and bring new characters to life. By supporting you and acknowledging the character development and living history work you have been doing for years, we hope to work together on bringing history to life with ever more passion and theatricality.

### Red Barn Productions Directors

Jeffrey Weissman - Characters, Medicine Shows  
[jeffreyweissman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffreyweissman@sbcglobal.net)  
Chase Williams - Melodeon, Melodrama, Musicians  
[daywilliams@earthlink.net](mailto:daywilliams@earthlink.net)  
Robert Young - Street Theater & Lunch RSVP  
[robert@redbarnproductions.org](mailto:robert@redbarnproductions.org)  
Wells & Kathleen Twombly - Research, Themes, Activities, [wkbtwombly@att.net](mailto:wkbtwombly@att.net)  
Kimbell Jackson - Greenroom and Lunch manager  
[kimbell.jackson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kimbell.jackson@sbcglobal.net)

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## Upcoming Events

### The Mysterious Green Room

*Candi McCarthy Zizek*

With all this talk of the “Green Room,” I had to go experience it for myself. Last Saturday I went deep underground into the basement of the Eagle Theater. Red Barn Productions (RBP) has expanded upon resources provided by State Parks, HOSF and OSLH to create a true C-O-O-L oasis for respite and regrouping for all re-enactors. What a GEM!

Kimbell Jackson, an RBP volunteer from Petaluma, is the mistress of the Green Room for the summer. Along with fresh gladiolas, huge containers of iced drinks, and special snacks, Kimbell has brought her values for hospitality and sustainability to this transformed haven. Real china, glasses, and silverware lay waiting on the buffet table for company, along with 6 guest tables and many comfortable chairs. Kimbell is willing to sanitize utensils rather than use paper and plastic, and she loves the new second refrigerator a magic lady just donated. Kimbell’s thoughts were on the French lamb-sausage Cassoulet and peach cobbler she was preparing for the Sunday offering. Triple decadent brownies represent treats that are highly valued from those eager to donate more decadence and rewards into this cool dark respite.

Hanging fabric drapes the walls, covering all the storage and garage-feel. Several carpets line the floors. Always on is the air conditioning, which is certain to bring performers back to rejuvenate! Overseeing all, RBP Executive Director Kevin Patterson has his neat corner for electronics and organization, and he’s hoping Internet access will soon find its way into this Green Room domain.

RBP Wardrobe Mistress Liz Martin was absent that day, but Val Hicks filled in and was busy repairing by hand a torn vest. A sewing machine would be a great addition to the clothing closet this summer! Liz will be involved with repairs, costume loans all summer weekends.

I might just stay and enjoy the Green Room activities this summer!



*A glimpse of the Green Room activities*

### Square Shirt Workshop

*Doug Peterson*

A Class for Beginning Victorian Haberdashers

Sacramento City Dry Goods

112 J Street, Old Sacramento

Saturday, July 17, 9 am-5 pm

Sunday, July 18, 1 pm-5 pm

The square shirt was the basic men's undergarment from the 17th century through the mid-19th century. It is made of rectangles of various sizes hand-stitched into a versatile upper garment. They were usually sewn at home, even in wealthy families, and seldom available as ready-to-wear items.

To get the most out of the class you should be comfortable doing the following:

- Set up, wind bobbin, and thread your sewing machine
- Adjust thread tension and stitch length
- Sew a straight seam
- Open a seam
- Turn a seam
- Topstitch

Class Fee \$35, reservations required. Remit to:

Doug Peterson

1920 Sheffield Dr,

El Dorado Hills 95763

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## Gold Rush Days Venues

### Venues & Chairs (thus far)

- Ladies venues—Penny Adams
  - Mrs. Keys Gold Needle dressmaking and millinery—Donna Fipps
  - Boarding House—Carol Bassoni
- Miner's Camp—Dave Freeman
- Stinking Tent Saloon—Jan Bullard, Doug Peterson
- Eagle Theatre Saloon—Ken Knott
- Doctor's and Barber's Tent—Richard Vincent
- Californio Tent—Yolanda Starr
- Laundry—Barbara Rothermel
- Sutter Rifles/Justice of the Peace—Greg Tracy
- Blacksmith—Dennis Brehm
- Mercantile—Jill Quinn, Terry Eargle
- Embarcadero Stage—Leilani Howard
- Gold Panning—Janessa West
- Adams Express—Chair needed!

### Ladies' Areas

#### *Penny Adams*

This year we will again have Mrs. Keys Gold Needle which Donna Fipps will chair. We will have a large tent to display all of the sample wares that Mrs. Keys and others have made. We will also have a wood-on-barrels cutting table for those who would like to make use of their time by cutting out a new frock. It is a marvelous venue, and we would like to have all ladies who would like to sit and sew join us to do so, keeping those projects period appropriate.

Right next to Mrs. Keys' dressmaking/millinery shop will be the Frink's Boarding House. Carol Bassoni will be chair for this venue and will also be the overnight "boarder" (keeping a watchful eye out for the two venues). There will be lace making as well as other early American needlecrafts such as braiding, knitting, and embroidery.

This year we are going to try not to have any table or other divider between the two venues so the ladies can just sprawl out. It will help with coverage between the two venues and will also lead to better communication as it would be in the 1850's.

I will be the overall chair for the ladies areas, but Donna and Carol will be in charge of each of

their areas. We need to know the times you would like to join us as we will have to keep good coverage at all times. You can contact Donna at [dfipps@aol.com](mailto:dfipps@aol.com) or at (916) 371-0539 (h) or (916) 307-1545 (c), or Carol at [cbassoni@aol.com](mailto:cbassoni@aol.com) or at (408) 295-9964 (h), or me at [padams@porterscott.com](mailto:padams@porterscott.com) or at (916) 922-0084 (h) or (916) 202-7534 (c).

Donna and Carol will be setting up the venues. If you are available to assist in the set-up, please come down and help them; it would be very much appreciated. Be sure you confirm the planned set-up times by contacting Carol and Donna individually.

We ask that once you commit to a day(s) and time(s) you will be attending, please make sure you are actually there during those time periods as we depend on our volunteers to make it look like a busy and interesting venue. Should you not be able to keep your schedule, please let either Donna, Carol or me know as soon as possible.

### Doctor's Tent

#### *Richard Vincent*

The doctor's tent displays surgical, dental, and barber's tools as used during the Gold Rush. The docents explain the use of the various items to walk-up viewers and describe medical procedures of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The venue chairman will provide the necessary information.

The venue should operate Saturday thru Monday. One assistant will be needed each morning and each afternoon. Set-up chores will be minimal—just a small tent and a couple of tables for the displays.

Contact me to volunteer, 916-991-1411 or [rvincent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvincent@sbcglobal.net).

### Californios

#### *Yolanda Starr*

*Es mi tierra!* It is my land!

Karen Wilkie, Skip Baker, Rudy Rodriguez and I will share a day in our life as Californios fighting to keep our California lands intact from the squatters.

*More venues on the next page!*

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## Gold Rush Days Venues

### Adams Express

*Ashley Griffiths*

Adams Express is an important venue during Gold Rush Days. After panning for gold at the museum, children and adults alike bring their gold to the bank to have it exchanged for a bank note. Volunteers tell the “miners” a few facts about exchanging gold, weigh the gold, explain the star program, and point them in the right direction.

It's a very simple job, but the venue requires quite a few workers due to the large crowds over the weekend. I will be working the venue Friday and am willing to train anyone interested. Email me with any questions.

### Mercantile

*Jill Quinn*

The mercantile is a new venue this year. It will be modeled after an actual store in Sacramento during the Gold Rush. The focus will be on groceries. The mercantile will carry provisions such as flour, cornmeal, beans, as well as fresh California vegetables and fruits.

I would like to do some scheduled demonstrations during the day such as butter making and other food-related activities. There can be significant opportunities to interact with the public and teach in this venue as there is a “story” about most of the food that will be displayed. This venue will need a minimum of one or up to three clerks to “tend the store.”

### Justice of the Peace/Sutter Rifles

*Greg Tracy*

Register a claim, settle claims, file complaints, and get marriage permits at the Justice of the Peace. The JOP office is a neutral place where any of our residents may meet and not cause a reflection upon either resident's reputation. The sheriff will be on duty in the JOP office for Gold Rush. The JOP office will also serve as the HQ for this annual muster of our 4th Brigade command staff.

### Gold Panning

*Janessa West*

Helping hands are always needed in the gold panning venue. Aspiring miners of all ages need assistance learning the technique of finding gold. If you like a fast-paced activity, this is for you!

### Main Saloon

*Jan Bullard*

Can't take another Labor Day sewing, knitting, or milking your goats? Are you bored with etiquette, proper manners, and acting shocked every time some loose-corseted floozy walks by? Well then, come join those floozies and plan a GRD shift at James Lee's Stinking Tent Saloon and House of Gambling.

We have fun taking the gold from those unsuspecting punters (players) and singing rowdy songs at inappropriate times. Sell a little soda and kick up your heels. We'll teach you a game or two to play with the public.

Come in anytime, but leave your manners outside!

### Eagle Theater Saloon

*Ken Knott*

The Saloon operates much as it would have during the Gold Rush, with the exceptions that only sarsaparilla and such drinks are available at the bar, no gold changes hands at the gaming tables, and no segar smoking is allowed. There is room for two gambling tables, where the usual games are Over-and-Under, Four Card Monte and Red & Black. Faro is available upon request.

There is a piano in the saloon, and a piano player is needed who can play *Ol' Dan Tucker*, *Jordan Am a Hard Road to Trabble*, and *Dandy Jim from Caroline*. Strumpets are welcome, as are bartenders to sell the sarsaparilla. Professor Flatbroke B. Dodge and Flora, the Lily of the West, will be holding forth on the gaming tables, and other gamblers are needed to take turns at the tables.

The Eagle Theater is air conditioned, there is cold liquid refreshment handy, and clean sanitary conveniences are just downstairs.

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## Miscellanea

### Calling Cards

#### *E. B. Crocker*

I have been requested to review the conventions for use of the calling card. As you are likely to know, calling cards have been used for decades in polite society. They are an important part of the custom of paying calls on one's friends and neighbors.

Upon arriving during calling hours on a lady's calling day, or upon calling on a gentleman, one presents a calling card to the servant who answers the door. One waits patiently in the receiving hall while the servant determines if the person you are calling is "at home." The receiving area usually has a display of the calling cards of previously received callers. Reviewing these is a good way of catching up on the connections of your friend. Most gracious households provide some other amusements such as well-chosen prints or perhaps a Bible tract.

Should the person you are calling on not be home, the leaving of your card is considered exactly to have been as if you had passed a pleasant time calling on him or her. The person called on is obligated to return the call under most circumstances. Of course, there are many more fascinating details of proper etiquette for calls that our dear editor no doubt will engage to provide at some future time.

The calling card itself is of high quality thick paper or light card material. Gentleman's cards are 3 inches by 1½ inches, while lady's cards are 3 inches by 2½ inches.

During the 1860s there was a positive craze for elaborately designed color lithographed cards with flowers, ornamentation, and so on. But even then the very best society used a plain card. Cards should be tastefully engraved or hand-written. Indeed, a well-written card shows the skill and breeding of the writer.

A gentleman's card has his name centered on the card. If he desires, he may place his address on the lower right corner. Should he be using the card for his business or profession, he may place the name of the business immediately under his own name. My business card, for example is:



My personal card omits the name of my business.

A married lady's card includes both her and her husband, using his name. Should she have unmarried daughters who are of age to receive, then they are listed as "Miss X" or "Misses X" below her name. A lady may place the day she receives visitors in the lower left of her card. For example, Mrs. Crocker and daughters Mary, Kate, and Nellie use this card:



(I am titled "Honorable" because of my judicial title. Most men simply use "Mr.") Should Mrs. Crocker be widowed by my unfortunate demise, her card would change to show "Mrs. Margaret Crocker." If both Margaret and I have passed on, then the girls would have a card that showed "Misses Crocker."

Boys do not use calling cards if calling with their father. If they have earned the right to be recognized in society as men, then they are treated as men and have their own cards.

I understand that the advertising cards that many businesses use has continued to thrive in your century. Alas that the custom of a specific day for a lady to be "at home" to receive visitors has vanished.

Perhaps you would consider substituting your "web home page" in your calling cards where we place our home address?

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## Miscellanea

### Member Notes

*Penny Adams*

Thank you, thank you to everyone for their warm wishes and cards during my convalescence after surgery. I am doing very well and have started back to work part-time. I hope to see you all at the next function.

I would also like to thank all who supported me during the elections for Vice-President, and I know that all of you will wholeheartedly stand behind Doug Peterson during his term as the Vice-President.

### Librarian's Random Pick

*Janessa West*

*Sacramento: Indomitable City* by Steven M. Avella

"Indomitable is an old-fashioned word. 'Unconquered' and 'not easily subdued' are terms usually applied to individuals, nations, or causes. But when city leaders in Sacramento crafted a new city seal in the early 1860s, they chose the classical Latin *Urbs Indomita*—Indomitable City—to characterize the California state capital."



### From your Editor

*Catherine Hanson*

All OSLH 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chanson@library.ca.gov)

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



The *Argonaut Gazette* is published monthly by Old Sacramento Living History.

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Photographer: Sophie Flaherty

### Old Sacramento Living History Center

Located in the Eagle Theatre  
Front Street, Old Sacramento

#### Mailing address

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101 I Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

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[www.oldsacramentolivinghistory.com](http://www.oldsacramentolivinghistory.com)

#### 2010-2011 OSLH Officers

Jill Quinn, President  
Doug Peterson, Vice President  
Greg Tracy, Past President  
Jan Bullard, Secretary  
Bob Flaherty, Treasurer  
Yolanda Starr, Member-at-Large  
Candi Zizek, Member-at-Large

OSLH is sponsored by  
the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation.



## EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
<b>July</b>				
3 – Saturday	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Independence Day Picnic	Waterfront Park	Yolanda Starr
3 – Saturday	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Variety Show	Waterfront Park	Ashley Griffiths
TBD	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	TBD	Jill Quinn
10 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Jill Quinn
10 – Saturday	1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Stroll	Old Sacramento	Penny Adams
17 – 18 Sat. – Sun.	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Square Shirt Workshop	Sac City Dry Goods	Doug Peterson
16 – 18 Fri. – Sun.		Civil War event	Duncan Mills	
<b>August</b>				
10 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
14 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Jill Quinn
14 – Saturday	1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Stroll	Old Sacramento	Penny Adams
<b>September</b>				
3 – 6 Friday – Monday		Gold Rush Days	Old Sacramento	Janessa West
7 – Tuesday	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Janessa West
11 – Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	General Membership Meeting	Sacramento History Museum	Jill Quinn
11 – 12 Sat. – Sun.		Civil War event	Nevada City	



*Lucky Bill seems reluctant to accept the wager of a poodle dog in the Star Spangled Banner saloon at Columbia Diggins.*

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### O.C. Wheeler, Gold Rush Preacher

*Tom Lintner*

His full name was Osgood Church Wheeler. He was born in 1816 in New York. He was the first Baptist minister on the Pacific Coast. He and his wife had originally been sent to the West Coast as missionaries by the American Baptist Home Mission Society in 1849, just as the Gold Rush had gotten underway. They made the long, difficult journey down the Atlantic Coast, then crossed the Isthmus of Panama. After reaching the Pacific side, they boarded the steamer California and sailed up the coast toward San Francisco.

It is interesting to note that Reverend Wheeler was not enthusiastic about the idea of doing God's work in his own country, preferring to go as a missionary to either China or Korea! He was, however, obedient to the leaders of the Home Mission and went without objecting openly to them.

He became the organizer of Baptist churches in San Francisco and San Jose prior to arriving in Sacramento in 1850. The first church here was attended by only 8 members and was held in the house of the local judge, the Honorable E.J. Willis.

Reverend Wheeler was noted for his eloquent speaking style, often moving his audience to tears. In fact, he preached so often that his voice suffered as a result and he was forced to give up the pastorate of the church in 1854. His most famous discourse received some notoriety in the local newspapers published in 1852. Curiously, it did not deal with religious matters, but rather with a burning topic of the era: the dangers of dueling. His plea to local law enforcement officials to act more aggressively against the violators received much acclaim and support from the public.

He later became the head of the Baptist Historical Society. His wife was involved with the local Temperance League. Reverend Wheeler exerted some of his influence and public appeal to draft an "anti-cussing" law in Sacramento, too!

In later life he continued to be the true "Renaissance man," reinventing himself several times, but never forsaking his call to serve. He worked as a clerk for the California Assembly, a deputy collector for the Internal Revenue and assisted Leland Stanford in organizing the first general baggage system for the Central Pacific Railroad. He also served as chaplain to the Fifth Regiment National Guard, a position which he held from 1883 until his death in 1891.

Although the locales of the first church buildings in Sacramento have long disappeared, there is a row of buildings located on 10<sup>th</sup> Street between G and H streets which is known as "Wheeler Row," purportedly the first documented Delta multiple apartment-style building which was constructed in Sacramento. It was in this location that Reverend Wheeler published the West Coast's first Baptist newspaper, the *Pacific Banner*.

He is buried in the Pioneer grove of the Sacramento City Cemetery. The current grave marker was dedicated to his memory in 1925.



*Tom Lintner as Rev. O.C. Wheeler*