

# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2011

## Announcing Two SCHS Events for June!

Member Event # 1: SCHS Old Sac Underground Tours  
➔ Saturday June 11, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 or 12 Noon ➔  
Meet in front of Sacramento History Museum, Front & I St. Old Sacramento

We have finally set up a group underground tour opportunity (four time slots, 20 persons each @ \$12pp) for SCHS members. Tours last about an hour. We were expecting to see the newly expanded route, but recent construction delays have postponed opening the section below the Hall Luhrs building indefinitely. This is also another daytime event for folks who can't make evening ones. But you must act swiftly! Use or copy the form on page 3 to send in your check to hold a place. We ask that members bring no more than one guest so more members may attend. The first 80 paid are in! We'll TRY to put you in a time slot of your choice. Be in front of the History Museum 20 minutes before your tour starts.

There will be an SCHS table with refreshments under the trees near the Sacramento History Museum. This will allow people to visit before and after the tours. Parking at the City lot at 2nd & I St. is probably the most convenient. Mail the form inside at your earliest convenience. Hope to see you there!



These retaining walls may look familiar to those who were on the SCHS 2006 "pre-tour." Now there's an introductory video, displays and photos, and much more information.

Member Event # 2: Joint Social/Talk with the Sacramento Pioneer Association

**Mead Kibbey: Tales of Early Sacramento**  
**Tuesday June 28, Social: 6:30, Talk 7:15**  
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building  
5380 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento



The 1851 Sacramento City Directory, edited facsimile edition.

Historian and author Mead B. Kibbey will share some of the stories he uncovered for his edited facsimile edition of the 1851 Sacramento City Directory, published in 2000 by the California State Library Foundation. The rare (six known copies) original volume by Horace Culver was the first book published in Sacramento and the first California directory with street addresses. To a facsimile Kibbey has added a thoroughly researched narrative history of Sacramento covering Native Americans, early explorers, the gold discovery, and such dramatic events as the Squatter Riots, cholera epidemic and the great inundation of 1850. Detailed biographies of fifty-five prominent individuals listed in the directory provide a who's who of pioneer Sacramento.

Now 90 years of age, Kibbey, a longtime member of the Pioneers and SCHS, has published two other books. He hopes to have a few copies of the 1851 directory available for sale and signing, but only a very limited number of books remain. **We will meet at 6:30 to share some refreshments and to visit with our Pioneer guests.** The talk will begin by 7:15. Free parking is available at the rear of the building or on the street. Carpooling may be a good idea for this one.

## Sacramento History Tours—Old and Not-So-Old: Heritage Tourism Goes Beyond Old Sacramento

By William Burg

Until recently, heritage walking tours of Sacramento were limited to Old Sacramento. Increased interest in Sacramento's 20<sup>th</sup> century heritage, historic architecture, public art, and in the natural world so close to downtown Sacramento, has spurred new and popular tour programs. Some are run by nonprofits and volunteers, but a growing number of successful for-profit tours serve an expanding market for heritage tourism.

### HOSF Old Sacramento Tours

<http://www.historicoldsac.org>

The new Underground Tour program gets all the attention, but the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation also operates above-ground tours, based from the Sacramento History Museum at 101 I Street. Regular tours are offered every Saturday at 11:00 AM, and cost \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Themes include early Sacramento architecture, the city's Gold Rush legacy, and special themes including political history, medicine, the waterfront, and 1960s redevelopment.

### DSP Downtown Tours

<http://www.downtownsac.org>

The Downtown Sacramento Partnership (DSP) offers tours that stretch from Old Sacramento to the heart of the business district. Subjects include early Sacramento history, historic architecture, commerce, public art, Gladding-McBean tile, and the Speakeasy Tour. The Speakeasy Tour, focusing on the Prohibition era (and how Sacramentans basically ignored Prohibition) is by far the most popular, requiring prepaid registration that typically sells out within a day. Starting in May, DSP will offer a new Rock & Roll Tour, covering the story of live rock music in Sacramento from the 1950s to the 1990s. Tours cost \$10 and occur throughout the week.

### Alkali Flat Food and History Tours

<http://local-food-tours.com>

Chef Lisa Armstrong recently started a series of tours combining her interests in local food and local history, focusing on Alkali Flat and downtown Sacramento. Each tour costs \$42-58 but includes gourmet food and tours of landmark buildings. Some of the stops include Grange at the Cal-West Building

(Citizen Hotel), Tuli Bistro at the Hale Mansion (Sterling Hotel) and Ambrosia Café at the Hotel Regis. Future tours will include stops at landmarks like The Firehouse at Sacramento Engine Co. No. 3) and Luigi's Slice in the old Mayflower warehouse (aka MARRS.)

### Practical Cycle History Tours

<http://www.practicalcycle.com>

Based in Old Sacramento in the historic Brannan Building, Practical Cycle combines bike sales and rental with a series of guided tour programs. Tours last two hours, and tour subjects include breweries and food, architecture, religion, and general Sacramento history. Call for tour schedule and price.

### Fast Eddie Bike Tours

<http://www.fasteddiebiketours.com>

Cyclist and local history enthusiast Ed Hakari offers two alternating history bike tours at 10 AM every Tuesday, meeting at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street between K and L. Tours cost \$25 and include a bike, helmet, snacks and water. One tour explores urban art and Midtown history, while the other delivers riders to key landmarks and lesser-known Downtown and Midtown sites of historic interest. Fast Eddie can also charter any other day of the week for groups of 4 or more.

### Sacramento Tree Foundation Tree Tours

<http://www.sactree.com>

The Sacramento Tree Foundation hosts several free guided tree tours throughout the Sacramento area. One of these tours is a Tree Tour of Capitol Park, next scheduled for June 4 at 10 AM. The two-hour tour explores the wide variety of rare and unusual trees planted in Capitol Park, which for all practical

#### SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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purposes serves as a city arboretum. In addition to tree identification, the Sacramento Tree Foundation tours also teach basic tree care and the roles that trees play in a neighborhood.

### Old City Cemetery Tours

<http://www.oldcitycemetery.com>

Best known for their Halloween tours, which invariably sell out weeks in advance, the Old City Cemetery Committee offers tours year-round. Generally held on the first Saturday at 10 AM, each monthly program covers a different topic related to some of the Cemetery's most notable residents. Events on the third Saturday focus on the flora of the Cemetery, especially their renowned rose garden. Tours are held without charge, but donations are encouraged.

### Self-Guided History Tours

<http://www.sacramentoheritage.org>

For those who don't want to be constrained by a schedule, nonprofit Sacramento Heritage Inc. offers provides online self-guided walking tours of downtown Sacramento, the Old City Cemetery, Oak Park, Boulevard Park and Curtis Park. Download from the website above and print, or view online with a smart phone, and you can explore a neighborhood's history on your own schedule.

### Almost Forgotten:

### James Warren, Father of California Agriculture

By Patricia Turse

The few people who have heard of James Lloyd La Fayette Warren usually know that he introduced the camellia to Sacramento. Others may recall that he operated the New England Seed Store during the Gold Rush era in what is now Old Sacramento. Some even know that he designed a new landscape plan for then Governor Leland Stanford's home at 8th & N Streets just after the 1861-62 floods. But Historian Walton Bean has said that Warren "probably contributed more than any other single leader to the beginnings of modern agriculture in California."

Bean credits Warren's importance to provisions supplied to 1849 mining camps, dealing in nursery stock, seed, and tools in the early 1850s, as editor and publisher of the *California Farmer and Journal of Useful Sciences*—the state's most substantial agricultural publication, as its leading organizer of agricultural societies and fairs, and as a tireless agitator for applying knowledge and ingenuity to the culture of soil in a frontier state. Warren's office, site of the first state fair, was a clearinghouse for exchanging information, specimens and seeds in California, the rest of the U.S., South America and Asia.

The Old Sacramento State Historic Park General Plan Team is currently trying to decide whether to reconstruct the street level store to its Gold Rush era or to re-use it adaptively. The SCHS Board of Directors recently sent a letter to the planning team encouraging the former. For more on the planning process, see [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=26346](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26346).

**This is the last newsletter until September.  
Make your own history this summer!**  
**It's not too late to renew your membership:  
Bring membership check to Group Tour.**

### SCHS Group Underground Tour Reservation, Saturday June 11

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations @ \$12 each \_\_\_\_\_ Guest name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Tour time preferred? Number your choices 1-4, or circle ANYTIME if you want to make us happy.  
10:30 \_\_\_ 11:00 \_\_\_ 11:30 \_\_\_ 12:00 \_\_\_ ANYTIME. **We'll email or call-or both-with time.**

**You must be in front of Sac History Museum, Front & I St., 20 minutes before your tour starts.**

**Wear comfortable shoes. \*We make no promises, but we'll try to accommodate your time preferences. Please try to be flexible! Send this form—or a copy of it—and your CHECK to SCHS Tour, PO Box 160065, Sacramento, CA 95816-0065 as soon as possible, by June 6. Questions? 916-443-6265. More tour info: [www.historicoldsac.org/programs](http://www.historicoldsac.org/programs), then follow the Old Sac Underground link.**



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 Sacramento, CA 95816-0065  
 Message phone: 916-443-6265  
[www.sachistoricalociety.org](http://www.sachistoricalociety.org)

Please deliver by May 20, 2011

See this newsletter in color at the Newsletters link on our web pages above.

## SHORT & SWEET

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Saturday May 21	10 AM -3 PM	Wakamatsu Tea & Silk Farm Colony Open House & Park Planning Event Taiko drummers, tours, demos, re-enactments, planning and history panel discussions, food tasting, more. Bring a picnic and/or a kite!	Gold Hill Ranch: Wakamatsu Tea & Silk Farm Colony 941 Cold Springs Road, Placerville More information at <a href="http://www.arconservancy.org">www.arconservancy.org</a> or call 530-621-1224
Tuesday May 24	7 PM	Dr. Ella Diaz: <b>Public Art and Urban Change in Alkali Flat &amp; Washington neighborhood.</b>	Sierra Sac. Valley Medical Society Bldg. 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento Directions: <a href="http://ssvms.org/directions.asp">ssvms.org/directions.asp</a> SCHS Message Phone: 916-443-6265
Saturday June 11	10:30 AM or 11:00 AM or 11:30 AM or 12 noon	<b>SCHS Group Underground Tours</b> We reserved the whole morning tour program! Discount cost is just \$12 per person. Refreshments and visits under the Front & I St. trees.	Meet in front of Sacramento History Museum, 101 I Street (at Front St.), Old Sacramento, 20 minutes before your tour. Reservation form on reverse. First come, first served.
Tuesday June 28	6:30 PM social 7:15 PM talk	Mead Kibbey: <b>Tales of Early Sacramento.</b> Joint Meeting/Social with Sacramento Pioneer Association	Sierra Sac. Valley Medical Society Bldg. 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento SCHS Message Phone: 916-443-6265