

# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2011

**SCHS September Program**

→ **WEDNESDAY, September 28, 7 PM** ←

*The Invention of Old Sacramento: A Past for the Future*

**Dr. Lee Simpson, CSUS**

**Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Bldg, 5380 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento**

To open the SCHS program year Dr. Lee Simpson, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Public History Program at CSUS, will present an illustrated talk on the confluence of urban renewal and historic preservation in the redevelopment of Old Sacramento. Due to a scheduling conflict, the talk will be on WEDNESDAY, September 28, at 7 PM at the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento.

For decades during the twentieth century, Sacramento's original waterfront downtown was a run-down habitat for the homeless. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the city awakened to the rich historical legacy found in its skid row. Threatened demolition through urban renewal and construction of Interstate 5 galvanized a group of individuals to instigate the creation of a historic district in the city's West End. Their use of historic preservation as a mechanism of urban renewal marks them as innovators in both the field of historic preservation and the larger field of city planning. The bulldozers stopped at 2nd Street and a new understanding of historic preservation that would only become mainstream forty years later was born. Learn more on September 28.



Old Sacramento, Front Street looking south from K Street, September 2011. Photo: L. Simpson



A confederate flag

**SCHS October Program**

**Tuesday, October 25, 7PM**

*Why the Civil War Still Matters to California*

**Dr. Blaine Lamb, California State Parks**

**Special Viewing of California Civil War Items**

**California State Archives Reading Room**

**10th and O Streets, Sacramento, 3rd floor**



1861 Fort Sumter flag

SCHS and the California State Archives will mark the 150th anniversary of the outbreak year of the Civil War and Archives Month with a presentation and a special viewing of California Civil War items at the Archives Reading Room on Tuesday, October 25. Blaine Lamb is the Chief of the Archaeology, History & Museums Division of California State Parks. Dr. Lamb formerly served as interim director for the completion of the Golden State Museum, now the California Museum, and as an archivist at the California State Railroad Museum. Archives Curator Sebastian Nelson will create a display of Civil War records for the occasion, and as part of October's Archives Month.

Although located well away from the principal theaters of the conflict, California played an important role in the Civil War, providing troops and treasure in support of the Union cause. The war affected California as well: it bound the state and the Pacific Coast forever to the nation, encouraged industrial development, and further decimated the Native American population—for all practical purposes bringing to an end California's so called "Indian Wars." The presentation will examine these and other ways the Civil War affected, and continues to affect the Golden State. Free on street parking is available near the archives building and may be available in the lot across O Street from it. Gates will be open and cars will be parked there if lot is available for evening use. Light rail Archives Plaza stop is out front; last departure is at 9:04 PM. Please use 1020 O St. entry.

## Notes from the President

By Patricia Turse

Welcome back from what seems to have been a historically “cool” summer for Sacramento. Temperatures from June through August reached the century mark only five times, the lowest number since 1982. Definitely a pleasant way to make history!

The Society’s planned **Golden Notes** publication on the CSRM railroad shops has been deferred due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances. The shops publication, which will present a rather new and different viewpoint, is coming eventually, but it will be preceded by another Golden Notes that should be out some time later this fall. The next Golden Notes will address the Legacy of Daisy Dias: Tales of Sacramento in the Progressive Era.

Some of our members have noticed the “**or current resident**” added to our address labels over the past year. That is not because we wonder if people still live at the addresses we have. It’s the Post Office requiring that nonprofit mailers instruct carriers what to do with the mailing in case the addressee has moved. Since the cost of forwarding bulk mail is prohibitive, we are told to add or current resident.

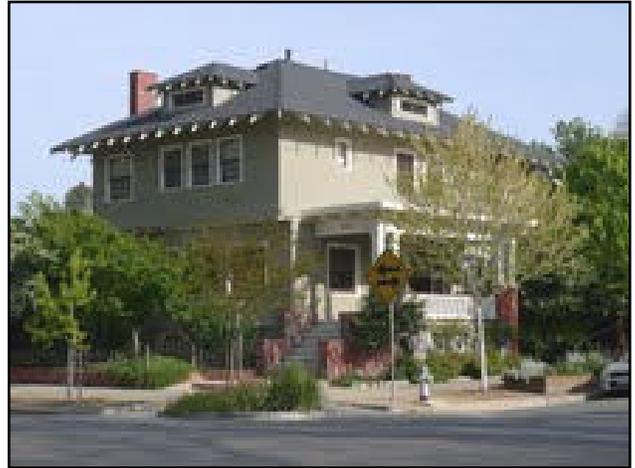
Speaking of the Post Office, we hope we have resolved the issue of the missing member renewals. After some discussion with postal supervisors we have been told that better sorting techniques should avoid future problems. We shall see.

### Sacramento River Delta Historical Society 2012 Pear Calendar Project



Twelve of Jim Dahlberg’s historic Delta fruit label posters have been gathered into a colorful \$15 calendar. For more information see [www.SRDHS.org](http://www.SRDHS.org) or write to P.O. Box 293, Walnut Grove, CA 95690.

## SOCA 36th Annual Home Tour on Sept. 18 Highlights Marshall School Area



One of the featured homes.

Photo: Randy Lum

On Sunday, September 18, the Sacramento Old City Association (SOCA) presents its 36th annual tour of historic homes in Sacramento’s central city. This year’s tour of the Marshall School neighborhood, in the northeastern quarter of the central city between F and J Street, features homes in the Queen Anne, Craftsman and Neoclassic styles.

The tour starts at Marshall Park at the corner of 27th and J Street. A street fair at the park features local contractors and artisans specializing in historic home rehab and remodeling, local businesses, artists and crafters displaying their wares, local nonprofits, advocacy and history organizations. Local musicians will perform in the park. Home Tour participants can show their tour wristband for a 15% discount in restaurants of the nearby Sutter District. The tour costs \$25 on the day of the event, or \$20 in advance via [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). The street fair is free. More details: [www.sacoldcity.org](http://www.sacoldcity.org).

### SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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#### GOLDEN NUGGETS

Published at least bimonthly, September to June

Editorial & Layout: William Burg, Patricia Turse

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## The Outlaw

By Dan Winkelman

Lake Natoma is in Folsom California, a place made famous by Johnny Cash's song, Folsom Prison Blues. Yes, the prison is right above the granite canyon that is the uppermost part of the lake. Many outlaws have come and gone from behind the walls of this house. Most of the inmates claim innocence of the crime for which they are convicted. I have one story of a California prisoner that actually was wrongly convicted of a crime.

It was around the turn of the twentieth century that young Newton Bowler became frustrated by the sparse number of women that lived in his home town of Bella Vista, CA. Newt ordered a mail order bride from Ireland and was lucky to be blessed with a beautiful woman named Bell. Bell became a much desired fixation of the many single young men around town. They were of course stymied by her marital status to Newt.

One day a pig wandered into town with Newt's ear markings. Everyone knew that pig was the property of another. Even today stealing a pig is listed as a Grand Theft Felony in the California Penal Code. A trial was held and a fellow testified that he saw Newt mark the pig. Found guilty, Newt was sentenced to San Quentin Prison and sat there for years.

Back in Bella Vista, the fellow that had testified against Newt moved in with Bell and fathered a child by her. One night in a local saloon friends were talking about how strange it was that Newt had branded that pig. The fellow that had testified against Newt suddenly blurted from his inebriated mouth, "Oh, I marked that pig." The next day the man who was a false witness against Newt disappeared and was never seen again.

The men who had heard the confession went to the courts and Newt was released from prison. He moved back into his home with Bell and raised the child of the malicious evil-doer that had caused him such pain. Many years subsequent to this travesty the oft' repeated words around town were, "Newt was never the same."

Newton Bowler, I have stood over yours and Bell's graves in Bella Vista and can't help but wonder. How did you go on? How did you forgive? Did you ever find peace in this world?



I hear the train a comin', it's rollin' round the bend,  
And I ain't seen the sunshine since I don't know when.  
I'm stuck in Folsom Prison and time keeps draggin' on.  
When I hear that lonesome whistle, I hang my head and cry.

-SCHS Treasurer Dan Winkelman, a retired California State Park Ranger, an avid reader, canoeist, and writer, is about to publish his first book.

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### Sacramento County Historical Society NEW MEMBER FORM (valid thru Jan 2013)

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night/alternate phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Level (circle your level)

Individual \$35

Business/Sponsorship

Please make check out to SCHS in correct amount and mail to

Senior \$30

Contributing \$100

SCHS

Student \$30

Patron \$250

P.O. Box 160065

Library \$50

Gold \$500

Sacramento, CA 95816-0065

P.O. Box 160065  
Sacramento, CA 95816-0065  
Message phone: 916-443-6265  
[sachistoricalociety.org](http://sachistoricalociety.org)

Please deliver by September 15

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

## OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Saturday Sept. 17	9 AM -3 PM	<b>Elk Grove Historical Society Antique &amp; Craft Sale</b> Get an early start on holiday shopping or upgrading your home. Thirty vendors with handmade arts and crafts, antiques and collectibles. Sale is at 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Consumnes Community Services District—aka EG Blvd Grammar School—parking lot.	Elk Grove Historical Society For more information on sale see <a href="http://elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com">elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com</a>
Saturday Sept. 24	7 PM	<b>Sutter's Fort Taste of History</b> Fundraiser features recreated historic foods prepared by area's finest chefs, \$85. Tix at <a href="http://brownpapertickets.com/event/186674">brownpapertickets.com/event/186674</a>	Sutter's Fort SHP 2701 L St., Sacramento Info: 916-323-7626
Saturday Oct. 1	11 AM -4 PM	<b>First Annual Sacramento Archives Crawl</b> Twenty-two archives and libraries will celebrate National Archives Month with exhibits of rarely-seen historic collections at four host locations. Get passports stamped by 3 hosts to get limited edition coaster collection with images from Sacramento's historic Buffalo Brewery— while they last. Free.	California State Archives, 1020 O St. California State Library, 900 N St. Center for Sacramento History, 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd. Sacramento City Library, 800 I St.  See <a href="http://sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com/">sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com/</a>
Fri & Sat Oct. 21-22 Oct. 28-29	Tours at 7, 7:45, 8:30 & 9:15 each night	<b>City Cemetery Lantern Tours</b> Hear cemetery "residents" tell of their untimely deaths. Bring a flashlight! Fun fundraiser always sells out. Tix at <a href="http://brownpapertickets.com/event/191033">brownpapertickets.com/event/191033</a> or phone 800-838-3006.	Old City Cemetery 1000 Broadway, Sacramento Phone 916-448-0811