

Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

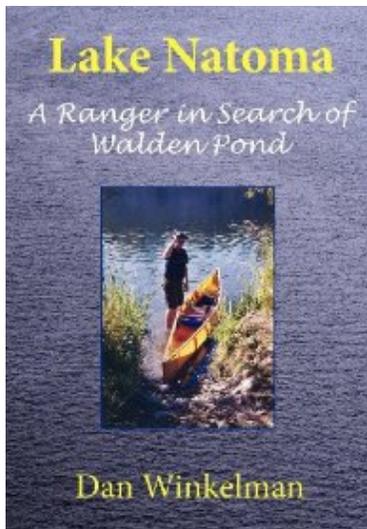
March-April 2013, NO. 3-4

Tuesday, March 26, 7 PM (Social Time 6:30)

Illustrated Talk by Dan Winkelman

Lake Natoma: A Ranger in Search of Walden Pond

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento



Cover photo of the author about to launch. Mary Rigney

SCHS Treasurer Dan Winkelman, whose chronicles of his journeys through this area's cultural and natural history have occasionally appeared in this newsletter (see page 3) will introduce his recently published *Lake Natoma: A Ranger in Search of Walden Pond* at our March 26 meeting at the SSVMS building. Winkelman, a retired park ranger, began writing emails to his friends describing his canoeing adventures on Lake Natoma. A college history major and a man with wide ranging interests, those emails evolved into broader topics, eventually resulting in this 90-page book. Photos, the occasional line drawing, and the charming illustrations of Maddie Walker, age 7, add to the book's appeal. Dan's insights and his sense of humor should ensure a rather lively presentation. He will be available to sell and sign books after his talk.

The talk begins at 7 PM but try to arrive by 6:30 or so to enjoy some social time (and goodies) with SCHS members and friends. Bring a friend! Off street parking is available while it lasts. Unmetered street parking is plentiful. If you can't make it, you can contact Dan at winkdan267@yahoo.com to arrange to get a copy.

Annual Awards of Excellence Program Featuring The Harley White Jr. Orchestra and Matías Bombal April 9, 6-10 PM at The Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.

After many positive comments on the Harley White Jr. Orchestra's jazz performance at last year's Awards Night, it was a no-brainer to invite them back. We did that and added more. This year Harley's group will play before (during check-in and open bar) as well as after the awards presentation. To add to the evening, former Capital Public Radio (NPR) producer/host of a Classic Jazz and Swing show and local voice talent, Matías Bombal will serve as emcee and add a brief introduction to 1920s jazz to lead off the music.



Harley White Jr. (on bass) and his orchestra at last year's Awards Night. W. Burg

A Sacramento-based Big Band specializing in Prohibition Jazz and Blues reflective of the 1920s to the 1950s, The Harley White Jr. Orchestra was founded in 1991 by musician, composer and arranger Harley White Jr. An award winning jazz orchestra and a fixture of the Northern California jazz and blues scene they play "the old fashioned way, presenting classic live entertainment with a swagger and style that harkens back to the good old days." The vocal stylings of Peter Petty are quite a treat too. All this *and* awards recognizing outstanding achievements in history...it is a night not to be missed.



Turn the page to learn who is being recognized and to reserve your place. You can do so online with a credit card at the link inside.

**SCHS Annual Awards Dinner & Fundraiser
Tuesday, April 9, 6 PM to 10 PM
The Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.**

The Board of the Sacramento County Historical Society is pleased to announce the individuals and organizations (see right) whose varied contributions to the history of this area over the 2012 year merit our annual Award of Excellence.

The dinner and music programs should add to the enjoyment. The function room at Dante's (which is tucked behind a McDonald's) includes a dance floor for those with the will and inclination. It did get some use last year!

The tentative schedule calls for The Harley White Jr. Orchestra to perform during the 6:00 to 7:00 open bar and check-in time. No tickets are issued so everyone checks in at a hall table. Therefore to hear more Harley and enjoy the open bar, arrive early. The band and the Board will be setting up by 5:30, and doors should open promptly at 6:00. Dinner will start at 7 PM, and end about 8. It will be followed by the awards presentations.

The post-dinner music program will begin with a brief presentation by Matías Bombal introducing some of the classic jazz from the 1920s, and then we'll wind up with another hour of Harley White from about 8:45 to 9:45.

Dante's kitchen proved adept at turning out three nicely done options last year, and this year's similar choices are on your insert. Or if you can spring for a few dollars more, use the brown paper tickets event link, <http://schs.brownpapertickets.com>, which will also list menu choices.

The prices are the same as last year, reasonable considering the quality and quantity of the food and entertainment. The intent is to acknowledge the work of the awardees with a festive evening out! SCHS members and SOCA members, the latter providing input on the Preservation award and some event support, get a price break, as they pay \$40. Non-members pay \$50 per meal. For those who would like to help us out with a tax-free donation (for the amount over your "ticket" cost), there is a sponsor level at \$100 that includes your name in the evening's printed program. We need to receive

Awards of Excellence Recipients

(For 2012 year)

Education

The Downtown Sacramento Partnership for the Downtown Walking Tours program.

These tours introduce visitors and residents to people, places and events that shaped more than 150 years of California state and local history.

Preservation Award

Carina Lampkin and family for restoration and reuse (as their Blackbird Restaurant & Bar) of the 1931 "People's Acceptance Building," a Sacramento landmark designed by local architects Charles and James Dean.

Publications/Media Award

Annette Kassis for her book, *Weinstock's-Sacramento's Finest Department Store*, (The History Press, 2012.)

President's Award

Maryellen Burns-Dabaghian for the spark of energy she has provided to the SCHS Board.

your reservations by April 1. More information needed? Leave a voice message at 916-443-6265, and we'll get back to you, usually within 24 hours. Last year over 100 people attended, so don't be left out.

Editor's Odds & Ends

First, I'd like to thank Maryellen Burns (and her graphics spiritual advisor, Joy Gee) for getting out the February newsletter in my absence. Part of my contract here includes time off in January for good behavior. They did an outstanding job and created an entertaining issue with a great story on the Sacramento Prune Bear. Speaking of newsletters, this March-April issue is much later than I'd like, and I do apologize for that.

Our May presentation on Mark Twain's Sacramento Years promises to reveal the important role his 1866 series of letters from the Sandwich Islands (Twain's Hawaiian adventures) played in his life and why. The importance of the *Sacramento Union* in those days will also be noted.

The Schooner Julie Ann, 1841

By Dan Winkleman

From *Lake Natoma: A Ranger in Search of Walden Pond*



Portrait c. 1845, artist unknown.
Online Archive of California

It was a simple little sign. The sign that showed the property line between John Sutter's land and Rancho Rio de Los Americanos, the 35,000 acres owned by William Alexander Leidesdorff. His Mexican grant extended from about where Bradshaw Road meets the river up to where Folsom Prison is today. The story of how this son of a Danish sugar planter and his West Indian Negro woman became a leading Californian is both tragic and inspiring.

William Leidesdorff was a very successful businessman in New Orleans where he operated 12 ships. Some say he was engaged to marry a young woman until her parents discovered his blood line and forbid William from seeing his love again. Heartbroken, he took one of his ships, the *Julie Ann*, and sailed for Yerba Buena (San Francisco). It must have been a dreary trip around Cape Horn and into the bay. But once there he prospered again, purchasing a lot and warehouse for his trading business. He built the City Hotel, furnished supplies to the Russians, collected Sutter's debt to them, served on the City Council and became the City Treasurer. William Leidesdorff also donated the money to build the first school in San Francisco. Plans for his rancho remain a mystery, for in 1848 he died of pneumonia at age 38 just as the gold rush was beginning.

Many eyes must have been cast upon the rancho before one man, Captain Joseph Libby Folsom, sailed for the Danish West Indies to find Leidesdorff's mother, Anna Marie Spark, and offer \$75,000 for her son's land. Anna accepted the offer only later to discover the land value had skyrocketed in the gold rush and then refused to accept the second payment from Folsom.

By 1852 Joseph Libby Folsom became president of the Sacramento Valley Railroad and hired Theodore Judah to survey the route for the first railroad in the West between Sacramento and Negro Bar. Judah also surveyed a new town just above Negro Bar and called it Granite City. Folsom's legal problems continued over ownership of the rancho and his debt grew in proportion. In 1855 he, like Leidesdorff before him, died of pneumonia at age 38. Granite City was renamed Folsom in Joseph Folsom's honor.

The railroad between Sacramento and Granite City was completed in 1856 and immediately 2,048 lots sold in the city of Folsom. Leidesdorff Street remains an interesting little route along the shoreline of Lake Natoma where Karen's Bakery is today. Scone anyone?

The paddle through Rancho Rio de los Americanos is much different than it was 165 years ago. I just can't imagine that at one time there was a sign on the shore that said Sutter on one side and Leidesdorff on the other. Think of all the signs, stop lights, and power poles that dot the landscape today. We are so lucky that Save the American River Association worked so hard to preserve a part of the old rancho as it was so long ago. I hope that my mini-schooner is bringing you the inspiration to hold and enjoy our Rancho Rio de Los Americanos for now and for future generations. The *Julie Ann* brought us a fine man who—out of a desire for redemption and relief—did his best to create something of a civilization for all of us.



Drawing based on illustration by Ken McKowen.



P.O. Box 160065
 Sacramento, CA 95816-0065
 Message phone: 916-443-6265
 www.sachistoricalociety.org

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GOLDEN NUGGETS

Published at least bimonthly,
 September to June
 Editorial & Layout: Patricia Turse

Out & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Mon thru Fri Ends March 29	9 to 5	Celebrating Women Veterans A Women's History Month exhibit by the California Military Museum working with California State Library and the Office of Assembly Speaker John Perez	California State Library 900 N Street, Sacramento 916-654-0261
Tuesday March 19th	7 PM	Towns of the Sacramento River Delta Sacramento River Delta Historical Society member Phillip Pezzaglia will present an illustrated talk on his newest book, which features just about every small town in the Delta.	Jean Harvie Center 14273 River Road, Walnut Grove Information: 916-871-4060
Saturday March 30	10 AM	History Tour for Kids Tales of trappers, railroad men, society women, heroes and villains of Sacramento's past in a program designed for kids.	Sacramento Old City Cemetery 10th & Broadway, Sacramento 916-264-2651 www.oldcitycemetery.com
March 2013 thru March 2014	Mon -Thurs, 8 AM - 7:30 PM Friday 8AM-5 PM Closed weekends	Our Journey- The First Families of Yolo County A series of exhibits and programs highlighting contributions and histories of diverse populations in West Sacramento & East Yolo County.	City of West Sacramento Community Center-History Gallery 1075 West Capitol Ave., West Sac. 916-374-1849

Here It Is: Sacramento's Hottest Attraction!

(We don't mean the weather)

TUESDAY APRIL 9, 6:00 PM

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Sacramento County Historical Society

AWARDS DINNER

with

LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY

The Harley White Orchestra

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

MATÍAS BOMBAL

at

—The DANTE CLUB—

2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Sacramento

(Behind McDonald's)

TICKETS: <http://schs.brownpapertickets.com>

Menu & More on reverse

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS DINNER

6:00 PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013

Sacramento County Historical Society's 2012 awards dinner and fundraiser features dinner at the Dante Club, a live performance by the Harley White Orchestra performing classic big-band jazz, with master of ceremonies Matías Bombal and slides of historic Sacramento during the Jazz Age. SCHS will also present its annual awards for history education, history media, and historic preservation. Join us for an evening of delicious food, great music, and local music history. Doors open at 6:00 with Open bar and music by the Harley White Orchestra. Dinner will start at 7:00 with the awards program and a bit more music to follow.

Ticket Options (no tickets issued; please arrive early to check in)

- \$40 per plate for members of Sacramento County Historical Society (SCHS) or Sacramento Old City Association (SOCA) and their families
- \$50 per plate for the general public (non-members)
- \$100 Sponsor: includes meal, your name listed in the evening's event program, and a tax-deductible contribution to SCHS, a 501(c)3 nonprofit

Menu Options (all include salad, bread, vegetables, coffee & dessert)

- **Chicken Madeira** with Capers, Olives, Artichokes and Lemon Wine Sauce,
- **Dante Club Prime Rib**, served with Au Jus and Creamy Horse Radish,
- **Cheese Ravioli** with Marinara Sauce (Vegetarian)

Full no-host bar with cocktails, wine by the glass or bottle, beer, soft drinks.

Dining Party Name: _____

Contact Phone Number & Email: _____

Dinner Selection	Number of Dinners	Circle Costs	Totals:
Prime Rib	_____	\$40 / \$50 / \$100 =	_____
Half Roasted Chicken	_____	\$40 / \$50 / \$100 =	_____
Vegetable Ravioli	_____	\$40 / \$50 / \$100 =	_____

Enclose check payable to **SCHS** for Total Amount: _____

Send this form and check to SCHS, PO Box 160065, Sacramento CA 95816-0065

Or make our lives easier by buying online at <http://schs.brownpapertickets.com/>

Dinner reservations must be received no later than April 1, 2013

Questions: 916- 443-6265