

# Golden Nuggets

September 2009

## SCHS Fall Social Barbeque Under the Stars

&

## Old City Cemetery Tour

→ SATURDAY, September 26, 5:30 PM ←

Old City Cemetery

10th & Broadway, Sacramento



On Saturday, September 26, the Sacramento County Historical Society will host a tour and social event at the Old City Cemetery. This event will feature tours of cemetery, live musical entertainment, and dinner from JR's Texas Barbecue. We will gather at 5:30, dinner will be served at 6:00, and two separate tours of the cemetery will be conducted at 7:00 and 7:45. Musical performers *Agent Ribbons*, *Dead Western* and *The Freebadge Serenaders* will perform during dinner and after the tours.

This event is *free* for SCHS members and their guests; dinner requires advance registration and costs \$15 for members. For non-members, admission to the event is \$10; the cost with dinner is \$25. To order a dinner, send the attached flyer to SCHS with a check for the appropriate amount. See page 4 for parking and other details. This Saturday kickoff to the SCHS program year replaces the usual Thursday meeting.

## Moving On

In September of 2005, the previous newsletter editor resigned, and I took over. It's been four years, and it is now time for me to move on to other long-postponed projects. The urge to travel is also a constant. Thank you very much for your patience as we sorted out mailing difficulties. We'll sort out the best way of providing historical content AND updates on meetings and events of interest too. -P.A.T.

## Changes to the Newsletter

SCHS is changing the way we distribute the *Golden Nuggets* newsletter. In order to reach people more quickly and economically, members with email addresses will receive *Golden Nuggets* via email in PDF format. Members without email will still receive copies by mail. This change will save us money in printing and postage costs, and simplify the job of the new Newsletter Editor.

The SCHS email list will also be used to send reminders about upcoming Society events, and occasionally to send updates about events being held through other local history organizations. We will do our best to avoid flooding your inbox with messages, although with so many interesting events coming up, you will certainly hear from us more often.



## The Future of SCHS

By William Burg  
SCHS President

When I took on the Presidency of SCHS in January, I did not know much about this organization. In the intervening months, I have learned a lot about the history of SCHS, and am incredibly impressed with the legacy of events, publications and contributions to the community made by this organization. In order to continue this legacy, we must find new ways to attract new members, promote our events, and work with other local history groups for our mutual benefit.

Part of attracting new members means ensuring that you, the current members, feel that SCHS membership is valuable and worth the money. Thus, we plan to offer tours and events that are free or discounted for SCHS members, and continue offering publications like the *SCHS Journal* as they can be produced.

Since the founding of SCHS in 1953, the Sacramento region has grown by leaps and bounds. Sacramento has grown into a metropolitan center, the small towns of Sacramento County have grown into their own cities, and farmland has given way to tract homes. Many new residents of the region are curious about local history, but have little access to this information. Outside the region, people are becoming curious about our region, and want to learn about our history and visit our historic sites. Our mission is to meet that need.

By working with other local history organizations, we can reach a wider audience and promote greater knowledge through education and tourism. To that end, we will work towards a closer relationship with the Center for Sacramento History (formerly SAMCC), California State Parks and other local history organizations. Our members have always had close connections with city, county and state agencies involved with history and historic sites, so this partnership is a natural extension of our efforts.

The first cooperative venture of this new partnership will be *a regular tour of Old Sacramento's underground sidewalks*, in conjunction with California State Parks, the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation and the

Sacramento History Museum. In 2007, SCHS members got a sneak peek under Sacramento's sidewalks. Once the tours are underway, members will again have an opportunity to see firsthand the engineering project that saved Sacramento from floods. A narrated tour video will allow those unable to visit the sites due to physical disabilities to share the experience. For those interested in participating, this tour will need docents, guides, researchers and other volunteers. Details are forthcoming.

All of these efforts require one resource which you, our membership, can help provide: volunteers. As an all-volunteer organization, we depend on member participation to put on events, create publications and host tours, and now put out the call for your help. Volunteering is fun, educational and helps us carry out our mission of sharing with the community the heritage of Sacramento County. If you can help out, contact us directly at (916)443-6265 or [info@sachistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@sachistoricalociety.org).

### **Volunteer Positions: We Need You!**

#### **Newsletter Editor**

The newsletter editor's job is to create the *Golden Nuggets* newsletter, and coordinate newsletter delivery via email and the post office with membership chair. Currently *Golden Nuggets* is created using Microsoft Publisher 2003 software, so the new editor should have access to, and familiarity with, MS Publisher or other desktop publishing software.

#### **Volunteer Coordinator**

In order to connect volunteers with jobs, one person is needed to maintain a list of members interested in volunteering for special events or one-time duties. The volunteer coordinator will keep a list of members interested in participating in SCHS events, will receive instructions from the Board when volunteers are needed, call volunteers from the list, and report to the Board which volunteers will be present to help with an event.

#### **Event Volunteer**

Event volunteers help set up, clean up and coordinate individual SCHS events, including regular meetings, special events, tours and SCHS membership tables at community events. If you want to help but don't have enough time to be a regular volunteer or a board member, being an event volunteer is a great way to help!



## Horatio Heroes By Dan Winkelman

A Folsom Powerhouse docent, I spent some time staffing a booth during the Folsom Lake Crossing Bridge opening ceremony. Just downstream from the bridge is a wondrous granite block structure, but few folks knew what it was or what purpose it had. We docents have a story to tell, for the public has an opportunity to view the old dam that the Livermores built in the 1870s and 1880s. The dam diverted water into a canal that ran two miles downstream and into the penstocks of the Folsom Powerhouse.

Horatio Gates Livermore (named for Horatio Gates, an American Revolution hero) left Maine and came to California by wagon in 1850. He settled in Georgetown and bought timberland above the south fork of the American River. In 1853 he and Amos Catlin formed the Natoma Water and Mining Company. They built the first dam on the river at Salmon Falls.

In 1854 Horatio G. Livermore was elected to the State Senate, and his wife Elizabeth and sons, Horatio Putnam and Charles, joined him in California. By 1862 the Livermores bought out Amos Catlin and acquired the Natoma Water and Mining Company along with 9,000 acres that was part of the Leidesdorff Mexican grant. The family dream of making Folsom an industrial city could be achieved if a dam could be constructed two miles upstream of town to move timber down its canal. The elevated water could power a sawmill.

Work on this early Folsom dam began in 1866. Delays frustrated the Livermores for years and Horatio G. died in 1879, but his sons carried on the work. After long negotiations, the Natoma Company exchanged 484 acres of land near the dam for a prison site. The company received prison labor for use in dam construction that was finally completed in 1893, some 27 years after work had begun. A fish ladder around the dam let salmon spawn upstream.

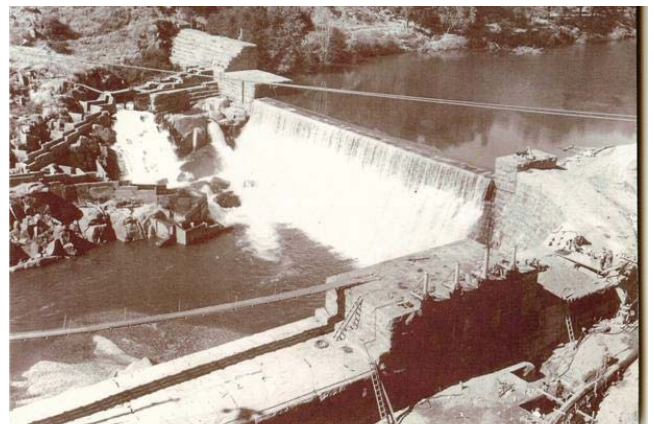
Horatio P. Livermore began to see that hydroelectric power would replace steam engine generated electricity. General Electric partnered with the Livermores to form the Sacramento

Electric Power and Light Company. The company completion of the Folsom Powerhouse in 1895 created the capability of generating three megawatts of power for transmission to Sacramento. It was a marvel that changed the world. Sacramento could then power street cars, factory electric motors, and street lights.

In 1952 the construction of the new Folsom Dam was in full swing. Every day at noon a whistle would blow and dynamite would blast in the American River Canyon between the dam construction site and Rainbow Bridge. The blasting allowed water to flow swiftly away from the new dam's hydroelectric turbines. One day a great explosion was heard and the old Livermore Dam was no more.

Many times I have paddled up to the cable along the Folsom Prison boundary and wished I could continue on up to the remains of the old Livermore Dam. Now we can view the dam from the new Folsom Lake Crossing, but not by canoe. We just need to bicycle from the north side of the bridge and stop to view the old dam.

Horatio P. Livermore's daughter-in-law Caroline formed the Angel Island Foundation, a group of citizens who in 1954 worked to have the island transferred to the State Park System. The summit of Angel Island was renamed Mount Livermore in her honor. Now that you know about the Livermores, head up Riley Street and stop by Livermore Park when you can. One of Caroline's five sons is named Horatio Putnam Livermore, a leader in Bay Area civic causes. The line of Horatio heroes continues to this day. Canoeer, cyclist, and Folsom Powerhouse historian, Dan Winkelman currently serves as SCHS Treasurer. –Editor



Original Folsom Dam, circa 1903 Folsom History Museum

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## Out & About

Date	Time	Event	Place & Contact
September 8 Tuesday	12:00 to 1 PM	SCHS Board Meeting. Monthly meeting to discuss Board issues; members are welcome to attend.	Center for Sacramento History 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., Sacramento
September 12 Saturday	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Sacramento Preservation Roundtable. Quarterly gathering of local history and preservation organizations. Includes guided tour of 2nd and 3rd floor of Governor's Mansion. \$5 donation requested.	Governors Mansion State Historic Park 1526 H Street, Sacramento
September 26 Tuesday	5:30 to 10 PM	SCHS Fall Social. BBQ dinner and tour of the Old City Cemetery. Legendary JR's Texas BBQ, musical entertainment, and tours of the Cemetery. Members and guests, \$15 with dinner, FREE without; non-members, \$25 with dinner, \$10 without. \$25. Payment must be received by Saturday, Sept. 19th.	Old City Cemetery, 10th & Broadway, Sacramento. Off-street parking after 5 PM in lot opposite the 10th St. entry. Reservation form enclosed.
OCTOBER 27 Tuesday	7 PM	Historian Norman Tutorow will give a presentation on James Harvey Strobridge, foreman of construction for the Central Pacific Railroad.	Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building 5380 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento SCHS message phone: 916-443-6265