

Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March-April 2018, vol. 17-18

SCHS Presents Cheryl Anne Stapp

Before the Gold Rush: The Sinclairs of Rancho Del Paso 1840-1849

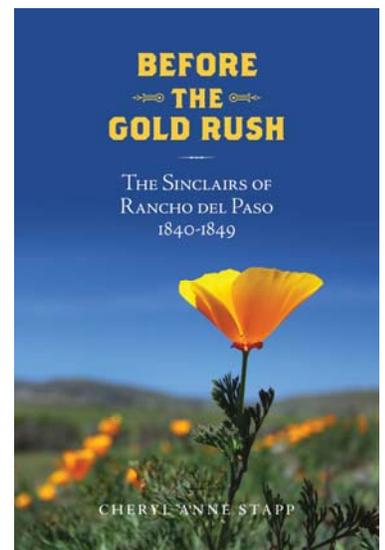
Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 PM (Doors Open 6:30)

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento

John and Mary Eyre Sinclair were important 1840s Sacramento Valley pioneers—although today seen as somewhat mysterious because their lives and accomplishments have long been eclipsed by the saga of their famous and controversial friend and neighbor, Captain John Sutter.

John Sinclair became part-owner and resident manager of the Rancho del Paso in 1843, a property that was and still is important to the development of the city of Sacramento. The Arden-Arcade district, for example, an area of suburban housing and business expansion that began in the 1940s, sits on former Rancho del Paso land, as does Cal-Expo, and McClellan Park. Formerly McClellan AFB, the presence of this military supply center and the jobs it offered during World War II brought scores of new workers and their families to the greater Sacramento area. Then, too, there is the rancho's own fame from the 1880s as the breeding farm for James Ben Ali Haggin's Kentucky Derby-winning thoroughbreds.

(continued on page 2)



SCHS Presents Marshall Garvey

Hidden History of Sacramento Baseball

Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 PM (Doors Open 6:30)

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento

In the month that marks the true beginning of baseball season, Marshall Garvey will explore how rich and extensive the national pastime's history is in Sacramento. From the game's origins in the mid-19th century to the Solons of the first half of the 20th century to the River Cats of today, Sacramento's baseball history is resplendent, yet often overlooked compared to other California cities. Marshall has been a passionate baseball historian since 2000, and brings an enthusiastic and discerning eye to this topic, which will be shown in his forthcoming book *The Hidden History of Sacramento Baseball*. His talk will cover key developments in Sacramento baseball, such as the Cincinnati Red Stockings' famed 1860s exhibition and the arrival of the River Cats, and conclude with a discussion of famous players who hail from the River City. It's an evening no true baseball fan will want to miss!

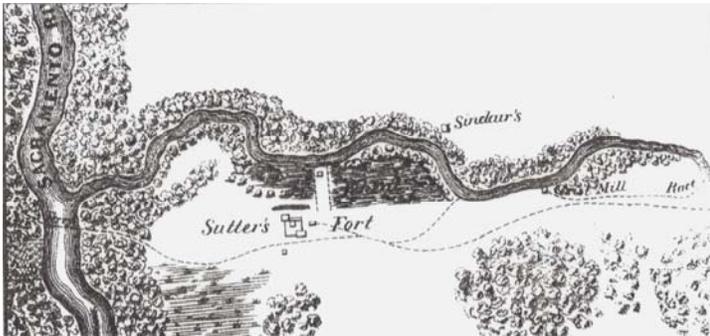


Marshall will bring Sacramento baseball to life, from the 19th century to the River Cats.

Before the Gold Rush: The Sinclairs of Rancho del Paso, 1840-1849 *(continued from page 1)*

John Sinclair and Mary Eyre met in January 1844 at Sutter's Fort, each having been drawn to California in different years and for different reasons. For John Sinclair, it was the continuation of a continental adventure. For Mary Eyre, it was a dramatic rescue on the Oregon Trail. She was almost 17; he was 34. Married that year, the couple probably expected to lead quiet lives, but the Mexican-owned province was not as peaceful as it seemed—and their ranch was at a geographic crossroads that put the Sinclairs square in the middle of history-making events.

Two years into their marriage, in June 1846, American immigrants captured the town of Sonoma in a para-military action known as the Bear Flag Revolt. Unknown to the "Bears" though, the United States had already declared war with Mexico in May—and within three weeks of the uprising, American warships landed on the coast to conquer California. Seven months later, hostilities in the Mexican-American War had just ended on California soil when an ema-



1848 Sherman map showing the Sinclairs' ranch.

ciated, half-dead man stumbled into an immigrant's shack 40 miles north of the Sinclair's ranch ... and the residents of northern California learned the horrifying tale of the snow-trapped, desperate Donner Party. As the elected Sacramento District Alcalde, John Sinclair directed the first rescue efforts.

Then, in January 1848, gold was discovered in the nearby foothills, an event that changed the world even as it ruined the local landowners. Hordes of gold-fevered, undisciplined rowdies swarmed over private Rancho del Paso property, stealing supplies and livestock, and endangering the Sinclairs and their toddler-aged daughter.

John and Mary Sinclair lived through it all and died long ago, yet their Rancho del Paso lives on in the names of streets and parks and neighborhoods in Sacramento. Inspired by her interest in pioneer women (which piqued her curiosity when she first learned that Sutter's neighbor John Sinclair had been married), Cheryl Anne Stapp spent more than two years researching the Sinclairs' lives. In 2017 she published their biography, *Before the Gold Rush: The Sinclairs of Rancho del Paso, 1840-1849*. Cheryl is a writer, a native-born Sacramento historian, a lecturer about pioneer women in California, and a volunteer docent at Sutter's Fort. On March 27 she will present the true account of a courageous, resilient man and woman who lived lives at the edge of discovery and fortune; the story of a couple whose lives and experiences are part of the Golden State's pioneer past.

Three Global Transformational Moments

Excerpted from the speech given by SCHS Secretary Gregg Lukenbill at the Inaugural Banquet for the 2019 Transcontinental Railroad Celebration at the California State Railroad Museum, February 13, 2018

There is no city that has had a greater role in changing the global course of industry and culture into what America and the world is today than Sacramento. During and after the Gold Rush, diverse races, cultures, and fortune seekers of the world rushed in to Sacramento.

On his 3rd round trip from Sacramento to Washington D.C. in 1862, Judah's survey and construction cost estimate to Council Bluffs set the stage for Surveyor President Abraham Lincoln to implement his sweeping vision that created the America, and world, that we live in today. Enabled by the gold rush and Judah's dynamic transcontinental railroad quest, in 43 days in the middle of 1862 Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Homestead Act, the Telegraph and Pacific Railroad Acts, and the College Land Grant Act, followed by the first national park in 1864. Then, in 1865, between passing the 13th Amendment ending slavery in January, and winning the Civil War in April, Lincoln signed the Pacific Mail Steamship Act subsidy to create four 1,500-passenger steam engine ships for round-trip passenger and freight service from San Francisco to Hong Kong.

The acceleration of increased productivity by shrinking transportation times was explosive and globally transformational, far greater than the computer of today, shrinking a 6-month cross country trip by horse to 6 days

Sacramento County Historical Society Resumes Annual Awards of Excellence Program

For a number of years the SCHS sponsored an awards program and dinner recognizing deserving individuals and organizations for achievements that promote interest in the history and preservation of the Sacramento region. When nominations for those awards began to dwindle, we took a break. The last program was in the spring of 2014. We're happy to announce the return of the Awards Program, which will be held on **Tuesday, June 26 at the Masonic Temple at 1123 J Street**. In order to present awards, we need nominees. You are invited to submit nominations in the categories of media and publications, education, and preservation pertaining to Sacramento history. If your nominee is selected to receive the award, you will be asked to introduce her or him at the awards dinner.

Education: For achievement in educating students and/or the public in Sacramento area history. Activities may include formal and informal classes; docent and tour guide programs; and development and installation of exhibits, works of art, and other educational and interpretive displays. Prior recipients have included the Downtown Walking Tours and the Sacramento History Museum's Gold Rush Program.

Preservation: For achievement in preservation and restoration of sites, structures, artifacts, documents, and memorabilia of historic significance to

the Sacramento area. Activities may include research, physical preservation or restoration, and outreach to the public, organizations or individuals. Prior awards have recognized the Blackbird Restaurant for adaptive restoration and re-use of a historically significant structure and Arthur Henry's Supper Club in Oak Park.

Media: For achievement in research, writing, editing, and publishing historical (nonfiction) books, papers, articles, informational brochures or producing documentary videos or other communications media that further interest in the history of the Sacramento area. Prior awards have gone to videographer Bill George and journalist Lance Armstrong.

Special Achievement: On rare occasions this category is used to recognize a significant contribution to history in areas that don't fit into the other categories. The only such award presented has gone to West Sacramento's Thom Lewis for his long involvement in promoting West Sacramento history.

Awards Nominations should be submitted to SCHS AWARDS, PO Box 160065, Sacramento, CA95816 0065, and postmarked by April 30. Please indicate which category your nomination is for, provide email and phone contacts for yourself and your nominee, and keep your application length to one page.

Three Global Transformational Moments *(continued from page 2)*

by rail, and a trans-Pacific trip from 4 months to 1 month. The Chinese have always been part of this California journey and became part of the very fabric of California, from the gold rush to conquering the Sierra with the world's longest tunnels. They applied their knowledge and expertise to agriculture, levee construction, and reclamation of hundreds of thousands of acres in the Sacramento delta. The Chinese developed California's fishing industry along the rivers and on the coast, creating Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. Chinese history is a proud rich California heritage, and a native part of our diverse California culture. As we celebrate these events, we should recognize the keepers of this historic flame, who celebrate these global transformational moments of Theodore Judah, Abraham Lincoln, and our shared Chinese heritage.

Membership Renewal Reminder

It's membership renewal time. We're Sacramento's only regional historical society and can't survive without community participation from supporters like you. Payments can be made either electronically at www.sachistoricalociety.org/join-us-1 or by US Mail by filling out the membership form at the website and mailing it with a check.

Member Notice: Board Election and Society Name Change

At our March 27 Meeting, members will vote on the Society Board Members for the next year as well as being asked to approve an amendment to the By-Laws simplifying our name to the Sacramento Historical Society. If you have questions or nominations to the Board, send them to gvoelm@gmail.com.



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sachistoricalociety.org

To email Board members, visit
sachistoricalociety.org

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GOLDEN NUGGETS

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OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION & OTHER INFO
Mar 18 & 21	2 PM and 7 PM	<i>Vertigo Screenings</i> On March 18 and 21, specific area movie theaters will be screening a restored version of Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 classic <i>Vertigo</i> , featuring Jimmy Stewart and Kim Novak (and San Juan Bautista!). Don't miss your opportunity to see this now-60-year-old film on the big screen.	Various locations, see www.fathomevents.com
Sat Mar 24	1 PM to 5 PM	<i>Sacramento "Backstage" Tour</i> Join SCHS for a behind-the-scenes tours of three of Sacramento's famous historical spots March 24! Tour Sutter's Fort, the Stanford Mansion, and the State Capitol for a look at the people and places that shaped Sacramento. Depart from Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum at 1 pm by shuttle and return approx. 5 pm.	Depart from Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento Tickets \$30 To RSVP contact Bill George at 916-899-9871 or Nimbusbill@icloud.com
Tues Mar 27	7 PM	<i>Before the Gold Rush: The Sinclairs of Rancho Del Paso 1840-1849</i> SCHS presents author Cheryl Anne Stapp to discuss the Sinclair family in the period before the gold rush.	Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento www.sachistoricalociety.org Doors open at 6:30 PM
Sat Mar 31	Open 10 AM to 2 PM	Citrus Heights History Day: Rusch House Tours The historic and seldom open 1915 Rusch ranch home will be open for free public tours during Citrus Heights History Day. Citrus Heights Historical Society members will conduct tours of the 1915 ranch house that many have been driving or walking past for years.	Rusch House 7301 Antelope Rd, Citrus Heights Enter via the Rusch Dr. parking lot For more information, call Larry Fritz at 916-802-7241
Tues Apr 24	7 PM	<i>Hidden History of Sacramento Baseball</i> SCHS presents author and board member Marshall Garvey to explore the rich and extensive history of baseball in Sacramento.	Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento www.sachistoricalociety.org Doors open at 6:30 PM
Tues May 8	7 PM	<i>Early Sacramento: An Island in the Stream</i> Mark this date for a repeat performance of Gregg Lukenbill's popular discussion of the global impact of Sacramento's early history	Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento www.sachistoricalociety.org Doors open at 6:30 PM