

Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March-April 2019, vol. 27-28

Sacramento Historical Society Presents Eric Webb, James Scott and Amanda DeWilde

World War II and Sacramento

Tuesday, March 26 7:00 PM (Doors Open 6:30)

Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Court, Sacramento

On Tuesday, March 26, Eric Webb, James Scott and Amanda DeWilde of the Sacramento Public Library present their research findings on Sacramento during World War II, recently distilled into their 2018 book *World War II Sacramento* (History Press: Charleston, SC).

Spurred into action by the attack on Pearl Harbor, Sacramento dragged itself out of the morass of the Great Depression to jump with all it had into what would arguably become the defining event of the twentieth century—World War II.



The Capital City trained citizens to thwart Japanese attacks through Civilian Defense, cultivated thousands of acres of victory gardens, and harnessed the labor power and agricultural riches of the region in order to feed both America's allies and a growing national army. Tens of thousands engaged in war work at local bases like the new McClellan Field, while a rehabilitated Mather Field became a school and point of both embarkation and return for thousands

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Civilian Defense Block Leader Patch

Special Collections of the Sacramento Public Library

Sacramento Historical Society Presents Mark Davidson

Tevis and Haggin: Sacramento's Early Transnational Businessmen

Tuesday, April 23 7:00 PM (Doors Open 6:30)

Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Court, Sacramento



Lloyd Tevis

Mark Davidson, a Director on the Sacramento Historical Society's Board, examines Sacramento's National "A List" dynamic attorney duo—Lloyd Tevis and James "Ben Ali" Haggin. Both men began their incredible journey in early Sacramento City during the last half of the nineteenth century and utilized their business acumen to become successful transnational businessmen.

Tevis and Haggin both arrived in Sacramento from Kentucky in late 1849. They soon began practicing law, specializing in helping prior Mexican land grant owners face the daunting process of receiving U.S. land "Patents." One of the most famous land grants they acquired in lieu of attorney fees was the



James "Ben Ali" Haggin

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World War II and Sacramento *(continued from page 1)*



McClellan Workers (1943)

Special Collections of the Sacramento Public Library

of history-making pilots, bombardiers, and navigators. Sacramento's diverse cadre of citizen soldiers would not only distinguish themselves in combat overseas, they would later return and transform the city into the modern Sacramento of today. And yet, casting an immutable pall over the effort was the region and nation's inability to safeguard civil liberties in the face of the warping effects of total war.

The book was a natural outgrowth of the authors' previous work on the Sacramento Valley during World War I (2016). Beyond the continued chronology, themes in both conflicts are fairly similar—mass agricultural and industrial mobilization, rationing, the emergence of the common man doing uncommon things in war, and the recurrence of intolerance and hate. There was also the sustained use of the Sacramento region as a base for war making, with Mather and McClellan playing a part in so many wars of the twentieth century. World War II really firmed up Sacramento's cultural and economic identity and predicated much of our growth into the second half of the twentieth century.

In all of their works, the authors aim to present the human experience. From the Japanese American teenager on the eve of internment to the first Sacramentan to give his life on a sunny morning in Hawaii to the everyman grit and bravery of Jack Voss, these are all folks

that people can relate to because they drove the roads we drive today, studied in the schools that we still revere, and nourished themselves from the same soil that we continue to use. The experience of total war as seen through the eyes of Sacramentans brings us a bit closer to the heart of the topic.

As a library work, book publishing represents a new era. Librarians are the custodians of the city/county's collections, but they are also part of the region's army of subject experts and historians; plus they know a thing or two about research. Projects like this help further bind professionals like Webb, Scott, and DeWilde to the community they serve. Plus, as Sacramentans, history is a language that we all speak—it's in our DNA. [RSVP today](#) for this exciting program.



The first class of navigators at Mather Field in the rev up to World War II

Center for Sacramento History

Tevis and Haggin: Sacramento's Early Transnational Businessmen *(continued from page 1)*

44,371 acre Rancho del Paso in northern Sacramento County.

Tevis and Haggin's successes led them on to many other profitable ventures, both as partners and individuals. A sample of their nine-figure financial holdings encompass ownership of 350,000 acres in Kern County, Sierra watershed rights, agriculture, railroads, oceanic steamships, the iconic Idaho Anaconda Copper Mine, the South Dakota Homestake Gold Mine, Nevada Comstock Lode, ranching, thoroughbred and horse racing development, and the green-mail takeover of the Wells Fargo Express and Bank, moving the headquarters from New York City to San Francisco.

The amazing story of how these businessmen found affluence in Sacramento is one you will enjoy hearing more about in April! [RSVP today](#).

Mark Davidson's interest in history started with his family's research into its genealogy. His American family tree goes back to Jamestown, Virginia in 1610. Both his fraternal and maternal heritage connect with veterans of the American Revolution. He is a graduate from California State University, Sacramento. He and his wife have grandchildren who are seventh generation Sacramentans. Mark enjoys doing the research and creating artistic support for the many exhibits used within his group presentations that vividly recall the exciting early days of the Golden State.

Sacramento During WWII: Through the Camera Lens



P-39s and P-38s in Building 51 at McClellan
California Aerospace Museum



Local businesses celebrate scrap collection, near 8th & Broadway
Special Collections of the Sacramento Public Library



(04-44J-32AB)(4-18-412M)(2-500) SACRAMENTO AIR DEPOT, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

Aerial photos of McClellan Field (known as the Sacramento Air Depot from 1937 to 1939)

California Aerospace Museum



The famous Suzy-Q
(G-80-L- SUZY-Q-8.P.S.)(3-24-43-1:15 P.) (PB-1/100)
(ARMY AIR BASE - WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON)

The Suzy-Q, one of the most famous planes to transit
McClellan

Whitman College



Jack Voss as a boy growing up in East Sacramento—ten years
later he was evading capture behind enemy lines.

Mick and J.R. Voss



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GOLDEN NUGGETS

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OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION & OTHER INFO
Mar 26	7 PM Doors open 6:30 PM	<i>World War II and Sacramento</i> Join SHS as Eric Webb, James Scott and Amanda DeWilde of the Sacramento Public Library present their research findings on Sacramento during World War II. Dragging itself out of the Great Depression, Sacramento became an incredible and resilient source of support for the war effort.	Columbus Hall 5961 Newman Ct, Sacramento www.sachistoricalsociety.org Members free, Non-members \$5
Apr 18	7 PM	<i>Gold Spike Lecture Series: A Legacy in Brick and Iron by Mary Helmich</i> With over 9 years of research, Helmich has completed the first comprehensive history of Sacramento's Central and Southern Pacific Shops. Once the largest industrial complex west of the Mississippi River, the shops and their workers are showcased in this beautifully illustrated book.	Sacramento History Museum 101 I St, Sacramento www.sachistorymuseum.org Members \$7, Non-members \$14
Apr 23	7 PM Doors open 6:30 PM	<i>Tevis and Haggin: Sacramento's Early Transnational Businessmen</i> SHS hosts Mark Davidson to examine Sacramento's National "A List" dynamic attorney duo—Lloyd Tevis and James Haggin. Both men sought success in Sacramento and found it, utilizing their business acumen to acquire nine-figure financial holdings, encompassing land grants, gold mines, steamships and more!	Columbus Hall 5961 Newman Ct, Sacramento www.sachistoricalsociety.org Members free, Non-members \$5