

# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January - February 2018, vol. 15-16

**SCHS Presents Gregg Lukenbill**

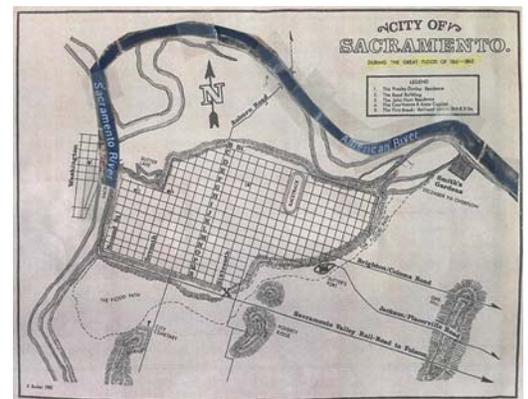
## **Early Sacramento: An Island in the Stream**

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

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

The City Grid, Floods, Rivers Confluence, Island in the Streams, City County 1857 Merger and 1862 Separation, Sutter's Lake, China Slough, Brighton, and the Freeport Railroad are all now faded from Sacramento's illustrious, internationally-celebrated history.

At the epicenter of the global gold rush and epic westward migration across the continent to California in 1849, Sacramento dynamically reciprocated eastward with the only transcontinental railroad route commenced from the west to the east in 1869. This concurrently initiated federally-sponsored immigration, communication, transportation, education, and mail, aiding globalization across the Pacific to China and ending the 500-year northern hemispheric quest for a northwest passage to the Orient.



**Map of the "Great Flood" of 1861-62**

*(continued on page 2)*

**SCHS Presents Gregory Hinton**

## **Buffalo Bill and Sacramento**

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

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



The 'Hotel Arrivals' section of the Sacramento Daily Union announced the arrival of "W.F. Cody" of the "Buffalo Bill Combination" on June 21, 1877.

William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody—frontiersman, scout and world-famous showman—had deep ties to the Golden State. Cody's bond with California was strong, including statewide tours in multiple cities stretching from Oakland to San Diego from 1877 to 1916. Best known for his internationally acclaimed outdoor exhibition depicting the expansion and settlement of the American frontier, Cody would not bring "Buffalo Bill's Wild West" to Sacramento until 1902.

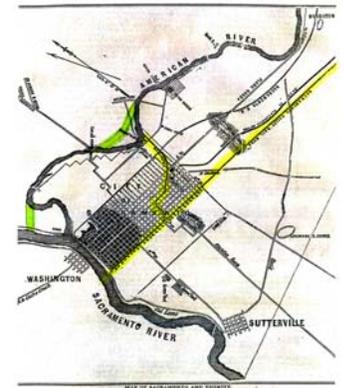
Cody's theatrical troupe, the "Buffalo Bill Combination" was inspired by the success of the many Buffalo Bill dime novels written by Ned Buntline, some later dramatized with actors portraying Buffalo Bill. In 1873, suffering from stage fright, Cody initially turned down Buntline's offer of five hundred dollars per week to play himself. After considerable kidding from military officers, friends, and family; Cody signed on. Ac-

*(continued on page 2)*

## Early Sacramento: An Island in the Stream *(continued from page 1)*

The accelerating vortex from gold rush to transcontinental global passageway replaced the horse-and-oxen-drawn wagon trains with a steam engine magic carpet ride. The maelstrom of just being Sacramento at the confluence of two rivers during those twenty formative years was endless chaos, creating the survival metaphor "indomitable city."

This unique program will feature rare high-definition photographs that cover an obscure range of subjects, with added interest of them all being located within three miles of the program location.



City of Sacramento in 1855

## Buffalo Bill and Sacramento *(continued from page 1)*

According to wife Louisa, he didn't even know he'd have to memorize lines. Always scraping to make ends meet, she can't have minded that it paid more than scouting.

Cody brought with him fellow dime novel heroes and old pals Wild Bill Hickok and Texas Jack Omohundro. When the "Combination" soon proved lucrative, Cody dedicated his civilian scouting to the summer months.

The military campaigns offered a unique opportunity for Cody to write his own dramas. What he experienced in the field would eventually be reenacted on stage. Reportedly, Cody once wore an ornate stage costume in battle to later thrill his audiences and the press with its authenticity. He hired Lakota Indians to play themselves for the same reason.

Cody returned with the Combination to the Golden State in 1879, receiving strong notices for his performance to "good business" at the Metropolitan Theatre in Sacramento. The vehicle was a frontier drama entitled "May Cody, or Lost and Won."

"The Buffalo Bill Combination" traveled nationally for years, but eventually gave way to Cody's increasing theatrical claustrophobia and awareness that the story of his Wild West exploits was too large to be confined by a mere stage. With his national reputation as a military scout and frontiersman, Cody grew wary of being dismissed as a melodramatic sideshow. He wanted legitimacy.



In 1884, an early rendition of "Buffalo Bill's Wild West" took shape. By 1902, when Buffalo Bill's Wild West came to Sacramento, Cody was arguably the most famous celebrity in the world with a bank account to go with it. The 1902-1903 "Ocean to Ocean" Wild West 'farewell' tour would set Cody and his extended family up nicely for retirement.

But his marriage to Louisa hit the rocks, and scandalous details of divorce pleadings became international tabloid fodder. A major mining investment, representing much of his considerable Wild West profits, went south. Cody needed the Golden State. At 56, it must have felt that he was starting over. More farewell tours were in the offing.

Two more California tours would follow before Buffalo Bill's final farewell in early 1917 when he passed away on January 10th in Denver.

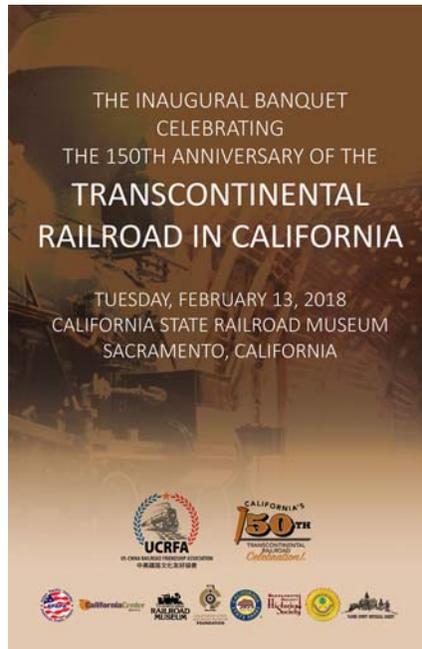
Gregory Hinton is a writer, historian and lecturer. He consults with, among others, this nation's finest Western museums and historical institutions. A Wyoming son and a proud resident of California, Hinton holds a 2009 Residency at Wyoming's Ucross Foundation and a 2011 BBCW Resident Fellowship. His newspaper play, *Waiting for a Chinook*, received its world premiere at the 2013 Snowy Range Summer Theatre Festival in Laramie. In 2015, Hinton was appointed Associate Editor of the *Papers of William F. Cody* for his abstract, "Out West with Buffalo Bill." Hinton was honored to offer the closing keynote of the 2016 Western Museums Association Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

## 2019 Transcontinental Railroad Celebration Inaugural Banquet

2019 marks the 150th Anniversary of the World's First Transcontinental Railroad completed in 1869. Its historic significance to California cannot be overstated: defining development in the Western United States and shrinking the World, while rapidly accelerating technology, science and agriculture.

California's 150th Transcontinental Railroad Committee and the US-China Railroad Friendship Association cordially invite you to the Inaugural Banquet for the 2019 Transcontinental Railroad Celebration at the California State Railroad Museum, 125 I Street, Sacramento CA, Tuesday, February 13, 2018. There are three sponsorship levels along with individual tickets available. For more information, to secure a sponsorship, or to RSVP (by February 1, 2018), contact: Ruth Gottlieb, gottliebassoc@comcast.net, 916-646-4080, or

Stephen Zhou, Railroad150RSVP@gmail.com, 916-718-3383. All proceeds will benefit the programs, activities and projects associated with the 150th Transcontinental Railroad Anniversary.



California's 150th Transcontinental Railroad Committee has been created to commemorate and celebrate this transformative event May 3-11, 2019, offering activities that are educational and recreational, as well as pure fun. The celebration will bring awareness to this historic event and its impacts on the development of California. US-China Railroad Friendship Association commemorates and celebrates the Chinese railroad workers for their role in building the World's First Transcontinental Railroad, along with promoting mutual friendship between the people of the United States and China.

*Dear Historical Society Member*

*I am proudly writing to you about the exciting progress that the Sacramento County Historical Society has recently made with your participation this past year, and thank you for your input in our improving and increasingly attended programs. This annual calendar year Membership Renewal Request provides us a moment to celebrate 2017, and showcase our plans for 2018.*

*2017 saw us completely overhaul the SCHS internet site, greatly enlarging our digital content of Sacramento area-authored "local" history series highlighting the "indomitable" Sacramento spirit in story after story. Our online digital library, currently encompassing 171 Sacramento authored works as Golden Notes and Journals, will grow to over 200 in 2018. We also hosted two very well attended dinner-show history events: one in May at the new Golden One Center Foyer entertaining a crowd of 300, and another this month, a Taste of the Sacramento Barrio, catered by Cielito Lindo Restaurant. Members survey results have yielded a 70% preference for increasing dinner history shows, so we are planning to conduct three dinner shows in 2018.*

*Your membership donations support our mission to preserve the historical heritage of the broader Sacramento region with an emphasis on Sacramento, promoting a greater awareness of our regional and national history. It further allows us to act as a resource for inquiries regarding local area history and to educate the public with a variety of monthly programs and publications. With your continued support, together we can all make a difference learning about where we've been, and understanding where we are going as we move toward building an even brighter future.*

*Updated 2018 membership levels are on our website—reducing rates for couples. Payments can be made either electronically on our website at <https://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. Please renew today if you haven't yet done so. And thank you for your membership and support.*

*Gregg Lukenbill, Membership Chair*



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**GOLDEN NUGGETS**

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## OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION & OTHER INFO
Tue Jan 23	7 PM	<i>Early Sacramento: An Island in the Stream</i> SCHS presents board member Gregg Lukenbill to discuss the tumultuous years of 1849 to 1869 in Sacramento.	Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sachistoricalociety.org">www.sachistoricalociety.org</a> Doors open at 6:30 PM
Tue Feb 13	7 PM	<i>2019 Transcontinental Railroad Celebration Inaugural Banquet</i> California's 150th Transcontinental Railroad Committee and US-China Railroad Friendship Assoc will host the Inaugural Banquet for the 2019 Transcontinental Railroad Celebration with exhibits, films, dinner, and entertainment. Individual tickets \$150 along with sponsorship options.	California State Railroad Museum 125 I St, Sacramento Doors open at 5:30, Dinner at 7  RSVP/questions to <a href="mailto:Railroad150RSVP@gmail.com">Railroad150RSVP@gmail.com</a> or 916-718-3383
Tue Feb 27	7 PM	<i>Buffalo Bill and Sacramento</i> SCHS presents Gregory Hinton who will present a picture of Buffalo Bill in Sacramento and California.	Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sachistoricalociety.org">www.sachistoricalociety.org</a> Doors open at 6:30 PM
Tues Mar 27	7 PM	<i>Before the Gold Rush: The Sinclairs of Rancho Del Paso 1840-1849</i> SCHS presents author Cheryl Anne Stepp to discuss the Sinclair family in the period before the gold rush.	Sierra Sac Valley Medical Museum 5380 Elvas Ave, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sachistoricalociety.org">www.sachistoricalociety.org</a> Doors open at 6:30 PM