

# Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September - October 2018, vol. 21-22

## Sacramento Historical Society Presents Andrew McLeod **Settlers' Revolt! Beyond the Squatters' Riot**

Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 PM (Doors Open 6:30)

Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Court, Sacramento



This woodcut print appeared in a special illustrated edition of the *Sacramento Times and Transcript* (Jan. 1, 1852). It seems to be the oldest surviving image of one of the most dramatic incidents in Sacramento's history.

Learn about the Gold Rush uprising in Sacramento that killed eight, including several city officials. Learn how Sacramento's early history has included some important misunderstandings of the "Squatters' Riot" and its revolutionaries.

Join us on Tuesday, September 25, as Andrew McLeod gives a fascinating presentation about the Settlers' Revolt, Sacramento's revolutionary movement that resorted to arms after legal means failed—better known as the deadly 1850 Squatters' Riot. But as dramatic as it was, that two-day conflict was only one episode of a much longer struggle. Although the dominant narrative tells us that the "Squatters" were driven out and order was restored, new research reveals a more complicated history.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Sacramento Historical Society Presents Joseph Amster **Emperor Norton and Sacramento**

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

Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Court, Sacramento

The Sacramento Historical Society is proud to present Emperor Norton for its October program. Tour guide and writer Joseph Amster will be appearing in character and costume as one of San Francisco's most beloved oddballs. Born Joshua Abraham Norton, the self-proclaimed "Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico" had originally come to San Francisco in 1849 where he went bankrupt after having initial success in investing. After the bankruptcy, he reinvented himself as the emperor, who was allowed to partake of free services and meals, as well as issue his own Imperial Treasury Bonds. He passed away in 1880 and was given the biggest funeral the city had ever seen at that time.

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## Settlers' Revolt! Beyond the Squatters' Riots *(continued from page 1)*

McLeod explains how long-hidden newspapers (and other historic anomalies) indicate that the Settlers' Association actually maintained some control in a tense stalemate, with eastern areas like Brighton remaining a center of ongoing resistance. The Settlers' growing strength in the Legislature and the streets then triggered a counterrevolutionary crack-down known as the Committees of Vigilance, which undermined civil order in California through at least 1856, and literally wiped Brighton off the map.



**The severe flooding of January 1850 caused a temporary lull in activities leading up to the Settlers' Revolt, but not for long.**

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## Emperor Norton and Sacramento *(continued from page 1)*



Joseph Amster is a tour guide, journalist, historian, California native, and resident of San Francisco on and off since the 1970s. Born in southern California, he first visited San Francisco as a seven-year-old in 1962. Falling in love with the city, he returned to study theater arts at San Francisco State University. During that time, he worked as a cook at San Francisco's legendary Salmagundi restaurant. As a journalist, he served as editor of the *Orange County Blade* and *IN Los Angeles* magazines. He has also had stories published in the Alyson Publications books *My First Time, Vol. 1* and *The Day We Met*. He has served on the board of directors of Laguna Outreach and Project Chicken Soup and was co-chair of the City of Laguna Beach HIV Advisory Committee. He currently serves as a board member of the San Francisco History Association and is the treasurer of the Emperor's Bridge Campaign.

With the rise of the Internet, Joseph found journalism jobs few and far between. In 2011, he and husband Rick Shelton founded Time Machine Tours. Because of their backgrounds in the performing arts, they decided to offer historical walking tours as characters from San Francisco history. Emperor Norton's Fantastic San Francisco Time Machine launched in July, 2011 to rave reviews. Amster also offers an Emperor Norton waterfront tour, made possible by a generous grant from the San Francisco History Association. Joseph combined his love of history with his culinary background to offer San Francisco Food Safari, a shopping tour of North Beach in 2012 and a Mission District tour titled "There's More to the Mission than Burritos" in 2013. He is currently working on a book titled *Created in California: The Golden State's Gifts to Gastronomy* and can often be spotted about San Francisco in character as the city's much-loved Emperor Norton. He is available for charter tours, lectures, weddings, and special events.



**Emperor Norton in what may be his most well-known photo: The Plinth Pose.**

## Halloween Happenings ... and Other October Events

Our *Out & About* listing of activities on the back page of Golden Nuggets was so overloaded with festive fall events that we couldn't fit everything in our usual space. So, we decided to move our October events here. There are lots of fun things to choose from, so revisit an old favorite or try something new, or both!

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION & OTHER INFO
Oct 6	10 AM	<i>Haunted Sacramento Cemetery Tour</i> The lantern Tours at the Sacramento Old City Cemetery may be sold out, but you can still experience a little ghostliness at this morning tour featuring the haunting stories of this Sacramento gem. Free	Sacramento Old City Cemetery 1000 Broadway, Sacramento <a href="http://www.historicoldcitycemetery.org">www.historicoldcitycemetery.org</a>
Oct 6	10 AM to 4 PM	<i>Sacramento Archives Crawl</i> Crawlers tour among four host archives in Sacramento, gathering stamps in their passports as they view treasures from dozens of archives and special collections libraries, visit with archivists, and go on special behind-the-scenes tours. The <b>theme for this year's crawl is "Going Places."</b> Free	California State Archives, 1020 O St; California State Library, 900 N St; Center for Sacramento History, 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd; and Sacramento Room, Central Library, 828 I St <a href="http://sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com">sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com</a>
Oct 6	3 PM to 7:30 PM	<i>CruiseFest on Fulton Avenue</i> <b>Join the California Automobile Museum at Sacramento's biggest Cruise and Car Show</b> , with 300 cars of all makes and models, food trucks, live music, and a beer garden.	Fulton Avenue <a href="http://www.calautomuseum.org">www.calautomuseum.org</a> Spectators free Car registration \$30
Oct 7, 14, 19, 21, 28, and Nov 4	Various	<i>Old Sacramento Día de Los Muertos</i> Celebrate the traditions of el Día de Los Muertos with art <b>workshops Saturdays, the "Honoring our Past" presentation</b> Oct 19, and the Souls of the City Festival Nov 4.	Sacramento History Museum 101 I St, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sachistorymuseum.org">www.sachistorymuseum.org</a> Ticket prices vary
Oct 12	6 PM to 10 PM	<i>Día de Los Muertos at the California Museum</i> Celebrate Día de Los Muertos with live music, a ceremonial blessing and performance, a Mercado de Los Muertos, and activities for kids.	California Museum 1020 O St, Sacramento <a href="http://www.californiamuseum.org">www.californiamuseum.org</a> Tickets \$10 advance, \$20 door
Oct 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28	Various	<i>Old Sacramento Ghost Tours</i> <b>Come join the "ghosts" of early Sacramento on an eerie journey back in time.</b> Meet wayward miners, murder victims, and other colorful Gold Rush characters.	Sacramento History Museum 101 I St, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sachistorymuseum.org">www.sachistorymuseum.org</a> Tickets \$15
Oct 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29	Various	<i>Spookomotive Train Rides</i> All aboard for some Halloween fun Old Sacramento style on <b>a whimsically decorated train staffed with a "skeleton crew."</b> <b>Guests are encouraged to come in costume</b>	California Railroad Museum <a href="http://www.californiarailroadmuseum.org">www.californiarailroadmuseum.org</a> Tickets \$15 adult, \$8 youth
Oct 23	7 PM Doors open 6:30 PM	<i>Emperor Norton and Sacramento</i> SHS presents tour guide, historian, and writer Joseph Amster <b>appearing in character and costume as San Francisco's beloved Emperor Norton.</b>	Columbus Hall 5961 Newman Ct, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sachistoricalociety.org">www.sachistoricalociety.org</a> Members free, \$5 non-members



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GOLDEN NUGGETS

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## OUT & ABOUT

(SEE PG 3 FOR OCTOBER EVENTS)

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION & OTHER INFO
Sep 15	10 AM to 5 PM	<i>Hands On History: Frontier Farm to Fork</i> <b>Visitors to Sutter’s Fort will have the opportunity to step back in time and learn about the agricultural activities in and around the fort in the 1850s.</b>	<b>Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park</b> 2701 L St, Sacramento <a href="http://suttersfort.org">suttersfort.org</a> Tickets \$7 adult, \$5 youth
Sep 16	10 AM to 4 PM	<i>Preservation Sacramento Historic Home Tour</i> <b>This year’s tour will take place in the Capitol Mansions Historic District neighborhood, known for its stately structures and will showcase six distinctive homes.</b>	Capitol Mansions Historic District Midtown Sacramento <a href="http://www.preservationsacramento.org">www.preservationsacramento.org</a> Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 day of event
Sep 23	6 PM to 9 PM	<b>“Alhambra: Sacramento’s Palace of Fantasy” Screening</b> Come enjoy this film, using interviews, pictures, and newly-found film footage to tell the story of the Alhambra Theatre.	California Automobile Museum 2200 Front St, Sacramento <a href="http://www.calautomuseum.org">www.calautomuseum.org</a> Tickets \$20-\$25
Sep 25	7 PM Doors open 6:30 PM	<i>Settlers Revolt! Beyond the Squatters' Riot</i> SHS presents board member Andrew McLeod to speak about <b>Sacramento’s revolutionary movement that became known as the 1850 Squatters’ Riots.</b>	Columbus Hall 5961 Newman Ct, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sachistoricalsociety.org">www.sachistoricalsociety.org</a> Members free, \$5 non-members
Nov 10	6 PM 6:30 PM 7 PM	<i>Underground After Hours Season Finale</i> Join the scoundrels, scalawags, and sinners of Old Sacramento for the last adult-only tour of the season.	Sacramento History Museum 101 I St, Sacramento <a href="http://www.sachistorymuseum.org">www.sachistorymuseum.org</a> Tickets \$25