



CALIFORNIA ORIGINALS

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A Division of the Secretary of State's Office
www.sos.ca.gov/archives

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Fall 2015

CALIFORNIA
STATE ARCHIVES
Celebrating 165 years, 1850 - 2015

October is Archives Month

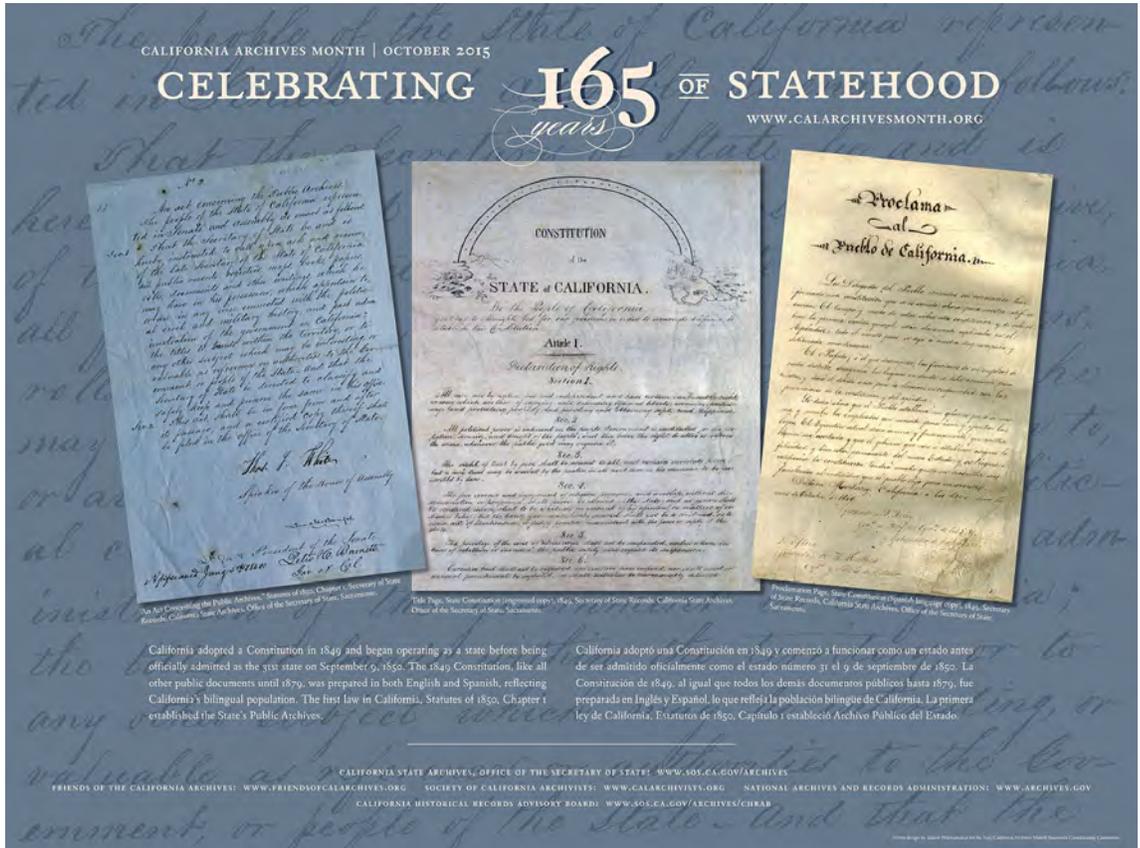
Sacramento Archives Crawl

Come celebrate at the fifth annual Sacramento Archives Crawl on Saturday, October 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Enjoy public tours, exhibits of historic treasures and free prizes (while they last!) at the State Archives, the State Library, the Center for Sacramento History, and the Sacramento Room at the Sacramento Public Library. The theme of this year's Archives Crawl is "Powered by the Past" and on display at the State Archives will be an assortment of records and artifacts commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, held in San Francisco in 1915. To learn more, visit the [Sacramento Archives Crawl blog](#).

California Archives Month Poster

This year is also the 165th anniversary of California statehood. To commemorate this anniversary, the 2015 California Archives Month poster will feature images of some of California's founding documents, including pages from the English and Spanish language versions of the 1849 state constitution. To view the poster and to learn about more Archives Month events, visit the [California Archives Month webpage](#).

By Melissa Tyler and Sebastian Nelson, Archivists and Archives Month Coordinators



California adopted a Constitution in 1849 and began operating as a state before being officially admitted as the 31st state on September 9, 1850. The 1849 Constitution, like all other public documents until 1879, was prepared in both English and Spanish, reflecting California's bilingual population. The first law in California, Statutes of 1850, Chapter 1 established the State's Public Archives.

California adoptó una Constitución en 1849 y comenzó a funcionar como un estado antes de ser admitido oficialmente como el estado número 31 el 9 de septiembre de 1850. La Constitución de 1849, al igual que todos los demás documentos públicos hasta 1879, fue preparada en Inglés y Español. Lo que refleja la población bilingüe de California. La primera ley de California, Estatutos de 1850, Capítulo 1 estableció Archivo Público del Estado.



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“Preserving and Promoting the History of California”



Preservation Workshop

Do you work or volunteer at an archives, historical society, museum, library, or related institution? Are you looking for training in preservation techniques for repairing paper-based materials? Then the ninth annual Preservation Workshop, held in conjunction with Archives Month, may be just what you need! This free, one-day event is open to twelve participants, and will be held at the State Archives on Tuesday, October 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit the [Preservation Workshop webpage](#).

By Melissa Tyler and Sebastian Nelson, Archivists and Archives Month Coordinators



From the State Archivist

Archives Month is a collaborative effort by professional organizations and repositories around the nation to highlight the importance of records of enduring value and the work of archivists to preserve those records. This year, Archives Month takes on greater significance in California as it occurs just a few weeks after the 165th anniversary of California's admission to the Union on September 9, 1850. Nine months before admission as the 31st state, California state government began functioning and the very first law enacted was "An Act Concerning the Public Archives." This act, formally known as *Statutes of 1850, Chapter 1*, directed the Secretary of State to "safely keep and preserve" the records of the government in his office. So it is fitting that as we celebrate the 165th anniversary of statehood that we are also celebrating archives. The State's Public Archives, today known as the California State Archives, continues as a division of the Secretary of State's Office and has grown tremendously in 165 years. Our collections continue to be the essential documentation of state government and uphold the mandate envisioned by the first Legislature in 1850. I welcome you to visit the State Archives.

Nancy Zimmerman Lenoil



New Exhibit

To Keep, Protect, and Preserve:

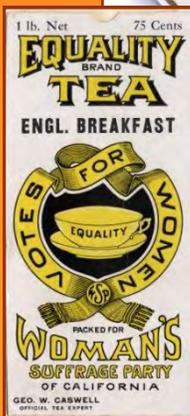
The Office of the Secretary of State and Essential Functions of Government

On September 9, 2015, Californians will celebrate the 165th anniversary of statehood. On that same day, the California State Archives will open a new exhibit revealing the fascinating history of the Office of the Secretary of State, created by the 1849 Constitution.

The new exhibit will highlight the responsibilities of the Secretary of State, from the original functions outlined in the *Statutes of 1850, Chapter 6* to the duties of the modern era. Some of the early tasks, such as elections monitoring, business filings, and receiving official acts of the Governor and Legislature remain today. During the early decades of statehood, the Secretary of State carried out the duties of the office with a staff of four; today, nearly 500 people handle the multitude of responsibilities assigned to the Secretary of State's office. From the early foundations to today, the Office of the Secretary of State continues its dedication to making California history and government more transparent and accessible.

The exhibit will display original items highlighting the various divisions of the office, including the Archives, Business Programs, Elections, and Political Reform. In addition, the exhibit will include information about long-serving secretaries who impacted the office in significant ways. Featured items include the 1849 election returns from Sutter's Fort, absentee ballots of Civil War soldiers stationed across the country, the 1933 Marx Brothers articles of incorporation, an 1884 bar of "The King of Soaps" for trademark registration, and an instruction model of an early 1960s automatic voting machine. The blueprint of the first vault built in the capitol basement to secure the state's historic documents, such as the 1849 and 1879 Constitutions, Mexican era land maps, and trademark registrations, will also be on display.

*By Lisa Prince, Archivist
and Exhibit Program Coordinator*



Items on exhibit: Beaded state seal, Equality Tea trademark, and a photograph of the Secretary of State's office in 1909

To Keep, Protect, and Preserve

*The Office of the Secretary of
State and Essential Functions of
Government*



The California State Archives
presents an exhibition showcasing
the fascinating and evolving story of
the Office of the Secretary of State,
established by the 1849
Constitution

DCS

September 9, 2015—September 2016

California State Archives
1020 O Street
4th floor Exhibit Gallery

Free and Open to the Public
M-F 9:30 am - 4:00 pm



*Pictured is a drawing from a photograph of
Charles F. Curry, Secretary of State from
1899 - 1910. This was used as his campaign
poster when he ran for Governor of
California in 1910.*

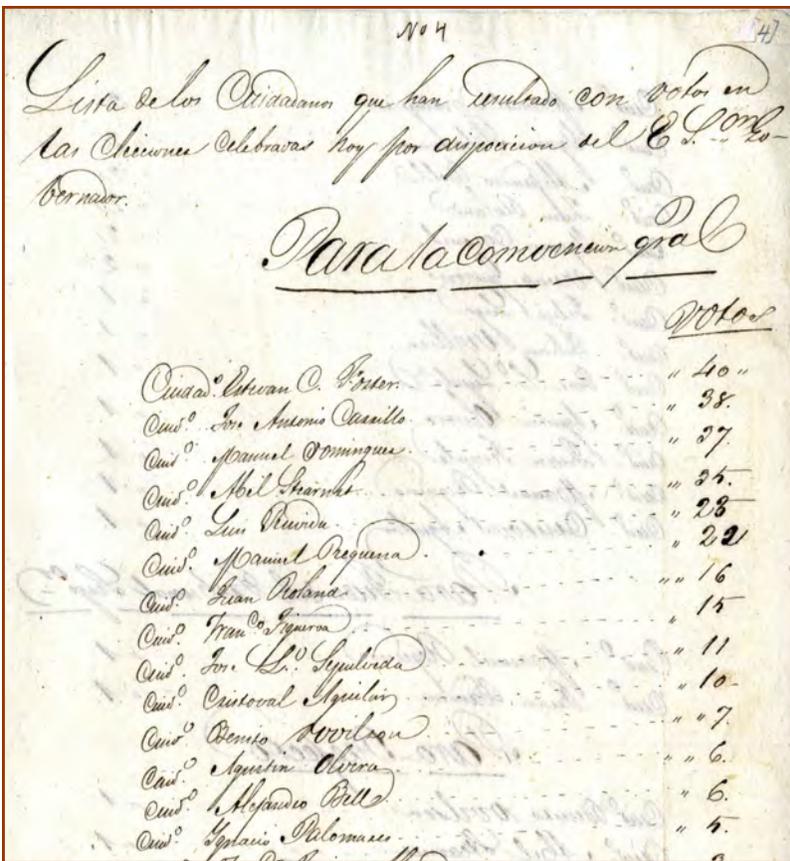


Staff Favorites

“That’s for California!”: California’s 1849 Constitutional Convention

On October 13, 1849, cannon fire echoed through the streets of Monterey, but this was no war. It was, instead, a celebration of arguably one of the most important events in the history of California: the signing of our first constitution. The constitution of 1849 provided for a government that differed in many respects from present-day California. For example, the state’s original constitution allowed only white men twenty-one years old or older to vote and the secretary of state was not an elected official, but appointed by the governor. Further, the capitol would be in San Jose rather than in Sacramento and no lottery would be “authorized by this State, nor shall the sale of lottery tickets be allowed.” At the same time, the constitution embodied many ideals we still cherish today, ideals such as the freedom of speech and of religion, the right to assemble and to have trials by jury, and the right to pursue and obtain safety and happiness.

California’s Constitutional Convention was intended to create order out of chaos. Although the Mexican-American War was finished, Congress still had not formed a civil government in California to manage local affairs. Rule was maintained in part by United States military authorities and by local officials appointed or elected when California had been a part of Mexico. The rapidly increasing number of people lured to California by the gold rush made good governance even more difficult. General Bennet Riley, California’s military governor, finally called for a convention on June 3, 1849, and an election was held in August to elect delegates.



Partial returns from the Los Angeles district for the election of delegates to the 1849 Constitutional Convention, Records of the Secretary of State’s Office (ID ODC1:4-1(4))

Over forty-three days, forty-eight delegates from around California struggled to form a new constitution. The issues ranged from setting the state’s boundaries to the question of allowing slavery, from outlawing dueling to securing property rights for married women. The delegates relied in part on the United States constitution, as well as the constitutions of the various states, particularly Iowa’s constitution of 1844, which was used as a guide, in part because delegate William Gwinn had helped write it.

California’s 1849 constitution was not merely a copy of earlier constitutions, however. Some of the legal traditions present when the area was part of Mexico would be maintained, including the right of women who owned property to keep their property in their own name after marriage (in much of the rest of the United States at this time, married women had limited property rights). According to delegate Henry Halleck, “I would call upon all the bachelors in this Convention to vote for it. I do not think we can offer a greater inducement for women of fortune to come to California. It is the very best provision to get us wives that we can introduce into the Constitution.”

Continued on page 5

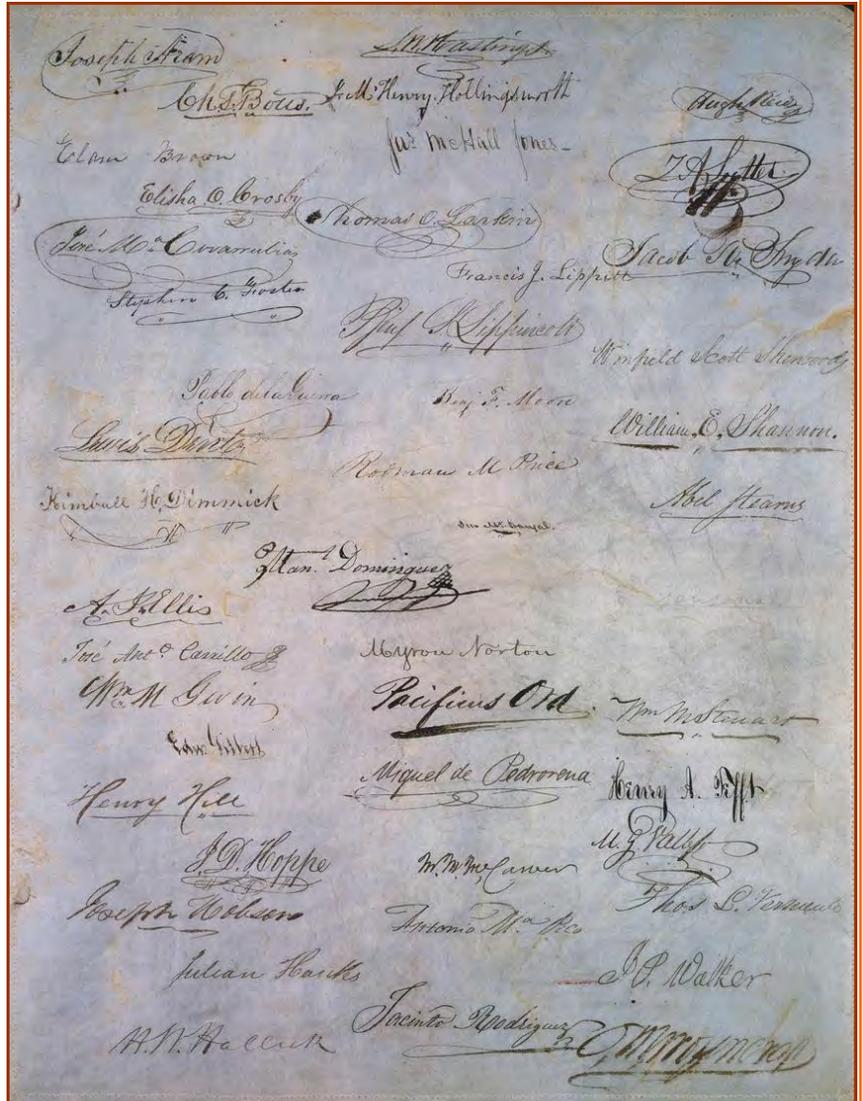


Staff Favorites (cont'd)

The delegates themselves had a mixed assortment of professions and backgrounds. Only seven had been born in California; most hailed from New England and the Southern states. There were lawyers, ranchers, merchants, printers, surveyors, and at least one man of “elegant leisure.” The average age was thirty-seven, and most had been in California for less than three years. Practically all had to search for suitable accommodations while attending the convention in Monterey (some even had to resort to sleeping outside under the trees). Eight of the delegates were Hispanic, and the proceedings of the convention were translated into Spanish accordingly. This bi-lingual mandate would be adopted in the constitution itself, requiring that it, as well as all laws, be published in both English and Spanish.

Many of California’s Hispanic residents could claim some Native American ancestry, and when the convention contemplated denying Native Americans and their descendants the right to vote, delegate José de la Guerra argued passionately against it. Native Americans, he argued, were a “proud and gifted race . . . and it was the duty of the citizens to endeavor to elevate them and better their condition in every way, instead of seeking to sink them still lower.” The convention would eventually leave the issue of Native American rights unresolved (eight years later one of the delegates, Manuel Dominguez, would be barred from testifying in a court case because of his Native American ancestry).

As the convention drew to a close and the delegates finished their work, a ball was held in their honor. Many of Monterey’s residents turned out for dancing and feasting. According to one of the attendees, “the band consisted of two violins and two guitars, whose music made up in spirit what it lacked in skill.” The next day, October 13, the members of the convention gathered to sign the new constitution. Delegate John Sutter declared with tears in his eyes that “this is the happiest day in my life . . . this is a great day for California.” It would still be weeks before the voters of California ratified the constitution and almost a year would pass before Congress admitted California as the thirty-first state in the Union. The celebrating on October 13 continued, however, and as the thirty-first cannon shot echoed through Monterey, the assembled crowd shouted, “That’s for California!”



Signature page of the 1849 California State Constitution, Records of the Secretary of State (ID F3889)

By Sebastian Nelson, Archivist



Records in the Spotlight

California Centennials Commission

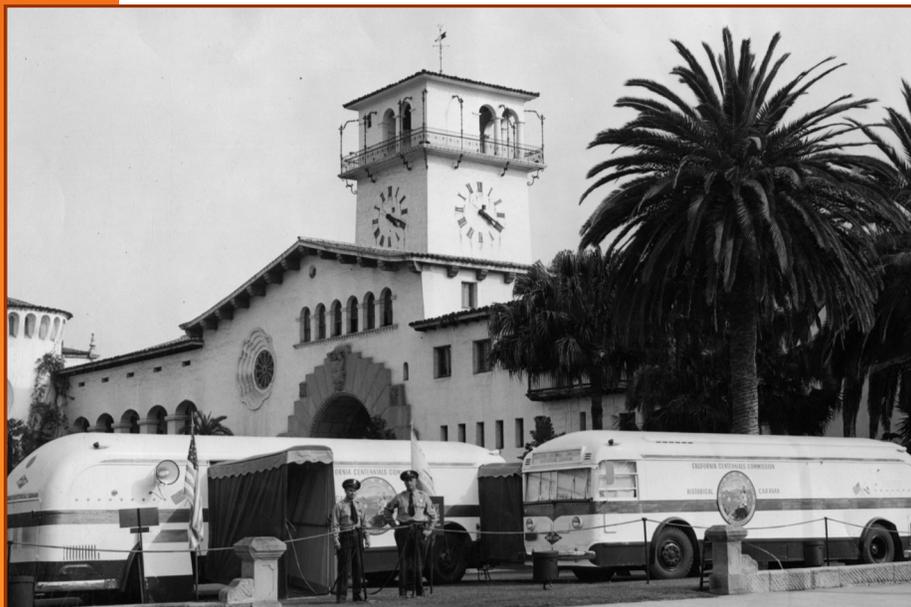
In 1947, in anticipation of upcoming anniversaries of several landmark events in California’s history, the state legislature created the California Centennials Commission. This commission’s primary function was to “provide for, assist in, sponsor, and promote public celebrations and exhibits” for centennial anniversaries during the years 1948 to 1950.

The commission was appropriated monies to help coordinate state celebrations and provide aid for local celebrations, if needed. Events celebrated during the centennials included the commemoration of the discovery of gold at Coloma, a waterfront pageant in Monterey celebrating the signing of the constitution, and re-enactments of the inauguration of the first governor at San Jose and the state’s first legislative session.

In addition to the many events held at specific sites, the Centennial Celebrations included historical caravans that traveled the entire state for two years. The caravans, displaying historical state artifacts such as the first newspaper printed in California, the silver maul that drove the golden spike at Promontory Summit in Utah Territory, and the original golden spike, took history directly to the people.

By Chris Garmire, Archivist

Learn more about the many fairs, festivals, and other events in California by searching [Minerva](#), our online catalog. And then, stop by Archives Research Room to learn more!



*Historical caravans in Santa Barbara, June 16, 1945,
Records of the California Centennials
Commission (ID VB3:P38)*



*Interior shot of the historical
caravan carrying the Golden Spike,
Records of the California Centennials Commission
(ID VB3:P38)*

*Special vault built for the transportation
and exhibition of the Golden Spike,
Records of the California Centennials
Commission (ID VB3:P38)*



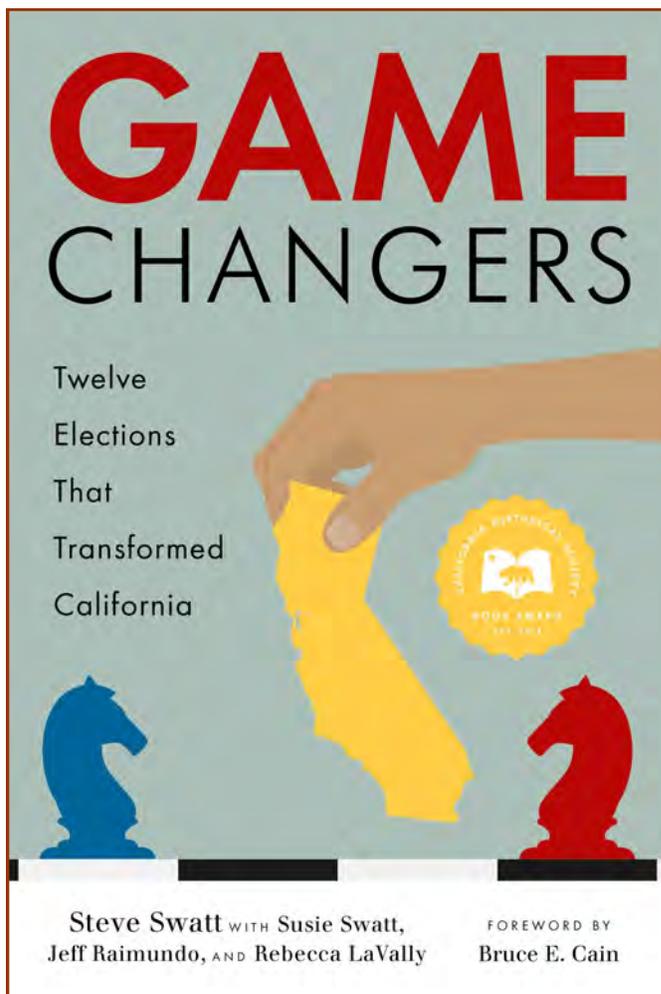


Speaker Series

The next event in the Archives Speaker Series is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, beginning at 5:00 pm.

“Game Changers: Twelve Elections That Transformed California”

Steve and Susie Swatt, co-authors of the recently released book, *Game Changers: Twelve Elections That Transformed California*, will discuss the challenges of writing a political history that is both informative and anecdotal – readable history that attracts political junkies and casual history buffs alike. Winner of the California Historical Society Book Award, *Game Changers* offers a treasure trove of little known stories from watershed elections – gleaned from dozens of interviews, 165 years of California newspaper coverage, manuscripts, archival collections, government documents, and rarely read oral histories.



About the Speakers

Steve Swatt, lead author of *Game Changers*, spent 25 years as an award-winning journalist for United Press International in Los Angeles and KCRA-TV in Sacramento as its state capitol correspondent. He also was a partner in a statewide political consulting firm and taught political communication at Sacramento State University.

Susie Swatt spent nearly 40 years as a top legislative staffer and researcher for the Fair Political Practices Commission where her work won a national Pro-Publica award for investigative reporting.

For more information, visit the [Speaker Series webpage](#) or email [ArchivesEvents](#). The Speaker Series is co-sponsored by the [Friends of the California Archives](#).

While this is a free event, tickets are required for planning purposes. Click on the ticket to reserve seats (links to the Archives' Eventbrite page).

RESERVE SEATS





Admission Day, Sept. 9

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla and the California State Archives, in partnership with the California Museum and the Foundation for Democracy and Justice, will be hosting a rare public display of the original 1849 state constitution on September 9 to celebrate 165 years of California statehood. The public is invited to attend any of the events, all to be held at the Secretary of State building at 1500 11th Street. The schedule of events includes:

- ◆ Display of 1849 Constitution — both English and Spanish versions — from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Reception featuring California’s birthday cake from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Program with remarks by California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and Secretary of State Alex Padilla at 4:15 p.m.
- ◆ Free access to the California Museum’s exhibit on California statehood from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Free access to the State Archives new exhibit about the office of the California Secretary of State from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

September 9	Admission Day Celebration	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/public-events/
September 25, October 30	Monthly Public Tours of the California State Archives	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/public-events/
October 3	Sacramento Archives Crawl	www.sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com
October 9	Digital Archives Day	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/public-events/
October 20	Preservation Workshop	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/public-events/
November 14	History Day How-tos 4.0 for National History Day Participants	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/public-events/
November 19	Speaker Series - <i>Game Changers: Twelve Elections That Transformed California</i> with Steve and Susie Swatt	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/public-events/

California State Archives
1020 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Visit us on the web at www.sos.ca.gov/archives

For general assistance, call (916) 653-7715

For reference assistance, call (916) 653-2246
or email ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov

For event information, call (916) 653-7715
or email ArchivesEvents@sos.ca.gov

For the California Museum visit
www.californiamuseum.org



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Visit the Secretary of State’s other divisions for election information, campaign finance filings, business records, and more.