



# CALIFORNIA ORIGINALS

A Quarterly Newsletter of the California State Archives  
A Division of the Secretary of State's Office  
[www.sos.ca.gov/archives](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives)

Volume II, No. 3

Spring 2014

## Annual Competition Gets Kids Hooked on History

On March 8, many of the students who attended the California State Archives History Day How-to presented their findings at the Sacramento County History Day competition. More than 350 students attended the event organized by the Sacramento County Office of Education and the Center for Sacramento History.

The students who were selected as county representatives will move on to the California History Day competition in April. The winners from that competition will qualify for National History Day (NHD), which will be in June at the University of Maryland.

The 2014 theme, Rights and Responsibilities in History, encompasses a spectrum of historical events. The Sacramento County students chose topics such as equal rights, internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, stem cell research, immigration rights, the State of Jefferson, rights of laborers, and environmental rights.

The NHD contest seeks to introduce students in 4th through 12th grades to primary sources such as records held at the California State Archives. The students must develop their own interpretation of history using these primary sources as well secondary sources, oral histories, and visits to museums and historic sites. The students present their findings as original papers, exhibits, websites, documentaries, and performances.

NHD engages students by introducing them to the exciting world of the past and helps them develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for future success. The program also develops student communication skills and builds self-esteem and confidence, all while striving to build a sense of civic responsibility in our nation's future leaders. For more information about National History Day, visit [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org).

The California State Archives invites potential future participants to attend History Day How-to 3.0, an all-day workshop on November 15. Visit [www.sos.ca.gov/archives/events/history-day.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/events/history-day.htm) for details.

*By Linda Johnson, Archivist and  
Education & Outreach Coordinator*



Archives graduate students Ignacio Sanchez-Alonso and Brittani Orona judged exhibits



Archivist Melodi Andersen staffed the Archives information table

*"Preserving and Promoting the History of California"*

### Inside this issue

From the State Archivist	2
Records in the Spotlight	2
Program Notes	3
Meet the Staff	3
History Writing Contest Winners	3
Staff Favorites	7
Upcoming Events	7
Contact Information	7



## *From the State Archivist*

As an undergraduate history major, I was challenged by the question of “what can I do with a history degree?” I loved studying history (and still do), but the career choices weren’t obvious beyond becoming a teacher, historian, or lawyer. Happily, I was steered in the direction of archives and, as it is said, “the rest is history.” While I once dismissed the idea of becoming an educator, I now believe that archivists *are* educators and archives have an important role in education. As the lead article describes, the State Archives has taken on a much greater role in the National History Day competition, providing History Day How-to workshops and teaching students to do historical research using archival materials. Archives staff also teach people how to find archival material using our online catalogs, Minerva and Athena. Archivists teach patrons about our collections; for example, records that may provide insight into the Legislature’s intent behind a particular law. We also educate people *about* archives and preservation of archival material through talks, tours, and workshops for people working in archives. So come to the State Archives and see how much there is to learn!

*Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil*

## *Records in the Spotlight*

### **War Services Bureau**

On February 19, 1942, two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the relocation of both American citizens and “resident aliens” away from many parts of the country. More than 100,000 Japanese Americans across the nation were eventually removed from their homes and forced into internment camps during World War II not for having committed crimes, but solely because of their ancestry. (The camps are also referred to as relocation camps and concentration camps.) Many of these Americans lived in California, and the War Services Bureau of the California Department of Social Welfare was one of the government agencies given the enormous task of helping coordinate their transportation.

The records of the War Services Bureau (ID number F3729) document the bureau’s activities assisting refugees and other civilians impacted by the war either by evacuation, enemy attack or, in the case of California’s Japanese American residents, forced relocation. The records include reports, correspondence and other documents relating to the dozens of civilian exclusion stations (also known as control stations) that were established across the state and staffed, in part, by Department of Social Welfare employees.



*War Services Bureau Photograph (F3729:143)*



*War Services Bureau Photograph (F3729:143)*

Thousands of Californians passed through these stations on their way to internment camps all across America, and the records detail many of the difficulties the internees faced. The collection also contains more than 40 photographs that show the operation of these evacuation centers. These records at the State Archives give witness to some of the serious injustices of World War II.

*By Sebastian Nelson, Archivist*



## *Program Notes*

### **Processing Program**

Processing, also called arrangement and description, is one of the core functions of every archives. Arrangement and description are the activities of organizing, describing, and preserving historical records.

During processing, an archivist will diligently review, analyze, and arrange records that have been transferred to the Archives. This review includes an in-depth appraisal of the records' historic, legal, and research values to determine if they are worthy of permanent retention. The archivist identifies and organizes the records into record series, following established archival principles and practices such as respecting provenance and original order. The archivist may also do some basic preservation if needed.

As the archivist processes the collection, he or she becomes the expert regarding its content. This expertise gives the archivist insight to create the finding aid, which is the guide and gateway to the collection. The finding aid includes detailed information about the records creator, the strengths of the collection, and access points for the various record series. The State Archives posts this information on the online catalog, Minerva, as well as the Online Archive of California. Only after good arrangement and description can the full research potential of the records be realized.

*By Jeff Crawford, Archivist  
Processing/Accessioning Coordinator*

## *Meet the Staff*

### **Jeff Crawford, Archivist**



Jeff Crawford began working as a student at the State Archives in 1995 and was hired as an archivist in 1999. Since 2002, he has served as the Governor's Records Archivist and since 2003, as the Processing/Accessioning Coordinator. Jeff was drawn to the State Archives because of his interest in history, especially California history. He enjoys searching the historic records as well as connecting researchers to materials they may be unaware of. Jeff notes, "One minute, I may be helping search through water records from the 1880s. . . the next minute, I'm helping someone with the gubernatorial papers of Goodwin Knight. That's what I get a real kick out of." Outside of work, Jeff enjoys coaching his sons in various sports, visiting historic Gold Rush sites, and grilling (rib eyes, of course!) in his backyard.

## *History Writing Contest Winners*

When students go beyond the classroom and dig into fascinating topics of the past, they never look at the present the same way again. Recently the California Secretary of State invited school-age children to write essays or poems about their most interesting discoveries using archives or historic sites to learn more about California. The writing contest challenge: to discuss how a discovery changed personal views or was inspiration to dig deeper on a subject.

Congratulations to Justin Wing of San José, Isabel Li of Temple City, and Tommy Wells of San Diego for submitting the most outstanding entries! Read their unedited work in the following three pages of this newsletter.

Thank you to all students who participated, as well as the teachers, family members, and experts who helped bring history alive and encouraged the students to write. Watch for another writing contest that will be open to students and adults later this year.



### *My Story of Discovery: Chinatown, San Francisco*

The first time I visited Chinatown, I truly loved the experience. When I think of the magical place, my mind starts spinning with the amazing atmosphere, attractions, food, history, and culture that have shaped Chinatown into what it is today. Chinatown, San Francisco, has changed and inspired my life, my identity, and my perspective on my culture.

Chinatown has become a microcosm of being in China, and it has enriched the cuisine of California. For instance, Chinatown is known for promoting and popularizing dim sum, Peking duck, and fortune cookies to people of all nationalities and skin colors.

During the 19th century, the Chinese immigrated to the US, most workers as “cheap” laborers. Employers were delighted to have this “cheap” labor, but on the other hand, the large white population was discontent and angry with the growing number of Chinese immigrants. Although the Chinese were discriminated, they were able to work together and establish Chinatown, which has now become a cultural enclave that has preserved the Chinese culture.

Today, the culture of the Chinese that began in Chinatown has now spread and influenced California. For instance, the annual Chinese New Year Celebration is broadcast on Fox News and watched by people of all races. As a result, people are becoming more open and familiar with the Chinese culture.

Chinatown has truly influenced me, my family, and the city of San Francisco because of how Chinatown exhibits the culture of China, and giving a different perspective on the Chinese lifestyle compared to the American lifestyle. Thoughts kept popping in my head when I stepped into the dim sum and tea shops because I was eating the cuisine Chinese immigrants had eaten, and I was tasting the profusion of teas of China. I was shocked and surprised with the complexity and finesse of the Chinese cuisine. Experiencing dim sum and tea reminded me not just to shake off the “orange chicken” stereotype, but to embrace my culture more meaningfully. Going to Chinatown is a touch of my cultural identity and “home” for my family, and I feel proud to be Chinese.

Thanks to my visit in Chinatown, I dug deep into the rich history of the area. For example, Chinatown, San Francisco was established in 1848 and is the largest Chinatown in the USA! This place is a major tourist attraction and has more tourists annually than the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge! Out of necessity, the first Chinese immigrants created an enclave for themselves, from which grew a marvelous site filled with herb shops, temples, and restaurants that preserved their culture, identity, and language. When I think of these valiant people working together, I am impressed and amazed by their bravery and strength to create a breathtaking place that has preserved the Chinese culture to this day.

*By Justin Wing,  
a 10th grade student from San José*

#### **Continue Exploring Chinese Immigration at the State Archives**

The growth of San Francisco’s Chinatown can be seen through the 1852 State Census, the 1860 Federal Census, and the 1880 Federal Census. The struggles of 19th and early 20th century Chinese immigrants are well documented in the legal cases in the Supreme Court Record Group.



## A Meetinghouse of History

After an experience to Colton Hall, I made a discovery.  
After all, California was such a state of history.

When I first arrived at Colton Hall,  
I thought it was just a building for meetings – and that was all.

But after an educational tour around,  
Some incredibly interesting facts were found.

It contained a jail, many golden poppies, and replicas of files, too.  
I made images of history in my mind, and learned more as I “drew.”

This old city hall was once a house of meetings, and even a school!  
It seemed very historical in a place where people once made rules.

I took some time to look at the files,  
Which let me stretch my mind for miles.

When I left, looking at the photos and brochure,  
It seemed as if I were looking through a time-traveling mirror.

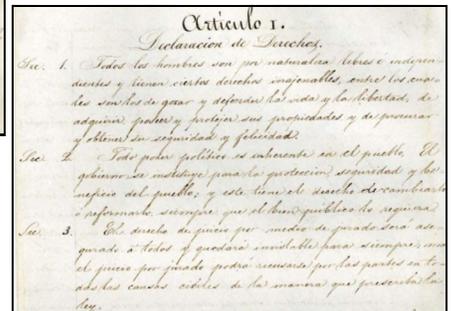
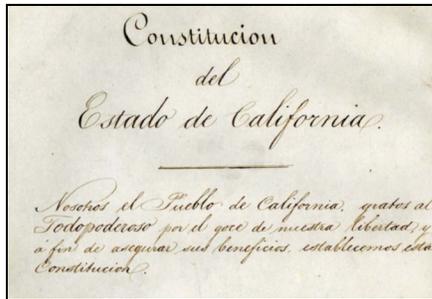
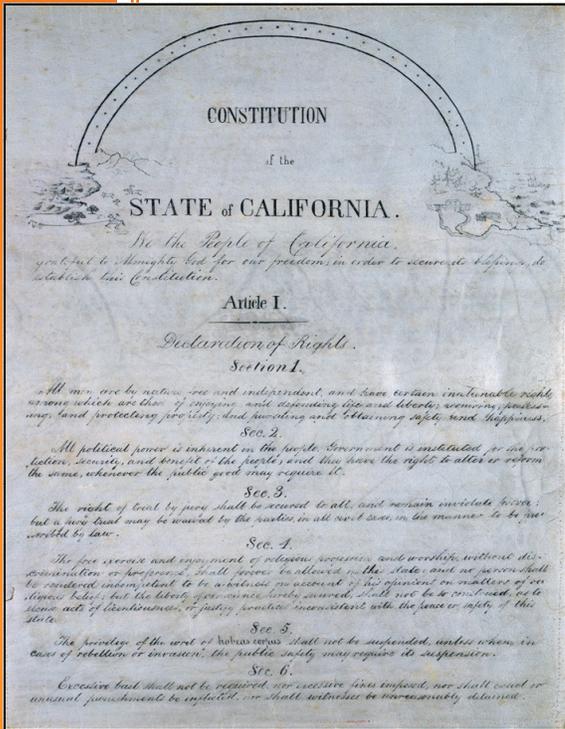
This tour around Colton Hall taught me many things I did not realize before.  
Colton Hall was a place where I learned a lot, lot more!

*By Isabel Li,  
a 5th grade student in Temple City*

### Continue Exploring Colton Hall at the State Archives

Colton Hall was the location of California’s Constitutional Convention of 1849. The California State Archives houses the original 1849 constitution as well as the working papers from the convention.

View the constitution on the [Archives website](#).





## *Stories of Discovery: Manzanar National Monument*

Less than a mile off a road that you may have driven many times before sits a lone white obelisk ready to change what you know about California history. It happened to me. I had driven up by the area of Manzanar National Monument so many times before by I never really noticed it until one trip that changed my view forever.

From 1942 to 1945 Manzanar was not a national monument but more of a kind of busy town, a town unlike any others. Manzanar was an isolated World War II internment camp. At its busiest it housed over 110,000 Japanese-American men, women and children who were forced to relocate by the government after the attack on Pearl Harbor. There they went to school, boy scouts, work, lived, and died all behind barbed wire fences and guard towers.

Today Manzanar has a few original places remaining, the auditorium, which is used as a museum, the garden sites, and that lone obelisk, a symbol for the graveyard. Everything else has been re-built in a style that captures its history for visitors.

Through the museum I discovered Manzanar and its people. I was amazed to be there and see the places the inmates of the camp lived. In the museum I was given a luggage tag that simulated the tags on the people's bags and had a profile of a real person from the camp. The person on that tag came alive for me and I started to understand that this was an important part of my history as a Californian.

Manzanar stayed in my thoughts and I wanted to learn more. In the fourth grade we had to do a project about a historic California landmark such as Cabrillo National Monument, my first idea on the project. One day I saw the tag that I got when I was at Manzanar and it reminded me that I could do the project on it. It was great since I really loved Manzanar when I was there and I thought a lot of people did not know where or what Manzanar even was. Other students did their projects on places like Disneyland and Sea World; but I wanted to teach people something new about California history, not just tell them about something they already knew. I made a camp diorama, a written report, and presented my research and experiences to my class and their parents. My project has the most questions asked about it and I met my goal of teaching others, even my own teacher, about this often forgotten piece of our history.

Less than a mile off that road still sits the lone obelisk. The three Japanese characters carved in it mean "soul consoling tower." I hope the souls of those who lived at Manzanar are consoled in the fact that a new generation of Californians are discovering, teaching, and keeping their history alive.

*By Tommy Wells,  
a 5th grade student in San Diego*

### **Continue Exploring World War II at the State Archives**

*The World War II Japanese American Incarceration: An Annotated Bibliography of the Materials Available in the California State Archives is on the [California Research Bureau website](#).*



## Staff Favorites

### Images from the California Department of Finance

The historic photograph series (ID number F3254:1-307) from the California Department of Finance Division of Budgets and Accounts contains more than 3,000 photographs and negatives depicting state buildings and documenting the activities of state personnel. With photographs taken between 1917 and 1950, the collection is also called the Links Collection after former division chief Fred Links. It includes images of San Quentin and

Folsom State Prisons, state parks, Exposition Park in Los Angeles, the State Fairgrounds in Sacramento, the Exposition Building in San Diego, state hospitals, state colleges and universities, special schools, armories, the State Capitol, Capitol Park, and the Governor's Mansion. Of special interest is a large group of images documenting the San Francisco Harbor (circa 1917 to 1930) shown here. Though not digitized, these photographs are described in the State Archives online catalog, Minerva.



*Aerial view of San Francisco, circa 1938  
Links Collection (F3254:271(2))*



*Ferry Building, San Francisco, circa 1917  
Links Collection (F3254:59(4))*

*By Linda Johnson, Archivist*

## Upcoming Events

- |                           |   |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| April 25-27               | California State Finals for National History Day      | <a href="http://www.historydaycalifornia.org">www.historydaycalifornia.org</a>         |
| May 8-10                  | Society of California Archives Annual General Meeting | <a href="http://www.calarchivists.org">www.calarchivists.org</a>                       |
| April 25, May 30, June 27 | Monthly Public Tours of the California State Archives | <a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm">www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm</a> |

**California State Archives**  
1020 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Visit us on the web at [www.sos.ca.gov/archives](http://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](mailto:ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov)

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

For the California Museum visit  
[www.californiamuseum.org](http://www.californiamuseum.org)



Search our online catalog at  
[www.sos.ca.gov/archives/minerva](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/minerva)



Search state agency records retention schedules at  
[www.sos.ca.gov/archives/athena](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/athena)



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