



CALIFORNIA ORIGINALS

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CALIFORNIA
STATE ARCHIVES
Celebrating 165 years, 1850 - 2015

California's Civil War Records

The records of the Adjutant General's Office at the California State Archives include documents relating to the many state militia units created between 1849 and 1866. More than 35,000 Californians served in hundreds of these local volunteer militia companies across the state. After the Civil War began, the state raised several new regiments of infantry and cavalry that were mustered into federal service. Many of these so-called California Volunteers saw duty in forts and posts across great swaths of the American west, from the Canadian borders south to Mexico. The records of the early state military companies and the California Volunteers are arranged by the name or designation of each unit or regiment. Personal name indices are available to help researchers discover the unit in which someone may have served. The unit files contain numerous muster rolls that provide information about the soldiers including name, age, and rank. Physical characteristics such as height, eye and hair color, and distinguishing marks are sometimes included. Since California Volunteers were mustered into federal service (unlike those soldiers who served only in the state militia), additional information can sometimes be found at the National Archives in the form of military service or pension records.

By Sebastian Nelson, Archivist



*An 1862 broadside advertising the formation of a new militia company in Healdsburg
(Records of the Adjutant General's Office, MC4:1(100))*

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"Preserving and Promoting the History of California"



From the State Archivist

My great-grandfather, Adolph Bargebuhr, was born in 1842 or 1843 in Norden, Germany. He came to the United States with three siblings in 1857. Near the beginning of the Civil War, in late May 1861, at age 18 or 19, he enlisted as a Private in Company B of the 39th New York Infantry. Shortly after it was formed in New York City, the regiment departed for Washington, D.C. However, Adolph Bargebuhr's military service was short as he received an honorable discharge about two weeks later on June 12, 1861. He was discharged for having bronchitis, a more life-threatening condition in 1861 than it is today. He later married and had children, including my grandfather. He died at age 71 in 1914. What is known of his brief service during the Civil War comes from military records such as muster rolls and discharge papers. The State Archives at the California Secretary of State's office has a rich collection of military records covering the years 1850 to 1942. There are many stories like Adolph Bargebuhr's to be found within the State Archives. I encourage you to explore the records for your own family history.

Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil

Meet the Staff

Sherrie Lujan, Executive Assistant



As executive assistant to the State Archivist, Sherrie Lujan is the keeper of the keeper of the Archives. Outside of work, she is known as Miss Sherrie to the children in the two choirs she directs. Her favorite name, however, is Auntie Sherrie – she has eleven nieces and nephews, two grandnieces and one grandnephew, all of whom she adores. She loves being around them. In her spare time, Sherrie crochets and knits, and every year she makes scarves or slippers for all 24 of her family members. Sherrie sings in her church choir and performs in the annual Singing Christmas Tree (SCT) held at Capital Christian Center. “SCT is a lot of work but also a lot of fun,” she says. “We stand in a 30-foot tree shape and sing with a live orchestra. Some people have said it is like going to a Broadway show and this is how they start their Christmas season.”

Program Notes

Education & Outreach Program

The mission of the State Archives Education & Outreach Program (E&O) is to inform people about the importance of archives and to encourage people to use the collections at the California State Archives. Program staff give presentations to interested organizations, teachers, and students; coordinate behind-the-scenes tours of the State Archives; compile a quarterly newsletter; visit classrooms; offer information tables at allied organization events; write research-based articles for history-related journals; and help coordinate history writing contests. In conjunction with the Friends of the California Archives, E&O staff identify people to invite to the Speaker Series. E&O staff work closely with the Sacramento County History Day Committee to present an annual event called History Day How-to. This all-day workshop is attended by students participating in the National History Day competition and provides information on basic archival research, finding and evaluating primary sources, along with other “how-to” sessions.

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



Staff Favorites

State Divided – the Pico Act of 1859

There have been numerous attempts to divide the area now known as California into smaller states, even during the era of Mexican governance. Once admitted to the United States, the disparate populations within the state's established borders continued their efforts to make several states out of one. These efforts ultimately failed; however, one effort in 1859 could have been successful had it not been for the onset of the Civil War.

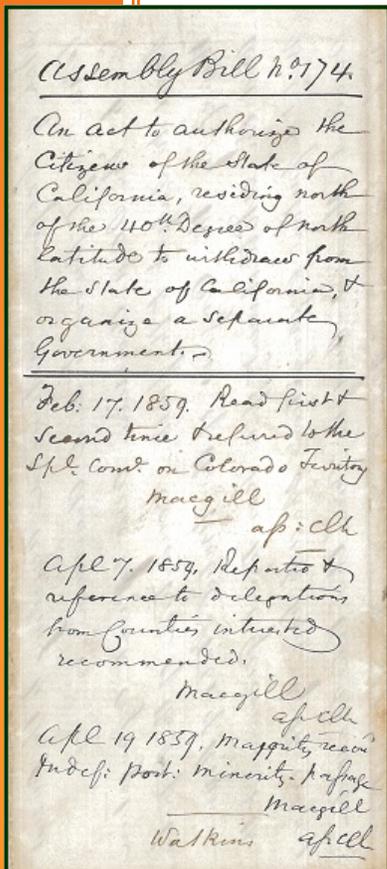
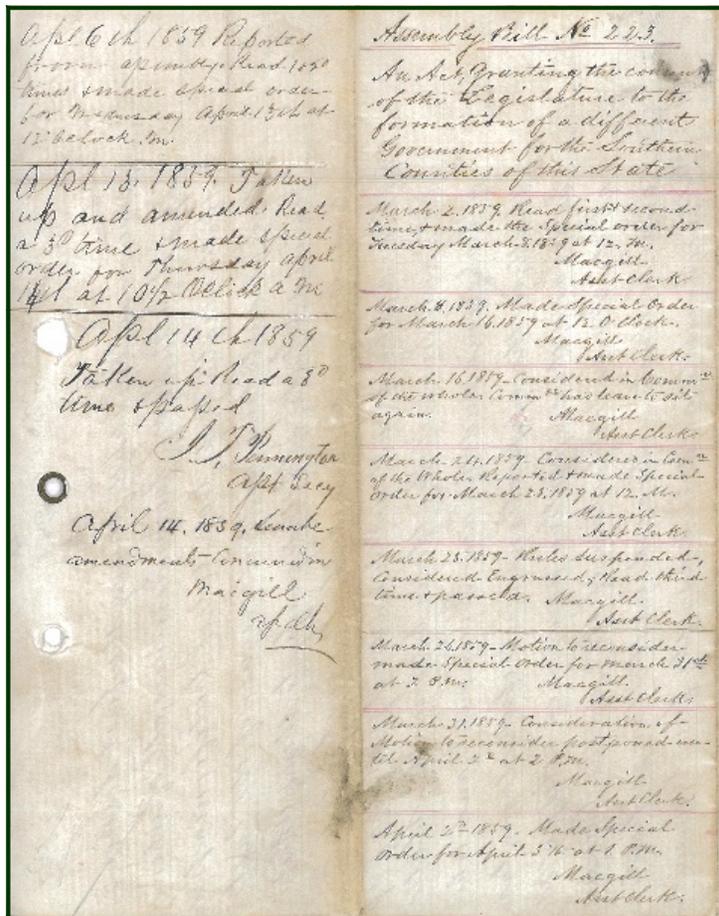
In 1859, Assemblymember Andrés Pico of San Bernardino County introduced AB 223, "An Act granting the consent of the Legislature to the Formation of a different Government for the Southern Counties of this State." This bill was the culmination of years of frustration on the part of the southern counties. This frustration stemmed not only from perceived inequities in state taxation, but from differences between the older, well-established pastoral life of the ranchos in the south and the bustling, ever-changing life of the quickly growing urban areas and mining districts in the north. The bill sought to create the Territory of Colorado from the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Tulare (identified as Buena Vista County in the original proposal, reflecting an early attempt to carve a new county out of existing Tulare County).

At the same time AB 223 was wending its way through the California Legislature, another contingent put forth a bill that would allow the counties "north of the fortieth degree of north latitude" to create another separate government.

Introduced by William Watkins of Siskiyou County, AB 174 was referred to the Special Committee on the Colorado Territory whose members then referred the bill to a committee composed of representatives from the counties included in the proposed new state (Siskiyou, Del Norte, Klamath, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Plumas, and Tehama). The majority of the committee recommended indefinite postponement of the bill.

Pico, however, managed to move his AB 223, with the Assembly approving it by a 33 to 25 vote. It then passed the Senate by a vote of 15 to 12. Governor Weller approved the bill on April 19, 1859, and the Secretary of State assigned it chapter number 288 in the statutes of 1859. The issue was placed on the next September general election ballot. Of the 3,285 votes that were cast, 2,457 were in support of the measure. (The designated southern counties were sparsely populated and only white property owners over the age of 21 were eligible to vote.) All that was left to do was to convince Congress that the division was necessary but with a threat of secession and a civil war on the horizon, Congress did not vote on California's proposal to divide the state.

By Linda Johnson, Archivist





History Writing Contest Winners

When people go beyond books and classrooms 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 children and adults to write 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 Kyle Garcia, Shannon Chen, and Liam Townsend for submitting the most outstanding entries! Read their unedited work in the following pages of this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who participated, as well as the teachers, family members, and experts who helped bring history alive.

The Mission de Solano

Once I walked in past the gate my life changed. I saw the prickly cactus, and all the activities I got to do! Once I walked in I wasn't Kyle anymore I was Mulee the neophyte. Around me there were other neophytes, the burning fire, and the prickly cactus. I felt the rocky road under and around my feet. I felt like I was going to burst of joy. Mulee liked every single thing about the mission other than being a slave it was fun. He enjoyed the cooking, the basket weaving, the candle making, and the wool. It was fun interesting, and a hard working day.

The Mission changed the way I look at my family and ancestors because I'm from Mexico. Were my ancestors apart of the Mission? It also changed the way I look at myself to work harder because the neophytes worked way harder than I ever worked. It changes the way I look at California because there are other Missions out in California and I want to compare Mission de Solano with other Mission.

I wonder how the neophytes looked like. How old did the neophytes live for? After going to Mission de Solano I want to learn more history. How were the structures built and how long did it take to build it? What kind of tools did they use, how did they make the tools, and when did they use the tools? How did they get their supplies? Why did they build the Mission and how did they build it? Why did they work all day? Where did they sleep? All these questions is what makes the Mission so exciting to me.

There's so many facts you can learn when it comes to Missions. Come to a Mission you can learn something new.

By Kyle Garcia, a 4th grade student from Novato



Continue exploring California Missions at the State Archives

The State Archives has a rare set of census records taken in 1798 at the presidia districts of San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and San Francisco and at the pueblos of Los Angeles and San Jose. Fragmentary census manuscripts (1796-1798) exist for the missions of San Antonio, San Carlos, San Luis Obispo, and Soledad. The State Archives also has some records relating to the restoration of the missions as part of the state park system.



Heritage Square Museum

Upon entering the Heritage Square Museum located beside the Arroyo Seco Parkway, I was filled with anticipation; I have always been curious about the past. Charmed by the lonely stone path lined with Victorian-styled houses, I looked around at the variety of houses: some were extremely decorative and others were simple. These houses were originally located in different areas of old Los Angeles; they were moved to where the museum is now after being donated by descendants of the original owners or by other historical organizations. Still, I wondered if anything there would really intrigue me. Soon, however, I found that I was definitely wrong to doubt.

Led by a tour guide who was dressed in an old-fashioned dress, I learned that the fancy house was called the Mount Pleasant House, built by William Hayes Perry, and originally located in Boyle Heights. She said that Mr. Perry was a very well-respected and successful businessman; he worked extremely hard to make his way up in society.

Around this time period, as today, water was very valuable and limited, especially in a dry area like Los Angeles. After heavy rains destroyed Mr. Dryden's underground water system in 1857, city council granted the water right to three successful L.A. businessmen who formed the Los Angeles City Water Company in 1868. Mr. Perry was elected director, president and manager of this water company in 1879.

Much of this water was under private control and was not distributed fairly. After Mr. Perry's retirement from the water company, the mayor of Los Angeles, Fred Eaton, began the fight to end private control of the water supply. As a result, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the largest municipal utility in the United States, was founded in 1902 to supply water to residents and businesses in Los Angeles and the surrounding communities.

When visiting Mr. Perry's mansion at the museum, I learned about his success in all spectrums of businesses. Through his commitment in water supply, I have learned how water distribution helped developed Los Angeles and Southern California in late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

Through the journey of this living history museum, I feel privileged for having grown up in Southern California which is well known for its mild climate. When I enjoy outdoor activities, I have never thought that water would be an issue because of the lack of rain. With advanced technology we have today, we should help with the state's water issues, especially when we are undergoing a drought. My visit to the museum was an important educational experience. It left me thinking about water-management issues today and gave me a desire to research more about these issues and look into possible solutions for them, in hopes of creating a more sustainable California for future generations. With this experience, I am able to see that, indeed, past issues with water supply and how society dealt with them influence the way we can deal with our current problems.

By Shannon Chen, an 11th grade student from Rancho Palos Verdes

Continue Exploring the History of California's Water Supply at the State Archives

The history of water in the state is a broad topic with many facets. Records at the State Archives include Supreme Court cases about access and water rights; state agency files on the response to toxic spills and the restoration of dwindling natural habitats; laws and regulations established to make water safe and clean; and records regarding the development of local water and irrigation districts.



Fort Funston: A War Front that Wasn't

Burrowed into a cliff's peak between Daly City and San Francisco, a strange concrete semi-sphere overlooks the Pacific ocean below. The structure appears adventitious and strange; on first glance, it seems wholly out of place compared to the otherwise serene and recreational activities of the state park. Colorful hang gliders soar overhead, joined by an occasional hawk seeking out the warmth of the thermals that climb the cliff-side. Families gather and wander down to the beach to enjoy picnics together. Dogs blithely pull their humans across the long stretches of trails. The serenity makes it hard to imagine that men were once ready to sacrifice their lives there.

I first visited Fort Funston and its odd structures shortly after graduating high school. Admittedly my interest in history was only mild then, but the intrigue of the strangely shaped ruins was irresistible. I carefully read the informational panels along the wooden pathway to resolve their mystery, fully prepared to move-on without giving the matter much further thought. Instead, I was taken aback. I was standing on a World War II bunker that had once housed soldiers trained to defend the Californian coast.

Around that time the wind started to pick up, and suddenly it struck me how miserable it must have been living within those windswept slabs, lying in fearful wait for Japan to invade. Before then, my classroom history books had made the United States seem impenetrable to the war that had raged across Europe. In my naivety, World War II had always seemed so far away, both in time and place. Gazing at those bunkers broke down that facade of distance with a suddenness that deeply affected me.

Something about being confronted with an actual place where people had lived and were readied to fight enabled me to appreciate how recent World War II really was. It spiraled me into thought, wherein I reflected on the nervous apprehension Californians must have endured in the years following the destruction of Pearl Harbor. Without the aid of satellites or other forms of modern technology, all the soldiers of Fort Funston could hope for was to spot enemy warships through the fog and rain before it was too late. Even if aided by the enormous gun batteries that had once stood ready, it seemed that a battle would have been hopeless if a sizable fleet of warships arrived.

Being confronted with history made me realize how privileged I was. I had certainly never gone to sleep with the worry that I might wake up to find war at my doorstep. Americans, many of them Californians like myself, had fought and even died so that I and others could enjoy parks like Fort Funston as places of bliss rather than horror and sorrow. It seemed almost cruel not to appreciate everything that had been sacrificed so that I could live without worry of oppression or fear. In only a moment, my world view had changed.

By Liam Townsend from Chico

Continue exploring World War II History at the State Archives

Several State Archives collections are worth noting for their World War II-related content. The Earl Warren Papers are particularly rich. As governor before, during, and after the war, Warren created papers that include subjects such as the State War Council, Japanese Relocation, Letters to Servicemen, Petroleum Administration for War, and War Production Permits. Use Minerva, the online descriptive catalog, to discover more records like the War Services Bureau Records that were highlighted in the spring 2014 issue of *California Originals*.



Archives 165

January 5, 2015, is the 165th signing anniversary of the first law in California. Chapter 1 of the Statutes of 1850, “An Act Concerning the Public Archives,” directed the Secretary of State to collect the records of the government and “safely keep and preserve” them. To celebrate the 165th anniversary, the State Archives will offer hourly public tours from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on January 5. The original first law will be on display. For more information, visit www.sos.ca.gov/archives/events

Speaker Series

The Friends of the California Archives will present the third program in a speaker series on March 19, beginning at 5:15 p.m. Coachella Valley native Sarah Seekatz (University of California, Riverside) will bring to light the surprising and intriguing flavor of her home region with her presentation entitled “Arabian Nights in the American Desert: The Cultivation of Middle Eastern Fantasies in California’s Coachella Valley.”

In the deserts just east of Palm Springs, stately date palms sway near a high school with an “Arab” for their mascot. Residents drive along streets named Cairo, Baghdad, and Medina, and even through the city of Mecca. Every year in February visitors to the National Date Festival cheer on racing camels, hobnob with the beauty pageant winners dressed in harem pants, and walk around the fairgrounds laced with “Arabian” architecture. These now fading references to the Middle East offer just a glimpse of the Arabian fantasies once promoted by the region beginning at the turn of the 20th century. Linking their warm climate, desert landscape, and burgeoning date industry to the romance of Arabia, local boosters harnessed a national love affair with the “Orient.” As oil embargos, a hostage crisis, international conflict, and changing pop cultural views shifted the way America viewed the Middle East, the Coachella Valley remained steadfast in its adherence to fantastic ideas of Arabia.

For more information about the State Archives Speaker Series, visit www.sos.ca.gov/archives/events

Upcoming Events

January 5	State Archives 165th Anniversary Celebration	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/events
January 30, February 27, March 27	Monthly Public Tours of the State Archives	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tours
March 19	Speaker Series: “Arabian Nights in the American Desert: The Cultivation of Middle Eastern Fantasies in California’s Coachella Valley,” with Sarah Seekatz	www.sos.ca.gov/archives/events

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