

# California *History Action*



Carmel Tower, Mission Inn, c. 1910  
Library of Congress

## Our Annual Conference

### California Divided: People, Politics, and Environment

Join us in Riverside, California, on Thursday, October 20th, through Saturday, October 22nd, for our annual Conference where we will explore the divisions that have shaped and continue to shape the Golden State.

This year's theme found its inspiration in the Civil War sesquicentennial that begins this year. The political and ideological divides that threatened the Union during that war were expressed here in California as well. But this was not the first or last division that the state would face. The list of divisive events and trends that have shaped California are many, and our conference program will offer papers and presentations that expose the depth and breadth of their influence on the history of the state.

The theme offers excellent opportunities for us to examine environmental, social, and political battles, whether these divisions occurred at the local level, or were between regions, or were statewide in scope. CCPH members and conference presenters represent a spectrum of professionals, academics, and avocationalists who avidly promote history and public history from a variety of perspectives. See the conference page at <http://ccphhistoryaction.org>.

The 2011 Conference will be held at Riverside's historic Mission Inn, 3649 Mission Inn Avenue, where conference attendees can book renovated rooms at a significant discount. The Mission-Revival style Inn incorporates eclectic Islamic, Moorish, Italian, Asian, and the Arts and Crafts movement architectural details in its flying buttresses, towers, tiled domes, spiral staircases, archways, and elaborate wrought-iron railings. There is a small museum and well-trained guides lead informative 75-minute tours of the building. For details see [www.missioninn.com](http://www.missioninn.com).

The Conference reception will be held at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, which is in the former Post Office building cater-corner from the Mission Inn at 3580 Mission Inn Avenue. This Italian renaissance style building, constructed in 1912, is undergoing renovation but remains open.

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## National History Day

Nearly a thousand excited students from twenty-three of California's fifty-eight counties presented at this year's National History Day State Finals at the San Jose's Doubletree Airport Hotel on the weekend of April 28-May 1. Participation is rewarding: one teacher from Riverside shared her delight that some of her vocational students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds had found satisfaction in learning how to research a history topic even though it would not be a career direction for any of them. But participation requires a significant time commitment from students and teachers, and State Coordinator Deborah Granger wishes that more counties were represented.

The 2011 History Day Theme was Debate and Diplomacy in History. Students could choose to create a static display, stage an individual or group performance, present a documentary, create a website, or submit a scholarly research paper. Many students selected topics that were controversial at the time, such as women's suffrage, or which are still controversial today, such as capital punishment. Their presentations had to present both sides evenhandedly.

Some dramatizations were staged with performers in costume. Others used minimalist settings, such as a table, two chairs, and a hotel clerk's bell to simulate a Vietnam-era draft board

*(Continued on the next page.)*



The Cloister at the Mission Inn, c. 1910  
Library of Congress

Packing House at 3191 Mission Avenue and the Arlington Heights Citrus Exchange Building at 3391 Mission Avenue are included on a self-guided walking tour brochure available at the Mission Inn Museum and the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

## National History Day

*(Continued from the previous page.)*

interview that combined poignancy with vintage wisecracks.

One large room was given over to arrays of static display panels, flat panels by Elementary-level (4th and 5th grade) entrants, and stand-up, 3-dimensional panels by Junior level (6th through 8th grade) and Senior level (9th through 12th grade) entrants. Their diverse range of topics included the Zimmerman telegram, eugenics, Mono Lake, the Marshall Plan, flapper fashions, the death of Marilyn Monroe, and the persecution of supposed witches.

One senior-level documentary about immigration juxtaposed slides summarizing the available data about the social and economic impact of illegal immigrants and video clips of Bill O'Reilly and Geraldo Rivera shouting excitedly at one another. A judge's question afterwards about the presenters' use of primary source materials elicited a sophisticated reply: "It's difficult to tell primary from secondary material here because there isn't much hard data. Mostly you have people's opinions." With so many presentations, the program always needs judges, too. There was a detailed orientation course for them beforehand. One slide admonished judges not to tell students how well they did at the end of the interview, for example.

CCPH Board member Rick Moss served as judge for CCPH's Special Recognition Award in the Senior Category. The Award of \$100 and a year's CCPH membership recognizes an outstanding senior-level project on any aspect of California history. This year's recipient was Sierra Wentz, Vista Del Lago High School, Folsom, CA, for her paper, "Temples in the Heart of Man: the Debate over the Highest Use of Hetch Hetchy Valley and the Legislation Involved." Moss, curator of Oakland's African-American Museum and Library, enjoyed his participation: "There were hundreds of supportive parents and excited, enthusiastic students--all for history!" he writes.

The National History Day organization (nhd.org) selected Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) as its California affiliate. State Coordinator Deborah Granger and Support Staff Kelli Byrne at OCDE organized the event and provided background materials, including the results of a 2008-2010 multi-state, rural and urban evaluation of the impact of History Day. The study found that participants outperform their peers on standardized tests in English and the social sciences as well as in math and science. Participants also perceived improved study and work habits, research, analysis, team-work and communication skills. (nhd.org/nhdworks). For more information visit <http://historydaycalifornia.org>.

## Annual Conference

*(Continued from the previous page.)*

The Museum's collections include natural history, anthropology, and local history, much of it donated by local citizens and organizations since the Museum's beginnings in 1924. The Museum also maintains the beautifully restored Victorian Queen Anne-style Heritage House and the Harada House, the long-time home of a significant Japanese American family that donated it. ([www.riversideca.gov/museum](http://www.riversideca.gov/museum))

Our Conference also offers a tour of the California Citrus State Historic Park, which commemorates what was once Riverside's principal industry ([www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)). The park entrance is about a 1.5 miles east of the 91 Freeway on Van Buren Boulevard at Dufferin Avenue. The externally restored Sutherland Fruit Company

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## Nature Education Facilities Grants Awarded:



Pomo woman Cecilia Joaquin gathers seeds, circa 1920.  
Library of Congress

California's 2006 \$5.4 million Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Proposition 84) included a \$93 million Parks and Nature Education Facilities grant program. Based on an evaluation of over 300 applications, California State Parks awarded forty-four grants ranging from \$32,000 to \$7 million. Applications were arranged in tiers so that grant applications of similar size competed against each other. According to Cedric Mitchell, Director of California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services, "You had to be a strong program to get funded, and we believe we did fund the best that the state has to offer." Listed below are highlights of those awards that include some historical theme.

The Autry National Center of the American West received \$6.6 million to create interactive exhibits focused on California's indigenous peoples, including a First Californians' gallery, a Dreamers, Doctors and Basket Weavers gallery, and a Native American teaching garden with bio-regions and interpretative centers. The multi-year project will highlight the history and culture of Native Americans, their relation to the natural environment they encountered, and the stewardship practices that they employed in sustaining their traditional ways of life.

Ukiah's Grace Hudson Cultural Center received \$3 million to construct an exhibit demonstrating Pomo cultural and environmental values, including seven gathering spaces supported by audio, sculptural, active, and graphic experiences; renovate the existing Pomo plants courtyard; and construct bio-swales and a rain-water catchment facility.

The Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos received \$2.9 million to create an interactive nature education center on the extensive rural acreage surrounding William Dana's 1839 adobe, currently undergoing restoration. The center will include a native habitat restoration area, interpretative trails and

signage, and a Chumash village. It is intended to inspire environmental stewardship in visiting K-12 students as well as provide community access to the Nipomo watershed's natural and historic places.

The San Joaquin County Historical Society received half a million dollars to construct new exhibits interpreting the natural environment of San Joaquin County and the Delta, including a water interpretive walkway and conservation demonstration area; renovation and expansion of the Native Peoples exhibition gallery; and living exhibition of native plants.

The City of San Juan Capistrano received \$500,000 to repair the historic 1794 Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum and Acjachemen Cultural Center, and to construct outdoor interpretive exhibits focusing on Native American cultural history, including a well, horno oven, and an ethno-botanical native plant garden and orchard. The adobe museum will educate visitors about an earlier period of San Juan Capistrano history. It is operated by the non-profit Blas Aguilar Adobe Foundation.

Proposition 84 enabled California State Parks to make these awards at a time when California's budget cutbacks have severely limited public access to many of our State Parks.



The William G. Dana adobe as it looked in 1936.  
Library of Congress/Historic American Buildings Survey

# News and Events

## Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Ordered to Halt Development

Adapted from Federal History News, <http://shfg.org/shfg>

The Electronic Records Archives (ERA) was ordered to stop further development by October 1, 2011. It will not be able to fulfill the grand plans officials had for it in 2001 when they envisioned it as an advanced preservation system that would store electronic records from all formats and make them accessible to researchers. The system, funded by Congress, was a response to the constantly increasing quantity and complexity of electronic records generated by government agencies and ultimately to be deposited in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).



The Office of Management and Budget ordered the end of the development stage after years of delays and poor oversight. The developer, Lockheed Martin, had met approximately 60–70 percent of the program requirements, and a January 13 report by the Government Accountability Office estimated that full completion would not be achieved until 2017, five years beyond the original plan. The resulting costs, it predicted, would be about \$1.2 billion, much higher than planned.

NARA's 2001 contract to Lockheed Martin for \$317 million specified development of a multi-levelled system conceived to receive records from agencies, preserve them, and make them available to the public. But the execution was marred by lateness, cost overruns, unclear specification of functions to be delivered, and poor review methodologies and processes. System requirements were also uncertain, in some cases still being negotiated with Lockheed Martin. In addition, current government budget cutbacks will reduce the funds available for the program. With the order to stop development, maintenance costs for the limited system are estimated to run about \$30 million per year.

The archival demands of these records are enormous: NARA now holds about 97.4 terabytes of electronic records, and it is estimated that incoming images of the 2010 Census will add 488 terabytes, and that classified military records from the Iraq war will approach 40 terabytes. Now NARA will focus on operations, perfecting the current, limited functions for the system. All agencies will be required to use the system by October 2012 for submitting permanent electronic records scheduled for transfer. This process has started with three agencies: the Department of State, Justice Department, and Health and Human Services Department. There will be web access for viewing and ordering copies of documents and images, but search capabilities will be limited.

For more information on the ERA, see <http://www.archives.gov/era>. The Online Public Access prototype is at <http://www.archives.gov/research/search>.

## Guide to Public History Programs Continues to Grow

Adapted from the National Council on Public History, [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org)

Launched last year, the National Council on Public History's Guide to Public History Programs is a free, comprehensive listing of public history programs in the United States and abroad. It indexes programs by geographical location, degrees offered, and concentrations. It is a resource for prospective students, faculty, employers, and anyone interested in the shape of public history education today. It is also useful to museums and other public history institutions, government agencies, pre-collegiate schools, businesses, and community groups that want to identify potential academic partners in their geographical area. (<http://ncph.org/cms/education/graduate-and-undergraduate/guide-to-public-history-programs/>) If you know of an academic program not yet in the guide, NCPH invites you to complete a questionnaire at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ncphGuide>.

## New Archival Collection Online

Adapted From Society of California Archivists Spring 2011 Newsletter

The Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California (<http://www.janm.org>) just finished a two-year Archival and Records project funded by the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC). The funding enabled the Japanese American National Museum to increase intellectual control over its archival holdings and provide greater access to its previously unavailable materials, including twenty-six archival collections totaling 555 linear feet. Twenty of these collections, including the Japanese American Citizen League (JACL) Collection, are now available at the Online Archive of California (OAC): <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/Japanese+American+National+Museum>. The JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian-American civil rights organization.

## Theo Westenberger Collection

An exhibit of photographs by Theo Westenberger (1951-2008) celebrates the gift of the Westenberger Archives to the Autry National Center in Los Angeles's Griffith Park in Los Angeles. The Archive contains more than 9,500 of Westenberger's photographs, negatives, transparencies, contact sheets, and studio materials. The Theo Westenberger

Archives is a significant addition to the Autry's collection of American photography, and archivists, curators, and collections staff have begun preserving and cataloging the collection. Plans include digitizing the whole collection to create an online database. "We found the perfect home in the Autry to provide a historical and cultural context to Westenberger's body of artwork," said Colleen Keegan, executor of the Theo Westenberger Estate.

Westenberger was raised in La Cañada-Flintridge in a house designed by modernist architect Richard Neutra, and the house became one of her first artistic subjects. She relocated to New York to earn an MFA from the Pratt Institute and began her career in commercial photography in New York. She built a reputation in the 1970s and 1980s for studio portraits of prominent cultural and political figures and for images of travel and cuisine. She became the first woman to create covers for Newsweek and Sports Illustrated. But she always retained an appreciation of Southern California's natural and urban landscapes, which she celebrated in some of her most creative art photography.



The exhibit continues in the Autry's Imagination Gallery through December 12, 2011. Future exhibits, programs, fellowships, and awards named in Westenberger's honor will recognize the dynamic exchange between contemporary women artists and the American West.

## Chumash Artifacts Found

Adapted from Los Angeles Times, 04-08-2011

When California Senior State Archaeologist John Foster started peeling the asphalt from a parking lot in downtown Ventura, he knew he would not have to dig deep to find a hoard of long-buried Chumash relics. He just did not realize how many he would find and from how many different eras. Digging down five feet, Foster and his crew have found shell beads, a stone bowl used for mixing pigment, and lots of cattle bones. They have also unearthed such treasures as champagne and wine bottles, shards of porcelain dishes, and gas lamps from the elegant hotel that occupied the site after Ventura became a bustling commercial center in the 1880s.

Only a block from the Mission Father Serra founded in 1782, the Ventura corner lot is in a neighborhood rich with history. Nearby excavations have uncovered a museum's worth of artifacts, from a centuries-old laundry to remains of the Chumash tribe.

## Panel Recommends Establishment of Latino Smithsonian Museum

Adapted From the National Coalition for History, <http://historycoalition.org>

On May 4, the National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL) Commission delivered its Final Report to President Barack Obama and Congressional leaders. The panel's findings call for the establishment of a museum on a site at the base of Capitol Hill that would come under the administration of the Smithsonian Institution, a museum that "illuminates the American story for the benefit of all."

The congressionally-established and presidentially-appointed NMAL Commission was tasked to study the potential of a national museum dedicated to the art, culture, and history of the Latino Community in the United States. Following the Commission's first meeting in 2009, the twenty-three members held eight public forums across the country and consulted with the Smithsonian Institution, the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the Department of the Interior, museums and cultural institutions across the country, business and philanthropy leaders, and major national organizations. The Commission determined that a private fundraising goal of \$300 million over a ten-year period is achievable and that approximately \$463 million would be needed to open the museum.

## NARA Launches International Nazi Records Internet Database

Adapted From the National Coalition for History, <http://historycoalition.org>

On May 5, the National Archives and a consortium of international partners launched the International Research Portal for Records Related to Nazi-Era Cultural Property, a database making millions of records available online for the first time at [www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources](http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources). The Portal is a collaboration of archival institutions with records that pertain to Nazi-Era cultural property, including the National Archives of the United States and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The portal links researchers to archival materials consisting of descriptions of records and, in many cases, digital images of the records that relate to cultural property that was stolen, looted, seized, forcibly sold, or otherwise lost during the Nazi-era. Cultural property documented in these records covers a broad range from artworks to books and libraries, religious objects, antiquities, archival documents, carvings, silver and more.

# News and Events

The records available through the Portal from the National Archives include over 2.3 million pages of documents created or received by the U.S. Government during and after World War II as part of its investigations into cultural assets that were looted or otherwise lost during the war. These records document the activities of several U.S. Government agencies involved in the identification and recovery of looted assets, including the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and U.S. occupation forces in Germany and Austria. The materials also contain captured German records regarding the seizure of cultural property, such as the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) card file and related photographs.

The records have been digitized and made available online by Footnote.com through a partnership agreement with the National Archives. The records are primarily in English, although some seized records are in German or other languages. There are no privacy or other access restrictions on the records. For more information on Holocaust-era records at the U.S. National Archives, see <http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust>.

## Bill Would Terminate Teaching American History Grants

Adapted From the National Coalition for History, <http://historycoalition.org>

On May 13, California Congressman Duncan D. Hunter (R) (<http://hunter.house.gov>) introduced H.R. 1891, the Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act, which would terminate forty-three K-12 federal education programs, including the Teaching American History (TAH) grants program. The House Republican leadership contends that these programs are wasteful, ineffective, and duplicative. This is more drastic than President Obama's proposal to consolidate history education into a new program called Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education, which would only eliminate separate TAH funding.

In July, the National Coalition for History (NCH) and ten other NCH member organizations joined forces with over 20 educational groups representing other K-12 academic disciplines in issuing a statement to Congress and the Administration calling for the continued robust funding of core academic subjects including history. This includes maintaining dedicated funding for each discipline, including TAH grants, even if TAH is repackaged into another program. NCH plans to post more news on how those concerned about the bill can help.

## American Heritage and AASLH Unveil National Portal to Historic Collections

Adapted From the National Coalition for History, <http://historycoalition.org>

On March 16, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) announced the debut of an online system that allows searches through dozens of historic collections, from small local museums to collections of the Smithsonian, the National Parks, and the U.S. Navy. The new website was developed by American Heritage Publishing in partnership with AASLH in order to give museums greater visibility and provide a low-cost way to move collection items to the Internet. It can be accessed at [www.AmericanHeritage.com/search\\_collections](http://www.AmericanHeritage.com/search_collections). Every institution in the National Portal has its own personalized main page that allows users to search the individual museum's collection. In addition, a national search page allows searches across multiple collections. History organizations are invited to add their collections to the National Portal at a nominal cost.

## Advisory Council Approves Measure to Pursue Tribal Voting Rights

Adapted From Preservation Action, <http://www.preservationaction.org/>

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has recently and unanimously approved a measure to seek legislative authorization to grant the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) an official vote. Currently, a representative from NATHPO participates as an "observer," meaning they can actively take part in membership activities and discussions. Nevertheless, they may not vote or make motions during official meetings. To give them voting authority, Congress will have to amend the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

## CPF is now accepting applications for the 2011 Preservation Design Awards

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) is currently accepting applications for its 2011 Preservation Design Awards. Projects must be located in California, or must deal with a California subject. Project entries must have been completed between June 1, 2005 and May 31, 2011. Submissions are invited from owners, architects, craftsmen, contractors, landscape architects, engineers, planners, archaeologists, developers, architectural historians, organizations, volunteers, students, and others engaging in historic preservation activities. Submissions require the written permission of the owner/client and architect or lead designer (if there is one) before entries will be considered.

Projects may be entered in more than one category. Projects previously submitted that did not receive awards

are eligible for re-entry. Only one submission per project is needed, regardless of the number of categories entered. The winning projects will be selected by a jury comprised of distinguished professionals representing a cross-section of disciplines in the field of historic preservation. Winners will be invited to prepare a display board of their project for the 2011 Preservation Design Awards Event and the 2012 CPF Preservation Conference. To view details and the application, go to <http://www.californiapreservation.org/PDFs/2011PDAApplication.pdf>.

## Pentagon Papers to be Released Officially Adapted from The Federal Register, <http://federalregister.gov>

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) ([www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)) announced in the Federal Register that they have identified, inventoried, and prepared the Pentagon Papers for public access starting on June 13 at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, California. The documents were leaked by Daniel Ellsberg and published by the New York Times in 1971. Officially the Pentagon Papers are the "Vietnam Task Force study, United States-Vietnam Relations 1945-1967."

## NEH Announces \$18.8 Million in Grant Awards Adapted From the National Coalition for History, <http://historycoalition.org>

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) recently announced \$18.8 million in grants for 216 humanities projects, including 21 projects in California for more than \$2.4 million. This funding will support a wide variety of projects, including fellowships for scholarly research and the development of new undergraduate courses in the humanities, traveling exhibitions, production and development of films, the development and staging of major exhibitions, digital tools, and the preservation of and access to historic collections. Among the twenty-one California projects, Lyn Goldfarb received \$50,000 to develop a ninety-minute film documentary about former Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley, University of Southern California under Dace Taube received \$300,000 to digitize 34,000 nitrate negatives showing historic images of Los Angeles taken by the Dick Whittington Studio from 1924 to 1934, and University of California, Los Angeles under Kathleen McHugh received \$300,000 for the arrangement, description, and digitization of eighty manuscript collections and related audio visual recordings documenting lesbian and feminist activism and writing since the 1930s. To review state-by-state listings and descriptions, go to <http://www.neh.gov/news/archive/April2011grantsStatebyState.pdf>.

## Free Disaster Preparedness for Collections Workshops Adapted From California Association of Museums' e-News, <http://www.calmuseums.org>

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is offering free workshops in disaster preparedness for collections. These workshops are made possible through a Californians Connecting to Collections grant. The Californians Connecting to Collections Project (C3) is a two-year, statewide preservation project providing information, education, and training to California heritage institutions. Upcoming workshops are scheduled for Watsonville (Part 1, August 22; Part 2, October 6), Sonora (Part 1, September 21; Part 2, October 20), and Los Angeles (Part 1, November 9; Part 2, December 7). More workshops are planned for 2012. To learn more, visit the California Association of Museums website at <http://www.calmuseums.org>, or send an email to [admin@calmuseums.org](mailto:admin@calmuseums.org).



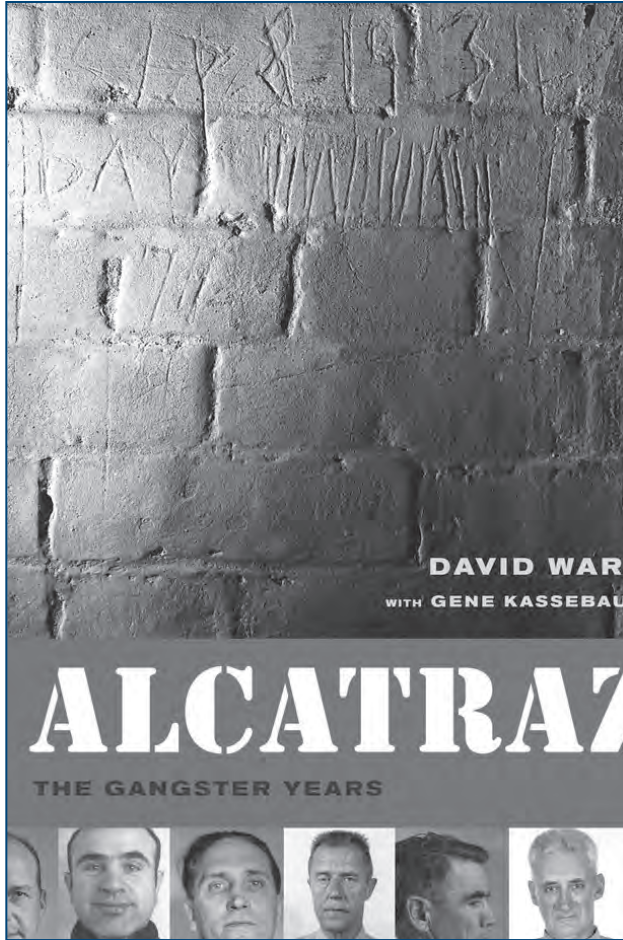
The collapse of the St. Francis Dam on March 12, 1928, swept away ranches, homes and businesses, leaving more than 450 people dead. It ranks as California's second most deadly disaster.  
USGS

# Book Reviews

## Alcatraz: The Gangster Years.

By David Ward with Gene Kassebaum.

Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2009, xxvii+548 pp.; illus., maps, notes, references index; \$36.95 hardback, \$24.95 paper.



A fortress from 1853 then a military prison, lonely, barren Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay was transferred from the military to the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 1934 to house the nation's most violent offenders in a supposedly escape-proof facility. Convicts incarcerated at Alcatraz included George "Machine Gun" Kelly, Al "Scarface" Capone, Arthur "Doc" Barker, and Alvin "Creepy" Karpis, among others. Thirty-six inmates tried to escape over the years, but none came close to success until 1962, when two near-escapes led to closure of the expensive and deteriorating prison in 1963.

Creating a "supermax" prison at Alcatraz was a response to a perceived gangland crime wave that began in the 1920s. Sensationalist media had alarmed the public with accounts of frequent, violent bank robberies, kidnappings, and gangland shoot-outs, and law enforcement agencies created a numbered list of "public enemies" whose capture had high priority. But once incarcerated in conventional prisons, these career criminals corrupted guards, smuggled contraband, murdered inmates, and contrived daring escapes. Isolating prisoners on Alcatraz Island seemed to offer a solution.

At a time when progressive penology emphasized rehabilitation, Alcatraz's administrators sought only to control the inmates by regimenting every aspect of their lives. To avoid controversy about their methods, which included isolation in pitch-dark cells, administrators adopted a policy of secrecy: they excluded reporters, censored visits and correspondence, and forbade staff to discuss the prison with anyone outside. As a result, lurid, negative accounts portrayed Alcatraz as a systematically cruel "monument to human stupidity and pointless barbarity," in the words of one journalist, a place that supposedly drove men mad.

To study life at Alcatraz the authors, who are sociologists, interviewed former inmates and staff, who freely contributed a rich collection of memories. Being at Alcatraz, the authors discovered, was not entirely

a negative experience: it enhanced an inmate's self-perception as a member of a dangerous elite and worthy of respect, a reputation that inmates tried to live up to. But surprisingly, compared with other prisons, Alcatraz was not a violent place, probably because rigid regimentation limited the opportunity for activities such as gambling and smuggling that caused conflict elsewhere. Alcatraz convicts sometimes contrived to resist the control that administrators sought to impose on them or, alternatively, they stolidly adapted to it, utilizing available resources to make life more acceptable. These two strategies could and did overlap.

Surprisingly, many former inmates subsequently turned away from a life of crime, which the authors cautiously conclude shows that the severe restrictions Alcatraz imposed on prisoners may have had a rehabilitative effect after all. The authors report that many of the former Alcatraz inmates they interviewed said that being isolated and regimented gave them an opportunity to reflect on the direction that their lives ought to take. Most inmates, they found, "held strong beliefs about right and wrong and had the same needs for social interaction and faith in the future as law-abiding people on the outside." The authors note that this idea of rehabilitation through isolation and reflection goes back to the origin of the penitentiary idea in the early nineteenth century. They raise the question of whether some of the methods used at Alcatraz, such as long periods of isolation in a dark cell, are compatible with today's ideas about cruel and unusual punishment even if they are effective.

This thought-provoking book is a compelling read. The authors limited its scope to the period from 1934 to 1948, but they project a second volume to cover the years until the facility closed in 1963.

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## Grand Ventures: The Banning Family and the Shaping of Southern California

By Tom Sitton

San Marino, CA: Huntington Library, 2010, xii+483 pp.; illus., notes, references, index, \$34.95, hardback.

As part of the Banning Family History Project through the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, *Grand Ventures* is essentially two ventures with varying degrees of grandeur. The first, as identified by its subtitle, is most successful in identifying key roles played by Phineas Banning and his sons in shaping southern California through the development of the Port of Los Angeles, developing tourism at Santa Catalina Island, and other endeavors.

The less compelling and less relevant one, however, centers on the family's genealogical history, embodied mainly through family squabbles, controversies and involvement in lesser projects. The genealogical exposition about family members outside California, in the first half of the book, is compensated by Sitton's skill in pinpointing the importance of the work of Phineas and his sons in southern California through the 1910s.

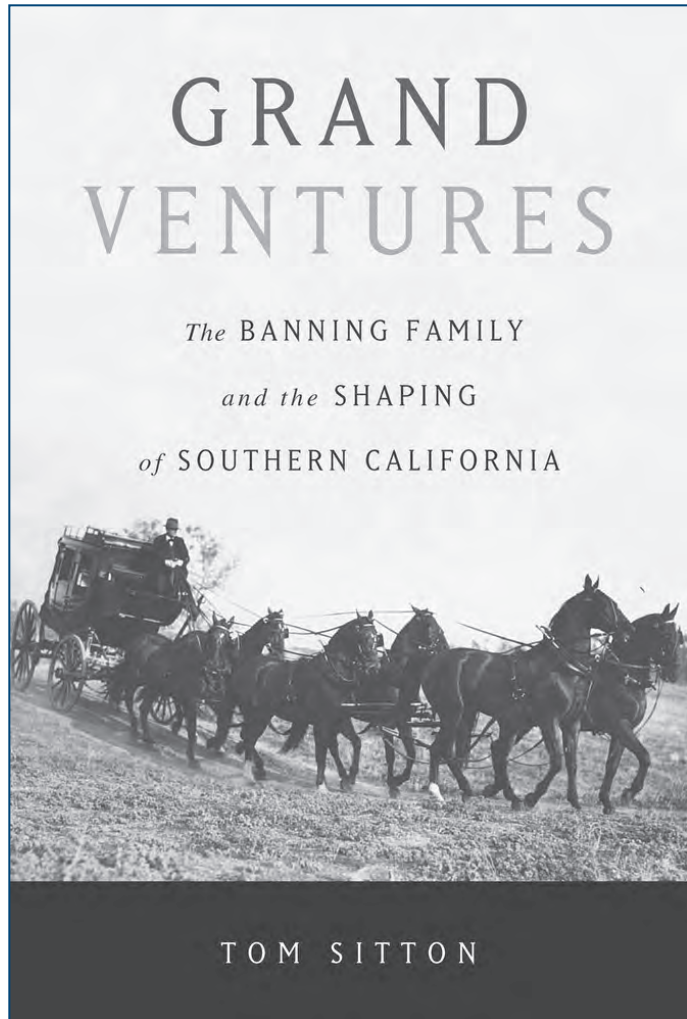
Phineas Banning was a seminal figure with almost no peer in the development of Los Angeles between 1850 and 1880 and was long overdue for a revised and more comprehensive biography. Sitton deftly outlines Phineas's significance in the development of Los Angeles Harbor, early railroad building in the region, and other endeavors. Unfortunately, despite the author's impressive research skills and solid ability to put Banning's contributions into a regional and national context, less space was devoted to this pivotal individual than is warranted and needed.

Following the discussion about Phineas, Sitton describes the work carried out by his three sons, especially the eldest, William, as they continued their father's transportation and harbor interests, while moving into a new area, the creation of a tourist's paradise at Santa Catalina Island. Again, Sitton admirably lays out, with a firm hand and clear language, the importance of the project in the context of the growing tourism industry in the Los Angeles area during a period of tremendous growth and development.

The remaining hundred or so pages are devoted to the third generation, whose influence in business, society, and politics, while still significant, had less dramatic impact than that of their forebears. Some of the Banning women made notable contributions through their social and charitable work, especially Anne Smith Banning, who created the nation-wide Assistance League. The Banning family have also worked to preserve the family home in Wilmington, now a museum.

Beyond that, though, less relevant intrusions, including internecine conflicts between Phineas' first and second families and the controversies engendered by his youngest child, Lucy, become more prominent and distracting. It is a testament to Sitton's considerable abilities as a historian that he was able to combine biography and genealogy so successfully. For those interested in southern California history, especially transportation history, *Grand Ventures* is a worthwhile read.

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*Bridging the Past, Present, and Future*

# CCPH Leadership

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### Recording Secretary/Admin. Assistant

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### Treasurer

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## Executive Committee

Meta Bunse	Pam Conners
Jennifer Janes	Stephanie George
Paul Spitzzer	Stephen Payne
Heather McCummins	

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### Terms Expiring 12/31/11

Pam Conners	Stephen Payne
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### Terms Expiring 12/31/12

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Darlene Roth	Stephanie George
Chuck Wilson	Lee Simpson (ex officio CSUS)

### Terms Expiring 12/31/13

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## CCPH Committees

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Open

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### Program, 2010 Conference

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## California History Action Editorial Information

*California History Action* is the official publication of the California Council for the Promotion of History. Its purpose is to disseminate news to the membership. The organization's numerous committee chairs provide much of the information herein. It is the responsibility of the general membership to provide input to the newsletter. This sharing of information is critical to the well-being of the organization.

Issues are produced quarterly, with submission deadlines on the first of March, June, September, and December. Material must be received prior to the deadline to be printed in the current issue and should be submitted directly to the editors at the address below.

It is preferred that articles and other material be sub-

mitted electronically by email (either in the text of the message or as an attachment). However, typewritten printed material is also accepted by mail. Please send book review submissions to Walt Bethel at [acwbethel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acwbethel@sbcglobal.net). All other submissions may be sent to Paul Sandul at [sandulpj@sfasu.edu](mailto:sandulpj@sfasu.edu), or:

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Views expressed herein are solely those of their authors. Their publication does not constitute an endorsement by CCPH.

## CCPH Liaisons

The following is a list of CCPH liaisons with state and national heritage organizations. This list of representatives has been established so that liaisons can supply important information to the CCPH membership and so members will have an appropriate contact should the need arise. Are you a member of a state or national association and want to serve as a CCPH liaison? Contact us at [ccph@csus.edu](mailto:ccph@csus.edu) or (916) 798-5099.

**American Association of Museums (AAM)**

Open

**American Assoc. for State and Local History (AASLH)**

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**California Association of Museums (CAM)**

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**California Mission Studies Association (CMSA)**

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**California Preservation Foundation (CPF)**

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**Conference of California Historical Societies (CCHS)**

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**National Council on Public History (NCPH)**

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**Society for California Archaeology (SCA)**

Steve Mikesell

**Society of California Archivists (SCA)**

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**Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA)**

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**Southwest Mission Research Center (SMRC)**

Linn McLaurin

**State Historical Resources Commission**

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**Western History Association (WHA)**

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**Western Museums Association (WMA)**

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## Join the California Council for the Promotion of History

All members receive issues of California History Action, the CCPH newsletter for history advocacy; notices of CCPH conferences and workshops; and other CCPH publications. Corporate and institutional members also receive membership rates for two individuals at conferences and other events.

Annual dues are due January 1; those received from new members after August 1 are credited to the next year.

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Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

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Areas of Historical Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories:  Patron \$100  Colleague/Corporate \$50

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All dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Send this form and payment to CCPH, CSU Sacramento, Department of History, 6000 J St., Sacramento, CA 95819-6059. For more information contact (916) 798-5099, [ccph@csus.edu](mailto:ccph@csus.edu), or visit <http://www.ccpghistoryaction.org/>.

# Conferences

The 75th Annual Meeting of the **Society of American Archivists**, Archives 360, will be held August 22-27, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago, IL. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www2.archivists.org/conference>.

The 2011 Oral History Association Annual Meeting, "**Memories of Conflict and Disaster: Oral History and the Politics of Truth, Trauma, and Reconciliation**," will be held October 12-16, 2011 at the Renaissance Denver Hotel in Denver, CO.

The 25th annual **Western Archives Institute** will be held at U.C. Berkeley in Berkeley, California, July 10-22, 2011. For more, visit <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/wai>.

A Conference, "**Public History in North American and the UK: Comparative Perspectives on Theory and Practice**," will be held October 22-24, 2011 in London, United Kingdom. For more, visit <http://www.history.ac.uk/news>.

The **California Association of Museums 2012 Conference** will be in Berkeley from February 15-17, 2012. For more, visit <http://www.calmuseums.org>.

The Joint Meeting of the National Council on Public History and the Organization of American Historians, "**Frontiers of Capitalism and Democracy**," will be held April 19-22, 2012 at the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee, WI. For more, visit <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/2011-annual-meeting>.

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