

California *History Action*

Our New Vice-President: Heather Lavezzo Downey

The Board of Directors have appointed Heather Lavezzo Downey CPH Vice-President. She also chairs our Website & Technology Committee. When she was our administrative assistant, she helped coordinate our 2008 Annual Conference in San Luis Obispo.



Heather Lavezzo Downey
New Vice President

Between 2009 and 2012, Heather was the interpretive specialist at the Center for Sacramento History where she authored the Interpretive Plan for the tour program "Old Sacramento Underground: Get the Low Down" and the documentary film *Rising Above: Building the Indomitable City*. Recently, Heather launched LD Research & Writing, a Sacramento-based consulting business.

Originally from Turlock, California, Heather moved to the state capital in 2003 to attend California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). After completing a BA in Social Science and working as a substitute teacher, she returned to CSUS, earning an MA in Public History in 2010. Heather enjoys creative writing, visiting cities, and spending time with her family, friends, and neighbors. Heather and her husband are expecting their first child in August 2012.

History Day at Riverside

On Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28, 942 students competed at the National History Day (NHD) California State Finals at the Riverside Convention Center; an Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 29, recognized their achievements. This year's theme was "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History." Wide-ranging student topics included the Marshall Plan, Napoleon and Nationalism, Joseph Lister's Antiseptic Surgery, the Copernican Revolution, the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, and the Whig Party in America, to name a few.

Junior (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-12) Division contestants, working as individuals or in groups of up to five, presented research papers, three-dimensional stand-up exhibits, performances, documentaries, and websites. Two co-champions in each category went forward to compete in the Kenneth E. Behring National Finals on June 10-14 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Elementary Division (grades 4-5) contestants receive awards at the state level for their presentations.

At the national finals, California students took home awards in four categories in the Senior Division: group exhibit, group documentary, group website, and individual website. See list on next page for details.

The national finals are named in recognition of philanthropist real estate developer Kenneth E. Behring's 2009 \$1.9 million donation to NHD. You can watch a short video biography of Behring, with an interview, at www.nationalhistoryday.org/contest.

(Continued on the next page.)

Fall Conference, October 18-20

Remember to mark your calendars for the annual CPH Fall Conference, which will be held in Woodland, the seat of Yolo County. For more about Woodland, see the book review section of this issue. We'll send out a registration pack later.

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California Students win in National History Day Contest

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Outside sponsors recognize such wide-ranging special categories of achievement as outstanding use of academic English by English language learners, excellence in geographical literacy, visual art in history, best use of primary and secondary sources, labor history, and women of character, among others. You can find all the Co-Champions, Runners-up, and Special Awardees listed at www.historydaycalifornia.org. At the national level awards include \$1000 for first place, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third place. In addition, a grant from the History Channel gives Senior Division documentaries a \$5,000 prize for first place. There are also awards for outstanding teachers. The nhd website contains interviews with prize-winning teachers.

All entries had to include an annotated bibliography that distinguishes primary and secondary sources. A panel of three judges interviewed each contestant on historical quality, relation to theme, and clarity of presentation. Some of the judges' questions were challenging, and students rose to the occasion. For example, asked to offer his moral assessment of the 1920 Red Scare, a contestant replied by distinguishing between arresting people accused of specifiable crimes and arresting people without warrants just because they happened to be Russians. He had documented the emotional impact of the Bolshevik revolution on Americans with startling film clips of marchers waving signs demanding a soviet republic here at a time of high unemployment and, paradoxically, inflation.

CCPH Mission Statement

The purpose of CCPH is to foster, facilitate, and coordinate efforts which enhance appreciation of historical heritage, application of history skills in the public and private sectors, and ensure the preservation, interpretation, and management of California's historical resources.

Junior Division Winner

Group Exhibit—Second Place to Daniel Blanco and Jacob Randolph, Summit High School, Fontana, CA, (teacher: Valerie Lowery) for "Henry Ford and the Model T: A Revolution in the Auto Industry Reforms American Business."

Senior Division Winners

Individual website—First Place to Lisa Xie, University High, Irvine, CA, (teacher: Judy Richonne) for "Jacob Riis and the Other Half."

Group website—Second Place to Kate Lemberg, Katherine Owens, Arielle Swedback, and Audrey Yang, Francis Parker School, San Diego, CA, (teacher: Cheryle Redelings) for "Raising the Iron Curtain: The Revolution, Reactions and Reforms of Solidarity."

Group documentary—Third Place to Savannah Benes and Carolyn Hansen, Francis Parker School, San Diego, CA, (teacher: Cheryle Redelings) for "Poland's Perfect Storm: The Solidarity Revolution."

Performance props have to be easily moved, set up and taken down. One group simulated the Berlin Wall using bed sheets on a folding pvc-pipe framework and stationed a gun-wielding Soviet guard in a cardboard kiosk that was emblazoned with the hammer and sickle. Fleeing refugees were shot and beaten convincingly. In a lighter moment a re-enactor who came out to deliver Gorbachev's glasnost remarks had painted a strawberry birthmark on his forehead.

The Orange County Department of Education, which coordinates National History Day for California; has produced a pamphlet urging language arts and history teachers to partner in using History Day as a vehicle for California's Common Core State

Standards (ccss) for English Language Arts and Literacy in History and Social Science. Even the best papers could benefit from some mentoring.

For more information visit www.historydaycalifornia.org.

California History Action

Vol. 30, No. 3
Summer 2012
ISSN 0882-357X

Published quarterly
by the
California Council for the
Promotion of History

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American Women in Science before the Civil War

American Women in Science Before the Civil War, by Elizabeth W. Reed, Ph.D., 1992, is now available for online reading or free download at catherinecreed.com/book.

American Women in Science Before the Civil War contains brief life histories, analyses of writings and a bibliography of the works of each of twenty-two American women who published in science before the American Civil War. Each entry contains a short biography, and a listing and critique of all the subject's scientific publications, with comments on each scientist's work from both contemporary and modern perspectives. A shorter section reports the activities of women who were members of scientific societies, collectors, teachers, volunteer data collectors and scientific illustrators. All the information is taken from original primary sources. The 208-page book is illustrated with contemporary drawings, diagrams and title pages and includes an extensive bibliography.

The web version of the book includes a short biography of author Elizabeth W. Reed, a short history of the book, and photos.

Beverly Hills Preservation Plan

Adapted from The Los Angeles Conservancy News, March/April, 2012

The Beverly Hills City Council unanimously voted to adopt an historic preservation ordinance in January 2011. The need for the ordinance became obvious when in July 2011, the owner of the Kronish House, (Richard Neutra, 1955) had marketed the foreclosed but historically-significant building as a teardown. Without the protection of any preservation law, two other significant Beverly Hills buildings had been demolished in 2010-2011, and the prospect of losing Beverly Hills' last intact Neutra design stimulated both local and worldwide protest. Urged by civic leaders, the seller agreed to delay the sale until October 2011, in hopes that a preservation-minded buyer could be found. (See *CHA* 29, 2, "News.")

Happily, a buyer willing to restore the house did step forward. Moreover, in August 2011, the mayor and city council directed the city planning commission to review its preservation procedures, and the city had its new ordinance five months later. The Los Angeles Conservancy, which had protested the demolition, had lent its expertise to the planning commission staff.

Post, Interact, and Learn with H-Net, H-Public and H-California

Adapted from h-net.org/~public, h-net.org, and h-net.org/~cal/about.html

H-Public, a member of H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online, is a public history electronic news source and mailing list (listserv) created in 1994 by The National Council on Public History (NCPH), which edits and oversees it. Any subscriber may send a message to the editor at h-public@h-net.msu.edu. The editor

posts appropriate messages and also collects and posts information from other lists and sources, such as H-Net's regular Job Guide and Academic Announcement listings.

A recent addition to H-Public is History@Work, NCPH's public history commons, a multi-authored, multi-interest blog. Founded in 1980, NCPH promotes public history both within the profession and among assorted public audiences by networking public historians, educating and advising students about careers in public history, and working to advance the awareness and appreciation of the use of history in daily life.

H-Public is one of more than 160 on-line discussion groups hosted by H-Net. H-Net provides an array of electronic services intended to enable scholars, teachers, advanced students and related professionals worldwide to exchange research and teaching ideas and share information. H-Net offers discussion networks, academic announcements, conference calls, a job guide, book reviews, web pages indexed to N-Net special projects, and access to over 100 electronic newsletters.

Another of H-Net's networks is H-California, which in addition to posting relevant announcements from H-Net, also has the special mission of stimulating on-line dialog about teaching California History through publication of course syllabi and reading lists, course handouts, bibliographies, and term-paper guides. The site also welcomes reports about new archival or bibliographic sources, new software, datasets, and CD-ROMs.

Subscription to these sites is free. Just log on to register.

Historic Preservation Grants Awarded

Adapted from nps.gov/history

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced \$46.9 million in historic preservation grants to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and three independent Pacific island nations. The secretary also announced \$8.4 million in grants to 131 American Indian tribes to support Tribal Historic Preservation Offices under the National Historic Preservation Act.

The grants will enable the states to preserve and protect our nation's most significant historic sites without expending tax dollars. The Historic Preservation Fund is supported by revenue from federal oil leases on the outer continental shelf. The National Park Service administers the fund and uses the majority of appropriated funds to distribute matching grants to state and tribal historic preservation officers. Since 1968 more than \$1 billion has been awarded to federal, state and local governments.

Grants fund preservation projects, such as survey and inventory, National Register nominations, preservation education, architectural planning, historic structure reports, community preservation plans, and bricks-and-mortar repair to buildings.

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California Historical Society Offers Golden Gate Bridge eBook

The California Historical Society (CHS) announces its inaugural and free interactive multi-media eBook, *Wild Flight of the Imagination: The Story of the Golden Gate Bridge*, containing 140 stunning pages on the Golden Gate Bridge's rich history and iconic stature. Access it through the CHS website www.californiahistoricalsociety.org.

Interactive Public History: Envisioning the California Delta As It Was

The Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University has collaborated with KQED Public Media and the San Francisco Estuary Institute Aquatic Science Center to create an interactive online report on the historical ecology and environmental history of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that accompanies a series on the science and environment program "Quest." Here is the interactive app: <http://science.kqed.org/quest/delta-map/>. You'll also find links to the rest of the series and associated materials there. For the Bill Lane Center for the American West, go to <http://west.stanford.edu>.

Bill Lane Center Executive Director Jon Christensen would like to know your thoughts about this approach to public history in California. His e-mail address is jonchristensen@stanford.edu.

Mount Vernon Archaeological Project Seeks Interns

Mount Vernon's archaeologists are seeking volunteers and interns (students receiving academic credit) to help with a transcription project. They are also interested in talking with public history professors who might want to incorporate some of this project into a class.

Mount Vernon's Archaeology Department has recently embarked on a two-year project, called Archaeological Collections Online, to re-analyze and digitize one of the most significant collections excavated on the property. From this site, archaeologists uncovered more than 120,000 artifacts relating to the Washington household and the enslaved Africans and African Americans living and working around the Mansion. To complement the artifacts, the department is undertaking a transcription project to look at not only George Washington's orders and invoices for goods, but also at what the community at large was ordering and buying through the Glassford and Henderson stores in Alexandria and Colchester, Virginia. These local purchases will be compared with the items that George Washington ordered from England to see specifics about how the local economy differed from the English factor system. For more information visit <http://mountvernonmidden.org>.

Interns are undergraduates or recent graduates with strong research and writing skills and an interest in working with primary sources in early American history, independently and as part of a team. They make a 12-week commitment for 10 hours per week;

work can be conducted remotely—it isn't necessary to live near Mount Vernon. Applicants should submit a resume, the names of two references, and a cover letter, including a statement detailing the applicant's interest in this program, to Director of Archaeology Esther White at ewhite@mountvernon.org.

John Gray Named Head of the National Museum of American History

John Gray, founding president of the Autry National Center of the American West, a consolidation of three cultural organizations in Los Angeles and Denver, has been appointed the Elizabeth Mac-Millan Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, effective July 23. For more about the National Museum of American History go to www.americanhistory.si.edu.

Gray merged the Autry Museum of Western Heritage with Colorado's Women of the West Museum in 2002 and with Los Angeles's oldest (1914) museum, the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, in 2004, thereby creating the Autry Museum of the American West, with headquarters in Los Angeles. The Autry National Center has more than 500,000 objects, a 130-member staff, and an annual budget of about \$16 million. It is accredited by the American Association of Museums and gained national prominence during Gray's tenure. For more about the Autry National Center, visit <http://theautry.org>.

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities Available

Five Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities are available for the 2013-2014 academic year on the general theme of violence.

These Mellon fellowships are open to untenured junior scholars holding a Ph.D. awarded no more than eight years ago. Research proposals from all scholars, national and international, in humanistic disciplines and allied areas are eligible. For details visit the <http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=194630>.

Fellows teach one undergraduate course in addition to conducting their research. The stipend is \$46,500 plus single-coverage health insurance and a \$2,500 research fund.

Applications are accepted via secure online web form only; email submissions will not be accepted. The committee cannot comment on the appropriateness of proposals in advance. Full fellowship guidelines, 'Violence' topic description, and application are available online only at: <http://humanities.sas.upenn.edu>.

Public Historian to Remain at UCSB

At the National Council on Public History's (NCPH) Annual Meeting in Milwaukee in April, more than a hundred attendees enlivened a 90-minute open-forum discussion between NCPH President Marty Blatt, Vice President Bob Weyeneth, and Executive Director John Dichtl on the one hand and University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) History Department chair John Majewski and *The Public*

Historian journal editor Randy Bergstrom on the other. NCPH and UCSB subsequently reached a two-year interim agreement during which the future of the journal will be negotiated. Wyeneth described the meeting as cordial and constructive. Details of the agreement still need to be worked out and ratified by the two organizations, but NCPH and UCSB expect that the Editorial Board will continue as before, that the NCPH president will continue to appoint new members in consultation with the *Public Historian* editor, co-editors, and managing editor, and that NCPH members will continue to receive *The Public Historian* as a membership benefit at least through 2014.

The Public Historian began at UCSB in 1978 and is published by the University of California Press (UC Press). NCPH, which was incorporated in 1980, has a publishing contract with UCSB and UC Press which expired in 2009, and a separate contract with UCSB for housing *The Public Historian's* editorial offices. Legal issues about journal ownership have complicated alternative plans for relocating *The Public Historian's* editorial offices in Washington DC.

NCPH has formed a task force to envision a 21st-century journal format, employing new media, and welcomes input from all public historians, whether members or not. For more information visit <http://ncph.org>.

The Struggle to Keep California's State Parks Open Continues

Although budget stringencies slated 70 of California's 278 State Parks for closure this summer, agreements with federal and local government agencies and private donations are in place to keep at least 11 of them open, and negotiations about 40 others are ongoing, according to Department of Parks and Recreation Acting Chief Deputy Director Michael Harris.

The department is also seeking private concessionaires to operate campgrounds, day-use areas, restrooms, and educational kiosks; 83 organizations have expressed interest. The California State Parks Foundation's partnerships with various corporations and businesses also generate revenue. For more information visit calparks.org

While few of California's state parks are self-sustaining, they generate money for local businesses by attracting tourists. California's state parks system, the nation's largest, draws 70 million visitors annually, more than the top ten theme parks combined. The system's proposed funding remains relatively steady at \$329 million for 2013, but this is about 22 percent below current expenditures. About 40 percent is spent on maintenance, but deferred maintenance is a growing, long-term trend.

Park closures invite vandalism: When Mitchell Caverns in the remote eastern Mojave Desert closed last spring, workers removed precious Native American artifacts and historical documents, but vandals gratuitously plundered and damaged facilities, especially the visitors center. Looking ahead to further park closures, the State Parks and Recreation Department is seeking ways to get caretakers,

guardians, local law enforcement, volunteers to protect them. See Louis Sahagun, "Shattered California state parks may be vulnerable to vandalism," *Los Angeles Times*, February 25, 2012.

Lindsey Reed Recognized by NCPH's Robert Kelley Memorial Award

The Public Historian's Managing Editor Lindsey Reed received the National Council on Public History's (NCPH) prestigious Robert Kelley Memorial Award, named for the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), history professor who coined the term "public history" and founded UCSB's pioneering public history program. Together with UCSB colleague Wes Johnson, Kelley (1925-1993) founded *The Public Historian* and later convened the exploratory meeting which led to the creation of NCPH.

The award recognizes Reed's skill, grace, vision and high standards in every aspect of editing *The Public Historian* since becoming its managing editor in 1992. She also expanded and improved the journal and built a strong professional support network.

Reed earned her bachelor's degree in comparative literature and a master's degree English at UCSB, then taught for nine years in UCSB's writing program before joining the staff of *The Public Historian* in 1980 as an assistant editor. In 1993, Kelley, who had worked with Reed from her first day, praised her talents and graciousness profusely, adding "The journal is Lindsey Reed."

For more about Reed and other NCPH Award recipients visit ccph.org/cms/awards. For more about Kelley, narrow your search to "Professor Robert L. Kelley, UCSB"; the California Digital Library includes a detailed obituary.

The Ultimate History Project offers Forum for Nontraditional Historians

The creators of The Ultimate History Project believe that all history lovers deserve accurate, interesting, and easily accessible history. The Ultimate History Project promotes high-quality cutting-edge historical scholarship intended for everyone.

Historians who write for The Ultimate History Project are curators, professors, independent historians, genealogists, and collectors. In recent years, an academic job crisis has led many highly trained historians to leave their profession. The Ultimate History Project draws on the skills of many of these scholars, providing them with an opportunity to publish and promote their scholarship. The Ultimate History Project also encourages faculty members to write for the general public and it provides a forum for academically trained historians to work alongside avid genealogists, independent historians, and collectors, enabling them all to collaborate and learn from one another.

The Ultimate History Project recognizes that high-quality research, especially when it is conducted outside the academy, requires an investment of time and effort. As a history collaborative, The Ulti-

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mate History Project shares advertising and subscription revenue among its authors, enabling them to continue to conduct historical research and to be paid for their work. Articles appear free on The Ultimate History Project for two months; after two months, articles disappear behind a pay wall. Articles behind a pay wall can be accessed via a subscription. Revenue from pay wall articles is shared among authors, with a small proportion of these fees being used to maintain The Ultimate History Project.

For more information or to see some articles, visit the site at: www.ultimatehistoryproject.com.

Mediterranean, Middle-Eastern, and North African Museum News on Twitter

Linda Ellis, senior curator at the San Francisco State University Museum, posts Mediterranean, Middle-Eastern, and North African museum and cultural heritage news on twitter @SFSUMuseum, including news of new museum building projects and international exhibitions, and links to educational regional materials.

Ellis surveys the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish news sources and 'tweets' important museum issues within 24-48 hours. For example, since the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, Egypt has been in the

midst of a continuing looting, plundering, and smuggling crisis, and isolated museum colleagues are making heroic efforts to preserve a threatened cultural heritage.

Kent State Web Workshops Offer Improved Library Skills

The School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University offers a robust schedule of workshops that will benefit students and professionals in libraries, museums and other cultural and information organizations.

Webinar topics include database design and applications, genealogy and local history research methods, tips for searching online databases, designing grant projects, writing an exhibit script, practical public relations and communication tools for public librarians, and video games in the public library.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/LISworkshops6june>. You will receive an email with the link to the webinar a day or two prior to the event. For more information on SLIS workshops, visit <http://www.kent.edu/slis/programs/workshops.cfm>. (Note: If you do not already have Silverlight on your computer, you may need to download it in order to view the presentation. It's free at <http://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight/Get-Started/Install/Default.aspx/>.)

Calls for Papers

Women's History Conference

The Berkshire Conference on Women's History will be held at the University of Toronto on May 22-25, 2014. The major theme of the conference is Histories on the Edge/Histoires sur la brèche. This conference theme encourages critical reflection on how gender, as analytic category, material embodiment, cultural resource, or signifying system works in many ways.

Deadline for papers is January 15, 2013. For questions, write bcwh@utsc.utoronto.ca or visit the website at <http://berksconference.org>.

The Cultures and Institutions of Business

The Business History Conference invites proposals for its 2013 annual meeting, which will take place March 21-23, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus hotel in Columbus, Ohio.

The theme of the annual meeting is "The Cultures and Institutions of Business," which includes all topics embracing the culture of business and the business of culture. Papers may engage the ways in which cultural beliefs, values, practices, institutions, meanings, language, identities, habits and cognition shape business orientation, governance, behavior, and performance in different geographical, historical, or social settings. Papers may also address the ways in which business has acted upon cultural practices and institutions, both high and popular culture, or how the language of business has entered into wider public discourses.

Individual paper proposals should include a one-page (300 word) abstract and one-page curriculum vitae (CV). Panel proposals should include a cover letter stating the rationale for the panel and the name of its contact person; a one-page (300 word) abstract and author's CV for each paper; and a list of preferred panel chairs and commentators with contact information.

Please send proposals to BHC2013@Hagley.org. For more information about the conference, prizes, and the Oxford Colloquium, visit the website at <http://www.h-net.org/~business/bhcweb/>

Southern Historian Seeks Graduate Student Papers

The Southern Historian is currently seeking original scholarly work by graduate students focusing on the history and culture of the American South for its 34th issue.

The deadline for manuscript submission is October 1, 2012, but early submissions are strongly encouraged. Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, no more than 20 pages, and should use footnotes (formatted using the Chicago Manual of Style). An electronic copy (including footnotes) of the manuscript should be submitted in Microsoft Word format.

Contributors must be active graduate students. The author's name and contact information should appear only on the cover sheet.

For more information, please contact shistory@bama.ua.edu.

Home Lands: How Women Made the West. By Virginia Scharff and Carolyn Brucken. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010, 171 pp., illus., color plates, notes, index, \$26.95, paper and e-book.

In *Home Lands: How Women Made the West*, Virginia Scharff and Carolyn Brucken invite the reader to “imagine a new geography” of the American West in which the “boundaries of home places rather than the aspirations and conquests of nations” frame the stories of how women explored and settled and adapted to and transformed the mental, physical, environmental, and social terrains within which they created homes and communities. To situate women at the center of the several processes by which specific places are inhabited and made into homes across a continuum of time, the authors have combined elements of material culture, cultural geography, social, cultural, and environmental histories in a sweeping counter-narrative to the male-dominated story in which “drifters, dreamers, hucksters, hellions, and heroes” conquer an empty and harsh wilderness.



Written as a companion to the Autry National Center of the American West’s exhibition (April 16—August 22, 2010), *Home Lands* stands well on its own, asking readers “to think of the West as...a site of ongoing encounters among people whose actions are shaped by different notions of dwelling and family, divergent ways of using land and resources, and varying concepts of property, community, and history” (p.3). With engaging, thought-provoking writing and forty-five grey-tone illustrations and twenty-two color plates of items from the exhibit, *Home Lands* evokes the broad historical patterns and tensions of more than six centuries of home making in three chapters, each focused on a distinctive region of the West: the Rio Grande Valley of northern New Mexico, the convergence of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and the Puget Sound of Washington. Vignettes of individual women illuminate the multiple layers of women’s lives and experiences shaped by race, class, and geography, and remind the reader that the claiming of a home for one group of women has often meant the defending, remaking, and even loss of homes for another. Each chapter includes a brief essay linked to a particular object, which adds an additional interpretive layer.

In “Home on Earth, Women and Land in the Rio Arriba,” the earth itself is both the contested space of frontier and borderland where

lives and cultures converge, clash, and change, and the source from which women both imaginatively and physically make and remake their homes, finding in the land the inspiration and the materials for agriculture, architecture, and art. An eighteenth century wedding chest, a symbol of personal wealth and material goods needed for home making, is the focus of Marie Montóya’s discussion of the loss of lands and property rights suffered by Mexican women when their homeland came under the control of the United States.

“Women in Motion Along the Front Range” delves into the changes in women’s lives, uses of the land, and in the reshaping of home spaces both physically and socially as a result of changing modes of transportation. Horses, wagons, railroads, automobiles, and then planes have both created and limited opportunities for imagining and realizing the spheres and spaces in which women have been included or excluded on the basis of race, class, and gender. An oil painting of the Denver Bottoms by a nineteenth century woman artist inspires Elliot West’s ruminations on the home as a workspace for women’s physical as well as emotional labors.

“Waterscapes of Puget Sound” explores the many of the ways women as producers and consumers have claimed the power of water for food, clothing, shelter, transportation,

and hydroelectric energy for powering homes and industries. Waters made toxic from industrial pollution are but one of the challenges faced in this wet homeland. A married woman’s kimono adorned with a waterscape offers Gail Dubrow an opportunity to comment on the decline in living standards and the back and heart breaking labor required for Japanese picture brides to wrest homes from primitive conditions, as well of the toxic forces that wrested them from their homes during World War II.

Readers might well ask, just as exhibition visitors did, why these three places and not some others. At its core, *Home Lands: How Women Made the West* is a book of stories about women and their connections with the land, the ever-changing environment, and with others across time and space. But it is also a model of a particular way of thinking about history, a way of seeing ordinary people as actors upon and engaged with the land as well as moving through time. Something, the authors suggest, “you ought to be able to try, well, at home.”

Reviewed by Marie Nelson, who is a state historian II with the California Office of Historic Preservation and a graduate student at UCSB in the CSUS-UCSB Public History program.

Conference Reading: Two Woodland Histories

Woodland. By Robin Datel, Dennis Dingemans, and Thomas Krabacher. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2011. 128 pp., illus., maps. \$21.99 paper.

Woodland: City of Trees. By Shipley Walters. Woodland, CA: Yolo County Historical Society, 1995, 2007. viii+150 pp., illus, maps, references, appendices, index, \$15.

Both of these books are well-written and well-researched, and both repay careful study.

The first is in Arcadia's Images of America series and as usual the images are crisp and detailed. Comparisons between photos taken years apart show us how the city grew, and aerial photos reveal how individual buildings are related to each other. (A reading lens can be helpful here.)

The book is organized thematically, beginning with Woodland's setting as an urban center and county seat serving an agricultural hinterland. Yolo's agricultural base shifted over time, evolving from livestock and grains to dairy, row crops, orchard crops and honey, with the bees themselves playing an important role in fertilizing the orchards. Agriculture required machinery, irrigation, and transportation, and photos show us creameries, wineries and breweries, flour and rice mills, canneries, and a sugar beet processing plant. Other photos show us foundries that made agricultural machinery and irrigation pumps—Byron Jackson, who invented the centrifugal irrigation pump, was a local man. Other industries included woodworking mills that served Woodland's builders.

At first riverboats and barges carried farm products from Knight's Landing, about 20 miles away, but steam and steel connected Woodland with the national rail network in 1869, supplemented in 1912 by an electric interurban railway. Hard-surfaced highways culminated with the opening of I-5 in 1973.

A chapter on commercial development shows early wooden construction replaced by substantial multi-story brick business blocks along Main Street by the 1870s. Other civic amenities added early in the 1870s included a water works, gas street lighting, wooden sidewalks and street maintenance. Photos show such features of

town life as parades, soda fountains, barber shops, gas stations, and garages. The next chapter documents Woodland's heritage of fine residences, but also its postwar public housing venture, followed by a chapter about schools, libraries, fraternal lodges, churches, and hospitals, and the people whose lives took them there. A chapter on recreation gathers together photos of such diverse activities as hunting, athletics, cycling, opera, and the town band. A final chapter

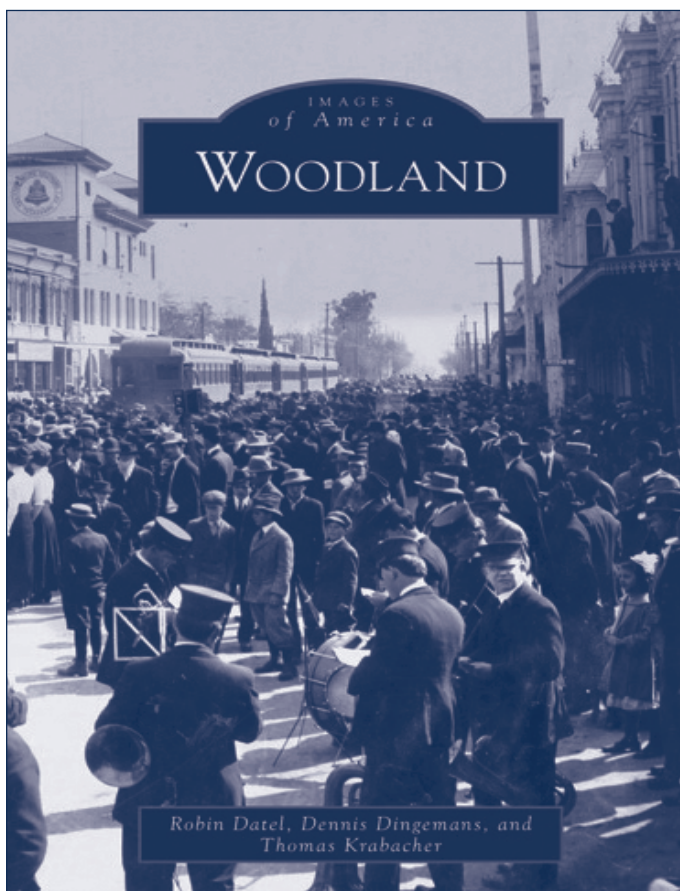
on preservation documents buildings lost, restored, and in the case of a former interurban electric railroad depot, recreated.

These photos have strong, informative captions, but for a narrative history of Woodland you need Shipley Walters' book. She has written extensively on Yolo County, including *Clarksburg* (1988), *West Sacramento* (1987), and, with Joann Larkey, *Winters* (1991) and, with Tom Anderson, *Knights Landing* (1992), all published by the Yolo County Historical Society as large-format, high-quality paperbacks. She and Larkey also wrote *Yolo County: Land of Changing Patterns* (1987) for Windsor.

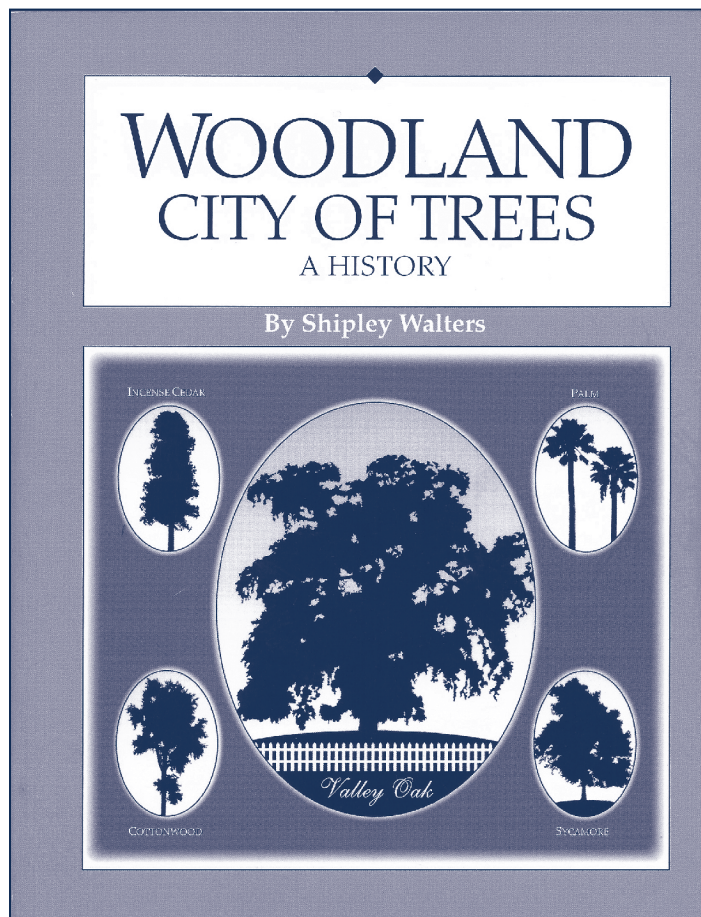
Walters book provides introductory chapters on Woodland's geographical setting, the aboriginal Patwin or Wintun peoples, early visitors who explored or passed through the area without settling there, and early Anglo settlers, many of whom took up the land grants by which California's Mexi-

can government hoped to populate its thinly-held frontier. She then provides details of Woodland's beginnings in 1853 as a crossroads store, a smithy, and a small school. A church followed in 1854, and the first of several fraternal lodges in 1856. Woodland got its own post office in 1861, as well as privately funded Hesperian College, which ambitiously offered primary, remedial, vocational and college preparatory courses, including Greek, Latin, French, German, Italian, art, and music—a curriculum that shows the aspirations of Woodland's early settlers.

Walters organizes her successive chapters chronologically. In the 1870s through the 1890s Woodland incorporated, built a city hall, brick business blocks, an opera house, a fine hotel, a business college, and utilities. Walters also traces the contributions of Germans, Jews, and Chinese and their search for community, and the rise of civic-minded clubs, including a vigorous temperance movement.



Her chapter on the economic challenges of the depression decade of the 1890s contrasts natural and economic disasters with civic optimism. A chapter on the first two decades of the new century records upbeat, boosterish enthusiasm as Woodland citizens adopted first the bicycle and then the auto and its infrastructure and reshaped their skyline with Beaux Arts and Mission Revival buildings. A new courthouse and a Carnegie library, and new school construction bonds attested civic pride. But this chapter also discusses the dislocations, as well as the opportunities, that came with America's entry into World War I, and the apathetic postwar defeat of Woodland's attempt at a city charter. The next chapter covers the two decades between the wars. The elegant Spanish-Revival style Hotel Woodland welcomed motorists in 1928, new construction enlarged the Woodland Clinic in 1920 and 1928, and the opening of Spreckels' modern beet sugar factory in 1937 softened the Depression. Wartime Woodland gets its own chapter, focusing on how the draft caused changes in the agricultural labor force. (It is pleasant to learn that some relocated Japanese-American families



were able to return to Woodland and resume their former lives, helped by the goodwill of Anglos who had conserved their assets in their absence.)

Two postwar chapters focus on Woodland's response to sudden growth, urbanization of prime farmland, and demographic shifts. Walters sees Woodland's future as open-ended, its fate to be determined by the interactions of old-timers and newcomers.

The book is well organized, frequent subheadings make it easy to find information, and biographical paragraphs tell us about individuals who have significantly influenced Woodland, including people of Mexican, Chinese, and Japanese descent. Walters also provides paragraphs about individual companies as well as on agricultural developments. Each chapter includes references for further reading. Appendices list mayors and county supervisors and provide a Woodland chronology. More than a good read, this book is also a useful reference.

Reviewed by A. C. W. Bethel, Professor (Emeritus), Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Obituary: David S. Bisol, Santa Barbara Historical Museum Director

Adapted from The Santa Barbara Independent and Noozhawk.com

David S. Bisol, executive director of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, died Saturday, April 21, from the effects of an accident. He was 60 years old. He first joined the museum as a junior historian and was museum curator for 17 years before he was appointed executive director in 2007. The museum has appointed its chief development officer, Douglas Diller, acting director. The museum was closed for the weekend and flew its flag at half-staff as organization members mourned the loss.

Bisol grew up in Goleta and was descended from Santa Barbara's pioneer Cota family. After reading Walker Tompkins' history of Rancho Los Dos Pueblos in seventh grade he became enthusiastic about local history, identifying the sites mentioned in the book.

As he later recalled "I felt connected to my community, I had a sense of being for the first time." At 16 Bisol became a founding member of the Goleta Valley Historical Society. At UCSB he majored in history.

Director of Research Michael Redmon said of Bisol, "David was a great believer in the power of imagination. ... He loved the Arlington Theatre, its history and architecture, its secret nooks and crannies. ... He brought that belief in the power of imagination to the historical museum."

"We want to be a resource that appeals to all ages, which means we have to keep up with the way people communicate today, and that includes Twitter," Bisol said. "I don't want us to be a repository for old objects. ... Instead, we offer perspectives on Santa Barbara's history."

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California History Action (CHA) is the official publication of the California Council for the Promotion of History (CCPH). *CHA's* purpose is to disseminate news to CCPH members. The views expressed in *CHA* are solely those of their authors; their publication in *CHA* does not constitute an endorsement by CCPH.

Sharing information is an essential part of CCPH's mission, and the editor invites input from the general membership as well as committee chairs. We prefer that articles and other materials be submitted by e-mail, either in the text of the message or as

an attachment. However we also accept printed or typewritten material submitted by post.

Please send all submissions to Walt Bethel, Editor, at acwbethel@sbcglobal.net or at 776 Cardinal Court, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420-1305.

CCPH publishes *CHA* quarterly, in March, June, September and January. Deadlines for submitting material to *CHA* are February 1, May 1, August 1, and December 1 respectively.

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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 or (916) 798-5099.

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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.

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For more information contact (916) 798-5099, ccph@csus.edu, or visit <http://www.ccphhistoryaction.org/>.



Sandwiched between Main Street and Dead Cat Alley on Third Street in Woodland, the Odd Fellow's Hall is just one of the city's historic buildings. Built in 1905, it was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Woodland is the site for this year's CCPH annual conference.

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