



# CALIFORNIA ORIGINALS

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

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## All Gave Some, Some Gave All

*We wished so much, that we could have those guys alive for just one moment, so they would know they were not forgotten . . . to know that we kept the faith.*

- B.T. Collins, Vietnam Veteran and California Assembly Member  
who was a leading proponent of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Since its dedication on December 10, 1988, the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sacramento's Capitol Park has been visited by thousands of people. Engraved on the black granite panels of the memorial are the 5,822 names of Californians who died in the war or remain missing – the largest loss of any state.

Many visitors have left personal tributes to the more than 300,000 people who served in Southeast Asia during a war that deeply divided our nation. Items left at the memorial are collected and delivered to the California State Archives, where they are carefully preserved.

Coinciding with Veterans Day and the 25th anniversary of the memorial, the State Archives mounted an exhibit of dozens of the deeply personal mementos that have been left at the memorial. These items

include military uniforms, combat boots, helmets, cards, letters, poems, photographs, artwork, military patches, medals, and even a bullet-riddled helicopter blade. The exhibit will remain through May 23 and is open to the public whenever the Archives are open.

*Lisa C. Prince,*  
Archivist & Exhibit Curator



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## From the State Archivist

We are losing our history. Every day, millions of records are created using computers and other electronic devices. Technology has become an integral part of every government entity. But the hardware and software used to create digital records become obsolete. We are facing a "digital dark age" when eventually we will be unable to read documents stored in electronic formats. The problem is not limited to documents; it also includes photographs, audio, video, compact discs, DVDs – any government records or personal items that require a machine to be viewed or heard.

At the State Archives, we are reminding people that, just like paper records, many digital records have permanent value. We encourage state agencies to create digital preservation plans that include migrating records to newer file formats and storage media every few years. We must think about how we will access digital records in the future because, if we fail to act, we will lose our history.

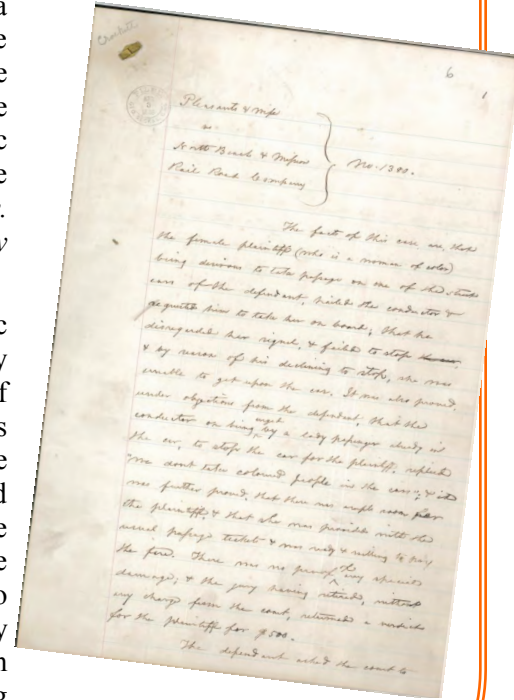
*Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil*



## Program Notes

### Court Records Program

On September 27, 1866, a black woman named Mary E. Pleasants tried to hail a streetcar in San Francisco. Refusing to stop and let her board, the conductor reportedly said, “We don’t take colored people in the cars.” So less than a year after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was adopted to abolish slavery, one of California’s first civil rights pioneers began a legal odyssey that would eventually come before the state’s Supreme Court. Pleasants successfully sued the streetcar company for damages and the case outlawed segregation in the city’s public transit system. Today, the records of her case from the State Supreme Court, *Pleasants v. North Beach and Mission Railroad Company* (1868) 34 Cal. 586, are at the State Archives.



The Archives hold more than 25,000 cubic feet of historic records created by California’s Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal. The court records archivist serves as a liaison between the courts and the State Archives, overseeing appraisal and acquisition of inactive court records that have historic value. The program makes the records accessible to the public while also updating indices and finding aids. Many famous characters from California’s past can be found in these court records, including heroes like Mary Pleasants.

*Sebastian Nelson,  
Court Records Archivist*

## Meet the Staff

### Sydney Bailey, Archivist



Sydney Bailey’s path to a career as an archivist began in 1985 when she completed her undergraduate degree in history at California State University, Fullerton. To pay the bills after graduating, she worked in a clerical position at Disneyland and, by chance, stumbled into a job working with the Park’s records and forms manager. The job led to a trip to the Disney Archives in Burbank and an introduction to the Disney archivist. The opportunity set Sydney on her archival career path.

By the end of 1992, Sydney had moved to Sacramento to earn a Master of Arts in public history at California State University, Sacramento. Public history offered a great fit for her interests in history, research, and archival work. In addition to an internship with the State Archives, her volunteer work added practical work experience to her resume.

Sydney officially joined the Archives staff in 1997 and now administers the State Records Appraisal Program. As the leader of this important program, she works with state agency staff to identify and transfer state records with legal, administrative, fiscal, and historic value to the State Archives.



## *History Day How-to 2.0*

The State Archives hosted the second annual History Day How-to (HDHT2.0) on December 7, with 135 students, teachers/advisors, and parents participating. The event focused on providing research guidance and project development for National History Day competitors.

National History Day is an annual contest that requires students from grades 6 to 12 to complete in-depth research on a topic related to the annual theme. California History Day allows 4th and 5th graders to participate in a poster category, but they do not advance beyond the state competition. Each student or group of students develops a project using their research, such as a documentary, website, performance, exhibit, or historical paper. The winners from each county go to the state finals and from there, the top two in each category advance to the national competition held each June at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. This year's theme is Rights and Responsibilities.

The keynote speaker for HDHT2.0, Gwen Granados, director of archival operations at the National Archives at Riverside, encouraged the students to discover their own family stories to see why studying history is important. After the keynote address, the students attended category sessions led by History Day advisors, teachers, an historian, and a State Archives staff member who is also an artist/actor. In addition, a variety of research sessions provided the students with information for developing excellent skills including how to weigh evidence, refine a thesis statement, use online resources, and cite sources.

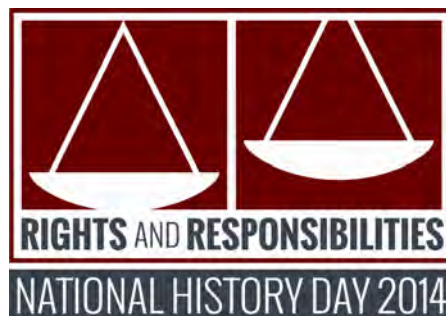
One of the most popular activities during HDHT2.0 was “Ask an Archivist.” Each student or group was assigned to a reference archivist or librarian to discuss their chosen topic and get help in identifying archival primary sources. Participating in the Ask an Archivist interviews were archivists from the State Archives, Center for Sacramento History, Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University, and the California History Room at the California State Library.



*Above, Jessica Herrick of the California State Archives; left, Patricia Johnson of the Center for Sacramento History*

History Day How-to 2.0 garnered a lot of positive feedback from participants, planners, and State Archives staff. History Day How-to 3.0 is scheduled for November 15.

*Linda Johnson, Archivist and  
Education & Outreach Coordinator*





## Grant Awarded for Digitization



The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an affiliate of the National Archives and Records Administration, funds projects that use cost-effective methods to digitize nationally significant historical record collections and make the digital versions available online. Thanks to an NHPRC grant, the State Archives will soon digitize 19th century trademark applications and specimens. The work, which will begin in April 2014, will likely take one year and create approximately 24,000 digital images.

A trademark is a word, phrase, symbol, or design (typically a brand name or logo) that distinguishes goods or services that come from a particular source. The early trademarks in the State Archives collection were registered according to California laws that were the first in the nation to protect trademark holders (many years prior to any federal legislation). They formed the basis of modern economic and commercial development that spread from California throughout the United States. With protection, trademark owners could build consumer recognition when marketing their services or commodities. They also had more security to expand and innovate.

*Rebecca Wendt,  
Managing Archivist for Public Programs*



## Recently Processed Records

### State Agency Records

Water Resources Control Board

Department of Pesticide Regulation

### State Legislature Records

William Baker Papers

Tom Bane Papers



## A Capitol Tour

In November, Archives staff were invited to take a tour of the State Capitol. Pictured at the Assembly dais are (left to right) Breanne Kato, Sebastian Nelson, Lisa Prince, Jessica Knox, Andrew Hyslop, Stephanie Hamashin, and Jeff Crawford.



## Upcoming Events

January 31	Monthly Public Tour of the California State Archives	<a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm">www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm</a>
February 28	Monthly Public Tour of the California State Archives	<a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm">www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm</a>
March 21	Monthly Public Tour of the California State Archives	<a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm">www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm</a>

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