

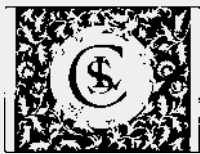
California State Library Foundation

Bulletin

Number 98

2010





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Note: Recent issues of *The Bulletin*, including this one, may be viewed in full color on our website at www.csflfdn.org.

Front Cover: This striking 1897 La Fiesta de Los Angeles poster was one of 2,400 oversize pictures and maps photographed by Vincent Beiderbecke.

Back Cover: Gold Rush author and artist Frank Marryat produced the drawing for this beautiful c. 1851 chromolithograph of San Francisco. See article on pages 2-11.

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Stitching the Picture Together: A Profile of Vincent Beiderbecke

By M. Patricia Morris



Wreck of the Viscata near Fort Point, San Francisco, 1868. Albumen mammoth plate photograph by C. E. Watkins. 15½ x 21¼ in.

Vincent Beiderbecke didn't hesitate when asked what project he had enjoyed doing the most. "It's right over there," he said pointing to a neatly labeled document folder on his cubicle table. "It's a certificate of Nomination and Appointment of N. P. Chipman to the Rank of Colonel in the Service of the United States Armed Forces." What had impressed Vincent so much about this official paper was the signature in green ink, a signature belonging to one of



M. Patricia Morris is a frequent contributor to the Bulletin. Currently, she is helping the Library create an online exhibit featuring historic California cookbooks.

the most "important and prestigious presidents of the United States," as he described him. "It's just an appointment for a military officer," he said, "But still, just the fact that it was signed by Abraham Lincoln, it just blew me away."

Nearly three years ago, in June 2007, the State Library hired Vincent Beiderbecke as a student assistant to scan photographs, art work, and other documents for the Library's digitization project. The project was initiated in the late 1990s to help preserve these materials electronically and make them more readily available to the public through online access. The program today is directed by Senior Librarian Marianne Leach, who along with other members of the California History Section staff, create the catalog records that go with each of the images Vincent scans.

Pacific Mail
Steamship
Company's
Steamer City of
Peking, c. 1875.
Albumen mammoth
plate published
by Thomas
Houseworth & Co.
27¾ x 21¼ in.



THOMAS HOUSEWORTH & CO., Photographers

14 & 16 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Cal.

P. M. S. S. CO'S STEAMER "CITY OF PEKING."

in the California Dry Dock at Hunter's Point

Length 423 feet, Breadth 46 feet, Draft 26 feet, Tonnage Capacity 3,500 Tons.

JOHN B. COACH & SONS, Builders



(Above) University of California, Berkeley, c. 1875. Albumen mammoth plate photograph by C. E. Watkins. 15 x 20½ in.

(Right) Frisbie House and Pier, Vallejo, c. 1876. Albumen mammoth plate photograph by C. E. Watkins. 14¾ x 21¼ in.





Los Angeles and Independence Railroad Depot. Albumen mammoth plate photograph by C. E. Watkins. 15 x 21¼ in.

Vincent's work requires a high degree of technical skill and computer savvy. "It is very important that you get the color right; that the resolution is high enough so that people in the future can make very large reproductions and very large prints of these documents for exhibitions or for study."

Sometimes, though, documents are too big for the scanner, and that's when the ability to use a camera skillfully is essential. A photography major at California State University, Sacramento, Vincent recently had an opportunity to use his photography skills when the Library rented a high resolution digital camera to photograph 2,400 oversized documents that included images by two of the most renowned photographers of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Eadweard Muybridge and Carleton Watkins, as well as photographs from the Library's Gladding McBean collection, plates from large folio books, and lots of bird's-eye views.

It wasn't possible to capture some of the larger images in one take, even with the camera rented for this effort. Vincent explained that when you have a document as large as some bird's-eye views, you have to use a telephoto lens to take one, two, three, or more photographs in a pattern, and then using

the computer program Adobe® Photoshop®, you put all these together. He said in this way, "You can make a very high resolution final image with several hundred megabytes of detail." It is a process of literally "stitching the photograph together."

Vincent loves his work as a scanning technician and wouldn't mind at all if it turned into a permanent position. "The beauty of the job," he said, "is that every day you get to see something different. You get to see a new collection of postcards, or stereographs, or oversized photographs. The job never gets boring because of that."

Vincent has no time to become bored. He is a full-time student, taking four classes and holding down two and occasionally three other jobs in addition to his assistantship at the State Library. On Saturdays, he is employed as a darkroom assistant at Sacramento State, where he opens and closes the labs and helps other students with traditional black and white printing. He sells tickets at the Hornets' sporting events, and if the opportunity arises, plays his violin at wedding gigs.

Music is no minor diversion for him. He is, in fact, an accomplished violinist. Exuding his enthusiasm for the instrument, he explains, "When people say they play an instrument, the vio-



THE HIGH SIERRA



(Above) Vincent prepares to shoot one of the 2,400 oversize images from the Library's California History Section with the ingenious track mechanism he created to hold the camera with which he photographed the oversize prints and photographs.

(Left) Half Dome, Yosemite. Albumen mammoth plate photograph by C. E. Watkins.

(Below) San Francisco at the height of the Gold Rush, c. 1851. This beautiful chromolithograph was published in London from an image created by noted author Frank Marryat. 18¾ x 27¼ in.



lin — A violinist should say, I play two instruments, because you have to play the left hand, which is a whole technique unto itself, and you also have play the right hand for the bow, which is another completely different technique.” It is a very difficult thing, Vincent says, to put these “two completely different techniques and ideas together.” But to him, it is worth the challenge, time, and money to do it.

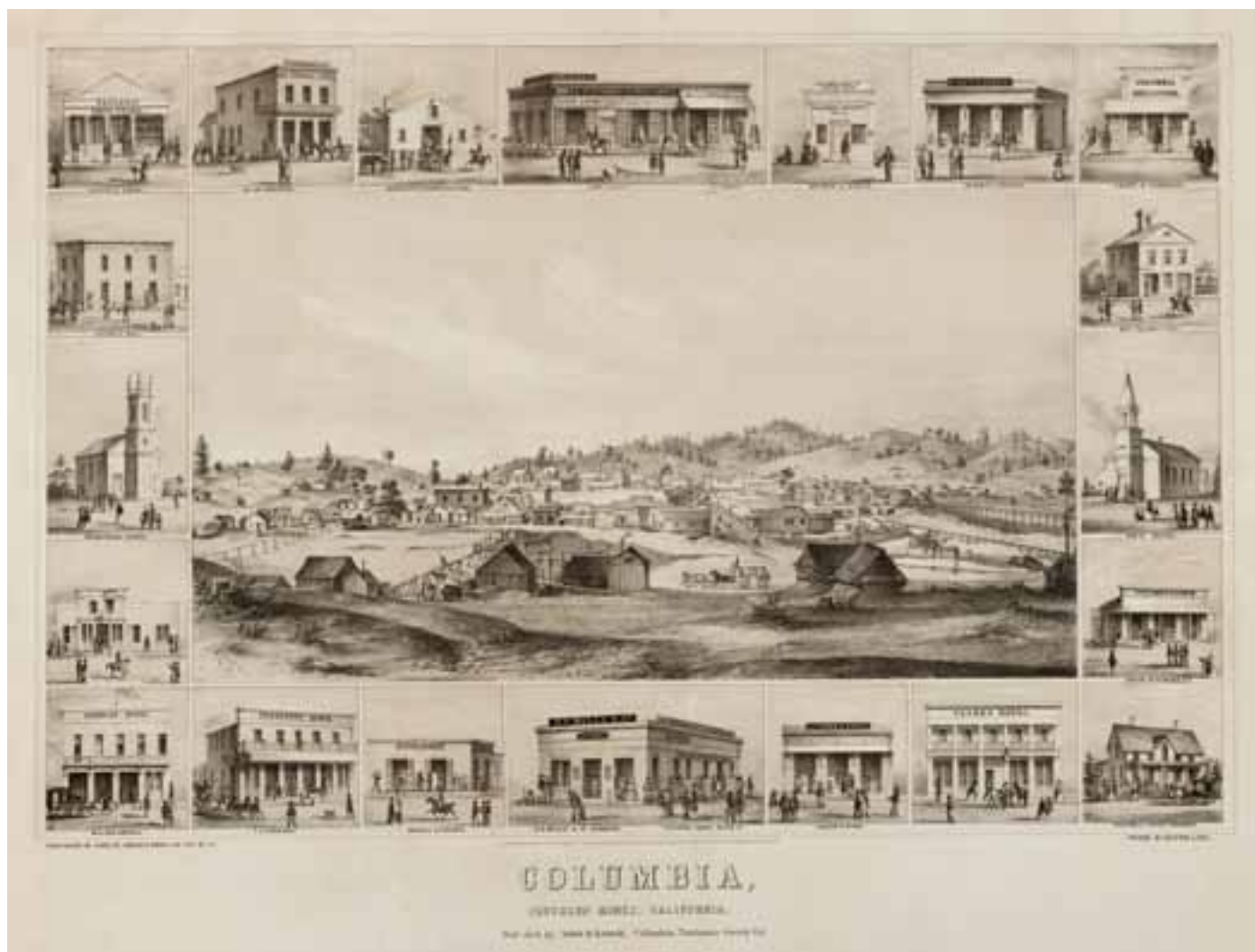
He has taken private lessons for most of the fourteen years he has pursued the instrument and still takes lessons with Anna Presler at Sac State. He has played in several area orchestras, including the Sacramento Youth Symphony, Sacramento State Symphony, The Academy at All Hallows Orchestra, and Folsom Lake Symphony Orchestra. Whose music does Vincent favor? The answer is Austrian composer Gustav Mahler above all others, particularly for his nine symphonies, noted for their length and expansive view of the world.

A year or so ago, Vincent formed a musical trio with some friends called the River City Classical Trio. The group performed at weddings and other similar gigs. Unfortunately, the opportunities to play at weddings seem to have declined with the economy.

A number of people have told Vincent, “I gave up the violin; I gave up the piano; I gave up a musical instrument when I was younger, and I very much regret that.” He doesn’t want to be that kind of person. Although he does not plan to pursue a career as a professional musician, he wants to keep playing, at least in community orchestras. No matter what other obligations are clamoring for his attention, he tries to pick up his violin every day to practice.

As a native Californian born and raised in Sacramento, Vincent tells you that Sacramento holds attractions for him beyond music, work and school. What he relishes about living in the

“Columbia, Southern Mines, California,” drawn from nature by Kuchel & Dresel, printed by Britton & Rey. 1855. 16¼ x 24¼ in.



state's capitol city is not so much the city itself, but all the "wonderful places you can go. . .," he says, "and how accessible they are." A list of favorite destinations includes Lake Tahoe, San Francisco, Bodega Bay, and Yosemite. But he has a special fondness for a place somewhat farther away — the redwoods in Northwestern California. "I have never been to a place on earth as spectacular as the redwood parks up in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties." Citing Jedediah Smith, Prairie Creek, Del Norte Coast state parks and Redwood National Park, he says, "It is one of the most pristine, beautiful areas in California, if not the most beautiful. . . . It is very humbling to visit those [parks] and to see the tiny remnants of what California used to have." He is appreciative of the Save the Redwoods League for its work in preserving the state's remaining redwood forests where he goes to hike and take photographs.

On Monday, it's back to his job at the State Library. This



Printed by the Los Angeles Lithograph Company, this now rare 1897 color poster advertised a major cultural event recalling the city's Hispanic heritage. 28 x 20 ¼ in.

U.S. Pacific Mail Ship California. Hand-tinted color lithograph published by Sarony & Major, New York. 21½ x 29¼ in.





(Above) Italian Swiss Colony, Tipo Wine. This beautiful chromolithograph poster was recently donated to the Library by John B. Dykstra.

(Right) "The Battle at Young's Cabin." This hand painted poster on canvas was one of three created to promote the lectures of George Sontag of Evans and Sontag fame. 43 x 31¼ in.

twenty-one-year-old is not only adept at capturing the detail in the photographs and documents he scans, but has a surprising awareness of how his role at the Library is part of a larger picture. He sees two major challenges for the Library: the first is the problem of adequate funding and the fact that as a state agency it doesn't have, as he phrases it "alumni" to support its programs. The second challenge is the ongoing problem of creating a public awareness of the Library and its treasures. "We've got some fantastic collections. Just beautiful photographs and albums and all different kinds of things, and people forget that we are here," he says. He sees digitization as one means of publicizing the Library and its collections. He explained, "When people go to the California State Library Web site, the big face of the Web site, I think, is our picture catalog. That is the place that people go to. They want to see photographs. They want to see

what we have, and so digitization projects are a big part in getting our name out there and letting people know that we have these things."

Vincent will graduate this fall. How does he envision his career path with his degree in hand? He hopes it will involve photography, but he is realistic about the vicissitudes of life, and how they can alter the future. "People often major in one thing in college, and they end up doing something completely different in their professional lives, so you can't place too much importance on what your major is. I could end up doing something radically different from photography later on." Given a choice, he would like to work in state service and to do something in terms of art reproduction or digitization projects, a description that sounds very much like the job he is currently doing for the California State Library. ❁

Hear **GEO. SONTAG**

who was sentenced to prison for life
and after serving 15½ years was
— pardoned. —



The Battle at Young's Cabin

Tell his life story on the
FOLLY OF CRIME
HEAR HIM NOW.



Gary Strong, during his peregrinations throughout California, enjoyed recording events with his camera.

My Part of 100 Years of California County Library History

By
Gary E. Strong
University Librarian, UCLA
State Librarian of California (1980–1994)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. Strong presented this paper at the annual meeting of the California Library Association in Pasadena, October 31, 2009.



First let me thank you for inviting me here to celebrate the 100th anniversary of county libraries in California. I am honored to have a moment to reflect on fourteen years of working with counties and their libraries while serving as State Librarian of California. When I arrived in the state in 1980, I immediately discovered that I was to have “general supervision of all county libraries” in my portfolio of challenges facing me as state librarian. Having driven a bookmobile in a county library early in my career, I had some idea of the challenges that would confront me.

Within the first two months, I had visited Riverside, Los Angeles, Yolo, and Ventura County libraries. In the early part of 1981, I continued with visits to San Diego, Fresno, Stockton-San Joaquin County, San Bernardino, Orange, El Dorado, Sutter, Butte, and Sonoma county libraries. During the next fourteen years, I would visit every county in California—many more than once.

I discovered that in addition to general supervision of county libraries, I was to serve as chair of a state government commission known as the Board of Library Examiners. It was clear, early in my tenure that this body was of questionable value and in the post-Prop 13 era state government was looking for ways of reducing state government. Sounds familiar, right? Well I would be the first state librarian to never call the Board into a meeting. While the Board never met, it did not remove my responsibility to oversee the appointment of county librarians or to become involved in the inner-workings of county libraries. But more about that later.

There are many things to remember about my travels across and up and down California and its libraries. But for today, I thought I would select some passages from my personal journal to share with you. These are impressions of the time and of each visit and certainly do not cover everything. But let me begin.

Joshua trees in the high desert in San Bernardino County, Catalina Island in the fog, terraced vineyards in Sonoma County, and tule fog in the Delta are the images of a diverse California this wandering state librarian experienced during the past few years of travel. I have many opportunities to travel and have seen every corner of the Golden State, and I often have the urge to share my observations about the people, the places, and the events I encounter during my travels.

San Bernardino County Librarian Barbara Anderson met me at the Ontario airport. We drove through the desert to the



Mr. Strong is University Librarian at UCLA; former California State Librarian (serving for fourteen years); and founder of the California State Library Foundation. He is a generous donor to the Library and Foundation.

Lucerne Valley for the dedication of the new branch in this community of about 10,000 people. Flying over the mountains on the approach to the airport, the flames and smoke reminded me how vulnerable these natural areas are to fire in the fall. Smoke, dust, and ash hung in the air as we drove away from the airport and began our journey.

Real estate promotion took on new meaning as we passed freeway interchanges around which homes have popped up like so many 7-11 stores. The strip developments line the sides of the freeway to attract those looking for lower-cost housing away from Los Angeles. One can stop on the way by and quickly select a new home as if it were a gallon of milk or a loaf of bread. This seems yet another attempt to solve California's horrendous housing problem, and it contributed to the rapid growth in this area. It reminds me of the bungalow boom that so quickly developed in many other areas of the state.

But the Joshua trees left the greatest impression on me as the sun slid toward the west late in the afternoon. The red sky cast shadows on the desert browns, the white oasis from Kaiser Gypsum plants stood out against the foothills of higher mountain ranges.

The Lucerne Valley people are wonderful—children, families, officials—good people who believe in and love libraries. People, who have come to celebrate a new community center, people who have fought hard to get this branch built and to talk us out of scarce LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) dollars to get it done. Such warm people—people who make a difference in this state. As is so for many small California communities, this new building will be the key building in town.

Sonoma County offers a wonderful weekend getaway. When coupled with dedicating the new Healdsburg Library, it was a tremendous retreat. David Sabsay and his people have designed a very pleasant new building for this community set in the “other” wine country. Private support here is creating a wine library as a dedicated portion of the building. It captures not only the rich history of the industry but of the area as well. The building is open and airy, accented with woods and other natural materials.

Conversation with the many diverse and interesting individuals who participated in this day's events was a true high. My wife, Carolyn, accompanied me on this one, and we enjoyed some relaxing time at the Vintner's Inn, a great spot in the heart of a vineyard. The large individually decorated rooms overlooked a central plaza and fountain. Rooms were comfortable and decorated with European pine furniture. The blend of French country charm and personal service afforded a restful experience.

Between trips to Lucerne Valley and Healdsburg, I found myself in South Whittier to dedicate a new branch library in the Los Angeles County Public Library System—a good turnout of

political and community leaders here as well. Located in a commercial area, the building will be a hit.

“They remind me of sleeping dinosaurs,” Catherine Lucas said as we headed toward the Pauma Valley. Glancing aside I realized they did—dark green, scaly-looking ribs rising out of dark brown valleys forming a long body with no head. This one must be asleep. We were driving into rural San Diego County to see firsthand new library service work with the Indian reservations, sponsored under an LSCA grant to the San Diego County Library.

As we drove, the images of dinosaurs stayed in my mind. Smoke rose from unseen chimneys set high in ravines above the highway. My thoughts flashed back quickly to Mount St. Helens. We were living in Olympia at the time that giant spoke emphatically. Will this dinosaur again come back to life? Citrus groves lined the highway, and a mushroom farm sandwiched among trees quickly passed. All too soon we were there and our attention turned once again to libraries.

Now in their sixth year, the workshops sponsored by the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners gave me the opportunity to talk with many library lay leaders across the state. The series began in Pleasanton, attracting over 100 people to this new library. Open, airy, and friendly, the library is a new breed and has a true community focus. It is evident as one walks through the public areas that people love their library. They like being there, and the staff likes having them. County Librarian Ginnie Cooper and her staff have worked hard to create a truly unique experience for people looking for books.

A month later, seventy people came together in Napa. The library here is well established and heavily used. It is wonderful to see people reading, studying, and listening to music. Stacks of books leave, held close in the arms of family members who paused to share their selections with each other before running out into the rain to their cars. They share and argue over who gets to read a favorite book first. Obviously their stops at the library are as important a Saturday family outing as shopping for groceries.

A trip that ended in Napa began several days earlier with a drive through the Central Valley, over Pacheco Pass and into Monterey for a meeting. Signs of new life were everywhere. Newly turned earth looked brown/black in the morning mist, and fruit trees bloomed against a backdrop of Kelly green. One is reminded how really dependent on water we are by the aqueduct that snakes its way through the valley. Like many reservoirs this year, the San Luis Reservoir is low by any measure. Shades of green spring forth covering the rocks and hills. It is so evident here how important agriculture is to the economy of California.

We shared Barbara Campbell’s* birthday and learned of her work to restore library service in Shasta County in a particularly

constrained climate of post-Proposition 13 funding. Libraries are beginning to recover some of the basic services and are now at least open so people can get to books.

The occasion of Calaveras County Library’s 50th anniversary afforded an opportunity to drive down to Sonoma to see the new library building serving Tuolumne County. Partially funded with a grant from the State Library, it had been dedicated before being fully completed. How different a library is when it is filled with books and people reading, for they are what make a building into a real library. Fund-raising continues to provide the much needed extras. Ground is being broken on the property for a senior center next to the library, and this new center will continue to grow. It looks quite different from the field I first saw several years ago, when the library was first proposed.

Driving north again, we passed Mark Twain’s cabin and arrive in Mokelumne Hill, where dinner had been planned in the historic Hotel Leger. An expected turnout of twenty to thirty had mushroomed to over 150, so the festivities had to be moved across the street to the town hall. Servers ran food across the street to serve the well-wishers. Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin spoke, challenging people to consider investing in California once again. She delivers a powerful message—her voice rings true.

One does not often have an opportunity to host the nation’s First Lady. Arriving at the Montebello Community Library, Mrs. [Barbara] Bush was greeted by Los Angeles County Librarian Sandy Ruben and me, and we spent an hour celebrating the success of the people and libraries of the California Literacy Campaign. After a briefing, Mrs. Bush viewed the operation of the literacy hotline of the Community Access Library Line (CALL).

Mrs. Bush heard firsthand from adult learners and tutors on how California Literacy Campaign programs have prepared people to succeed at reading and writing better at home and at work. She visited with each learner, hearing their personal stories and asking each questions. Fielding questions from the media during this time, she commented, “I’m here to cheer these people. I’m thrilled with what California has done.” She praised the statewide literacy campaign, but she added that there was still much work to be done to combat the problem of illiteracy.

Driving up the coast the next morning, I realized that I could not have picked a more beautiful time of year for such a trek. Fields were being prepared and many stood ready to receive seeds. The offshore oil platforms made me think seriously of the impact of the Huntington Beach spill of the morning before and of the vulnerability of our environment in light of the needs we force onto the ecosystem. The forest and mountains offered a peaceful drive into San Mateo. In between I stopped at several libraries, where I sneaked in anonymously to see what was happening.



Gary Strong at his desk in the State Librarian's Office in the Library & Courts Building.

Fierce, white foamy waves lick the blue horizon of the Pacific Ocean as I drive north out of San Diego's Mission Valley. Traffic moves north through the cities and open spaces slowly, but the clear weather and calm breezes make no demands to hurry. It gives me time to reflect on the celebrations of Partnership for Change [program] I was leaving behind—the smiling small Chinese boys full of mischief waiting to perform the Lion's Head Dance; firecrackers hung ready to be lit; drums, cymbals, and costumes giving finishing touches to the procession that led us into the library. Small, bright-eyed girls dressed in their native Hmong costume wait patiently for their time to dance. Announcements and a Mexican dinner followed.

An early morning start took us into the desert toward Indio, Riverside County where we stopped long enough to visit the library and for a quick walk onto the bookmobile that serves the agricultural workers as a part of the partnerships program. On our way again, we drive to Mecca for the dedication of a new branch library. First a quick drive by the old branch—an 800 square foot café, now closed. The new building is inviting and the community turned out for the festivities. People here really like their library!

Stratford and Kettleman City, two communities in Kings County opened small branches during December. I flew to Fresno, where Ivan Idelman, Kings County Librarian, met me



Mr. Strong, as State Librarian, was a passionate advocate for literacy programs. In this photograph, he happily assists First Lady Barbara Bush in receiving a check from Bank of America's Shelly Parges to create the California Literacy Fund for "The New Readers of California."

Joshua trees in the high desert in San Bernardino County, Catalina Island in the fog, terraced vineyards in Sonoma County, and tule fog in the Delta are the images of a diverse California this wandering state librarian experienced during the past few years of travel. I have many opportunities to travel and have seen every corner of the Golden State, and I often have the urge to share my observations about the people, the places, and the events I encounter during my travels.

to drive to each community for its dedication. Each library is definitely the best building in town and replaces formerly inadequate library facilities. Located in farming areas of the county, each community will be so much better served by these new facilities. The State Library provided grants under LSCA for each of the buildings, and local funds picked up the remainder.

Returning to the Fresno airport, I learned that the Sacramento airport was under fog, and the last flight had been cancelled. Wanting to be back home, there was no choice for me but to rent a car and drive the 160 miles north to pick up my car. The sky was clear, of course, when I arrived around midnight to retrieve my car and drive on home. The day was well worth it, though.

A month later, my stopover in Fresno was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with County Librarian John Kallenberg and to be on hand to speak to the annual meeting of the Friends of the Fresno County Library. They were a wonderful audience, even with the message of gloom for libraries. Spirited auction bids flew, several books found new owners, and the questions were right to the point about libraries, funding, trends, reading and more. It was great to be in the Central Valley even for a short time.

Whiskeytown, Oak Bottom, French Gulch, Buckhorn Summit, Iron and Sugar Loaf Mountains—each is a stop on a recent trip to Weaverville to dedicate the Trinity County Library building. Whiskeytown Lake shimmers in the afternoon sun—so inviting to the passing traveler, as it must have been to the settlers crossing the first time toward new homes and hopes for the future.

This project, a new library for Trinity County, seemed as if it would never happen. The grant from LSCA funds was first made in 1985. Things just seemed to keep getting in the way. The library had been housed for years in an 1856 blacksmith shop on route 299 snaking through the center of Weaverville. The little sliver of a storefront in the historic section housed the cramped library. The dirt filled ceiling overhead afforded fire suppression and the high ceilings captured all of the heat above books and people. Today this historic building houses a very pleasant art and framing shop. The new library comes into view across from the Forest Service station at the bend of the road. Framed by Oregon Mountain, the library beckons to readers in this remote community. Quite a day, quite a day.

A library to be dedicated drew me to Temecula in Riverside County. After a restful evening at the Temecula Creek Inn, I joined hundreds from the community to enjoy this innovative and exciting new building. The children's department here, in particular, is inviting and warm. You want to sit down and read.

Over one hundred people gathered in Palmdale for the first annual celebration of the library. Civic leaders, supporters, a couple of writers all joined together to celebrate the library. Speaking to this kind of enthusiastic group provides a lot of positives. Most important, the group made a big impression on the community about how important their library is and what they need to do to support it.

There are two other experiences that I would like to relate to work toward an end to my talk, that were unrelated to my travels. The first was the attempt on the part of the County Commissioners to close the Mendocino County Library in the early 90s. I contacted the chair of the Board and indicated that was certainly within their powers, but that I would have to recover the corpus of the LSCA grant I had given them to build the new library in Fort Bragg, plus interest. After a long pause, he said, "I'll get back to you." A few days later the county attorney called to tell me that I couldn't do that and that they didn't have to comply. Well, I was ready with chapter and verse, but mostly federal code which he didn't seem to have consulted and his fire died down pretty quickly. They took action to fund the library and keep it open.

On another occasion, the county manager in San Diego County decided that they needed to fill the county librarian's position and they also needed to find a new home for the county animal control officer. Even though the Board of Library Examiners had been abolished several years before, the requirements for a trained librarian were still in the statutes. My call to him was received, as one might expect, somewhat coldly. He told me that I could not influence this local decision. I informed him that "yes I could as I would hold to the requirements in the code." I offered to give this person time to acquire the required credentials, basically the MLS accredited library degree, but she was not interested in investing in that option. So the appointment was short-lived, and she moved onto other opportunities.

During my tenure as State Librarian, the state took four major steps in supporting local public library service during the 1980s: The Public Library Finance Act of 1982, the Families for Literacy Act in 1987, the California Public Libraries Construction and Renovation Bond Act in 1988, and the California Library Literacy Service Act in 1990. These initiatives came through hard work and collaboration. Each moved county libraries forward after the devastation of Proposition 13.

The other day I pulled out the menu for the 75th celebration

of the county library act held in conjunction with a CLA meeting in Los Angeles. It was a banquet which replicated the exact menu of the founding dinner in 1909 again at CLA. Former State Librarian Carma Leigh was the honored guest. I recall the many annual meetings of county librarians which I hosted in my office in Sacramento. One memorable evening was spent with Lawrence Clark Powell who came and shared his reflections on the theme of county libraries and his relationship with State Librarian Mabel Gillis.

As I come to a close, I want to ask that we remember James Gillis, Harriet Eddy, and May Dexter Henshall. These were the folks who made it possible for us to have this celebration today. They are unsung heroes in my library book, often forgotten by the library profession at large. What we have accomplished in California, I believe stands alongside the development of the great city libraries in Boston, New York, Cleveland, Detroit, and Chicago. And along the way, Carma Leigh, Virginia Hughes, Cy Silver, John Amend, Gail McGovern, Ann Kirkland, and many other State Library staff too numerous to mention here who worked on the library demonstrations that culminated in the establishment of the last county library in Lake County in 1976. Library development takes time.

Sustaining what we have created will continue to be a huge challenge. The State Library and the State Librarian play an important part of keeping the flame burning and the hope alive. Universal library service is still a standard toward which we should be moving. My very best wishes to those of you who hold that standard in place today. Thank you for listening to the ramblings of one of the old guard who believes deeply in what you do. Bringing people and books together, helping people empower themselves is still a noble challenge. ❀



**For many years Barbara Campbell (1929–2007) served on the Foundation's Board of Directors. From 1973-1984 she held the position of Santa Clara County Librarian and was an active member of the California Library Association (president 1980) and American Association of University Women.*

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This sixth plate of the half Cherokee author "Yellow Bird" (John Rollin Ridge) ranks as one of the great daguerreotype portraits in the Library's collection.



Daguerreotyping John Rollin Ridge, the First Native American Novelist

By Gary E Kurutz



Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wilson Ridge, the wife of the celebrated author.

One of the great daguerreotype¹ portraits from the California Gold Rush era is that of Native American author John Rollin Ridge. Piercing eyes, a bearded face, wavy jet-black hair, and a silk cravat preserved on the silvery surface of a daguerreotype form an arresting, magnetic image. One look and the viewer is spellbound and instinctively knows that the subject was a person of importance.

A few years back when the Library received a decent acquisition budget, this famed sixth-plate² (2 3/4 x 3 1/4 in.) portrait was offered for sale, and we seized the opportunity. Only three other daguerreotype portraits in the collection rival this one in importance: the half-plate (4 1/2 x 5 1/2 in.) of Captain John Sutter, the founder of Sacramento; a Robert H. Vance half-plate of William Richardson, builder of the first house in Yerba Buena (San Francisco) and owner of Rancho Sausalito; and a sixth-plate of Theodore Judah, builder of California's first railroad and the engineer who conceived of the Central Pacific Railroad.

John Rollin Ridge's fame rests on the fact that he is regarded as the first Native American novelist and first Native American professional writer. He is best known in California for his alluring, action-packed book *The Life and Adventures of Joaquín Murieta, the Celebrated California Bandit*. Reflecting his Native American heritage and adding to the allure of the book, the author is identified only as "Yellow Bird," the English translation of his Cherokee name, rather than by his Anglo name. Published in 1854, this work of historical fiction may also be

Mr. Kurutz is the Foundation's Executive Director and Curator of Special Collections at the California State Library.

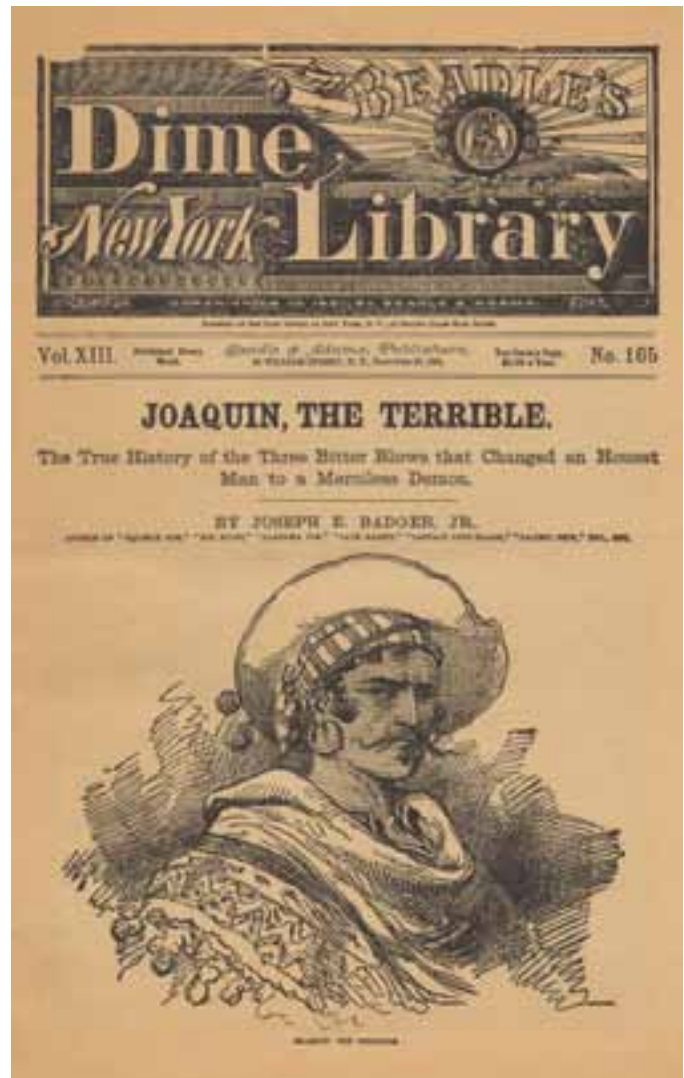
regarded as the first novel published in the Golden State. It also gave us California's first folk hero or celebrity bandit.³ Some have called Murrieta (now the accepted spelling) the "Robin Hood of El Dorado" who sought to right the wrongs inflicted on Hispanics suffering from the cruel hands of avaricious Anglo invaders during the Gold Rush. Ridge's book led to pirated editions, translations, dime novels, plays, movies, and as some have asserted, inspired the creation of that masked character known as Zorro.

Today, only two copies of this legendary work are known to survive in first edition. Alas, the State Library does not possess this rarity, but this sixth-plate daguerreotype gives the Library a unique Ridge artifact. When that distinguished group of bibliophiles and scholars known as the Zamorano Club of Los Angeles published *The Zamorano 80*, an annotated bibliography of the most important books on California history in 1945, Ridge's masterpiece was included. With this exclusive listing, its prominence skyrocketed. Institutions and collectors alike, however, have been frustrated because of the title's rarity, and when the only privately held copy has been auctioned, it has realized extraordinary prices. Henry Clifford's copy was acquired at auction by Daniel Volkmann in 1994 for \$69,000 thus completing his *Zamorano 80* collection. Then in 2003, Mr. Volkmann put his collection up for sale and everyone eagerly awaited lot number sixty-four, the Yellow Bird. When the auctioneer's hammer finally came down, a private collector paid an astounding \$86,250 for the ninety-one page pamphlet.⁴

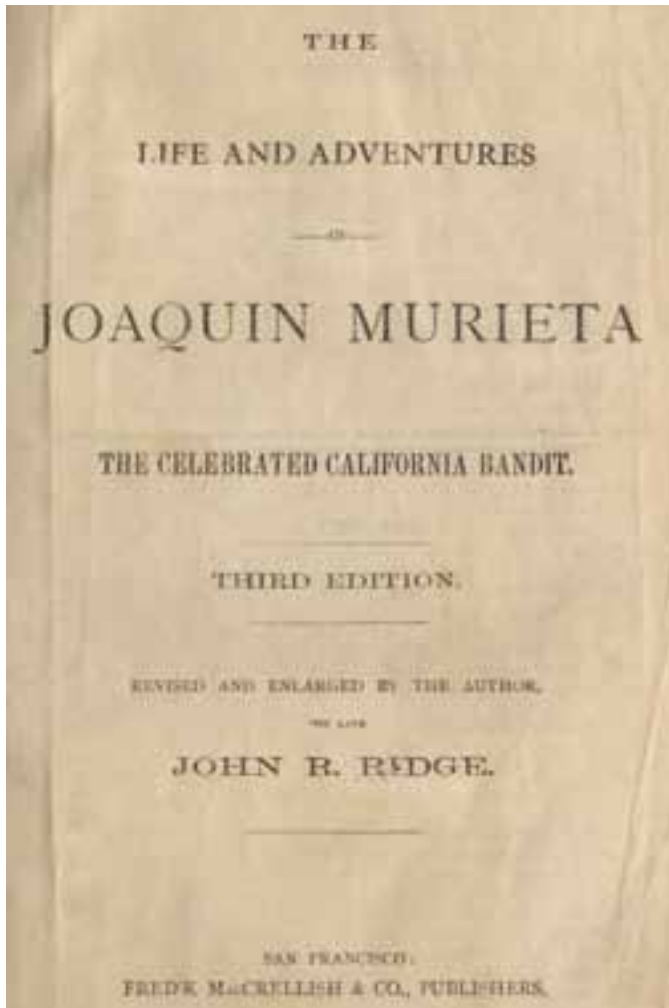
JOHN ROLLIN RIDGE: A SHORT PROFILE

The son of Cherokee Indian leader John Ridge was born in 1827 in New Echota, Georgia. In addition to naming him John Rollin, the new father gave his son the Native American name of Cheesquatalawny, which translated into English means Yellow Bird. Sarah Bird, Yellow Bird's mother, was a white woman his father had met while attending school in Connecticut. His grandfather, Major Ridge was also a Cherokee chieftain. In 1835 the Ridges and other Cherokee leaders negotiated the Treaty of New Echota with the federal government to remove the Cherokees across the Mississippi River to Indian Territory. They agreed to do this as the only way to save themselves from the incursion of white squatters on their tribal lands following the discovery of gold in Georgia. This concession of land and forced removal so upset other tribal members that they plotted to kill the Ridges. John Ross, another prominent Cherokee, led this anti-treaty faction. At dawn on June 22, 1839, twelve-year-old Yellow Bird witnessed the horrific murder of his father at their family home. Seeing his father dragged out and stabbed multiple times amid the anguished screams of his mother naturally

"[Murrieta] leaves behind him the important lesson that there is nothing so dangerous in its consequences as injustice to individuals . . . that a wrong done to one man is a wrong to society and to the world." – J. R. Ridge



The publication of the Murrieta story by Ridge in 1854 spawned a number of derivative publications including this 1881 Dime Novel, *Joaquin the Terrible*.



A San Francisco publisher printed a third edition of Ridge's book on the notorious outlaw approximately four years after the author's death. Only two known copies survive of the 1854 first edition.

left an indelible mark on the boy. Later that morning another group of Ross' followers gunned down Major Ridge. Thoughts of revenge against these assassins never left John Rollin Ridge's consciousness.

Following this bloody tragedy, his mother moved the family out of Indian Territory to the safety of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and sent her son off to Massachusetts to further his education. He returned home at the age of seventeen to study law and became involved in tribal politics. Like his father, Ridge met a white girl, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wilson, and they fell in love and married. She gave birth to their only offspring, Alice.

Again, like his father, young Ridge became embroiled in tribal politics. Bitter and revenge-minded over the murders, he got into a dispute with David Kell, one of John Ross's supporters. This erupted into a fight and Ridge shot him in self defense. Some believe that Kell was trying to provoke a fight as an excuse to kill the remaining male in the Ridge family. Fearing for his life, Ridge left Arkansas for Missouri.

With news of California's golden discovery, the determined young man headed west on April 18, 1850, seeking new and safer opportunities. He left Lizzie and Alice behind. Happily, they joined him two years later coming to California via the Isthmus of Panama. Ridge tried his hand at gold mining, but like so many others, did not strike it rich. California, however, offered promise in other ways.

Well educated and articulate, the transplanted Cherokee supported his family with his writing and legal skills. At various times he worked as an auditor, recorder, and deputy county clerk. He enjoyed a successful career penning articles, composing poems, and editing newspapers in various Northern California cities, including Marysville, Eureka, Red Bluff, San Francisco, and Sacramento. Ridge's most famous poem was entitled "Mount Shasta." From April 3, to July 29, 1857, he was employed as the first editor of the *Sacramento Bee* filling its pages with his own opinions and poetry. Although a devoted proponent of Indian rights, Ridge demonstrated that human beings are complicated and contradictory. He believed that California Indians were inferior to those of his own tribe and those in the eastern U.S. and that Indians should be assimilated into American society. As the Civil War erupted, he supported slavery; opposed Abraham Lincoln, but at the same time, defended the Union. He blamed the war on the abolitionist movement.

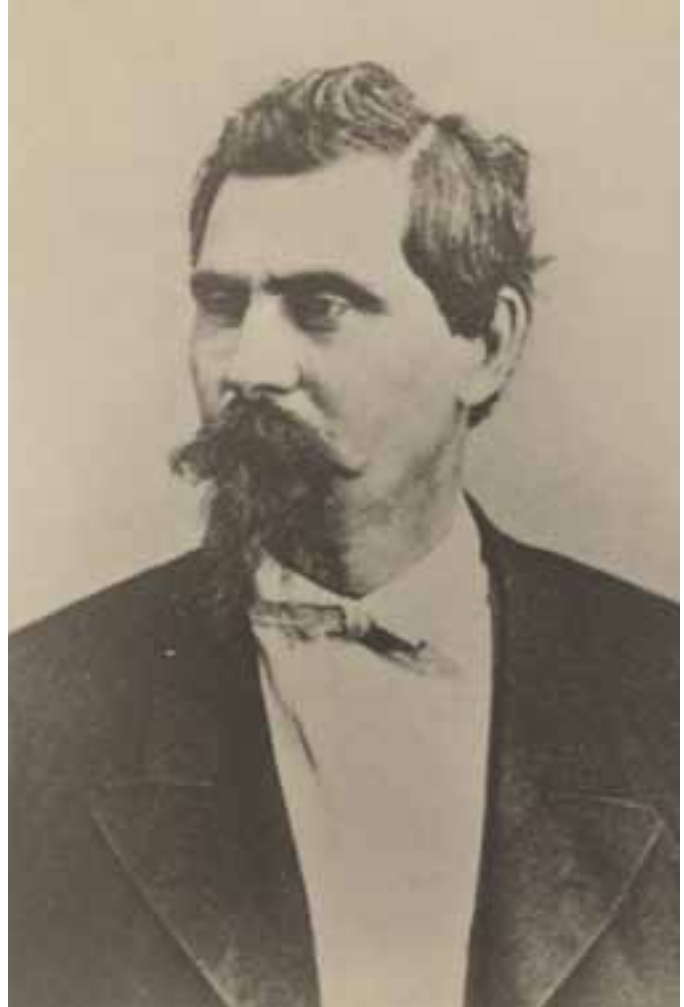
While covering events in his early California years, the journalist became fascinated by the exploits of the aforementioned Joaquín Murrieta. Murrieta's supposed death at the hands of Harry Love and his posse created a sensation, especially when the pickled head of the bandit toured California. John Rollin based his novel on interviews and extensive newspaper research

concerning the depredations of Mexicans as they carried out their war of revenge against Yankee California. He wrote it as a factual book and probably never thought of it as a novel. Interestingly, the book's title page carried the name Yellow Bird as the author rather than his Anglo name. No doubt, that decision added to the allure of the slender, wrapper-bound story. So convincing was his narrative that two of the great California historians of the nineteenth century, Theodore Hittell and Hubert Howe Bancroft accepted it as fact. Since its publication in 1854, the veracity of his book and indeed the actual existence of Murrieta have been hotly debated. Articles and whole chapters of books speculate on the reality of *Life and Adventures*. Dr. James W. Parins in his full-length biography, *John Rollin Ridge: His Life and Works*, classifies it as a novel. Experts on Ridge agree that the author saw a little of himself in Murrieta and his horse gang, identifying with a people who had lost their land, suffered injustices, and hoped to exact revenge on their oppressors. In the conclusion, *Yellow Bird* offered this moving passage:

He [Murrieta] displayed qualities of mind and heart which marked him as an extraordinary man. He also leaves behind him the important lesson that there is nothing so dangerous in its consequences as injustice to individuals—whether it arises from prejudice of color or any other source; that a wrong done to one man is a wrong to society and to the world.

Because of the richness of narrative and heroism or villainy of the main character, Ridge hoped to make a great deal of money through the sale of his Murrieta story or at least make a name for himself. However, given its extraordinary scarcity and conflicting statements by author and publisher, it is difficult to assess how well it sold. One version has it that all copies but a handful were lost in a fire. Ridge, however, claimed seven thousand copies quickly sold, making it a veritable bestseller. Ridge encountered one other unforeseen difficulty: his text was plagiarized. In an age before strict copyright enforcement, a pirated version appeared in the 1859 issues of the *San Francisco Police Gazette*. Subsequently, other versions of the Murrieta legend were published based on *Yellow Bird's* original story, including a dime novel (see illustration). This literary theft thwarted Ridge of hoped-for financial success and his plans for a follow-up second edition. Eventually a revised and expanded "third edition" was published (c. 1871) by MacCrellish & Company after Ridge's death. At least the San Francisco publisher credited Ridge as the author and acknowledged his contribution to California's literary heritage. After all, he did give us California's first great legend.

Typical of that era, journalists moved from town to town and Ridge was no exception. Eventually, he settled in Grass Valley and continued in journalism pushing for Indian rights. In 1866, the federal government invited him to Washington, D.C. to lead



John Rollin Ridge posed for this carte de visite photograph in the mid-1860s. It was used as the frontispiece for the posthumous publication of his book of poetry published in San Francisco in 1868.

a delegation of Cherokees to further promote their rights. It was his hope and dream that the Indian Territory would be admitted as a state of the Union. Sharply disappointed in the results, he returned to Grass Valley and died on October 5, 1867, at the young age of forty. Lizzie buried him at the city's Greenwood Cemetery.⁵ A year later Henry Payot & Company of San Francisco published a beautifully printed volume of his poems that began with a short autobiography detailing his pre-California years.⁶ Lizzie edited the work and held the copyright. Its frontispiece is an actual photograph of her husband (see illustration). As a further memorial, Lizzie planted a maple tree from Gettysburg at School and Neal streets in Grass Valley.⁷ In 1933, the native Sons of the Golden West placed a bronze plaque at his grave. Though these monuments honor Yellow Bird's memory, it is the daguerreotype that preserves the memory of his indomitable spirit.

THE YELLOW BIRD DAGUERRETYPE

When John Rollin posed in front of the daguerrian's camera is not known. Perhaps he had his likeness recorded to send to his wife and infant daughter when he left them back in Missouri while he searched for gold in California. Judging by the style of the leather and wood protective case, surrounding enclosure of glass and sheet-brass, and embossed velvet, the sixth-plate may have been made in the early or mid-1850s. Having a daguerreotype made was not inexpensive, and the look of his dress is indicative of a proud and prosperous man. Unfortunately, too, the name of the daguerrian who created this impressive portrait is unknown. Sometimes, though, those pioneer camera operators had their names or logos embossed on the protective velvet opposite the image but, that was more the exception than the rule.⁸

How do we know this is Ridge since the image has no identification? According to the dealer who offered the image to the Library, a Ridge family descendant sold the daguerreotype sometime in the 1950s and it changed hands among dealers of historical photographs over the decades. Furthermore, a comparison of photographs taken in the 1860s would seem to confirm that they are the same person. Later reproductions of the daguerreotype found in numerous institutions identify it as Ridge. Last, every major book that mentions the famed author includes a reproduction of that same daguerreotype. As further authentication, the paperback second edition of Parins's book published in 2004 uses the image as its cover illustration.

The Yellow Bird daguerreotype has been fully cataloged and digitized and may be found in the State Library's online catalog joining a galaxy of pioneer portraits. ❀



ENDNOTES

1. The daguerreotype or mirror image was invented in 1839 by the Frenchman Jean Jacques Mandé Daguerre. The image is formed on a polished copper plate that has been coated with light sensitive silver iodide. After exposure in a camera, the plate is exposed to mercury vapors and interacts with the silver to form a "latent" or visible image. The plate is fixed or made permanent with common salt and toned with gold chloride. It does not use a negative to create a positive image. Consequently, each daguerreotype is unique and cannot be duplicated unless it is copied by another camera or a scanner. The fixed image is protected by sheet brass and glass and placed in a sealed case as the silver plate can easily be rubbed off, damaged or scratched. The California Gold Rush was the first event in national history to be extensively documented by this new technology. Its popularity waned in the mid to late 1850s as it was supplanted by the ambrotype and paper prints made from glass negatives.
2. Half-plate and sixth-plate refers to the sizes of the actual image. Daguerreotypes are measured this way and range in size from a sixteenth plate (1 3/8 x 1 5/8 in.) to a whole plate (6 1/2 x 8 1/2 in.).
3. If you are interested in knowing more about the story of Murrieta; the wrongs done to him, the members of his gang of desperados including Three-Finger Jack and Claudio; his success in meting out revenge; the efforts to capture him by Harry Love; his gruesome death and decapitation; the reward given to Love by the State Legislature; the history of Murrieta's pickled head; and the California place names, books, films, plays, etc. recording his exploits please see the sources consulted.
4. These auction prices include the 15% buyer's premium. Thus Volkmann paid \$60,000 for the book plus another \$9,000 paid to the auctioneer. These prices do not include state sales tax.
5. Yours truly visited the modest grave and saw that Yellow Bird rests next to his wife, daughter, and other Ridge family members.
6. John R. Ridge, *Poems*. San Francisco: Henry Payot & Company, 1868. It was beautifully printed by Edward Bosqui, that city's finest printer.
7. The memorial tree suffered much damage in a storm during the winter of 2005.
8. The vast majority of the State Library's daguerreotypes are unidentified as to the maker of the daguerreotype. The Library does have examples by Robert H. Vance and George Howard Johnson, two of California's most prominent pioneer photographers.

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This bronze plaque was placed in memory of Ridge at his burial site in Grass Valley.

New Legislator Profiles: Assembly Members Alyson Huber and Paul Fong

By Mimi Morris

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ALYSON HUBER, EL DORADO HILLS

Assembly Member Alyson Huber 10th District (D-El Dorado Hills), is a California native, who grew up in several communities in the state. She served as a business lawyer and advocate of nonprofit organizations before seeking election to the California State Assembly. Huber has served on the boards of both the Junior League of Sacramento and a San Jose-based community theater group. She has also volunteered to help transition foster youth to independence.

Her decision to run for the Assembly grew out of her concern that regional problems were escalating in her district, which spans four counties: Amador, parts of Sacramento, San Joaquin, and El Dorado. Assembly Member Huber felt that a strong advocate was needed to serve this geographically wide-ranging district. Although she had never held elected office before and had never even served on a school board – the traditional path to statewide elected office – Huber handled her campaign and her first year as an Assembly Member with great confidence.

Her confidence no doubt results from her survival of multiple obstacles in her childhood, including economic hardship that resulted in ten moves in twelve years and her family's reliance on public assistance. The process of overcoming these obstacles resulted in the creation of an individual who truly believes that "everything is possible."

The uncertainties of Assembly Member Huber's early years smoothed out as she entered college. She is in the rare position of having attended all three systems of higher education in California, from undergraduate studies at the local community college to California State University, Chico to law school at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. She also had the opportunity to finalize her undergraduate degree in communications at Cornell University in upstate New York. Her extensive and successful experiences in debate activities at both CSU, Chico and Cornell combined with her knowledge of

the law acquired at Hastings has undoubtedly provided the necessary combination of skills to help ensure that everything is truly possible!

Assembly Member Huber joins a growing contingent of female legislative representatives in California. California's first four assemblywomen were elected in 1918, just seven years after women received the right to vote in California. Another ten women served in the Assembly between 1918 and 1968. The first female senator was elected only thirty-four years ago, in 1976. Today, Huber is one of thirty-three women serving in California's Assembly and Senate.

Her first legislative session is testimony to her comfort in her new arena. She served, in typical, multi-tasking, working-mother fashion, on four standing committees (Veteran Affairs; Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy; Higher Education; and Accountability and Administrative Review), four select committees (Lowering California's High School Dropout Rate, Preservation of California's Entertainment Industry, Regional Approaches to the State's Water Crisis, and Wine), and two joint committees (Emergency Management and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, JLAC), which she also chaired.

The economic crisis of 2009 – with its four state budgets in eight months – was viewed as an opportunity to work to more effectively focus limited resources. Assembly Member Huber ini-

Assembly Member Alyson Huber, representing El Dorado Hills.



Mimi Morris is the Executive Officer of the California Cultural and Historical Endowment, a program administered by the California State Library. She is a past contributor to the Bulletin.

tiated AB 579, which, though vetoed by the Governor, would have required an audit of the workload of paid board members where the boards meet infrequently and the members are compensated at over \$100,000 per year. Her goal was to ensure better usage of scarce public resources. In addition to AB 579, she authored eighteen other pieces of legislation, ranging from protection of the Delta to worker's compensation to political reform.

Assembly Member Huber has a deep appreciation for libraries and believes they will still be the information hubs in our society because virtual information sources can never replace books. Books, in addition to providing a different experience from reading documents on a computer screen, are part of our state treasures. She also feels that the library space itself is an important meeting place – a place that serves as a community-gathering spot that is used by all manner of community organizations. Her favorite library is the A.D. White Library, one of many specialty libraries located on the campus of Cornell University. The Andrew Dickson White Library was a quiet, hidden place on a hill overlooking all of Ithaca, New York. Part of its charm came from the extensive wood paneling and spiral staircases that provided access to its special collections.

When asked which period in California's 150 years of statehood she finds most interesting, Assembly Member Huber cited the Mission Era. Her appreciation for this period is reinforced by her memories of field trips to California missions and her fourth grade classroom full of mission reproductions. The State Library looks forward to sharing more mission history with Assembly Member Huber from its rich collection of California historical books and ephemera.

*Welcome to the Legislature,
Assembly Member Huber!*

ASSEMBLY MEMBER PAUL FONG, CUPERTINO

Assembly Member Paul Fong 22nd District, (D-Cupertino), a native of Macao, arrived in California at the tender age of three. He held multiple leadership positions in community college governance and community service organizations before seeking election to the California State Assembly.

His election in November 2008 was the next logical step in a career dedicated to preserving the civil rights of all Californians. While spending fifteen years as a political science professor at Evergreen Valley College and fifteen years as an instructor at Foothill-De Anza College, Assemblyman Fong served consecutive terms as president of the board of trustees for Foothill-De Anza Community College District. He also served on the boards of the California Community College Trustees, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Foundation, and the National Board of the Association of Community College Trustees. In addition to his work as a community college educator and leader, Assembly Member Fong and his wife run a retail flower business named the Flower Cottage.

He was inspired to run for elected office because of his desire to help Asian Americans gain a voice in their own governance, a goal for which he has advocated for almost forty years. In 1972, he helped found Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), a community services organization dedicated to the healthy development of youth and social justice. Throughout his adult life, he has also been very involved with nonprofit organizations that help families overcome poverty and provide more housing for individuals of limited means.

As chair of the Elections and Redistricting Committee, Assembly Member Fong has been able to evaluate and oversee state policy on elections and redistricting issues. In addition, his impressive list of committee assignments includes three standing committees (Banking and Finance, Higher Education, and Utilities and Commerce) and five select committees (Aerospace,

Biotechnology, Community Colleges, Domestic Violence, and Innovation and the Bay Area Economy).

In his first legislative session – a rollercoaster ride of a session that had legislators considering four budgets in eight months – Assembly Member Fong initiated twenty-one pieces of legislation that demonstrate the depth and breadth of his interests. The topics ranged from student safety on community college campuses to water conservation measures to multilingual disaster preparedness, a bill that addressed emergency notification strategies. But, he is best known for his efforts to get Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 42 passed by both the Assembly and the Senate. This resolution acknowledges the history and contributions of Chinese Americans in California and expresses regret for discriminatory laws and constitutional provisions that resulted in the persecution of Chinese living in California during those times. The resolution underscores a commitment to the idea that all men are created equal and the collective need for Americans to remember and learn from California’s “imperfect history” in order to strive to preserve the founding democratic ideals of our nation.

Assembly Member Fong loves libraries and believes they serve as a vital community resource. Libraries store all the knowledge and information amassed by humanity and are a dissemination route for that information to whomever needs it. The assemblyman believes this role for libraries will continue on in the new information age. His favorite library is the Martin Luther King Library in downtown San Jose. This library is enormous with a collection that takes up close to eight floors of space. The library is run jointly by the City of San Jose and San Jose State University, a productive collaboration that has created great opportunity and benefit for both the collaborating institutions and the residents of San Jose.

When asked which period in California’s 150 years of statehood he finds most interesting, Assembly Member Fong cited the Chi-

nese Discrimination Era, an era that began with the economic downturn that followed the Gold Rush and the completion of the transcontinental railroad. The weakened economy of the 1870s and 1880s led to a backlash against the many Chinese Americans seeking to continue working in California. The discriminatory laws which included the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied Chinese Americans the right to own property, bear arms, vote, marry a white person, attend public schools, testify as a witness, fish in California waters. In addition to the implausibility of making a life for oneself under such discriminatory laws, Chinese Americans were also the targets of anti-Chinese violence. In 1910, Chinese and other Asian immigrants were detained for lengthy periods of time for examination prior to entering the United States at the Angel Island Detention Center, the Ellis Island of the West Coast. The Immigration Act of 1924 included the Asian Exclusion Act which excluded all Asian laborers from entering the United States and remained in effect until 1952!

Clearly, this unjust chapter in California’s history extended well beyond the 19th century with minor and ongoing corrections still taking place. The assemblyman, with his commitment to heightening awareness of past and current discriminatory practices along with ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, is a welcome addition to the California Assembly.

Assembly Member Paul Fong,
representing Cupertino.



*Welcome to Sacramento,
Assembly Member Fong! ❀*

Foundation Board Meets in Woodland

On May 12th, Board Member Tom Stallard graciously hosted a Foundation board meeting in the Historic Cranston Building, one of his buildings on Main Street in downtown Woodland. Over the years, Mr. Stallard has actively pursued restoring venerable office buildings in this beautiful Yolo County city. The board meeting was followed by a short but fascinating walking tour.

President Ken Noack, Jr. opened the well-attended meeting. State Librarian of California Stacey Aldrich also was present. After the review of finances so ably delivered by Treasurer Tom Vinson, the board listened to reports by Ms. Aldrich and Executive Director Gary Kurutz. The Foundation board voted unanimously to finance the installation of an exterior sign above the front doors of the Library's 900 N Street building. Presently, the sign reads, "Library & Courts II." The appellate court no longer has offices in the building and the State Library is now the sole occupant. The new sign will simply read, "California State Library" and will greatly help in creating institutional identity.

FOUNDATION BOARD ELECTS TWO NEW MEMBERS

The board unanimously voted to invite noted historian **JoAnn Levy** and former Sacramento Assembly Member and Mayor Phillip L. Isenberg to join the board. Both enthusiastically accepted. JoAnn has been and continues to be an enthusiastic supporter of the State Library, especially its California History Section. She has achieved national prominence for her path-breaking books *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*; *Unsettling the West: Eliza Farnham and Georgiana Bruce Kirby in Frontier California*; *Daughter of Joy: A Novel of Gold Rush California*; and *For California's Gold: A Novel*. All are noted for their meticulous research and sparkling prose. An extraordinarily talented speaker, she always leaves her audience spellbound and wanting more. Mrs. Levy has appeared in several television programs and co-starred with the late J. S. Holliday in the PBS American Experience series entitled *The Gold Rush*.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Levy generously donated to the Library her papers documenting much of her writing career and her research material on the history of women in the West. Moreover, she thoughtfully contributed funds to the Foundation to

help with the processing of this wonderful gift. She is a model donor. With her assistance, the Foundation contracted with Marta Knight, a skilled archival processor. Marta made two trips to Mrs. Levy's home in Sutter Creek to work with her and receive additions to the collection. The JoAnn Levy Collection will be a treasure trove for researchers once it is fully accessible. An online finding aid has been created describing the collection's contents. The Levy Collection is a wonderful complement to papers of other California historians held by the State Library, including those of J. S. Holliday, Kevin Starr, Mike Davis, and William "Hutch" Hutchinson.

Phillip L. Isenberg was recommended to the Board by devoted member Mead B. Kibbey. Mr. Isenberg, a lawyer by profession, is one Sacramento's most distinguished and benevolent citizens. In 1975, he became mayor of Sacramento, a post he held with distinction until 1982. Following this generous service, Mr. Isenberg was elected to the California State Assembly representing the Sacramento region in 1982. Serving on various committees, he won reelection several times before retiring from the Assembly in 1996. Active with several community groups, he also teaches public policy development at McGeorge School of Law. Earlier this year, he was appointed to the Delta Stewardship Council and now serves as chair. His expertise with public policy will be of much assistance to the State Library, especially during these challenging times. ☘



The Foundation's Board of Directors met at the State Library in October. On the far right are new board members JoAnn Levy and Phillip Isenberg.

Early Abraham Lincoln Document Discovered

EDITOR'S NOTE

Foundation Executive Director Gary F. Kurutz was interviewed by radio and television stations concerning the discovery of an Abraham Lincoln document from 1832 in the State Library's James F. Reed Manuscript Collection. The following is part of the press release issued on September 19, 2009, by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

In one of the more unusual discoveries in recent years, researchers in Illinois, Utah, and California have confirmed that an original Abraham Lincoln document from the 1830s was carried by one of Lincoln's military buddies on the ill-fated Donner Party expedition to California in the 1840s. That document, an 1832 list of the men in a company of Illinois volunteers during the Black Hawk War, is located in the California State Library in Sacramento, where experts recently determined it contains Lincoln's original handwriting.

"We often find documents that detail fascinating stories about Abraham Lincoln's life and times, but it is rare indeed for the document to have such an intriguing history after it was written," said Daniel Stowell, director of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. "That these documents detail part of Lincoln's military service and that they accompanied the Donner Party to California makes them doubly significant."

"Our interest in James Reed's papers centers on the horrific ordeal of the Donner Party," observed Gary Kurutz, the head of Special Collections at the California State Library in Sacramento, "but it is fascinating to learn of his pre-California life, the Black Hawk War, and his association not only with a future president but also with the other fascinating personalities recorded on the muster roll, including noted Western explorer and mountain man James Clyman."

In February 2010, Donner Party expert Kristin Johnson, a librarian at Salt Lake Community College, contacted the Papers of Abraham Lincoln about documents from the Black Hawk War at the California State Library in Sacramento that might have been written by Abraham Lincoln. Pursuing this lead, Papers Director Daniel Stowell contacted Gary Kurutz at the California State Library about the possibility that there were undiscovered

documents written by Lincoln in their collections. Kurutz sent high-resolution scans of three 1830s militia muster rolls (lists of volunteers) and one corresponding military inventory document to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

The muster rolls were for Captain Jacob M. Early's company of mounted volunteers from June 20 and July 10, 1832. The inventory was also dated June 20, 1832. Each of the four documents had the name of Private Abraham Lincoln among the list of soldiers. Several experts on Lincoln's handwriting at the Papers of Abraham Lincoln and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library examined the documents and determined that Abraham Lincoln had written the title for one of the July 10 muster rolls. The two-and-one-half lines read, "Muster Roll of Captain Jacob M. Early's Company of Mounted Volunteers Mustered out of the service of the United States By order of Brigadier General Atkinson of the United States army on White Water Rivers of Rock River on the 10th day of July 1832." The remainder of the document is written in another hand, probably that of Captain Jacob Early, and is endorsed by Lieutenant Robert Anderson as Assistant Inspector General.

The documents are in the James Frazier Reed Collection at the California State Library. Reed was one of the organizing members of the Donner Party, a group of ill-fated pioneers that left Springfield, Illinois, in April 1846. Historians believe these documents accompanied the settlers as they endured a harsh winter in the Sierra Nevada and resorted to cannibalism to survive.

James F. Reed's name appears on the muster rolls just beneath Abraham Lincoln's, but it is unlikely that he had the documents originally. Further research revealed that Captain Jacob M. Early died in March 1838, and James F. Reed was one of two men whom Early appointed to execute his will. It is likely that Reed acquired the muster rolls and inventory at that time because they were part of his personal history. Attorney Abraham Lincoln represented Reed and the other executor in a case to sell land from Early's estate to pay his debts.

When Reed left for California in the spring of 1846, he took his wife, stepdaughter, three children, and his personal belongings, including the Black Hawk War muster rolls and inventory. As the Donner Party traveled along the Humboldt River

in northern Nevada in October, Reed quarreled with a teamster and stabbed him to death. Banished from the party without his family, Reed traveled on alone to Sutter's Fort in the Sacramento Valley. After gathering provisions, he tried to return to the Donner Party, but deep snows prevented him from rejoining his family. In February 1847, Reed was part of a rescue party that found his family, all still alive. Decades later, Reed's daughter Martha Jane "Patty" Reed, who was nine at the time of their transcontinental journey, remembered that when the Reeds abandoned two of their wagons in early September, her mother kept with her a small carpetbag containing the muster rolls and other treasured family heirlooms. When James Reed was expelled from the party, he left the papers with his wife, and "she brought them safely in her bosom to California when helped by the first relief party which went to their assistance."

Many people know that Abraham Lincoln was elected captain of a company of volunteers from Sangamon County, Illinois during the short-lived Black Hawk War of 1832 that took place in Illinois and Wisconsin. Fewer people know that two days after Captain Lincoln's company was disbanded on May 27, he re-enlisted as a private in Captain Elijah Iles's company of mounted volunteers. Iles's company was disbanded on June 16, and on June 20 Lincoln again volunteered as a private in Captain Jacob Early's company.

The muster rolls provide a summary of Early's company at the beginning and the end of its brief, three-week service. They reveal that Private Abraham Lincoln had a horse worth \$85 and equipment valued at \$15. The inventory indicated that Lincoln received one tent that was United States property to be returned at the end of his service.

The muster roll of Captain Jacob Early's company contains the names of many who later became prominent or who were associated with Abraham Lincoln's life and career:

- John T. Stuart of Sangamon County, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln's first law partner. Stuart settled in Springfield, Illinois, in 1828 and served as a major in the Black Hawk War before, like Lincoln, reenlisting in Early's company as a private.
- John D. Johnston of Coles County, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln's stepbrother.

- Gurdon S. Hubbard of Vermilion County, Illinois, a Chicago pioneer, fur trader, and meat packer. He built Chicago's first stockyard and served in the Illinois General Assembly in the 1830s.
- James Clyman of Vermilion County, Illinois, mountain man and explorer. Clyman traveled with Jedediah Smith in 1824, when their party rediscovered the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains that became a vital part of the Oregon Trail. He also explored the entirety of the Great Salt Lake in what later became the State of Utah. After serving in the Black Hawk War, Clyman returned west and crossed the Great Salt Lake Desert and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. On his return trip in 1846, he met the Donner Party at Fort Laramie. He advised James Reed to take the well-established California Trail rather than the Hastings Cutoff "shortcut," but Reed disregarded his advice. In 1871, Clyman recalled that Lincoln was in his company, but "we didn't think much then about his ever being President of the United States."
- Lieutenant Robert Anderson, Assistant Inspector General, United States Army. By 1860, he had risen to the rank of Major and commanded the United States army garrison in Charleston, South Carolina. Anderson's decision to move his command to the more defensible Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor and the inability of Anderson's new Commander-in-Chief Abraham Lincoln to resupply or reinforce the fort led to the bombardment and surrender of the fort in April 1861, thus inaugurating the American Civil War.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln is a project of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, whose goal is to identify, digitize, transcribe, and publish comprehensively all documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln during his lifetime, 1809–1865. The Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield and the Abraham Lincoln Association serve as project cosponsors. They have completed *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases*, published in 2008 by the University of Virginia Press; and *The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln*, Second Edition published online in 2009. More information about the project can be found at <http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org>. ❁

State Library Muybridge Images in Traveling Exhibition

Eadweard Muybridge (1830–1904) ranks as one of the world’s most famous photographers. English born, he is considered by many to be the father of the motion picture and is well-known for his studies of human and animal figures in motion, brilliant landscape views of Yosemite, and his 1877 panorama of San Francisco. The Corcoran Museum of Art in Washington, D.C. recently opened a spectacular exhibition interpreting his storied career. In addition, they published a sumptuous accompanying volume, *Helios: Eadweard Muybridge in a Time of Change*. The book and exhibit reevaluate Muybridge’s career “in the context of cultural and political milieus in which he worked, forming the first major retrospective exhibition to examine all aspects of his photography.” Phillip Brockman of the Corcoran curated this extraordinary exhibit that not only featured Muybridge’s photographs but also numerous photographic artifacts.

The Corcoran borrowed from the Library such noteworthy pieces as a large folio album of forty albumen mammoth plate views (16 x 20 in.) of Yosemite; single mammoth plate photographs of San Francisco and the Pigeon Point Light House in San Mateo County; a book that Muybridge himself signed and presented to the State Library entitled *Descriptive Zoöpraxography or the Science of Animal Locomotion* (1893); and an album entitled *The Pacific Coast of Central America and Mexico* (1876). The later includes a superb Muybridge letter and the title page is inscribed to Mrs. Wirt W. Pendegast, the wife of his defense attorney during his sensational murder trial.*

The exhibit opened last April 10 at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and will be at the Tate London from September 8 to January 16, 2011. It will then travel to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and will be on display from February 26 to June 7, 2011.

* On October 17, 1874, Muybridge murdered his wife’s lover, Harry Larkyns. Muybridge was tried in Napa and was acquitted by the jury for defending his honor. ❀



Pigeon Point Light House, San Mateo County, c. 1875. Albumen mammoth plate photograph attributed to Eadweard Muybridge. 21¼ x 16½ in.

The California State Library Foundation is pleased to announce the publication of *The Final Days of Father Miguel Hidalgo Y Costilla Initiator of Mexican Independence, 1811 Testimony and Recollections of Melchor Guasp, His Jailer.*

The Mexican Collection of the Sutro Library Branch of the California State Library has recently acquired an extraordinary manuscript on this, the Bicentenary of Mexican Independence and the Grito de Dolores by Miguel Hidalgo. The manuscript provides a moving eyewitness account of the final days of Hidalgo before his execution. Hidalgo is universally revered as the father of Mexican Independence.

Dr. W. Michael Mathes has translated and introduced this extraordinary manuscript. Dr. Mathes is Honorary Curator of Mexicana at the Sutro Library, member of the Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca, Academia Mexicana de la Historia, professor Emeritus of the University of San Francisco, and author of numerous award winning books on Mexican history.

Handsomely designed and illustrated, the edition of this bi-lingual publication is limited to 500 copies. Printed in full color and wrapper bound, the publication measures 9 x 11 inches.

Cost: \$21 including tax and shipping. Please make your check payable to the California State Library Foundation.

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