

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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T·H·E
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your continued membership to the HSSC and to mention some of the exciting events we've organized for 2016. I'd especially like you to mark your calendars for our upcoming conference on Saturday, April 16, 2016, which will address the theme of Journalism in Southern California. It will be at Occidental College, building on the success of our first conference there in April 2015 (thanks to the efforts of Oxy alum and former board member and President John Pohlmann and former board member Steve Hackel) on the theme of Religion and Culture of the Southwest. Further events will be the George A.V. Dunning lecture, Admission Day at the Old Mill, and tours to local sites—we would love to hear from you on what kinds of tours you would like to see. We will also be having a booth for the first time in years at the Festival of Books at USC on April 9-10, 2016, so please come out and support the HSSC!

It has been an eventful year: moving from Lummis House; hiring a new Executive Director, Amy Essington, and an accountant, Jose Granados, to oversee our finances and further the Society's mission; housing much of our collection of photographs, paintings, manuscripts, artifacts and books in temporary storage at the Homestead Museum in the City of Industry; passing a new set of bylaws; designing a new web-

site; bringing in new members on the HSSC board; and holding a series of events to meet the interests of our members. In addition to the conference, major events this year included Admission Day at the Old Mill with Avery Chief Curator of Rare Books at the Huntington Library Alan Jutzi as speaker; hosting writer Nat Read as George A.V. Dunning speaker at the Homestead Museum; and organizing tours of the library and archives of Mission San Fernando and Lopez Adobe in the San Fernando Valley. All of our board members were involved in preparing for and/or taking part in these events, and I thank them for their dedication, ideas, and enthusiasm.

In addition to providing a series of events for our members, we contribute to the intellectual life of southern California in other ways. We will continue to maintain the flagship of the Society: the *Southern California Quarterly*, which is the oldest, continuously-operating historical journal in California. Our editor, Merry Ovnick, and book editor, Allison Varzally, have done impressive work in furthering the scholarship of historians on a diverse array of subjects. Now that the journal has been available online for several years (and has moved from JSTOR to Highwire), the number of "hits" or the accession of articles has greatly increased, and we hope to continue that success next year.

(Continued on page 7)

HSSC EVENT: ADMISSION DAY AT THE OLD MILL



El Molino Viejo



Welcome from HSSC
President, Kenneth Marcus



Alan Jutzi

The Historical Society of Southern California and the Old Mill Foundation jointly celebrated the 165th anniversary of California's statehood on the evening of September 9, 2015. In what is becoming a tradition, the two groups met for a Mexican buffet in the Pomegranate Patio of the historic Old Mill in San Marino to honor Admission Day.

A large number of those attending were attracted by the after-dinner speaker, Alan Jutzi. A popular figure among historians and bibliophiles, he has been associated with the Huntington Library for over forty years. During much of his career, down to the present time, he has held the position of Avery Chief Curator of Rare Books at the Huntington Library. The subject of his talk was "The Huntington Library and Southern California History: A Recollection by Alan Jutzi."

Alan began by pointing out that Henry Huntington originally based his library on

European and early American sources. He had little interest in the history of California and the West. The magnificent collection of southern California material now held by the Huntington Library was brought to it by a series of head librarians. George Watson Cole, the first head librarian, came to San Marino in 1920 at the opening of the Huntington Library. He served in that capacity until 1924. Cole realized that the library's location demanded a collection of local history documents and began attempts to gather them.

A series of southern California acquisitions were made by Cole's successor, Leslie Bliss, head librarian from 1926 to 1958. Under his direction, the Huntington Library considerably expanded its southern California holdings by donation or purchase. Some of the major additions included the Benjamin Davis Wilson Collection (1933), the Abel Stearns papers (1937), the James De Barth Shorb papers (1950), and the Cave Johnson Coups papers (1958). The well-known historian Robert Glass Cleland assisted in obtaining documents of interest for the Huntington Library during the 1940s and 1950s.

After 1958, head librarians succeeding Leslie Bliss continued efforts to increase the library's southern California holdings. Robert Dougan, head librarian from 1958 to 1972, took in the De la

Guerra Collection (1962) and the Joseph Lancaster Brent papers (1966), among others. The head librarian from 1972 to 1990, Daniel Woodward, authorized the deposit of the early Los Angeles Superior Court archives at the Huntington Library. This massive and richly historical archive was assembled, transported, and catalogued by the late curator, William Frank. It is known at the Huntington Library as the Los Angeles Area Court Records.

The most recent head librarians, William A. Moffett, 1990 to 1995, and David Zeidberg, 1995 to present, have kept a staff of Huntington Library employees to locate and acquire documents related to southern California history. Within the last few years, numerous papers and collections have been added. The staff was sometimes aided by the late historians Doyce Nunis and Martin Ridge.

Alan Jutzi has long been a central figure in the ongoing collection of southern California history by the Huntington Library. His well-received talk was most informative and entertaining. A great part of the library's holdings can be attributed to his efforts. Few men are able to create such an enduring legacy.

By Paul Bryan Gray

Special thanks to Michelle Clark for the photos .

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER AND TREASURER: LARA GODBILLE

Lara Godbille has served as the Director of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, California, since 2003. She has always worked as the Curator and Archivist at the museum. Lara also worked as a lecturer in the history department at California State University, Northridge at Channel Islands. She re-

ceived her Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University. Lara curated both traditional and digital exhibitions for the travelling exhibit: "A Patchwork History of the San Fernando Valley," an exhibition traveled to Chatsworth Historical Society, Burbank Historical Society, and Little Landers Historical Society.

She was assistant curator for the exhibit: "Expressions in the Gallery," which was of the Getty's "L.A. as Subject" project that highlighted the archives from the central corridor of Los Angeles. The exhibition showed at the Watts Labor Community Action Committee in Watts, California.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER AND SECRETARY: DONNA SCHUELE

Donna Schuele is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science at California State University, Los Angeles. She was a lecturer in Department of Criminology, Law and Society and Adjunct Instructor, School of Law at the University of California, Irvine, for eight years. Donna is also an Af-

filiated Scholar at the Center for the Study of Women at the University of California, Los Angeles. Donna earned a Ph.D. and a J.D. from Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley. Donna was executive director and Director of Programs and Publications of The California Supreme

Court Historical Society. Donna worked as an associate editor for the *Southern California Quarterly*. She has presented papers and published articles, book chapters, book reviews, and essays on legal history and women's history.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER: EILEEN WALLIS

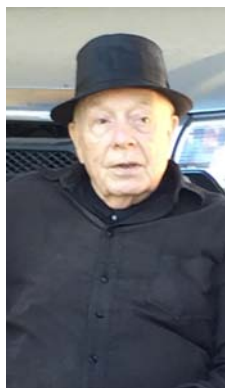
Eileen Wallis is an associate professor and chair of the history department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Eileen teaches California History, Southern California History, Women's History, and Public History. She is the author of *Earning Power: Women and Work in Los Angeles,*

1880-1930 (University of Nevada Press, 2010) and several articles about California and Western history including, "'Keeping Alive the Old Tradition': Spanish-Mexican Club Women in Southern California, 1880-1940" in the *Southern California Quarterly* (Summer 2009) and "'The Verdict

Created No Great Surprise Upon the Street': Abortion, Medicine, and the Regulatory State in Progressive-Era Los Angeles" in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* (2013). Eileen earned her Ph.D. at the University of Utah.



HSSC EVENT: TOUR OF SAN FERNANDO MISSION AND THE LOPEZ ADOBE



Welcome from
Monsignor Francis
J. Weber

On November 7th members and guests of the Historical Society of Southern California arrived to tour the Mission San Fernando Rey de España, named for King Ferdinand and founded in 1797 by Padre Fermín Francisco de Lasuén. Monsignor Francis J. Weber, priest, archivist emeritus, and author gave our tour group a warm welcome. His reputation as a distinguished Catholic scholar and a scholar of Southern California history is well known and we were indeed fortunate to meet with him. Following some interesting anecdotes from the monsignor we set off with his associate Kevin Feeney, who has worked at the Mission for 33 years, to explore the Mission.

The tour included the Convento, the only original building on the property and the largest two-story adobe building in California. Only the ground floor is open to the public, a result of necessary retrofitting against future earthquakes. Rooms are staged to show how the padres lived, to display artifacts, and to house donations from private collections. The Mission library is also housed in the Convento. At its peak Mission San Fernando produced wine from the 30,000 vines growing on their vineyard. The wine cellar remains in the basement of the Convento containing some historic viticulture equipment, including barrels and a wine press.



Kevin Feeney leading the tour

The Archival Center at Mission San Fernando is the official record repository for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Kevin Feeney explained the collections and research opportunities available to researchers. The Archival center is a separate structure on the mission property and contains a diverse assortment of documents, books, brochures and historical mementos and ephemera associated with the Catholic Church in the southland. The Center is used regularly by academics conducting research for publications and by individuals searching family history through the baptismal, death and marriage records of the church.

Following the tour of Mission San Fernando our group traveled a few blocks to the Lopez Adobe in the City of San Fernando. Paul Spitzzeri, Second Vice-President of HSSC and consultant to the city of San Fernando and the Lopez Adobe, led our tour. Construction on the adobe was ongoing from its start in the 19th century and although few original pieces of furniture remain, the effort to furnish the adobe appropriately has been successful. We learned of the people who lived there and some of the important events in their lives.



Lopez Adobe

California's weather was at its best for the first in a series of tours arranged for HSSC members and friends. We concluded with lunch at Los Tres Hermanos in San Fernando, within walking distance from the adobe. Traditional Mexican food with lively conversation was an enjoyable way to end our excursion. If touring historic sites in the southland is of interest to you, keep a watch for the announcement of more opportunities in 2016.

By Linda Mollno

HSSC MEMBER SURVEY

The HSSC Board would like to hear from you. The board would like input from members about the future of the organization. A survey has been created through Survey Monkey. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/thehssc> and complete the short survey. If you would like a printed copied mailed to you to complete, email hssc@thehssc.org or call 323-222-0546. Please complete the survey by February 10, 2016. Your responses will be anonymous. Thank you for your input.

MIDCENTURY HSSC EXCURSIONS

With the HSSC visit to San Fernando Mission and Lopez Adobe on Saturday, November 7, 2015, member tours resumed. This article will describe four tours chosen from quarterlies in the author's possession. Each all-day Saturday tour was "by Tanner Motor Coach travelling on mapped highways."

25th Annual Pilgrimage, June 21, 1952

Portola's 1769 route to the sea was followed. Route: Wilshire Blvd., Sepulveda Blvd., Ventura Blvd. to Camarillo, Santa Clara River to Pacific Coast Highway to Ventura. Passed and noted: La Brea Tarpits, U.C.L.A. (Indian village and spring), Rancho Los Encinos, El Triunfo Peak, Rancho Calleguas.

The first stop was at Camarillo Community Center welcomed by Judge David Flynn. Then resuming Portola's route to the sea along the southern side of the Santa Clara River to Port Hueneme, founded 1871. Turning north passed by Olivas Adobe to Ventura's Foster Park. Members of the Ventura County Historical Society joined H.S.S.C. for a picnic lunch followed by two speakers. J. Gregg Layne spoke of "long existing amenities between Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, and then told of the various early day bandidos that infested both counties in common." Judge Frederick Houser told of "early legal lights of Ventura County." The day concluded

with a leisurely tour of Ventura County Pioneer Museum with its extensive displays and rare historical objects.

26th Annual Pilgrimage, June 13, 1953

The main focus of this excursion was to place a bronze plaque at the site of the establishment in 1853 of an Indian Reservation which really met the criteria of aiding indigenous people, helping them to preserve their culture and make a good living.

The first stop was Campo de Cahuenga, then a pause to "view the trembling cascade of Owen's Valley River water." Next were passed the old Troll House, Placerita Canyon where California gold was mined in 1841, Railroad Canyon-earliest oil refinery, then up the "Grapevine" to Fort Tejon. The Kern County Historical Society and H.S.S.C. joined for a picnic lunch, followed by the unveiling of the plaque with this inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF
LIEUTENANT EDWARD
FITZGERALD BEALE 1ST
SUPERINTENDENT OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS IN
CALIFORNIA APPOINTED
BY PRESIDENT MIL-
LARD FILLMORE 1853

Following the dedication, guests were guided through the old buildings... some were in complete repair while others were in various stages of restoration.

29th Annual Pilgrimage, June 15, 1957

A three hour mountain ride through Angeles Crest and Angeles Forest Highways brought the Historical Society to Lang Station in Bouquet Canyon to place a plaque acknowledging the Golden Spike placed in 1876 by Charles Crocker initiating the first rail service between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The next stop in Placerita Canyon viewed the Oak of Golden Dreams under which a wild onion hunter found gold particles clinging to onion roots. \$80,000 in gold was recovered as a result of this 1842 discovery. Finally lunch was served in nearby Saxonia Park. After four speeches, the return trip via Newhall passed the earliest oil refinery and the Owen's River aqueduct.

30th Annual Pilgrimage, June 21, 1958

This reports lists a very ambitious day, and the numbers of the Landmarks visited: 151-Campo Cahuenga, 150-Brand Park Memorial Garden, 157-San Fernando Mission, 362-Andres and Romolo Pico Adobe, 653-Owen's River Aqueduct. Then on Highway 99 to Castaic Junction and west to Rancho Camulos of "Ramona" Fame where coffee was served under a giant black walnut tree.

On the way to the main Ventura destination the caravan passed through Piru (Home to 100 California Condors), Fillmore, and Santa Paula (California Oil

Museum and the beginnings of Union Oil Company, 1890).

In Ventura lunch was served at the Mission School by the Altar Society. Speeches were given by HSSC officers and officers of the Ventura County Historical Society, followed by a Mission tour. Ranch Calleguas in Camarillo was next with "Old Spanish Hospitality," refreshments, Spanish music by orchestra, and an equestrian display by Don Adolfo Camarillo's daughters, granddaughters, and great granddaughters riding their splendid white horses.

Not enough? Additional short stops on the homeward journey were Stage Coach Inn, Newbury Park; Leonis Adobe, then owned by actor John Carradine, who greeted them; and passing Rancho Los Encinos. "Arrived back at Elk's Club (headquarters) about 8 p.m., tired but enchanted with a wonderful day."

SOURCES CONSULTED:

Aside from several maps, the most valuable reference was California Historical Landmarks, Sacramento, 1971, (upon consulting the state park service I was told an updated 1996 edition is available through Amazon for 35 cents!)

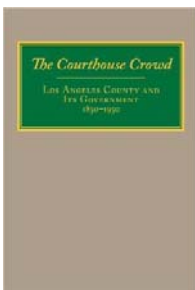
By Ann Walnum



Welcome from Paul Spitzer, HSSC Second Vice-President and Assistant Director at Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum



Nat Read



HSSC EVENT: 17TH ANNUAL GEORGE A. V. DUNNING LECTURE

The 2015 Dunning Lecture, endowed by longtime HSSC board member George Dunning, was presented at the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum in the City of Industry by Nat Read and detailed the remarkable and varied life of Benjamin D. Wilson.

Read, who has a history degree and long experience in public relations and marketing, has an engaging and humor-laced style of presentation. Based on a biography published in 2008, his talk included anecdotes of the Tennessee-born Wilson's several near-death experiences, his arrival in Mexican California in 1841 and quick rise to the top of the economic and social order of the frontier town of Los Angeles; his service as county clerk, mayor and state senator; and his successes in ranching and farming in the San Gabriel Valley and elsewhere in the region.

Wilson was first married to Ramona Yorba of a prominent *Californio* family which owned much of today's Orange County. After her death, he married Margaret Hereford, a recent arrival to the area. Shortly afterward, Wilson acquired former Mission San Gabriel land called *Huerta de Cuatí*, which he renamed Lake Vineyard, provided him with some of the choicest, well-watered lands in the area.

Read concluded his presentation with the observation that Wilson's daughter, Ruth, married a young former Confederate officer and that their son was none other than the renowned World War II general George S. Patton, Jr. The land the Pattons received from Wilson passed to railroad and real estate tycoon Henry E. Huntington and the Huntington Library, Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens is one well-known cultural connection to the fascinating figure that was Benjamin D. Wilson.

After the talk, Read sold and signed copies of his biography of Wilson, while guests enjoyed some refreshments. There was also a small display of Wilson-related items from the collection of the Homestead Museum, as well as a recently-unearthed artifact that has been long in the possession of the HSSC: an original deed from 1853 for land sold by Wilson to three men for property on Main and Commercial streets in Los Angeles. About fifteen guests also toured the Workman House and La Casa Nueva, the pair of historic houses on the grounds of the Homestead Museum.

All told, it was a fine day for hearing about interesting aspects of our local history and an excellent way for the HSSC to close out its programs for 2015.

HSSC BOOKS FOR SALE

The HSSC is offering books published by the organization for sale through our website. Go to thehssc.org and select "Publications" from the menu bar.

Book titles include the most recent HSSC publications of *George Carson: Los Angeles Pioneer* (2014) and *The Courthouse Crowd: Los Angeles County and Its Government, 1850-1950* (2013). Many other titles are available. The full list of available books for sale and PDF order forms is available on our website.

The HSSC is no longer selling back issues of the *Southern California Quarterly*. Issues from Volume 95, no. 1 are available through the University of California Press through their website: <http://scq.ucpress.edu/>

NEW HSSC WEBSITE

The HSSC website has undergone some major changes in the last few months. First, the website has a new address. It is now thehssc.org/ This address is more reflective of the name of the organization. If you type in the old address, socialhistory.org, you will be redirected to the new site. If you had created a login on the old site to access the *Southern California Quarterly* online, you will have to request a new login through the new site. A form is available on the Members' Page of our website, <http://thehssc.org/membership/members-page/> The new contact email for the organization is hssc@thehssc.org.

The new site also has a new look. The new look allows for more interaction with each of the sections and connects to our social media sites. New content will be added to the site in the coming months including information about the history of the organization.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY ONLINE ACCESS

University of California Press, the publisher of the *Southern California Quarterly*, has moved the online access of the journal from JSTOR to Highwire. This new site allows the HSSC to publish more dynamic information on the *Southern California Quarterly* page on the University of California Press website, <http://scq.ucpress.edu/> about the journal and the organization. Members will still be able to access all of the issues posted by UC Press.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

During the conference this year we arranged an awards ceremony for distinguished books, articles, and community involvement and will do so again in the fall of 2016. To that end we have established a new set of guidelines and committees for all awards.

It was also a year of bequests and memorials. The Society was the very fortunate recipient of three bequests this year: one by the Jane G. Carruthers Charitable Remainder Trust, another by the Trust of Gloria Ricci Lothrop, and a third was announced by HSSC member Jasper Schad in his will: to create an annual award for the best article in the *Southern California Quarterly* in honor of our editor of the *Quarterly*, Merry Ovnick. These gifts help maintain the Society's ability to carry out its goals, and we are deeply grateful for the dedication of these members. The memorial receptions this year for Gloria Lothrop at the Mission San Fernando, and for Leonard Pitt at Cal State Northridge, respectively, serve as a reminder of the far-reaching contributions of these scholars who contributed in many ways to the intellectual and cultural life of the region.

Finally, three board members have stepped down from the board this year: John Pohlmann (2002-15, President 2006-14), Bill Barger (Treasurer, 2007-15), and Steve Hackel (2010-15), and we thank them enormously for all their contributions to the Society's mission. We welcome three new board members: Lara Godbille, Donna Schuele, and Eileen Wallis, and greatly appreciate their interest in the HSSC and willingness to serve.

The Historical Society of Southern California endeavors to preserve, interpret, and promote the history of southern California and the West, and above all we want to be sure we are meeting the goals and interests of our members. Please keep your eye out for an upcoming survey on the current interests of HSSC members, either online, by mail or phone, and tell us what you would like to see in your Society; board member Ann Walnum may already have contacted many of you. You can visit us on our website, on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter or Instagram, and we invite you to attend as many events as possible; we look forward to seeing you there.

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HISTORICAL
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Upcoming HSSC Events

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

April 9-10, 2016
University of Southern California

2016 HSSC Annual Conference

Saturday, April 16, 2016
8:30am-4:30pm
Occidental College
“Journalism in Southern California”

Registration information will be available in February 2016.

Confirmed speakers include: Bill Boyarsky, Regina Freer, Paul Bryan Gray, Felix Gutierrez, Larry Harnisch, David Hayes-Bautista, Jim Newton, Merry Ovnick, Kevin Roderick.

Check thehssc.org for event details.



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