

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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 T · H · E
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We heard you loud and clear! The results from our membership survey are in. There were 45 respondents, and the results are conclusive. Members want us to organize more events, especially tours (and not solely in the Los Angeles area); they would like to continue to see the *Southern California Quarterly* in print; most are fine with the newsletter being emailed as a pdf file rather than in hard copy; and some would like to see the Society taking on more of an educational role in the sense of being more engaged with the actual teaching of history. The Board is earnestly considering these and other issues and we endeavor to make sure that we are meeting the needs of our members and as we adapt the Society to the changing environment of Southern California. Thanks go to our Executive Director, Amy Essington, for assembling the survey with Board input and in crunching the data.

On that note, please keep your eye out for upcoming events that we have scheduled. Begin by putting our annual conference on your calendar and register at your earliest convenience. It will take place at Occidental College on Saturday, April 16, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with an intermission for lunch. The theme this year is “Journalism in Southern California,” spearheaded by HSSC Board member Paul Bryan Gray, who has assembled a sterling cast of participants: David Hayes-Bautista, Felix Gutierrez, Merry Ovnick, Amina Has-san (who has recently published a book on civil rights attorney Loren Miller), Larry Harnisch, Bill Boyarsky, Kevin Roderick, and Jim Newton. There will be panels as

well as formal presentations, with plenty of opportunity for discussion and analysis, and Q and A for conference attendees. More information is available on our website, www.thehssc.org. This will be our second year at Occidental College; last year’s conference owed much to the diligent efforts of former Board member and Oxy alumnus John Pohlmann, and we hope this year’s conference will be even more successful than last year’s. So do please register! (See the enclosed form.)

In terms of other forthcoming events, we have several in the works. There will be a tour of both the Homestead Museum and the newly-opened John A. Rowland House in the City of Industry, to take place on Saturday, March 19. See the insert for further details. We will have a booth at the Festival of Books on April 9-10 at USC. We are planning a tour of the St. Francis Dam and Hart Museum in June, and our George A.V. Dunning speaker will be Professor Vicki Ruiz, to take place at the Humanities Gateway at UC Riverside on Saturday, November 5; Professor Ruiz plans to speak on “Why Latino Studies Matter.” We very much hope you can join us for any or all of these events, and more are to follow.

With the purpose of interpreting, preserving, and promoting the diverse history of Southern California and the West, we offer multiple opportunities for members to take part and be involved. Thank you for all those who contributed to the survey, and as always, we welcome your input and ideas.

HSSC MOVE YIELDS HISTORIC TREASURES!

As the HSSC hurriedly vacated the Lummis Home early in 2015, temporary storage for the organization's institutional records and historic artifacts was obtained at two locations: the Homestead Museum in the City of Industry, for what, at the time, were considered to be the most valuable objects, and a public storage facility in Pasadena for the records.

Over the course of the year, however, a good many more objects were sorted through in Pasadena and transferred to the Homestead in October and November. Plans are now being made to arrange, inventory and determine what to do with these artifacts so that they can best be made available to the public.

In the meantime, the initial sorting yielded some remarkable treasures. Perhaps the most notable of these was the discovery, in a box of unrelated material, a 1950s-era Society envelope with two worn leather pocket notebooks, donated to the HSSC by Clement J. Gagliano in 1954.

One of these turned out to be a diary kept from January through September 1865 by Charles M. Jenkins, the only Los Angeles resident who fought for the Union Army during the Civil War. Unfortunately, this amazing artifact remained hidden in storage for over 60 years, even as the *Southern California Quarterly*, the Society's journal, published, in 2006, a biographical sketch of Jenkins by Louis DiDonato, a Rancho Cucamonga high school teacher.

Jenkins, a native of Ohio, moved to Los Angeles with his family in the early 1850s. He was twenty-four when joined the Second Massachusetts Cavalry in 1863 and was in Virginia when he was captured that

summer by the Confederates during a battle. He was sent to a couple of prisons in that state before being transferred to the notorious Andersonville POW camp. Unlike many thousands, Jenkins survived, albeit with physical problems that lasted the rest of his life, and he was released after about a year and sent to a Union "parole camp" at Annapolis, Maryland.

While at the parole camp, Jenkins wrote, on November 28, 1864, a letter sent to his mother, Elizabeth, in Los Angeles informing her that he was alive. This missive was found, in four pieces, tucked into the diary. In the correspondence, Jenkins wrote of his desire to return to his unit, which was still in Virginia, so he could "get square with the rebs."

The diary began on New Year's Day 1865 and ran through September 24, with a couple of entries penned in early December. The journal contains Jenkins's accounts of

marches, camp life, encounters with places and people in Virginia, and the battles in which he fought before the war finally concluded with the surrender of Robert E. Lee and Appomatox on April 9. Jenkins was there for the cessation of hostilities.

He also recorded the news of President Lincoln's assassination and his remaining weeks of Army service until he was finally discharged in July. The journal follows him back to Massachusetts for the formal release of service, then to New York from where he shipped out, his journey by steamer to Central America and then another voyage up the coast to San Francisco. After a brief stay in that city, he finally made his down to Los Angeles.

The diary only captured a few days after his return and reunification with family and friends before it abruptly ended (excepting the posting of entries on December 8 and 9.) Otherwise, the journal contains

notes, financial calculations, names and addresses, and listings of men in his company who had deserted or were dead, discharged, transferred to another unit or present.

In order to share this remarkable artifact with the broader public, a series of posts about the Jenkins diary have been appearing on the Homestead Museum blog. One month of entries and images of pages from the journal are being covered in each weekly post, which should run through early to mid-March.

To see these posts, the URL is <https://homesteadmuseum.wordpress.com/>. Meantime, keep an eye peeled for the next issue of *The Southern Californian* when another unearthed Society treasure will be shared.

By Paul Spitzzeri

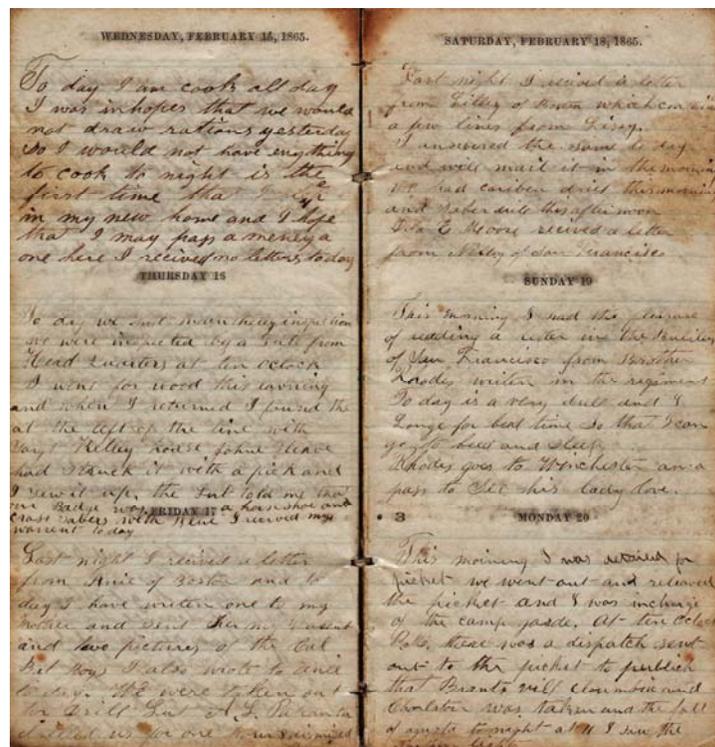


Image of page of the Charles M. Jenkins Diary from the HSSC Collection

HSSC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE CHANGE

The process of membership renewal for the HSSC will be undergoing a change in the next six months. All members will switch from a twelve-month membership to a yearly membership from November to November. The board has selected November as it is when the term of service of board members begins and ends and when the board has its annual meeting. With all members renewing at the same time, it will be easier to remember the membership renewal date. Hopefully, it will require less mailing of membership renewal reminders and eliminate any missed SCQ issues for those whose renewal falls during the SCQ mailing period.

The HSSC will implement this change in the next six months. Your renewal letter will include details of the amount to pay and when to submit the payment. Membership for 2016 will be prorated for those who normally renew in the spring and summer and then everyone will receive a renewal letter in October for the 2016-2017 membership year. Your membership date is included on your mailing label.

Members with an expiration date of 4/1/2016 will be asked to renew at 50% of their yearly rate. Members with an expiration date of 7/1/2016 will be asked to renew at 25% of their yearly rate. Members with an expiration date of 10/1/2016 will be asked to renew at their regular rate and their renewal will apply to the 2016-2017 membership year. Members with a renewal date of 12/1/2016 or 1/1/2017 will be asked to renew early at 75% of their membership rate in November.

Please contact the executive director at hssc@thehssc.org or 323-222-0546 if you have any questions. Thank you for your patience as we adopt this new system.

HSSC MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

The HSSC Board recently asked for input from members through a Member Survey. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Most of those responding to the survey had been members for many years. The respondents stated they joined the HSSC to receive the *Southern California Quarterly* and to learn about Southern California history. Although many comments that the *Southern California Quarterly* did not require any changes, some members offered suggestions on what they would like to see included. Members also expressed an interest in tour sites located across Southern California. With members living across the region, the HSSC does plan to rotate the location of activities to give more members a chance to participate. The HSSC will also be increasing its use of email communication in addition to surface mail to the members as a majority of members requested it. HSSC members should also look for the HSSC to have a membership meeting this fall. Survey respondents said they would attend. This would allow direct yearly face-to-face communication between the board and the members. The HSSC newsletter, the *Southern Californian*, will also include more information about Southern California history as well as other historical societies in Southern California in this and future issues.



Paul Rippens,
Vice-President of the
AHSLAC welcomes
attendees

HSSC AND THE HOMESTEAD MUSEUM CO-HOST THE AHSLAC MINI-CONFERENCE

On Saturday, January 30, 2016, the Historical Society of Southern California and the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum co-hosted the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County's mini-conference. Attendees learned about the current situation of the HSSC, learned about collections management from Paul Spitzzeri, the Assistant Director of the Homestead Museum and Second Vice-President of the HSSC, and took of tour of the Homestead, which included viewing items from the HSSC collection.

Information about the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles can be found at <http://www.ahslac.org/>

HSSC 2016 CONFERENCE JOURNALISM IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The HSSC 2016 Conference will be held Saturday, April 16, 2016, at Occidental College. Please see the insert for pre-registration information. Here are brief biographies for each of the speakers. The pre-registration deadline is April 1, 2016.



Bill Boyarsky



Paul Bryan Gray



Félix Gutiérrez



Larry Harnisch

Conference Schedule:

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Coffee, registration
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Welcome by Kenneth Marcus and Jem Axelrod
9:15 am - 10:15 am	"The Early Los Angeles English and Spanish Press, 1851-1900." A panel with David Hayes-Bautista, Félix Gutiérrez, and Paul Bryan Gray
10:15 am - 10:45 am	"Journalist Edward A. Dickson: The Craft and Practice behind Progressive Politics in Los Angeles and California, 1906-1916." Merry Ovnick
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am - 11:30 am	"Charlotta Bass, Loren Miller, and the <i>California Eagle</i> : Distrust and Acrimony." Amina Hassan
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	"The Evolution and Tribulations of the Southern California Press, 1920-1962." Larry Harnisch
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:45 pm - 2:45 pm	"An Anecdotal History of the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> , 1962-2015." A Panel with Bill Boyarsky, Kevin Roderick, and Jim Newton
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	"The Future of Southern California Journalism." Jim Newton
3:45 - 4:30 pm	Closing Reception, Hosted by the Institute for the Study of Los Angeles, Occidental College

Speakers:

Bill Boyarsky, political correspondent for Truthdig, is a lecturer in journalism at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication. Boyarsky was city editor of the *Los Angeles Times* when he retired in 2001. Before that, he worked as a columnist, city-county bureau chief and political writer. He was a member of reporting teams that won three Pulitzer prizes and has received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. Boyarsky is the author of *Inventing L.A.: The Chandlers and Their Times*, *The Rise of Ronald Reagan*, *Ronald Reagan, His Life and Rise to the Presidency*, *Los Angeles: City of Dreams*, and co-author of *Backroom Politics*.

Paul Bryan Gray is a lawyer and independent scholar interested in 19th century Southern California. He is the author of the books *Forster vs. Pico*, *The Struggle of the Rancho Santa Margarita* and *A Clamor for Equality, Emergence and Exile of the California Activist Francisco P. Ramirez*.

Félix Gutiérrez is a Professor of Journalism and Communication in the Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism and a Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity in the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California. He is the author of several books including *Racism, Sexism, and the Media: The Rise of*

(Continued on page 5)

HSSC 2016 CONFERENCE

JOURNALISM IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(Continued from page 4)

Class Communication in Multicultural America, Spanish-language Radio in the Southwestern United States, Telecommunications Policy Handbook, and Minorities and the Media: Diversity and the End of Mass Communication.

Larry Harnisch is a former copy editor, feature writer, and columnist on local history at the *Los Angeles Times*, retiring from the *Times* in December 2015 after twenty-seven years. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in music history at the University of Arizona and was a music critic and feature writer at the *Arizona Daily Star* from 1981 to 1985. He is writing a book about the 1947 Black Dahlia murder and has been interviewed on television numerous times regarding the case.

Amina Hassan is a scholar, researcher, and award-winning public radio documentarian with productions ranging from the coup and on-the-spot recordings of the U.S. invasion of Grenada to a 13-part radio series for NPR on how race, class, and gender shape American sports. With over forty years of research expertise on issues of race and diversity, Dr. Hassan's latest accomplishment is the recently published biography *Loren Miller: Civil Rights Attorney and Journalist*. Dr. Hassan received her PhD from the Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She lives in Washington, DC, and Los Angeles, California.

David E. Hayes-Bautista, Ph.D., is a Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He has spent forty years working towards the improvement and understanding of Latinos through their health, culture, and overall role in and contributions to California and the country, through his research and initiatives. He also serves as the faculty director of the Latino Leadership Institute of the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management.

Jim Newton is a veteran journalist, author, and teacher. In twenty-five years at the *Los Angeles Times*, Newton worked as a reporter, editor, bureau chief, columnist and editor of the editorial pages. He is the recipient of numerous national and local awards in journalism and participated in two staff efforts that were awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Newton also is a respected author of *Justice for All: Earl Warren and the Nation, He Made, Eisenhower: The White House Years*, and co-author of *Worthy Fights: A Memoir of Leadership in War and Peace*. He is at work on a fourth book, tentatively entitled *Jerry Brown and the Creation of Modern California*, a history of the state since 1960 as well as a biography of its longest-serving governor.

Merry Ovnick is the editor of the *Southern California Quarterly* and the author of *Los Angeles: The End of the Rainbow*. She earned her Ph.D. in history at University of California, Los Angeles and she teaches cultural, urban, and regional history at California State University, Northridge. Her period of specialization is late 19th/early 20th century.

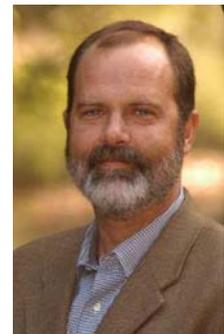
Kevin Roderick is a journalist, editor, blogger and author living in Los Angeles. He is the creator and publisher of LA Observed. He is a Contributing Writer on politics and media at *Los Angeles* magazine, an award-winning radio commentator, and is often asked by the media to talk about Southern California issues. In addition to *Los Angeles*, Kevin's magazine reporting has appeared in *Smithsonian*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *The Industry Standard*, *C, L.A. Architect* and the *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*. His latest book, *Wilshire Boulevard: Grand Concourse of Los Angeles*, was a Los Angeles Times bestseller and Editor's Choice, as well as a finalist for the Southern California Book Award.



Amina Hassan



David E. Hayes-Bautista



Jim Newton



Merry Ovnick



Kevin Roderick

UPCOMING HISTORY CONFERENCES

Congress of the History of San Diego and Imperial Counties

March 4-5, 2016

Oasis Hall, Macy's, Mission Valley, San
Diego, CA

<http://www.congressofhistory.org/>



2016 Riverside County History Symposium

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Murietta Hot Springs Resort
Murietta, CA

[http://rivcohistorysymposium.
weebly.com/](http://rivcohistorysymposium.weebly.com/)

LOOKING FOR A HOME

(Looking Back, September, 1998, HSSC Quarterly)

The Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Society is celebrated with pride over its continuity of activity and publications-annuals, 1884-1934; quarterlies, 1934-1958. But in spite of a membership approaching one thousand, monthly meetings, annual excursions, and banquets and awards, the Society has not secured an enduring home.

In 1883, the Society held its first meetings in the police courtroom of the County courthouse, its evening gatherings lit by smoky oil lamps. In 1884, there was an attempt at more comfort and elegance at the newly opened Nadeau Hotel, including a banquet for General John Fremont. But the location proved too expensive and plans were made to move to the State Normal School at Fifth and Grand (current LA Library site). However, few wanted to brave a dark walk without lights or sidewalks and the City of Los Angeles provided use of the City Council chambers. From 1885 to 1889 this arrangement worked until the Board of Education claimed preference to the Historical Society, and it was back to the smoky lamps. In 1891 the Board of Education found larger space and the Society was allowed to use the council chambers until 1896 and faced "a final rude eviction." [not explained]

Thus began a quarter century of "nomadism," moving back and forth, Los Angeles, Pasadena, members' homes, libraries, Southwest Museum, L.A. County Museum. In 1945, a solution seems to have been attained when the County rented space to the Society in the spacious and comfortable Earl Residence at 2425 Wilshire Blvd, But the wisdom of progress prevailed in 1956 when the building was torn down to make room for a parking lot, At the time of this writing (1958) there were new hopes. The Plaza Park project with joint sponsorship by city, county, and state had begun, "A number of very desirable locations are becoming available and the responsible agencies have shown a willingness to assign one of these sites to us."

But once again the hopes for use of a publicly owned building would fail. In contrast to the states of New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the state of California and the city of Los Angeles failed in attempts to help the Historical Society.

In 1892, the City Council called a \$50,000 dollar bond election for construction of a Library and Historical Building in Central Park (now Pershing Square). It did not pass. In 1905 both houses of the State Legislature appropriated \$125,000 for a joint courthouse and historical building. The governor vetoed it and then approved spending three times that amount on Sacramento building. In 1948 the Historical Section of the Division of Parks and Beaches authorized generous spending for Centennial Celebrations in 1948, 1949, and 1950. Their plans included two permanent historical buildings, one for the north, the other for the south. In the course of the three years millions were spent on Fiestas, pageants, events in the Hollywood Bowl and the Coliseum - all temporary festivities. BUT NOT A CENT FOR ANYTHING PERMANENT OR TRULY HISTORICAL!!

By Ann Walnum

RIVERSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For more than 100 years, the Riverside Historical Society has sought to research and preserve the history of the City of Riverside and its environs. Founded by “pioneer” members, the society has evolved over the years to include people from throughout Southern California who enjoy local history and like to learn about the multi-faceted background of this unique town.

Many of the Society’s activities center around our bi-monthly meetings, typically held on the first Sunday of the even-numbered months. We gather at the historic La Sierra University in the City’s La Sierra section and have lunch and a talk centered around either some aspect of Riverside’s history or the history of a closely-related area. Topics have included the Easter Sunrise Service on Mt. Rubidoux, the storied account of how the railroads finally came to Riverside, and even the life of Earle Stanley Gardner, where members met retired judge John Gabbert whose trial court was the impetus behind many of Gardner’s novels and television shows!

Over the last few years, the Riverside Historical Society has become increasingly involved in the History Day program through the Riverside Unified School District and Riverside County. Society members meet with educators in September of each year and ask that they encourage their students to research some aspect of local history. In turn, Society members act as judges for the history day competitions, and award certificates and monetary awards to the best projects that involve the history of Riverside. This program has met with a great deal of success – in fact, during the 2013 – 2014 school year, one of our award winners went on to win the National History Day competition with her project on Riverside’s Sherman Indian Institute (now Sherman Indian High School).

Recently, the Society joined a growing movement in Inland Southern California to designate the historic route of Highway 395. Joining the cities of Perris, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, and Temecula, Riverside, under the sponsorship of many members of the Riverside Historical Society, procured more than 30 Historic Highway 395 designation signs and placed them along University Avenue, Market Street, Main Street, Strong Street, and La Cadena Blvd. This has had a marked effect on historical awareness in Riverside, since the 395, largely forgotten in Southern California, was the major north-south highway between Canada and Mexico beginning in the 1930s. A further project by the Society will be to design and place a large-scale interpretive sign along the Main Street Mall in downtown Riverside to explain the importance of this highway and how it fits into the development of Southern California.

Finally, a few Society members have resurrected the annual Riverside County History Symposium. This popular event brought together local historians, professionals, authors, researchers, and volunteers from throughout Riverside County to hear some of the latest research that has been done on the history of the County, plus also meet and socialize with their compatriots in other areas of the very large Riverside County. This year’s symposium will be held on May 7 at the former Murrieta Hot Springs resort in Murrieta, and promises to be one of the biggest. If you’re interested in attending, please visit the website of the Symposium at www.rivcohistorysymposium.weebly.com.

The Riverside Historical Society is always looking for new members to like to discuss the wonderful history of this unique city in Southern California. If you’d like to join us, you’re more than welcome to. Our website is www.riversidehistoricalsociety.org, and that has our schedule of events and membership information on it. We’d like for you to become a member and visit us for our next meeting on April 3.

By Steve Lech, President, Riverside Historical Society



The Riverside County History Symposium, held on March 7, 2015 at the historic Highland Springs Resort in Beaumont. Over 120 people attended the day-long event.



City street crews hang a Historic Route 395 sign on Main Street in downtown Riverside on April 15, 2015.

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 T·H·E 
HISTORICAL
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CALIFORNIA

Upcoming HSSC Events

Behind-the Scenes Tour of the Homestead Museum and Rowland House

March 19, 2016

Register online at <http://hssctour.eventbrite.com/>

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Booth #170

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”

Tour of St. Francis Dam and the Hart Museum

June 4, 2016

Registration information will be available in March

18th Annual George A.V. Dunning Lecture

Saturday, November 5, 2016

Vicki Ruiz

“Why Latino Studies Matters”

University of California, Irvine

Check thehssc.org for event details.



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