

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
1883

MESSAGE FROM THE HSSC PRESIDENT



Which tours have you been on this year? In seeking to reach out to members across the southland, the HSSC has been busy organizing tours to a wide variety of historical sites and places of interest. Perhaps you went to the San Gabriel Mission and the La Casa de Lopez de Lowther Adobe in June, or the Centinela Adobe, one of the few remaining adobe houses in Los Angeles County? Or perhaps you traveled to Long Beach to see the exhibit, "Long Beach Remembers Pearl Harbor," or went to see the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme in Ventura County? All of these tours offered unique perspectives at fascinating locations, and they serve another purpose: we get to link up with other historical societies all over southern California. If you missed these tours, there'll be a tour of the Rancho Los Cerritos on Saturday, September 30, which includes a Garden Lunch. And if you have any ideas for tours or sites you'd like to visit, please contact our executive director, Amy Essington, and she'll see if she can arrange something.

Or maybe you're interested in hearing lectures on various historical topics? We've had quite a few of

those, too, over the past year. In March 2017, HSSC board member Donna Schuele gave a fascinating talk on the topic of "Hiding Under Eastern Petticoats? The Emerging Women's Suffrage Movement in California" at the Los Angeles Public Library, in celebration of Women's Heritage Month. In 2016, former board member Paul Spitzzeri gave several talks on one of the most exciting artifacts to emerge from our collection, the Charles M. Jenkins Civil War Diary: one of the few diaries from a Union soldier from California and written by the only known Los Angeles resident who fought in the Civil War. Coming up, there'll be two talks at the Pasadena Museum of History that we've organized: one in September by local historian Andrea Thabet on the founding of the Norton Simon Museum, and another in October by me on the music history of Los Angeles. We hope to see you there!

The HSSC also took part in two conferences this year: our own conference in January on southern California and the home front in World War II, at the University of La

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TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION:

H. NEWMARK & CO. FINANCIAL DOCUMENT, 1874-1876

In the mid-1870s, as Los Angeles was at the peak of its first significant period of growth, initiated in the late 1860s, the emerging city was linked to a series of mining boom towns in Inyo County in eastern California. Among these were Cerro Gordo, Darwin, Coso and many others. Perhaps the most famous of them was Panamint, which lies up Surprise Canyon in the Panamint Range of mountains separating Death Valley to the east from the Owens Valley on the west.

Much of Panamint's development was due to the efforts of the two United States senators from Nevada, William M. Stewart and John P. Jones, both of whom had involvement in the famed Comstock Lode in Virginia City, Nevada (the former was a lawyer who made his fortune in legal representation and the latter was a mining superintendent whose investments yielded a huge payday). Stewart brought in another lawyer friend, Trenor W. Park, who was involved in legal matters with John C. Frémont's Mariposa Ranch claims and then had railroad and steamship investments.

Quickly, the trio spent something like \$250,000 buying up claims and mining companies and then formed the Surprise Valley Mining and Water Company.

Jones had another important Los Angeles connection in those years: he was developing a seaside resort town called Santa Monica. When he began his planning there, he found that some capitalists in Los Angeles, led by banker and rancher F.P.F. Temple, formed the Los Angeles and Independence Railroad to run a rail line to the Inyo County seat, because Temple, the railroad's first president, was a major investor at Cerro Gordo and intended to ship silver ore back to Los Angeles, rather than have it shipped by ox-teams as was then being done by teamsters like Remi Nadeau.

In late 1874, just as the Panamint investment was being expanded, Jones decided to become the majority stockholder in the proposed railroad, but on condition that a branch line was built first to Santa Monica. He assumed the presidency, with Temple taking the position of treasurer, and Park joined as a stockholder and director, as well. Through 1875, with Jones and Park providing ample funds and using their eastern connections to obtain materials for building the line, the Los Angeles and Independence Railroad moved rapidly on the Santa Monica branch, while surveying for the long route to Inyo County including grading and tunneling at Cajon Pass went quickly.

By 1876, both the Panamint and Los Angeles and Independence projects fell apart, though

some silver was mined for the former and the Santa Monica branch was finished and put into service by the latter. The Surprise Valley Mining and Water Company went out of business soon afterward and the railroad was absorbed by the mighty Southern Pacific, which then had a monopoly on regional railroads.

Meantime, prominent Los Angeles merchant Harris Newmark became associated with the Surprise Valley Mining and Water Company, almost certainly because of Jones' growing presence and importance in Los Angeles. Newmark, born in 1834 in Löbau, a small town in what was then Prussia but is now in a pocket of eastern Germany near the borders with the Czech Republic and Poland, migrated to Los Angeles in 1853 to join a brother and was one of the first Jewish residents of the remote frontier town.

By the mid-1870s, Newmark was a prominent and prosperous merchant, whose business, H. Newmark and Company was located just southeast of the Plaza. As Los Angeles was in its first boom period, he

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UPCOMING HSSC EVENTS



Dunning Lecture Series, Pasadena Museum of History, Andrea Thabet on "Simon Says: How Norton Simon Transformed a Failing Art Museum into a Cultural Powerhouse"

Tuesday, September 12, 2017. 6:00 pm

As part of the George A.V. Dunning Lecture Series, Dr. Andrea Thabet will discuss the construction and dissolution of the Pasadena Art Museum between 1969 and 1975, when business tycoon and art collector Norton Simon rescued the failing museum and transformed it into a West Coast cultural powerhouse

Registration information is available at pasadenahistory.org. Admission is \$15 for HSSC and PMH Members and \$20 General Admission.

HSSC Tour of Rancho Los Cerritos with a Garden Lunch

Saturday, September 30, 2017, 10:00 am– 1:00 pm

The tour will include the house, the gardens, and unique opportunity to have lunch on the grounds in a private garden.

Tour registration (which includes lunch) is \$35 for members of the HSSC, \$45 for non-members, and \$25 for students. HSSC members and students should email hssc@thehssc.org for the discount code. Go to <https://hsscsept30tour.eventbrite.com> to register. Registration deadline is Saturday, September 23, 2017, at 5pm. No on-site registrations. The tour is limited to 25. Refunds available until Saturday, September 23, 2017, at 5pm. You may also call 323-222-0546 to make reservations.



Lecture, Pasadena Museum of History, *At Home* Series, Kenneth Marcus on "Musical Metropolis"

Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 6:00 pm

The Pasadena Museum of History *At Home* series, which combines presentations by outstanding speakers with visits to architecturally unique homes. Programs begin at 6:00 pm. All programs take place at least in part outdoors. In case of rain, please consider your reservation a donation. Please note these events include walking and steps. Please no high heels. Tickets are \$30 per person, per lecture. PMH members can reserve tickets at pasadenahistory.org by calling 1.800-838-3006.

12th-annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Doheny Memorial Library, University of Southern California

Free Admission. The HSSC will display artifacts from its collection and have material about upcoming events.



TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION: H. NEWMARK & CO. FINANCIAL DOCUMENT, 1874-1876 CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

became an investor in real estate, as well, with his most famous property being the Rancho Santa Anita in the San Gabriel Valley. Buying the well-watered ranch near the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains from Luis Wolfskill, son of early Los Angeles settler and vineyardist William Wolfskill, in 1872 for \$85,000, Newmark executed the sale of Santa Anita in spring 1875 to Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin for a then-record price for any area property, \$225,000. Later, Newmark developed what became the town of Montebello on land bought during the Boom of the 1880s.

Newmark was a charter member of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, a founding trustee of the Los Angeles Public Library and president of the Congregation B'nai B'rith. His lasting legacy, however, is through the publication, in several editions, of his fact-packed memoir, *Sixty Years in Southern California*, first published in 1916. While not as readable as contemporary Horace Bell's fun and lively, if often fact-averse, *Reminiscences of a Ranger*

(1881), Newmark's work is as much a reference work, and a particularly invaluable one, for Los Angeles history before 1913, as it is a narrative.

Newmark's sons, Maurice and Marco, served as editors of what was essentially dictation of their father's reminiscences and they assiduously compiled the notes generated and then filled in details and interviewed others to help with gaps. However, the brothers quickly realized that they needed assistance in crafting a finished product. For this, they turned to Pasadena resident, Dr. James Perry Worden.

Worden was born in 1866 in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, just north of New York City. Later inverting his first and middle name, he graduated from Columbia University in 1895 and then studied in Germany, where he received his Ph.D in phi-

losophy from the University of Halle five years later. He was professor of languages in Michigan for several years before migrating to Los Angeles.

Worden became associated with a Los Angeles Public Library project to gather California history materials before he was hired to assist the Newmark brothers in putting *Sixty Years in Southern California* into a finished form.

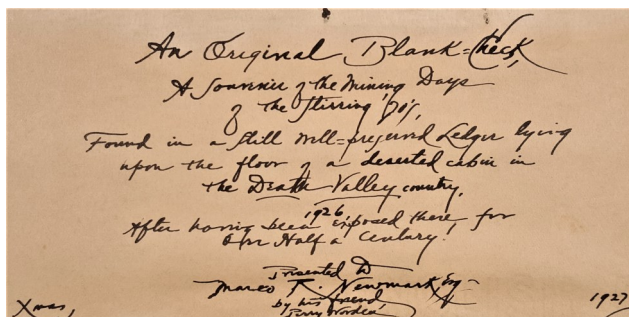
Harris Newmark wrote in the introduction to the first edition that Worden's work "has been indispensable to the completion of the work" through research and interviews. For the third edition in 1926, Marco Newmark added that Worden's "ever-increasing knowledge of California and Californiana . . . [made] him both an unwearied investigator, and a stimulating and indispensable associate."

It was Worden's work with the Newmarks that led to his being hired by Walter P. Temple to write the history of the Workman and Temple families. Though Worden worked on the project on and off for several years from 1921 to about 1930, the Worden, who long had a column about history in the *Pasadena Star-News*, died in 1945 and some of his papers are in the collection of the Huntington Library.

The Society-owned artifact relating to all of these people and places is a financial document issued by Harris Newmark's mercantile business on the account of the Surprise Valley Water and Mining Company. Printed by the Mirror printing and binding house in Los Angeles, the document was unused.

While it is interesting as an object relating both to Los Angeles commerce during its first significant period of growth and to the emerging city's connections to a silver mining boom in Inyo County during the same period, there is another notable element to the item. The document was

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LITTLE LANDERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TUNA CANYON DENTENTION CENTER EXHIBIT

Early in the 20th century, land developer Marshall Hartranft subdivided a portion of the 1840 Mexican land grant of Rancho Tujunga into one acre and half-acre plots in what is now the community of Tujunga. Hartranft hired William E. Smythe, an editor and proponent of the Utopian Society movement known as "Little Lands," to publicize the new development. In 1913 settlers moved onto acre and half-acre lots, calling themselves Little Landers. In April of that year Hartranft donated property for and financed construction of a meeting house. Using rocks gathered from local hillsides and Tujunga Wash, George Harris, "Nature Builder," designed and built Bolton Hall to harmonize with its natural setting between the Verdugo Hills and San Gabriel Mountains. Inside a great fireplace resembles a natural precipice under which the early local Native Americans might have built their fires. The fireplace mantel, carved from a single Eucalyptus tree trunk, carries the inscription – "To the Spiritual Life of the Soil."

Bolton Hall was named after another proponent of the Utopian movement and was dedicated in August of 1913. It immediately became the hub for all community activities - town meetings, church services, socials and dances and a public library. When Tujunga was incorporated in 1925, Bolton Hall made an ideal Tujunga City Hall. Following Tujunga's annexation to the City of Los Angeles in 1932, the building served Los Angeles as a building and safety office, a public health office, a police station with a small jail and other services.

When Los Angeles built a new local municipal building in 1957, Bolton Hall was closed. Attempts to sell the building failed, and in 1959 the city decided to demolish Bolton Hall, and a twenty-year struggle to save Bolton Hall began.

In June of 1959, a small group of local citizens came together as the Little Landers Historical Society (LLHS) for the purpose saving Bolton Hall from the wrecking ball. Meetings were held at the home of George Harris,

Jr., the son of Bolton Hall's builder, where the main topic of conversation was saving the beautiful historic rock building, now abandoned and boarded-up. The stationery of the newly formed group carried this message: - "Remove not the ancient landmarks which they fathers have set" (Proverbs 22 -28). The LLHS group, led by a feisty lady named Starr Von Fluss, teamed up with the Historical Society of the San Fernando Valley to preserve and restore Bolton Hall as a local historical museum. Ms. Von Fluss directed early fund raising efforts and the LLHS group began collecting and saving historical docu-

ments and photographs. Working with the sitting Councilmember, LLHS was able to obtain one delay after another and in 1962 convinced the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board to name Bolton Hall as LA City Cultural Heritage site #2. That same year Little Landers Historical Society incorporated as a 501©3.

However, the new Cultural Heritage designation did not necessarily mean protection from demolition, so until 1976 when LA City approval for restoration was obtained, LLHS waged a constant battle to protect the unsecured building and raise funds for restoration. In 1966

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Bolton Hall Museum

TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION: CITY OF LOS ANGELES ANNEXATION MAP, 1928 CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

framed and, on the back, there is an inscription from Perry Worden to Marco Newmark, dated Christmas 1927. Worden wrote to Newmark,

*An Original Blank
Check
A Souvenir of the Min-
ing Days*

*of the Stirring '70s,
Found in a Still well-
preserved Ledger lying
upon the floor of a de-
serted cabin in
the Death Valley
country,
1926,
After having been ex-
posed there for
over Half a Century!
Presented to
Marco R. Newmark,*

*Esq.
by his friend,
Perry Worden*

The framed document was found in a box of HSSC artifacts without any documentation or indication of how it came to be acquired by the Society, though, presumably Newmark or an heir donated it to the

Society. Regardless of the lack of provenance, the object is another treasure of the HSSC artifact collection that has now emerged and can be shared with the public.

By Paul R. Spitzzeri, Director, Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum

LITTLE LANDERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONTINUED

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another feisty lady, Roberta Stewart, was elected LLHS President and became a stalwart leader of the fund-raising effort. She conducted regular community outreach programs, established membership dues and extracted pledges of \$1 per month from members and others toward the building fund. She acquired 100's of historical volumes, photos and items for LLHS and stored them in her garage and home. Roberta served as President until 1979 and Bolton Hall Museum was dedicated to her when the new Museum opened to the public in December

1980. Little Landers Historical Society has continuously operated Bolton Hall Museum under contract with City of Los Angeles and continues to collect, preserve and display local history for public benefit.

The Little Landers Historical Society recently exhibited the traveling exhibit, *Only the Oaks Remain: The Story of the Tuna Canyon Detention Center*. *Only the Oaks Remain* commemorates the history of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. The exhibition features many items that serve to illuminate a largely untold story that goes beyond the more widely

-known story of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans. A highlight is an Honor Wall that bears each detainee's name.

Only the Oaks Remain is organized by the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising public awareness about the site's history (at the former Verdugo Hills Golf Course). It is working to develop a permanent Tuna Canyon Detention Station Memorial, which will include a plaque and educational posts installed along a walking path lined with mature oak trees, to further educate future generations.

This project was organized by the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition; funded, in part, by a grant from the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program; and sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center.

Look for the exhibit to travel to other locations.

[http://
www.littlelandershistori-
calsociety.org](http://www.littlelandershistoricalsociety.org)

By Nancy Oda, President, Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition

PREVIOUS HSSC EVENTS

Centinela Adobe Tour and Talk

The HSSC co-sponsored a tour of the Centinela Adobe with a wonderful talk by Donna Schuele about the Avila Family on June 3, 2017. The event was co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Centinela Valley.



HSSC Tour of the San Gabriel Mission and La Casa de Lopez de Lowther Adobe

The HSSC toured two sites in two sites in San Gabriel's historic mission district- the San Gabriel Mission and the La Casa de Lopez de Lowther Adobe- on June 17, 2017.

AHA-PCB Co-Sponsored Session

The HSSC co-sponsored the session "A New Era: Racial and Defense Culture in Mid-Twentieth Century Southern California" at the American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch Annual Meeting at California State University, Northridge, on August 5, 2017. Pictured are (left to right) board members Peggy Renner, Kristen Hayashi, and Kenneth Marcus, and executive director Amy Essington.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Verne, and most recently a panel on race and culture in mid-century Los Angeles, for the Pacific Coast Branch Meeting of the American Historical Association at Cal State Northridge in August. That panel was possibly a "first" for HSSC, which Amy Essington organized. It was a great moment for the Society to take part in an event that included scholars from across the country.

Please consider giving to the fundraising campaign for one of the proudest achievement of the HSSC: our journal, *Southern California Quarterly*. We will begin reaching out to corporations and grant bodies. And please remember HSSC in your will!

Finally, if you are an independent scholar or academic scholar, and you've written an article on California history (northern or southern), please consider submitting it to our editor, Merry Ovnick. The *Southern California Quarterly* is one of the few remaining journals on California history, and Merry will be sure to give your article a serious appraisal, and you may well have the honor of joining the ranks of other SCQ authors.

As always, I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events, and thank you for your support of the HSSC.

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Upcoming HSSC Events

Dunning Lecture Series

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Pasadena Museum of History, Pasadena

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12th-annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Doheny Memorial Library
University of Southern California

HSSC Annual Conference

Saturday, February 10, 2018
Including 2017 Awards Ceremony
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Check thehssc.org for event details or call 323-222-0546.
Member and student discounts available.

HSSC Awards

The HSSC gives eight awards in three categories. The HSSC Board-approved guidelines for each of the awards are posted on our website. Check thehssc.org for award bylaws and application/nomination information. For awards with applications, the deadline for the 2017 awards is August 1, 2017.

Books

- The Norman Neuerburg Award honors the best book on California history that emphasizes the nineteenth century or earlier.
- The Martin Ridge Award honors the best book on California history that emphasizes the twentieth century onward.
- The Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award honors an outstanding scholarly book or project (print or electronic) on Southern California local history.

Articles

- The Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. Award honors the best demonstration of significant scholarship in the *Southern California Quarterly* by a rising historian.
- The Frank Wheat Award honors the best demonstration of significant scholarship in the *Southern California Quarterly* by an established historian.

Service

- The Denise and Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award honors an individual who has enriched the community of Los Angeles by their dedicated service and accomplishments.
 - The Joseph O'Flaherty Teaching Award honors creative excellence in the teaching of history in grades K-12 in the schools of Southern California.
 - The Fellows Award honors exceptional lifetime achievements that have brought distinction to history.
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