

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIAN

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THE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
1883

## MESSAGE FROM THE HSSC PRESIDENT



This President's Column brings both good news and a challenge.

First, the good news. The Society is pleased to announce that long-time member Jasper Schaad has generously bequeathed a gift for the establishment of a new award in honor of Merry Ovnick, the editor of the *Southern California Quarterly*. The Robert Glass Cleland Best Article Award will be given to the top article published in the Quarterly in the previous year, as determined by the SCQ Editor and Board of Editors. The establishment of this award is particularly fitting as we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> volume of the *Southern California Quarterly*. We are so very grateful to Mr. Schaad for this bequest, which recognizes both the high quality of our flagship publication and the tireless editorial efforts of Merry Ovnick, who has gone above and beyond to provide a forum for path-breaking scholarship on the history of Los Angeles and the larger Southern California region.

The Cleland Award joins a myriad of others given by HSSC, including for books, articles, teaching, and contributions to the historical profession and the Southern California community. These awards are a vital aspect

of the Society's programming, and over the past two years the Board of Directors has worked to further establish and guarantee its award program. In particular, the Board has designated assets so as to endow all awards and created a committee structure that enlarges opportunities for service to the Society. To that end, we reach out to you, our members, for further participation in this program. You may make further donations to any of the award funds, and as well we seek participation from HSSC members and those in the scholarly community to serve on award committees. Positions on these committees are for a three-year term and are rotating. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to take advantage of these opportunities, or if you would like to nominate a book or individual for a relevant award.

And, speaking of the *Southern California Quarterly*'s latest milestone, the University of California Press's April edition of ICYMI ("in case you missed it") honored Merry Ovnick's post in its UC Press Blog with the top mention. Merry's contribution, entitled "Archive Dive: Revisiting 134 Years of California History in the

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## TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION: AN 1880 MAP OF A PORTION OF RANCHO LA CIENEGA O PASO DE LA TIJERA

It's definitely seen better days in its more than a century of existence, but an 1880 map from the Society's holdings, showing a portion of the Rancho La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera and long owned by the HSSC, has survived the ravages of time. The map, now a bit torn and brittle, has several stories attached to it that are of interest to historians of our region.

The rancho's lengthy moniker refers to *ciénega*, or marsh lands, and *paso de la tijera*, which might either refer to a open scissor shaped pass or one that had a water course through it (the Los Angeles River flowed through the area before floods in 1825 changed its course.) In 1843, it was granted by Manuel Micheltorena, a very unpopular "outsider" sent from Mexico to govern the department of Alta California, to Vicente Sánchez, who was *alcalde* (more or less equivalent to a mayor) of Los Angeles in the early 1830s and again in 1845.

Sánchez died in 1846, just as the American

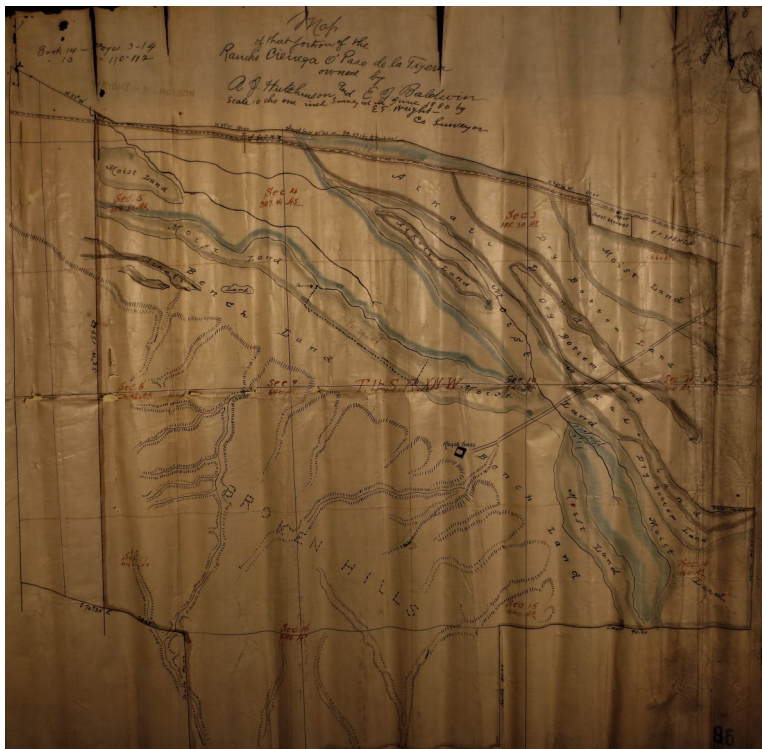
invasion took place. His grandson Tomás was a noted participant in defending the region. Tomás Sánchez assumed ownership of La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera, though he lived on the Rancho San Rafael, in modern Glendale, which was owned by his wife, María Sepulveda.

Tomás became a major *Californio* figure in greater Los Angeles, serving with distinction as a member of the *lanjeros* commanded by Andrés Pico that defeat-

ed an American force at San Pasqual near San Diego in December 1846. In 1851-52, he served a single term on the Los Angeles Common [City] Council. During a tense period in 1857 following the killing of Sheriff James R. Barton and a posse hunting a bandits in what became south Orange County, Sánchez played a prominent role, along with Pico and others, in the frenzied search for what is known as the Flores-Daniel Gang.

A staunch Democrat and firmly allied with Americans, mainly Southerners, who controlled regional politics at the time, Sánchez was elected to three successive one-year terms, from 1857 to 1859, to the county Board of Supervisors. This was followed by his election as the first *Californio* sheriff of Los Angeles County and he served in this position from 1860 to 1867. His tenure includ-

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## THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ORIGINS OF CINCO DE MAYO

*This column is a reprint of an editorial written by HSSC board member David E. Hayes-Bautista, PhD. David 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 is the author of the book upon which this commentary is based, El Cinco de Mayo: An American Tradition (University of California Press, 2012.)*

Why is the Cinco de Mayo so widely celebrated in the United States, when it is scarcely noticed in Mexico? The answer to that question is to be found in the lived experience of tens of thousands of Spanish speakers residing in what is now the American West during the American Civil War.

What? Latinos in the American Civil War?

When Hidalgo proclaimed Mexico's independence from Spain in 1810, he also announced racial equality in citizenship and the abolition of slavery in the new republic. When the U.S. seized control of the northern half of Mexico in 1848, it also acquired a large, Spanish-speaking, racially mixed (mestizo) population that was largely uncomfortable with the new U.S. constitutional values that permitted slavery and denied citizenship to non-white persons.

Latino delegates successfully pushed the 1849 California Constitutional Convention to honor Mexico's earlier abolition of slavery, to allow non-white persons to become voting citizens, and to do so in both Spanish and English. California's entry to the U.S. as a free state, without an accompanying slave state as mandated by the 1820 Missouri Compromise, nearly led to slave state secession and civil war immediately. The Compromise of 1850 staved off this war for a decade, and during that time tens of thousands of Spanish-speakers from every corner of Latin America poured into California and Nevada seeking gold and silver.

When the Civil War did erupt in 1861, Latinos in the American West overwhelmingly supported Abraham Lincoln and the United States against the slave state Confederacy. Latinos joined the United States Army, and rode

in units of Spanish-speaking U.S. Cavalry: the first full admiral of the US navy was a bilingual, bicultural Latino, David Farragut. Yet, from the very first Battle of Bull Run, the slave state armies rode a streak of luck, winning highly visible battles in the Virginia Theater of War, while Lincoln's army appeared unable to win the big battles.

Then, things got worse. Taking advantage of Lincoln's preoccupation with the Civil War, Napoleon III, the Emperor of France, sent his army into Mexico for the purpose of destroying a republic with its constitutional values and installing Maximilian of Austria as a new emperor, who would then be free to make an alliance with the rebellious slave states.

Latinos in the American West followed the advance of the French army through Mexico via the lively Spanish language press in San



Francisco and Los Angeles. When the French army was only about three days' march away from Mexico City, the future for dark-skinned mestizos who might fall under the power of the Confederacy appeared to be bleak.

Like a streak of lightning in the dark night sky, the news arrived, and it was electrifying: the French did not make it Mexico City to create a slave state friend south of the border---they were stopped dead at the Battle of Puebla fought on Cinco de Mayo of 1862, and thrown back to the

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# TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION

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ed some tumultuous times such as his unsuccessful efforts to defend the jail against a mob that lynched several accused criminals in late 1863. It was long assumed that, because Sánchez performed with such bravery and courage in the manhunt for Barton's killers, his elevation as supervisor and sheriff was recognition for his efforts.

Sánchez remained at the San Rafael rancho until his death in 1882 and his widow later sold the land to prominent attorney Andrew Glassell, who owned another part of the ranch now known as the Glassell Park neighborhood of Los Angeles and who was a founder of the City of Orange. The 1870s adobe home of Sánchez and María Sepulveda still stands and, as the Casa Adobe de San Rafael, is part of a City of Glendale park. The Sánchez Adobe, said to date back as far as the early 1790s, and used as the ranch home during Tomás's ownership, still stands along the east slope of today's Baldwin Hills and is a

City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

In Spring 1875, as Los Angeles was at the peak of its first significant period of growth, Sánchez sold La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera to a quartet of Angelenos, including Arthur J. Hutchinson, Daniel Freeman, Henry S. Ledyard, and F.P.F. Temple. Freeman was from Ontario, Canada, and earned a law degree from the University of Toronto. In 1873, he and his family migrated

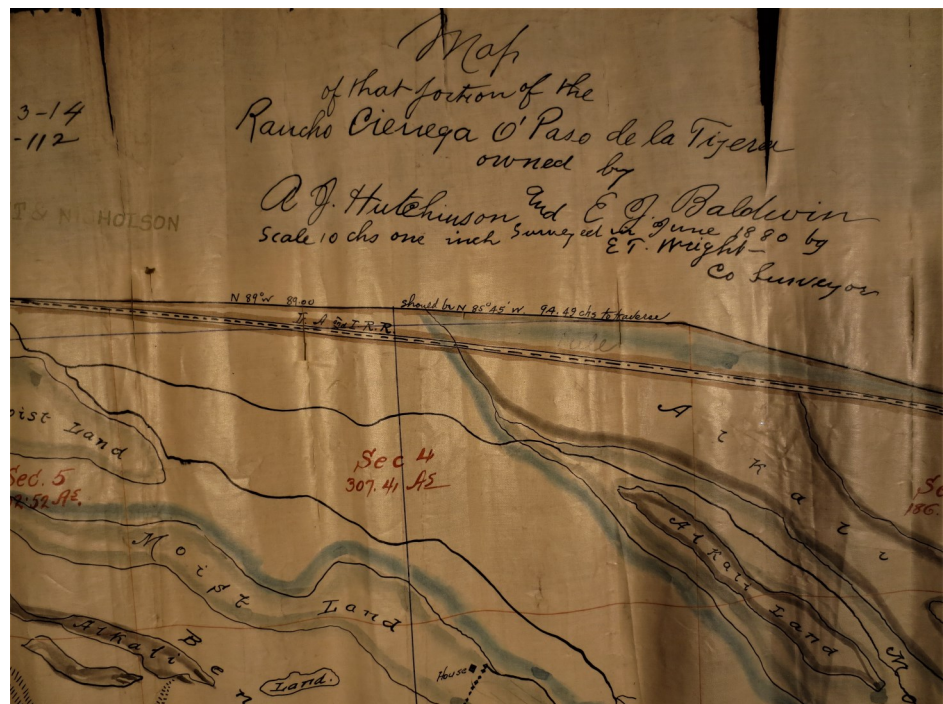
to San Francisco and then relocated to Los Angeles, leasing part of the Rancho Aguaje de la Centinela from Robert Burnett. His residence, the Centinela Adobe, is a historic site in Inglewood. Hutchinson was a native of Bermuda, born there to English parents, and arrived in Los Angeles in 1874, quickly acquiring several properties in the area.

One of these was purchased by Henry S. Ledyard, who, like Freeman, hailed from Ontario. Ledyard first settled

in San Francisco, where he was a bank cashier. He resettled in Los Angeles in 1871, becoming the managing cashier for the bank of Temple and Workman. The president of that institution was F.P.F. Temple (whose father-in-law, William Workman was the silent partner), one of the predominant figures in the fledgling boom animating the nascent city.

In fact, Freeman, Ledyard, and Temple were actively promoting de-

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## PREVIOUS HSSC EVENTS

George A.V. Dunning Lecture, Pasadena Museum of History  
Thursday, March 29, 2018

Natalie Russell, Assistant Curator of Literary Collections, Huntington Library, spoke about "Telling My Stories: The pioneering Fiction of Octavia E. Butler." She is pictured (left) with Past President Ken Marcus who introduced her.



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## HSSC MEMBER THANK YOU EVENT



David Hayes-  
Bautista

Thank you to our donors and members at the Sustaining level and above for attending the Ballet Folklórico Flor de Mayo production of "The Real Cinco de Mayo: Made in California" and the "Hour with the Author" reception afterwards, where we were joined by HSSC Board Member and teatro author David Hayes-Bautista and John Echeveste, Executive Director of Los Angeles County's La Plaza de Cultura y Arte, who told us about arts and history initiatives at LAP-CA. We encourage you to upgrade your membership level to receive future invitations to HSSC special events, by contacting Amy Essington at [executivedirector@thehssc.org](mailto:executivedirector@thehssc.org). Early memberships renewals with upgrade will be effective through October 31, 2019.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

"Lecture and Concert: Schoenberg and Hollywood," Kenneth Marcus, Villa Aurora, Pacific Palisades (Saturday, May 26, 2018)

"Juan Avila, Rancho Niguel, and the Liberation of the Native Sons of the Pueblo of Los Angeles," Donna Schuele, co-sponsored by the Laguna Niguel Historical Society (Thursday, June 28, 2018)

Details available on our website, [thehssc.org](http://thehssc.org).



## HSSC 2018 AWARDS

With eight major awards, the Historical Society of Southern California recognizes individuals for their outstanding accomplishments both in the discipline of history and in the local community.

The Southern California Quarterly editorial board selects articles published in the SCQ for the Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. Award and the Francis M. Wheat Award. The all other award recipients are selected by HSSC committees.

The HSSC is now seeking applications for the following:

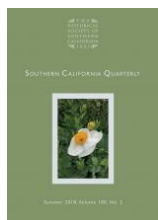
- the Norman Neuerburg Award, presented to the author with the best book on California history that emphasizes the nineteenth century or earlier, published in 2016 or 2017;
- the Martin Ridge Award, presented to the author with the best book on California history that emphasizes the twentieth century onward, published in 2016 or 2017;
- the Donald H. Pflueger Local History Award, which honors an outstanding scholarly book or project (print or electronic) on Southern California local history, published in 2016 or 2017; and
- the Joseph O'Flaherty Teaching Award, which celebrates creative excellence in the teaching of history in grades K-12 in Los Angeles-area schools.

The HSSC is seeking nominations for:

- the Denise and Jack Smith Community Enrichment Award, which recognizes those who have enriched the community of Los Angeles by their dedicated service and accomplishments

Application and nomination forms are available at [thehssc.org](http://thehssc.org). The submission deadline for all applications/nominations is August 1, 2018.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY VOLUME 100, ISSUE 2: EDIBLE MATTERS



Food history is one of the newest fields of history and the Summer issue of the Southern California Quarterly offers a smorgasbord of four articles for readers to sample. Shana Kleins's article, "'Westward the Star of Empire': Grapes and National Expansion in Nineteenth-Century California," examines visual presentations of grape production and wine promotion. Bonnie M. Miller's article, "The Pure Food Exhibits in the 'Palace of Nibbling Arts': Culinary Pluralism at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915," invites us to vicariously sample ethnic and machine-processed foods promoted as safe to eat. The effectiveness of photo exposés in a leftist newspaper covering farm labor conditions and a strike in the 1930s is analyzed in Ellen B. Macfarlane's article, "Photography and the Western Worker: Organizing Farm Labor in Early 1930s California." Complementing Klein's work on the nineteenth-century, L. Stephen Velasquez's article looks at more modern wine and grape production and promotion. Where she revealed consumer apprehensions about Chinese workers "tainting" the grapes, Velasquez examines the rise of Mexican and Mexican American expertise and entrepreneurship in California's wine industry. All four articles analyze the visual promotion of food production and consumerism and share interests in food workers, food purity, race and class issues, and visual presentation.

By Merry Ovnick, Editor, *Southern California Quarterly*

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY

## VOLUME 100, ISSUE 2: TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Articles

Edible Matters: The Material and Visual Culture of Food in California, 1865–Present  
By Shana Klein and Leonard Schmieding

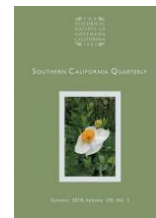
“Westward the Star of Empire”: California Grapes and Western Settlement in the Nineteenth Century  
By Shana Klein

The Pure Food Exhibits in the “Palace of Nibbling Arts”: Culinary Pluralism at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915  
By Bonnie M. Miller

Photography and the *Western Worker*: Organizing Farm Labor in Early 1930s California  
By Ellen Macfarlane

Doing It with “*Ganas*”: Mexicans and Mexican Americans Shaping the California Wine Industry  
By L. Stephen Velasquez

The Historian’s Eye



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### Book Reviews

Review: *California Mission Landscapes: Race, Memory and the Politics of Heritage* by Elizabeth Kryder-Reid  
By Steven W. Hackel

Review: *City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771–1965* by Kelly Lytle Hernández  
By Volker Janssen

Review: *San Francisco’s Queen of Vice: The Strange Career of Abortionist Inez Brown Burns* by Lisa Riffin  
By Nan Alamilla Boyd

Review: *The Tide Was Always High: The Music of Latin America in Los Angeles* by Josh Kun  
By Kirby Pringle



## TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION CONTINUED

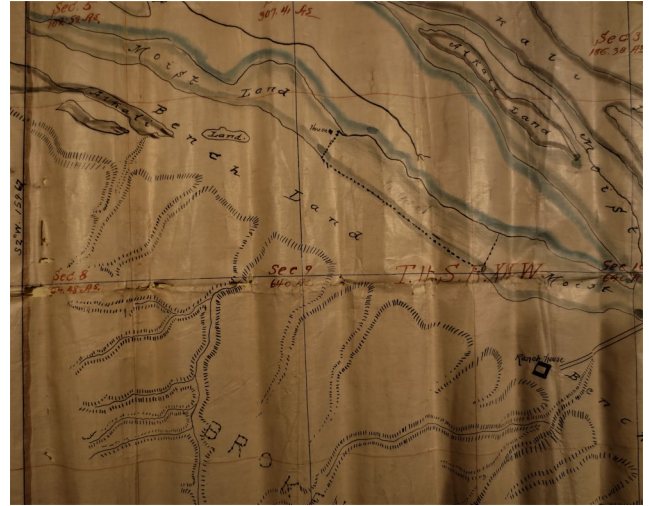
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velopment in the La Cienega/Centinela area, as the real estate market in greater Los Angeles was especially active. In 1875, while new communities like Artesia, Pasadena, Pomona, San Fernando, Santa Monica, and others were in or approaching development, the trio and others launched the Centinela townsite. Situated roughly where Inglewood and Westchester are now, Centinela was placed on the market in the early part of the year. Plans included a railroad, the Los Angeles and Pacific, that was to be built between the city and the Ballona wetlands area. The acquisition of La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera was part of the projected future development of the area.

All booms eventually go bust and this first regional example did so in spectacular and dramatic fashion. Over-speculation in silver mining stock at Virginia City, Nevada, led major investor Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin to sell his investments

there and he pocketed millions of dollars from the sale of the grossly inflated stock. Baldwin's actions helped precipitate a panic, while he came south from his base in San Francisco to invest in local real estate, starting with a \$200,000 purchase (the highest price yet paid for a regional property) of Rancho Santa Anita in the San Gabriel Valley.

In late August 1875, the Bank of California went under as conditions worsened in the state and its president, William C. Ralston, was found dead in San Francisco Bay. The ticking telegraph transmitted the dire news of the bank's demise to Los Angeles and panicked depositors flocked to the city's two commercial banks, Farmers and Merchants (led by its skilled managing cashier Isaias W. Hellman) and Temple and Workman (whose counterpart, Ledyard, was Hellman's polar opposite). Hellman was vacationing in Europe when the news broke and his partner, former governor John G. Downey, agreed to



competitor F.P.F. Temple's request to suspend business for a month to calm the roiling waters.

Furious, Hellman cut short his trip and rushed home, wisely borrowing some money from contacts in New York to show to panicked account holders when he returned to Los Angeles. Farmers and Merchants reopened without major damage. Temple and Ledyard, however, experienced greater challenges to keep their bank open, as they pounded the streets of San Francisco for a loan.

Enter Baldwin. Seeing desperation and seizing the initiative, the wily tycoon loaned the Temple and Workman bank

over \$340,000. He waited as the bank reopened in early December, a full three months after suspending business (the day Temple was elected county treasurer, incidentally), and then saw a steady stream of anxious depositors close their accounts. Only six weeks later, Temple and Workman failed, the first such bank collapse in Los Angeles history and a central catalyst of an economic depression that lasted about a decade until the much bigger Boom of the Eighties burst forth.

Among the many properties that became Baldwin's in the aftermath of the Temple and Workman debacle was

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## TREASURES OF THE HSSC ARTIFACT COLLECTION CONTINUED

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a substantial portion of the La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera ranch. Hutchinson, later a developer of the San Joaquin town of Lindsay, was not involved in the Centinela project and retained his interest in the ranch. While much of the land was marshy and not originally considered of high value, suburbanization gradually made its way from downtown. What became the Baldwin Hills also yielded a bonanza in oil for Lucky's daughters after their father's death in 1909.

This is where the map, drawn by county surveyor Edward T. Wright, comes in. One of Baldwin's neighbors was Theodore Rimpau, a native of the Kingdom of Hanover in what became Germany and migrant to Gold Rush California. After achieving some success in the mines, Rimpau settled in Los Angeles in 1850 and opened a store. The following year, he married Francisca Avila, whose family home is a historic landmark on Olvera Street in the Plaza. The couple set-

tled on her father's land at the Rancho Las Cienegas, which abutted the La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera to the north, where Rimpau ran sheep and cattle. He did the same on the Rancho San Joaquin, another Sepulveda family holding in modern day Irvine and surrounding areas until the disastrous drought of the 1860s.

Rimpau then moved to the relatively new town of Anaheim, founded by Germans in 1857, and made it his home for nearly fifty years, becoming one of its most substantial citizens. Not one to dispose of property, however, he kept most of his wife's inherited holdings at Las Cienegas and the Avila Adobe until his death. Later, the Rimpau Hill development on Las Cienegas, including Rimpau Boulevard, was managed by a son and the Avila Adobe was sold to the City of Los Angeles when Olvera Street was refashioned into a tourist attraction. The map, as shown faintly with some stamps and inscriptions,

was an exhibit for a court case, *Rimpau v. Baldwin*, that concerned a dispute over an 18-acre section claimed by the plaintiff on the boundary of the ranchos owned by the combatants. The Superior Court ruled in Baldwin's favor, but Rimpau appealed to the state high court, which affirmed the lower court's judgment in June 1912, three years after Baldwin's death and a little more than a year before Rimpau's demise.

There are delineations of "moist land," "dry bottom land," "bench land," and "alkali" areas on the map, as well as "broken hills," where the Baldwin Hills are situated. The Sánchez ranch house, referred to earlier, is marked near the center, while a house and vineyard are indicated just northwest. Along the northern boundary is the line of the Los Angeles and Independence Railroad, founded in 1874 by F.P.F. Temple and other local capitalists and intended to go to silver mining regions in Inyo County. When Nevada

Senator John P. Jones became, in early 1875, the majority stockholder and president, replacing Temple, who took on the role of treasurer, a branch line was fast-tracked (pardon the pun) to Jones' new seaside town of Santa Monica. On the upper right of the map is shown the Cienega station of the line, which was sold to the Southern Pacific in 1877, after the economy turned south.

The map, fragile as its condition is, provides a compelling background for discussion and interpretation of interesting events and notable people in the history of greater Los Angeles and is another treasure from the holdings of the HSSC.

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

*Southern California Quarterly*,” details the evolution of the various iterations of the Historical Society of Southern California’s journal, culminating in the 100<sup>th</sup> volume of the SCQ. Did you know that the first volume, in 1887, contained an article about early Kentucky settlers in Los Angeles, while the 100<sup>th</sup> volume will include a symposium issue focusing on California foodways from field to table?

In addition, in August HSSC will sponsor a panel honoring the journal at the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, to be held at Santa Clara University. Participants will be graduate and former graduate students from USC, CSUN and UC Riverside, who will cast a historiographical eye on the 100 volumes of the journal to examine how the telling of our region’s history has evolved over the years. This panel will provide a springboard for a larger on-line publication project bringing graduate students together from all over the country to examine the historiography of a wide

variety of topics the *Southern California Quarterly* has featured over the years. We will bring you more news of that project as it develops, and we invite additional graduate students who would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity to contact me to get involved.

Finally, our campaign to endow the *Southern California Quarterly*, so as to ensure continuing publication for the next 100 volumes, continues. We plan to provide an update in our next Newsletter issue. In the meantime, donations to that campaign are gratefully accepted.

And now for the challenge. As some of you may have realized, organizations that rely on a membership structure, as ours does, have had to put significantly more effort into maintaining and growing their membership bases in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Historical Society of Southern California is no exception. The Society has significantly decreased its overhead over the past ten years, in response to changing times and changing imperatives. In particular, we have moved from a brick-and-mortar location to being a “virtual”

organization (sad as it has been to see the end of our connection with the Lummis House), a full-time executive director with staff to a part-time executive director with no staff, and a board of directors that today non-profit professionals would describe as more of a “working board.”

While everyone involved in moving the Society forward has taken on additional duties with good cheer and fine dedication, we have become as lean as we can be without sacrificing the mission and programs of the Society. The HSSC requires an operating budget of at least \$100,000 per year to maintain the Society in its present form, and more if we are to grow. Our operating expenses come primarily from membership dues and unrestricted donations. Thus, the Board has concluded that that is where our efforts for the next year must be focused. We call on you, our members, to consider increasing your membership level for 2019, to the Contributing level or above, and we invite you to do so now, prior to our annual membership re-

newal drive in the Fall. Renewals at higher levels, made before 2019, will be effective immediately and through the next membership year, which ends on October 31, 2019. In addition, HSSC will gratefully accept donations made in addition to your membership renewal.

Donations and memberships at higher levels will be recognized with invitations to special events sponsored by the Society. Donors and members at the Sustaining level and above took part in a wonderful Cinco de Mayo celebration at the La Plaza de Cultura y Artes in downtown Los Angeles. The day started with a t  atro written and produced by UCLA professor and HSSC board member Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, entitled “The Real Cinco de Mayo: Made in California,” and performed by the Ballet Folkl  ric Flor de Mayo. The costuming and dancing were beautiful, the performance was engaging (the present-day “college bros” seemed to be a particular hit with the audience), and the live music was a highlight. After the performance, we re-

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

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paired to the air-conditioned conference room of La Plaza, one of the county's newest museums, for a bit of wine, tamales, and excellent conversation

with David and John Echeveste, the Executive Director of La Plaza, where topics ranged from the 19<sup>th</sup> century origins of Cinco de Mayo, to the East LA walkouts of the 1960s, to current cultural resto-

ration efforts in DTLA.

In closing, I want to thank you, our members and donors, and in particular Jasper Schaad, for your generosity over the years towards the Historical

Society of Southern California. Please join us in reaching our goal for 2019 to raise the necessary \$100,000 to cover the annual expense of keeping the Society in full service of its mission.

## THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ORIGINS OF CINCO DE MAYO CONTINUED

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coast at Veracruz. Although the news arrived three weeks after the actual battle, Latinos in California, Nevada, and Oregon immediately erupted into joyous, spontaneous celebrations. Then they began to organize themselves into the first regional network of Latino community organizations, the Juntas Patrióticas Mejicanas, established in 129 locations in in the American West, to channel their economic support to Juarez for his purchase of arms and ammunition to fight the French, and demonstrate their political support Lincoln. Each Junta met every month, three or four speakers would harangue the

crowds at each meeting, and the focal point of most of the speeches was the victory of Cinco de Mayo.

Every year, the Juntas in many towns organized public events on the Cinco de Mayo as public statements of where Latinos stood on the issues of the American Civil War: they opposed slavery and supported freedom; they opposed white supremacy and supported racial equality. Led by both the Mexican and the U.S. flags, parades would march through the streets of towns and mining camps of the American West, speakers would energize the crowds, bands played music, the militia salut-

ed with rifles and cannons, and then dances would last until the early hours of the morning.

Cinco de Mayo has been observed in Los Angeles every year since 1862, without a break. But the history of its origins as a civil rights commemoration has been lost over the past 160 years, and it has become reduced, in many cases, to "Drinko de Mayo."

It is time to take Cinco de Mayo back from drunken revelers wearing sarapes and straw sombreros, and return it to its origins as a Latino public statement of commitment to freedom, equality, and democracy. I would en-



courage us all to commit to creating the 21<sup>st</sup> century version, "Cinco de Mayo for social justice."

¡Que viva el Cinco de Mayo!

THE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
1883

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Upcoming Events

“Lecture and Concert: Schoenberg and Hollywood,” Kenneth Marcus, Villa Aurora, Pacific Palisades (Saturday, May 26, 2018)

“Juan Avila, Rancho Niguel, and the Liberation of the Native Sons of the Pueblo of Los Angeles,” Donna Schuele, co-sponsored by the Laguna Niguel Historical Society (Thursday, June 28, 2018)

Check thehssc.org for event details or call 323-222-0546.



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