



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Bowen Invites Californians to Learn about State's Early History During Archives Month

SACRAMENTO – Kicking off State Archives Month in October, Secretary of State Debra Bowen today invited Californians to visit the State Archives and attend events hosted by local and statewide groups to promote the history of California.

“The State Archives helps tell the story of California by collecting and preserving our most important historic records for generations to come,” said Secretary Bowen, the custodian of the State Archives. “California’s rich and fascinating history is available to everyone all year long at our State Archives, but some rarely seen highlights will be on display only during our open house.”

The Secretary of State’s office has been home to the California State Archives since 1850. As custodian of the State Archives, Secretary Bowen maintains the complete records of the official acts of the legislative and executive branches of state government, as well as Golden State history in the form of tens of millions of documents, maps, photographs, film and audio recordings, and other treasures.

To celebrate California Archives Month, the State Archives will host two events.

- **California State Archives Open House on Saturday, October 2, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This autumn marks the 160th year of California’s admission to the union (September 1850). To commemorate the anniversary, the Spanish-language version of the 1849 state constitution, maps, land grants, and correspondence between Californian and Mexican leaders will be available for viewing this one day only. Guests can also take a behind-the-scenes tour of the State Archives and see *California in Focus*, a new exhibit of rarely seen photographs from the Archives’ collections.
- **Family History Day on Saturday, October 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Guests will have the opportunity to meet with professional genealogists, learn about using state records to research their family trees and obtain tips for preserving cherished family documents. There will be short classes on a variety of genealogy-related topics.

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Both events are free and will take place at the Secretary of State's California State Archives building, 4th floor, 1020 O Street in Sacramento.

The California State Archives hold approximately 105,000 cubic feet of records in secure, climate-controlled rooms stretching over six floors of a Sacramento building.

Among the treasures housed in the State Archives are:

- Original state constitutions;
- Spanish and Mexican land grant records;
- Election records and political campaign items dating back to 1849;
- Articles of incorporation for world-famous California companies such as the Central Pacific Railroad;
- More than 400 oral histories, including the recollections of former Governor and President Ronald Reagan, Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Sr., and tax-limiting Proposition 13 proponent Paul Gann;
- Evidence, tapes, and photographs from the Los Angeles Police Department investigation of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination;
- 20,000 maps and architectural drawings;
- 7,500 video and audio tapes; and
- 250,000 historical photographs including prison mugbooks from the 1800s and snapshots of the construction of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge from the 1930s.

For more information about the California State Archives collections and upcoming events, or for assistance in a historical research project, go to www.sos.ca.gov/archives.

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