



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

BM06:132

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, September 28, 2006

Contact: Nghia Nguyen Demovic  
916-653-6575

## **Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Announces Activities and Events to Celebrate National Archives Month**

SACRAMENTO, CA - Archives Month celebrates California's history and draws attention to the vast collection of historical treasures kept in California's archival collections. It is part of a nationwide celebration of Archives Month designed to raise public awareness and appreciation of archives, what archivists do and why archives are important.

Secretary McPherson said, "As a fourth generation Californian I have a deep appreciation for California's history. One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is my role as the keeper of our state archives. I hope many Californians take advantage of this month to explore our state's unique and remarkable history available in our state archives."

In the official proclamation designating October as Archives Month, Governor Schwarzenegger said, "Californians benefit greatly from archive collections because they have the chance to discover valuable information about society, learn the state's history, and appreciate various aspects of past communities... Whether a resident is interested in finding a court document, oral history or footage of a legislative session, our archives are a practical place to start searching."

To mark Archives Month, the California State Archives will be hosting the following events:

- California State Archives Open House on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00 p.m. featuring special exhibits and tours of the archives
- Family History Day on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. featuring short classes on genealogy, preserving family papers, and other topics and tours of the archives

Both events will be at the State Archives, 1020 "O" Street, in Sacramento.

### **California State Archives Fast Facts:**

The Archives was established in 1850 and holds over 93,508 cubic feet of records, with a growth rate of approximately 4,000 cubic feet per year. With the help of 26 staff and 12 professional archivists the California State Archives provides research help to over 10,000 researchers each year. Some notable holdings include:

- The original working papers from the California State Constitutional Convention
- Political memorabilia from the Civil War through today

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- Historical photos of memorable California events including the 1906 earthquake and fire, construction of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II
- Historical maps, “mug shots” of famous California outlaws, colorful fruit crate labels, and articles of incorporation for California companies ranging from the Central Pacific Railroad and Levi Strauss to the Marx Brothers, Inc.