



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary of State Debra Bowen Invites Californians to Celebrate Archives Month

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today invited participation in events across the state during California Archives Month, starting with one this weekend at the State Archives in Sacramento.

“The California State Archives is home to many of the most important artifacts and documents from the Golden State’s history, and tell the story of how California became the state it is today,” said Secretary Bowen. “I hope all Californians will take advantage of the resources offered at the State Archives and other repositories across the state, not only during this annual Archives Month but all year long.”

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 artifacts.

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

- **California State Archives Open House on Saturday, October 3, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** To celebrate the 160th anniversary of California’s statehood, the original California constitutions of 1849 and 1879 will be on display for one day only. Guests will be treated to behind-the-scenes tours of the State Archives and be able to explore other archival collections from throughout California. Visitors will also see the new exhibit “Visit to the Pacific Shore: California in the Age of Lincoln,” which features historical documents, maps, and photographs from the California State Archives that provide snapshots of life and events in California during the lifetime of our 16th president.
- **Family History Day on Saturday, October 11, 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 public 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 102,000 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:

- 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 "mug books" 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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