

*The Quarterly*

HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of*  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER, 1939

**T**HE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA was organized in 1883 and has enjoyed a record of continuous activity for over half a century. Commencing in 1888, and each year until 1935, the Society issued an Annual Publication. In 1935 this *Quarterly* was initiated. It is published at Los Angeles, California, each March, June, September and December.

The purposes of this Society are to preserve and protect the archives and historic sites of the Southwest, with particular accent on Southern California; to publish material of permanent historic interest and significance; to assist and encourage all persons and organizations engaged in similar activities; to hold regular monthly meetings in Los Angeles, except during the summer months, and at least once each year to gather in a pilgrimage to some spot of historic significance.

The Society welcomes to its membership all persons who are in sympathy with its aims. It derives its entire income from the dues and gifts of members, and all regular publications are offered to members without further charge. The fee for regular membership is \$5.00 per year, for sustaining membership \$10.00 per year, for patron membership \$100.00 per year, and for life membership \$50.00.

It is the aim of the Editorial Board to render this *Quarterly* a publication of general historical interest. Suggestions and criticisms will be welcomed, and all persons, whether members of the Society or not, are invited to submit for the consideration of the editors original articles, old letters, documents, maps and other material bearing upon the history and development of this region.

The price of extra copies of this *Quarterly* is \$1.25 per copy to members and \$1.50 per copy to non-members (subject to the California state sales tax).

#### NOTICE

Address all correspondence to the Secretary of the Historical Society of Southern California, care of The Southwest Museum, Museum Drive, Los Angeles, California.

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# The Quarterly

HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Organized November 1, 1883  
Incorporated February 13, 1891*

1939

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Quarterly Publication of the  
Historical Society of Southern California

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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

With this number of *The Quarterly* is completed the first five years of its life. The Editorial Board feels that it has given the Society worthwhile historical articles, and added real material to the literature of California history. *The Quarterly* has brought to light, not only heretofore unpublished material, but has developed several able historical writers that might otherwise have remained unknown. However it is gratitude we wish to express at this time to the members of the Historical Society for the support and encouragement they have given the Editor in this job that he has tried to put over with the help of his able Committee.

In this number of *The Quarterly* we have a fine article by Roy Fryer, past president of the Pomona Valley Historical Society, "Pomona Valley before the Americans Came." No one is better fitted than he to write on this subject, and he has gathered material and facts not before published. The article is exceedingly interesting, has a store of valuable historical information, and is well illustrated by photographs from collections of its author and of the editor of *The Quarterly*. Two of the photographs reproduced are views of the old Tomas Palomares house in Pomona, that was torn down some

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forty years ago to make way for a "modern" Swiss Chalet. I have tried for nearly twenty years to obtain these views that I had understood were in possession of the family of the owners who bought the house from Tomas Palomares in the 'eighties. The family now lives in Phoenix, Arizona, and while in that city this fall I was at last able to obtain and reproduce them for the Society, and help toward the illustration of Mr. Fryer's fine article. They are probably the only views in existence of this old home of the Palomares family, one of the really fine homes in the Pomona Valley before the influx of the "gringos." We are indebted to Mr. Frank Alkire of Phoenix for the use of these pictures. Mr. Alkire's father bought the hacienda from Tomas Palomares long after Pomona had become a thriving city, but had camped under the great oak tree that stood near the house early in the 'fifties, and made up his mind that someday he would own the house, but that's an interesting story by itself. It is interesting and coincidental that we should be able to give a review of a book just off the press dealing entirely with the Pomona Valley in this number of *The Quarterly*—Mrs. Bess Garner's *Windows in an Old Adobe*, a book that gives not only an excellent picture of life in the Valley of Rancho San Jose, but one that is historically correct, and contains in an appendix, a most valuable and long needed contribution to early Spanish California history, a series of genealogies of the early Spanish families of the rancho.

We are printing Carl I. Wheat's long-looked-for article on Death Valley, a region where Mr. Wheat has done much original research, "The Forty-Niners in Death Valley, A Tentative Census." This article is a much needed and valuable one for the student of California history and we consider the Society fortunate indeed that Mr. Wheat has allowed us to print it.

While in Taos, New Mexico recently, your editor acquired a very interesting article on a trip to San Clemente Island in 1888, from Mr. Frank Cheetham, who made the trip as a cabin boy in a private yacht. Mr. Cheetham is now a resident of Taos, and is a past president of the New Mexico Historical Society. The article will appear in the next volume of our *Quarterly*.

J. GREGG LAYNE, *Chairman of the Editorial Board*