

## Workshop Reports: Workshops with Delta Cultural Institutions and Project Team

At each meeting Bob Benedetti presented an overview of the project, Blake Roberts made a brief presentation and each of the four scholars presented their topics, preliminary findings, and areas where assistance was needed. Representatives of the various cultural institutions asked questions, made suggestions to focus research, and described materials available in their archives.

**March 4, 2015 Workshop**, Location: Walnut Grove Library, Walnut Grove, Sacramento County

Attendees: Dylan McDonald, Center for Sacramento History, Marcia Eymann, Center for Sacramento History, Christopher Smith, Center for Sacramento History, Janet Bennett, Dutra Museum, David Stuart, San Joaquin County Historical Society, Veronica, Center for Sacramento History.

Comments to Authors:

Bill Swagerty and Reuben Smith:

- Include Ironworks from Rio Vista, and Rio Vista Ford Dealership that sold trucks and other equipment to Delta farmers
- San Joaquin Historical Museum is restoring a tomato harvester
- Include a list of graphic-images and maps

Phil Garone:

- Chinese levee laborers from Pearl River area were brought as expert dirt movers, not just general laborers. That group returned to homeland.
- Bucket sizes related to soil type (peat, mineral) not just over time. Different placement and taming techniques used for different soils.
- Pears “worked” in the Delta as they could accommodate “wet feet”, versus other fruit trees
- What are the broader/statewide impacts from reclamation, more upstream flooding?
- What were impacts of hydraulic mining?
- What are the long term impacts of reclamation?
- Reference SF Estuary Institutes research on the Delta
- Reference *Battling the Inland Sea*
- Address changes over time re: dredging—where, how much, impacts, awareness

Jennifer Helzer:

- Reference: Golden Land, Working Hands
- Address gender of immigrant groups over time
- Address gender of cannery laborers

- Describe how and when spouses found for immigrants (Go home? Picture brides?)
- Reference literature/diaries of different immigrant groups
- Japanese hand plow and short handled hoe in local collections
- Address broader story of how and why immigrants came to Delta and what they left behind
- Develop map and timeline of immigration from various areas
- Address commonalities of immigrants
- MA: Need historic census tract maps
- Any Southeast Asian immigrants? Or new immigration trends?
- Refer to contemporary populations of native peoples

Gregg Camfield:

- Perhaps describe/include performance art (music, theatre, etc.)
- Clarify the purpose of the research and eventual exhibits—who is the audience? What is the end product? Who will visit?
- Perhaps include other print materials, i.e. Chinese newspapers
- Make exhibits relevant to audience—may need to add contemporary issues like Delta tunnels project...
- Need personal stories—what would my life be like if I lived here in a certain time...
- How would literature research be used; if quotes to accompany image, identify image.

**March 18, 2015 Workshop:** Antioch Historical Museum, Antioch, Contra Costa County

Attendees: Jenna Skinner, Contra Costa Library, Deanna Lechman, Contra Costa Library, Veronica Crane, Port Costa Conservation Society, Linda Clark, Port Costa Historic Archives, Diane Stewart, Port Costa Historic Archives, Dylan McDonald, Center for Sacramento History, Meredith Sarmento, Yolo County Archives, Malissa Knapp, Solano County Library, Rosemarie DiMaggio, Pittsburg Historical Society.

Swagerty and Smith:

- May want to visit Pittsburg High School
- East County Historical Society has information re: John Marsh, and a complete run of The Byron Times
- May want to visit National Park Services' San Francisco Maritime Library; Delta was "part" of San Francisco Port
- Crocket Museum has information about C&H Sugar

- Pittsburg Historical Society has information about coal mining in hills behind Pittsburg

Garone:

- Port Costa was largest shipping port of grain from Valley to Europe; Historical Society has one ledger of McNear Family
- Records of ferry boats

Helzer:

- Hastings adobe now within wooden house in Montezuma/Collinsville area
- Mormons were solicited to settle in the area
- Other utopian communities: Pt Pleasant, New Hope
- TB asylums?

Camfield:

- Jack London used to sail to Bay View Saloon in Pittsburg
- Check "*Octopus*", by Frank Norris
- Consider post cards—San Francisco Bay Area Post Card collection
- Consider Carlton Watkins photographs
- Consider Edward Muybridge photographs
- Consider Ansel Adams photographs
- Check Carnegie Library in Turlock, re Delta information
- Check John Muir papers in Martinez
- Check "*Picturesque California*"