

*News from*

# *The Monterey County Historical Society*

*December 2007*



## **Bataan Monument Flagpole Dedicated**



Thank you to Fifth District Supervisor Lou Calcagno, who was instrumental in urging the Board of Supervisors to add a beautiful flagpole and plaque honoring the Bataan survivors to the existing Bataan monument at the Monterey County Historical Society's Boronda History Center.

The dedication of the flagpole and the raising of the flag—on July 4, 2007—were beyond description. It truly humbled all.



The County of Monterey  
dedicates this flag pole in honor of the one hundred and five brave men of  
Company C, 194<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, of the Salinas and Pajaro Valleys.

May we always remember those who have sacrificed in defense of our nation,  
notably the more than 75,000 American and Philippine troops who, in April, 1942,  
after their valiant four month resistance to enemy forces, endured the infamous  
Bataan Death March and more than three years as prisoners of war.

Few Americans will know or understand the hardships they faced, but all  
Americans benefit from their dedication and service to our nation.  
We also honor the Bataan Committee members who have contributed so much to  
make this memorial a reality.

Dedicated June 14, 2007

### **THE ROBERT B. JOHNSTON ARCHIVAL VAULT**

The Robert B. Johnston Archival Vault was constructed in 1973 with financial assistance from the County of Monterey, Gannett Foundation, and Francis H. Cislini, former publisher of the *Salinas Californian*. It is one of the only such facilities outside of universities on the Central Coast. Humidity and temperature controlled, it houses a wealth of material on Monterey County history.

At 1,000 square feet, you would think the vault would be big enough to last us for decades—but it is now filled to capacity. As a part of the next phase of construction, we will expand the vault, more than doubling its size to nearly 2,200 square feet!

Following is a brief listing of a portion of the Society's Collection:

#### **Spanish and Mexican Archives**

The Spanish material consists primarily of military records and correspondence, most date in the 1780s.

Mexican records which comprise the bulk of the collection cover a wide range of topics, including official and private correspondence, real estate transactions, land grant petitions,

civil and criminal court records, military matters, immigration papers, and various records of the alcaldes of Monterey, New Helvetia, San Francisco, and elsewhere.

Of particular interest in the collection are a few of the papers of Thomas Larkin as U.S. Consul; information on the elections of 1839; a registry of cattle brands for the period 1835-1850; a building lot survey (Solares) of Monterey completed in 1838; and various listings of residents, foreigners, and officials from the 1830s.

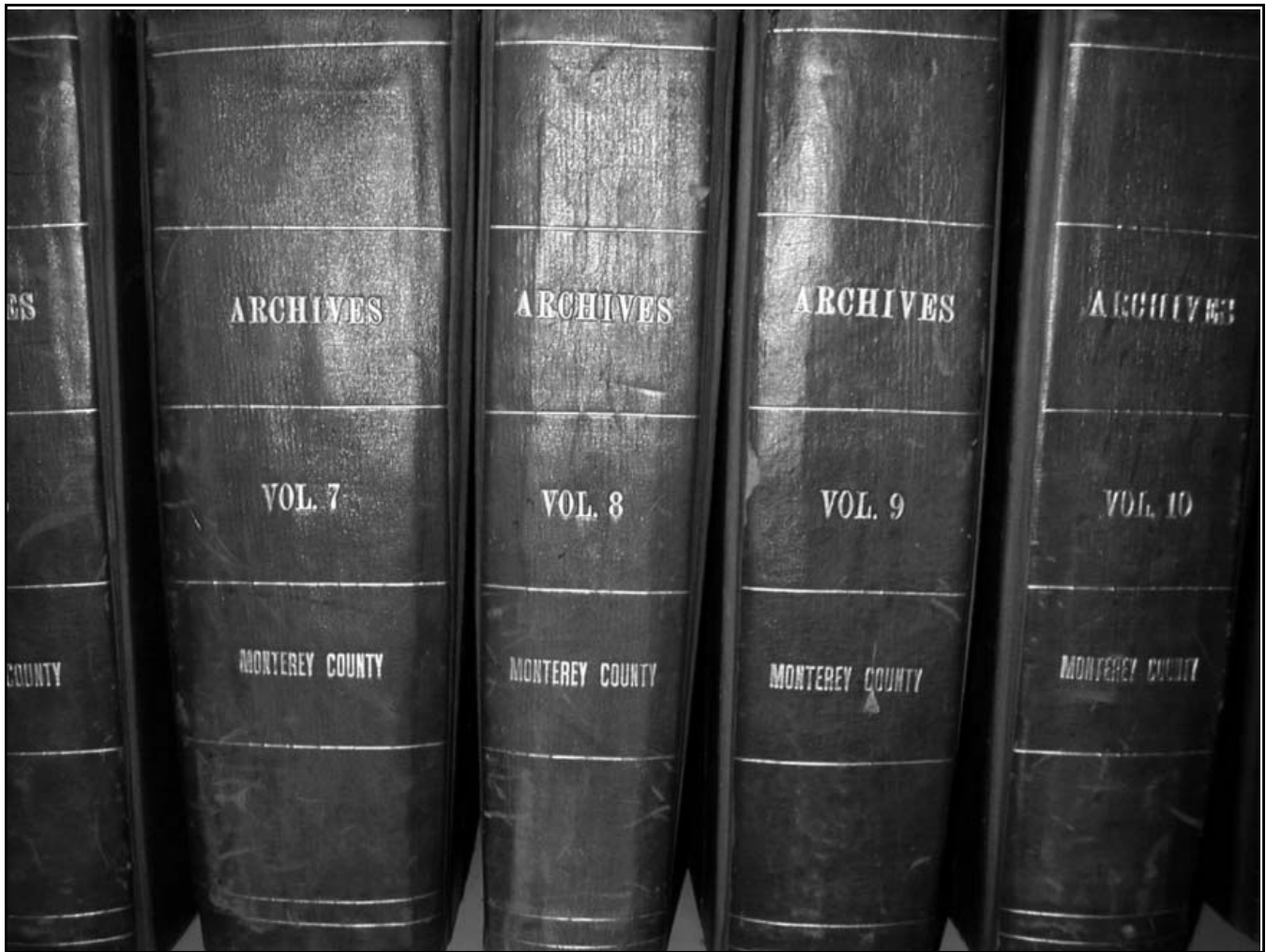
The bulk of this collection is contained in 16 large volumes.

#### **American Period**

The American occupation documents deal primarily with the routine business of magistrates, alcaldes, and other government offices.

Monterey County Records dating from the early 1850s:

- Auditors Receipt & Expenditures
- Auditors Office Warrant Records
- Assessment Rolls
- Board of Supervisors Accounting Books
- Board of Supervisors Budget
- Board of Supervisors Minutes
- Clerks Office Fee Records



- County Court Judgments
- Court of Session Criminal Records
- Criminal Dockets and Small Claims
- Criminal Dockets (Sheriff)
- District Court Judgments
- Grantor Records (Deeds and Grants)
- Great Registers and Poll List
- Jail Registers
- Loose Marriage Records
- Probate Superior Court (Bonds, Wills)
- Real Estate Lot Books
- Record of Insane Commitments
- Soldiers Burial Records
- Superior and Civil Court Records

#### Agriculture

History of agriculture including labor movements; photographs; a rare collection of agricultural labels; irrigation history; rainfall; ranch maps; Union Ice Company's complete

collection throughout California which, includes scrapbooks from early the 1800s, plant architectural drawings, legal papers, correspondence, rare photographs and correspondence; complete collection of Spreckels Sugar Company facilities in California which include photographs, ranch maps, architectural drawings, irrigation maps, scrapbooks, magazines, newspapers, and architectural drawings by William Weeks of homes built in the town of Spreckels.

#### Photographs

A wide range of rare photographs of Monterey County which include group scenes; individuals, agriculture; businesses; city and street scenes; rural scenes; transportation; military; sports; aerial photos; schools; buildings; slides and postcards. The collection consists of over 6,000 photographs and 2,600 negatives from the mid-1800s to the 1960s.

## Newspapers

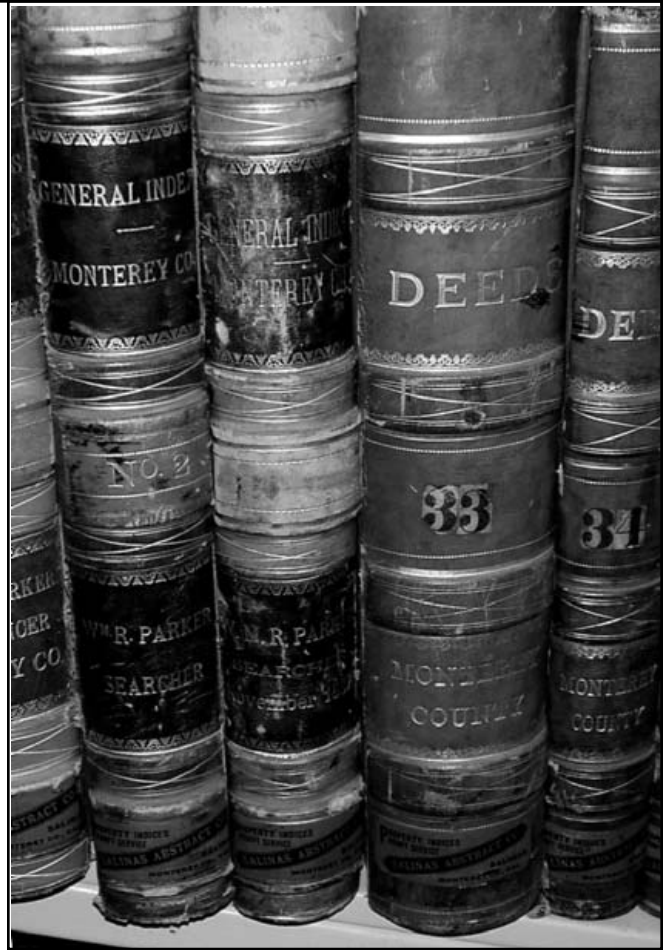
The Society has a large collection of local newspapers

## Archaeological Collections

The Society is under contract with Archaeological Consulting, a local consulting firm, to archive archaeological collections and materials found in Monterey County. We also have a small amount of material from excavations conducted by the California Department of Transportation. These collections are available to qualified researchers.

## Miscellaneous

City of Salinas and Monterey County business papers; receipts; advertising; Christmas, Valentine and birthday cards; business cards; election cards; letters; military records; genealogy records; diaries; land and deed papers; homestead papers; business journals; rare books; maps; club records and scrapbooks.



The holdings the Society has in the Robert B. Johnston Archival vault are so extensive that we could fill several pages with a basic list of subjects. However, with what we have listed here provides a general idea of the research material that is available.

Researchers are welcome. Appointments may be made by calling the Monterey County Historical Society at 831/757-8085.

A list of the recent donations will provide a feel for what has been coming our way, and why we need to expand our vault. We are continuously receiving priceless documents pertaining to our county's history. Thank you to the following who have donated items to our historical collection just in the past two months.

Robert Dorr of Oakton, VA

17 photographs of Monterey & Presidio, ca. 1957.







Robert Heiligman of Sacramento, CA  
Diaries covering the years of 1912-1919 written by Marguerite Maze of Salinas.

Mary Lee Perry of Castroville  
Sepia tone photograph, ca. 1930 of Maria De Los Angeles Boronda De Pombert.

Marty Parker of Chico, CA  
Souvenir book, titled, "Historic Monterey & Surroundings—Illustrated Special Edition," ca. 1899.

Barbara Wynn of Canby, Oregon  
Copies of documentation relating to the Carreaga estate and Manuel Castro, ca. 1839-1867.

Jane Osborne & Frank Brandes from the Estate of Janet Brandes

Rare Boronda family collection including two small 1914 religious books; Spanish shawl brought from Spain by Boronda family; multi-colored jacket belonged to Josefa Boronda; portion of beads from Jose Boronda's rosary. Beads were cut for family members; Jose's horse hair fly swatter to use while riding; Francisco Boronda's Doctrine Book 1846. photo Jose Eusebio Boronda on horseback,.

Richard Emery of Salinas

107 photographs & photograph album containing 102 photographs, mostly of Emery Family & Salinas, ca. 1920-1950. B&W group photograph of Company "C" 26th Medical Training Battalion at Camp Grant, November 1942.

Marie Cominos/Nick Cominos/Sophie Britton

A wonderful collection of items from the Cominos Hotel and family home as follows: stationary, envelopes, invoices, order pads, pencil with logo, dinner plates, saucers, soup bowls, coffee cups, large gold eagle, sewing machine, and old tools, metal mop wringer, metal wash board, hand meat grinder, Burroughs adding machine, crib of Nick Cominos, and many other items pertaining to Salinas.

Stein Jensen, Salinas

B&W photo of Bardin Hotel, 1920, with numerous autos in front; photo of Bardin Hotel 1920. Both photos are very rare.

Bill & Jeanne Fountain, Castlerock, Colorado

Sepia tone photo of California's First Theater in Monterey, ca. 1900. The photo has an unusual soft focus effect not typical of photography during that particular era.



Lydia Kerns, Salinas

County register of births 1916-1920 from King City area. County register of deaths 1931-1946 from Carmel-by-the-Sea. County register of deaths 1920-1926 from South County. Seven scrapbooks ca. 1933-1945 containing historical and geographical information pertaining to Monterey County. Miscellaneous legal documents 1857-1886.

Coming

Soon to be received from the County of Monterey—a large collection of early assessors rolls to make our collection complete.

**WANTED**

The Society is seeking old film footage of Monterey County to include in the archival vault. We receive many requests for such footage from the media all over the United States, including out of country media such as England.

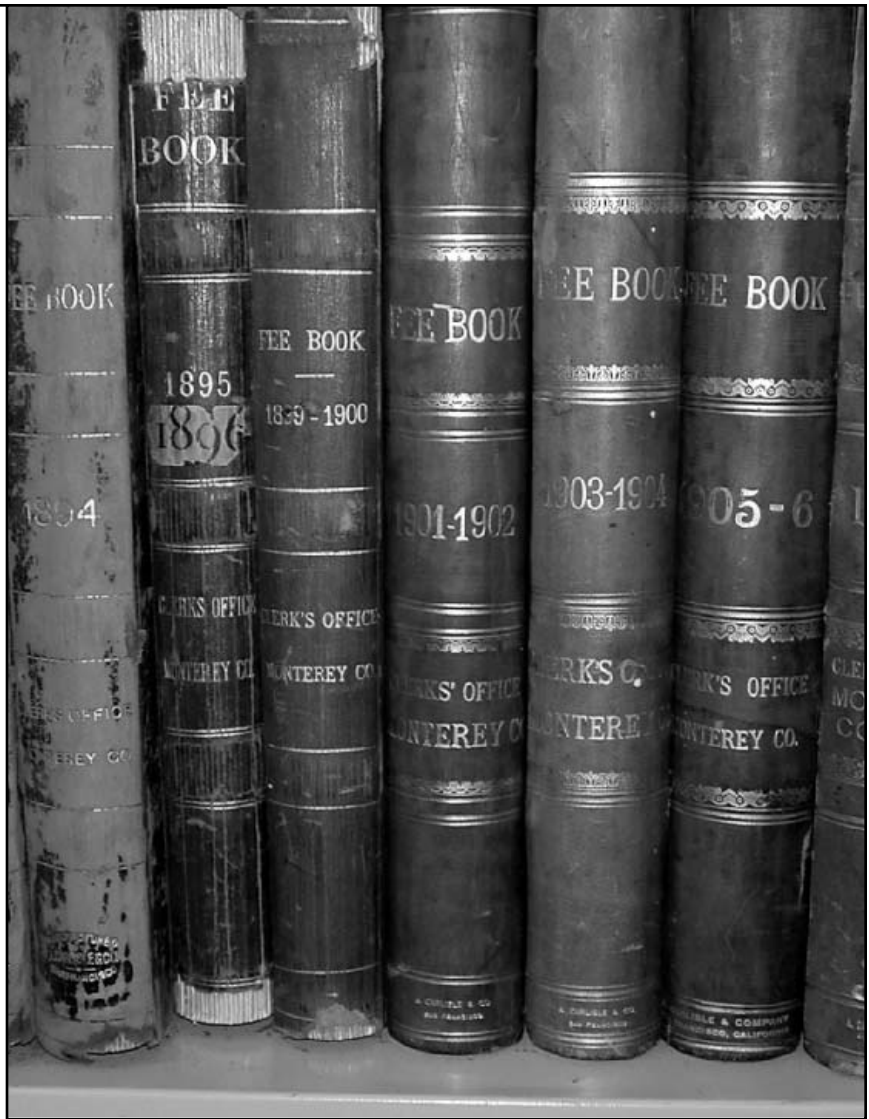
We are also looking for photos from 1930-1960, which would enhance our collection. The bulk of our collection at this time is the late 1800s thru 1920, and we have only a scattering from the 1930s.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Steve Anderson  
Dr. & Mrs. Myers  
Dr. Barbara Harper

**MEMORIALS**

Donor . . . . .In Memory Of  
Ed De Mars . . . . .Rachael De Mars  
George Fontes . . . . .John Muller



**WEBSITE**

Don't forget our website at:

**<http://www.mchsmuseum.com>**

**BORONDA FAMILY REUNION  
AND SOCIETY BBQ**

The Boronda Family Reunion held Saturday, September 21 coupled with a barbecue on Sunday 22, was a great success even though rain presented itself on Saturday. The Boronda Family members shared their history with each other and with members outside of the family. The Sage Brush Band included David Ford, a Boronda family member who played guitar and sang.



