

RANCHO CAMULOS MUSEUM

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



HISTORY MATTERS AT RANCHO CAMULOS REFLECTING ON 2016 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017!

New Carriage House Completed



The Museum's new carriage shed was completed this fall and now houses the fine 19th-century carriage used by Senora del Valle.

Earlier this Fall, a dedicated team of volunteers completed a beautiful new carriage shed to display the Museum's restored 19th-century carriage, originally used by the del Valle family in the 1800s. Visitors

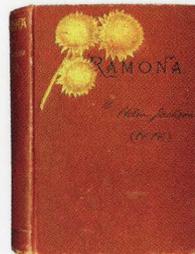
of all ages can now peek through the building's large picture windows and see the stately Rockaway carriage built in the early 1850s. Most likely, Ysabel del Valle traveled in the carriage when her family moved from downtown Los Angeles to Camulos in the late 1850s. The carriage also transported Senora del Valle on her errands of mercy as a local midwife. Until recently, the carriage was stored and only available for viewing on special occasions. The carriage house is dedicated to the memory of Ralph Rees who restored the carriage and designed the carriage shed.



Museum volunteers Gary Giesseman, John Zermeno, Bob Cox and Tom Reigner (not pictured) were named Museum Volunteers of the Year for the many hours of work they spent building the carriage shed.

New Research Library to Open in Early 2017

Many RCM visitors are unaware that the Museum has a substantial collection of historical documents—letters, financial ledgers, land deeds, photographs, guest books—spanning from the rancho period in the early 1800s to the August and Mary Rubel ownership of the ranch through the 1940s. These materials are valuable to researchers interested in early rancho history, agricultural history, and the del Valle and Rubel ownership of Rancho Camulos. Currently, the collection remains in storage because no suitable space is available to share the materials with visitors. In addition to historical archives, a donor recently gave the Museum a collection of books on Southern California history, including some rare editions.



The Museum owns numerous early editions of Ramona, the bestselling novel written by Helen Hunt Jackson. Copies of Ramona and other books about early Southern California history will be part of the library collection.

What to do with this significant collection of historical materials? Thanks to several generous benefactors and the assistance of museum volunteers Dianne Gay Cox and Marie Wren, RCM will be opening its new research library during the first quarter of 2017. Dianne and Marie have been busy fundraising, overseeing repairs to the

room, purchasing bookcases and other items needed to create a comfortable and functional space for reading and research. The library will be housed in the recently restored 1920s small adobe. Special thanks to Chevron for recently awarding RCM a community grant to assist with the purchase of a computer workstation, which will feature a database of the museum's historical archive collection for visitor use. Look for your invitation to celebrate the opening of the RCM Library early next year.



Volunteer Dianne Gay Cox with the Museum's noteworthy collection of 19th and early 20th century archives. The new library will make Camulos' historic collection more accessible to scholars and visitors interested in the rancho's history.

Rancho Camulos Treasures Exhibited at LMU

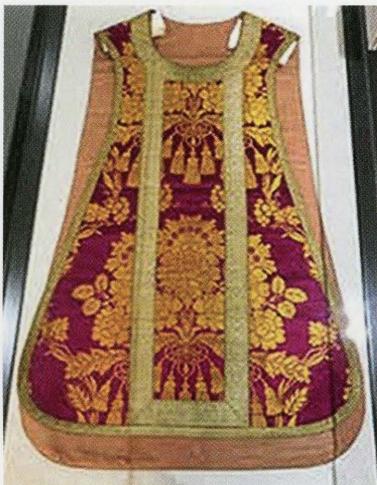


Professor Leon Wiebers works with students learning about the collection of Rancho Camulos vestments.

In early 2016 an ornate and stunning collection of religious vestments used in the chapel at Rancho Camulos during the del Valle era were showcased in an exhibit at Loyola Marymount University's Hannon Library. RCM worked closely with LMU's Archival Department and a group of LMU undergraduates studying costume research methods. The LMU students, under the direction of Professor Leon Wiebers and head archivist Cynthia Becht, investigated 19th-century California Catholic vestments that were donated to LMU by Josefa del Valle Forster more than seventy years ago. Josefa, the oldest del Valle daughter, had a longstanding relationship with the Jesuit university, located in West Los Angeles. Fortunately, these extraordinary 19th-century garments are in beautiful condition.

The student's research included a day touring Rancho Camulos and investigating the Museum's historic collection. The student's work culminated in an exhibit entitled "The Del Valle Vestments: The Devotion and Performance of a Matriarchy," which was open to the public for four months in early 2016. In addition to the del Valle vestments, items from RCM's collection—Josefa del Valle's embroidered silk bodice, the chapel's glass sacred heart, a Chinese trade trunk and 19th-century sheet music written about Rancho Camulos—were exhibited.

Before the students and Professor Wiebers began the project little was known about the sumptuous vestments that were part of LMU's Ygnacio del Valle Family Collection, or the richness of their historical context. Rancho Camulos Museum and LMU are currently making plans to collaborate on future research projects that will add to our knowledge of RCM's unique story.



One of several religious vestments once worn by priests who conducted mass in Rancho Camulos' chapel were displayed at an exhibit organized by student researchers at Loyola Marymount University in early 2016.

Tataviam Interpretive Village Coming in 2017

The Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians played a significant role in the early history of Rancho Camulos and were living near the ranch at the time the land was given to Antonio del Valle as a Mexican land grant in 1839. Tataviam Indians labored for the del Valle family and helped to build the family's home, now referred to as the "Main Adobe."

In 2016, the Museum and Tataviam Tribal Council joined forces to begin work on an outdoor historical interpretive area on Tataviam history and culture on the grounds south of the Museum's 1930 schoolhouse. The village will consist of a dwelling (kij), a storytelling area (ramada) and a non-functioning sweat lodge. Interpretive signage detailing the history of the Tataviam at Camulos and native plants will also be incorporated into the area. This new educational area will greatly enhance school field trips and regular tours as Museum docents share the history of the Native American people at Camulos. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting new project.



A traditional Tataviam dwelling will be built at Camulos along with two other structures. The interpretive exhibit will be dedicated to sharing the history of the indigenous people who were the first Camulos inhabitants.

PLEASE JOIN US IN 2017 FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS AT RCM!

- **Saturday, January 28** — Helen Hunt Jackson Returns to Rancho Camulos (Living History Re-enactment)
- **Friday, April 21** — Cowboy Festival Luncheon and Concert featuring Jon Chandler
- **Friday, May 19** — Artist Day

Additional special events will be announced in the months ahead. Please visit our website for more information at www.ranchocamulos.org.

Want to make a difference in 2017?

Join RCM's fantastic and fun-loving docent and volunteer team. For more information, email info@ranchocamulos.org or call 805-521-1501.

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Rancho Camulos Museum Research Library Fact Sheet

Hours of Operation: Open the first Sunday of every month, 1-4 p.m. beginning **July 2**. Also open by appointment by emailing info@ranchocamulos.org or calling 805-521-1501.

**Who May Use
Library?**

The library is designed to serve the needs of scholars and individuals (16 and older) interested in history.

Check Out Policy: All materials must be used in the library and are not available for check out. A photo copier is available to make copies of approved materials at a charge of \$.25 per copy.

Scope of Collection: RCM's collection includes more than 200 books and periodicals on Southern California history, California history, American West history and fiction. Additionally, we have books from the early twentieth century that were part of August Rubel's Camulos library. The Museum's archive spans the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century and includes letters written by delValle family members, business and agricultural records pertaining to Rancho Camulos, maps and photographs.

**Searching the
Collection:**

RCM's collection can be searched using the computerized catalog available in the library. Later, the database will be available via the Museum's website and some of the materials will be digitized.

Donation Policy:

Currently, the Museum is not accepting additional books. If you have archival materials relevant to Rancho Camulos history, please contact Museum Director Susan Falck at 805-521-1501 or info@ranchocamulos.org.