RANCHO LOS CERRITOS
2016 LECTURE SERIES

This National and State Historic Landmark includes an 1844 two-story adobe from the Mexican period, remodeled in 1930, on 4.7 acres of landscaped grounds, and a California History Research Library.

The property once served as headquarters for a large cattle ranch under John Temple, and later as a prosperous sheep ranch under the Bixby family.

Free tours are offered Wednesday–Sunday, 1–5pm.

Saturdays, 10am
$7 general admission ($5 FT student)
Advance reservations requested; call (562) 206-2040

The Bixbys in Southern California: Legacy of a Pioneering Family

Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach
(562) 206-2040
RanchoLosCerritos.org
**Saturday, February 20 @ 10am**

**They Came for Gold**

Stephen Dudley  
Great-grandson of Lewellyn Bixby

The Bixby family is closely associated with the early history of Long Beach, but it was the Gold Rush that initially brought twelve younger members of the family to California. They were a diverse group and met with varying degrees of success – but mostly in industries other than gold. In 1852 Lewellyn Bixby and his Flint cousins made the momentous decision to return home and bring a large flock of sheep out west; their ranching business at the San Justo in Northern California prospered. Within a decade, they expanded their horizons to Southern California, where they acquired Rancho Los Cerritos 150 years ago. Dudley, the family historian, will discuss the early adventures of these young men from Maine, several of whom ended up becoming major land owners in their adopted state of California.

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**Saturday, March 19 @ 10am**

**The California Legacy of the Bixby Family**

Stephen C. Iverson  
Retired Curator,  
Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site

The Bixby family’s participation in the development of California, and especially the communities of Los Angeles and Long Beach, extends to many projects. While they started with sheep ranching, they soon became land owners, developers, investors, and agricultural entrepreneurs. In addition, many members of the extended family as well as the various family companies have long supported a wide range of charitable causes. Iverson will examine the many ways the Bixby family has exemplified the spirit of growth and progress in California.

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**Saturday, April 23 @ 10am**

**From Ranchos to Residents: Transforming Southern California, 1850-1950**

Dr. William F. Deverell  
Director, Huntington-USC Center on California & the West

The discovery of gold brought hundreds of thousands to California, and the transcontinental railroads brought many more. Whether these immigrants sought fortune and adventure or rejuvenation and recuperation, they needed places to live and work. Southern California's rancheros, who owned much of coastal California in 1850, were faced with the decision of whether to retain or sell off portions of their pasture lands to accommodate the burgeoning population. Dr. Deverell will examine the influences and outcomes of this tremendous shift in land use over time.

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**Saturday, May 14 @ 10am**

**Preserving Places while Building Community in California**

Dr. Anne Petersen  
Associate Director for Historical Resources,  
Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

Drawing on her extensive research on Santa Barbara and San Juan Capistrano, Dr. Petersen will provide an overview of the development of historic preservation in California - a field that is undergoing considerable change at present, due in part to significant reductions in state and federal support. Today, hundreds of historic sites with outdated funding models and substantial deferred maintenance issues struggle to remain viable. Dr. Petersen will also foster a dialogue about the future of historic preservation in California by reaching into the long history of the field to ask: why should we preserve historic places in California today, and who are we preserving them for?