

ONTARIO
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & ART

Presents

Her / Side of the Story

Tales of California Pioneer Women

Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women
is an exhibition from the Society of California Pioneers
and is traveled by Exhibit Envoy.

Ontario Museum of History & Art
225 S. Euclid Ave., Ontario, CA 91762
Gallery Hours: 12 PM – 4 PM | Thursday – Sunday
(909) 395-2510 | OntarioMuseum.org

STAFF CREDITS

Interim Director.....	Cindy Cleary
Curator of Exhibitions.....	Leslie Matamoros
Curator of Collections.....	Michelle Sifuentes
Curator of Education.....	Miriam Valle-Mancilla
Assistant Curator.....	Samantha Herrera
Office Assistant.....	A'Janie Carter
Graphic & Marketing Specialist.....	Rebecca Ustrell
Museum Attendant.....	Samantha Matthews
Collections Intern.....	Trent Kalscheuer
Collections Intern.....	Fernando Lopez
Collections Intern.....	Amanda Michael
Collections Intern.....	Kimberly Torrez

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSISTANT CURATOR

As we are approaching the end of the year, I chose the traveling exhibit *Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women* as the final exhibition to represent how important women are in history. The museum selected a show to fit the continuing theme of *Year of the Woman*. By sharing this exhibition, we can all learn how much has changed throughout history for women.

I hope you enjoy,

— **Samantha Herrera**
Assistant Curator

AUDIO TOUR

RECORDINGS OF PIONEER WOMEN

Got a smart phone?

Use the QR code below to hear recordings of different women as they recount their experiences.

Themes: overland travel, sailing, starting a new life, housing, and daily items they would use to help shape life in California!

Look out for the code on the exhibit panels, we have provided a map to help guide you.



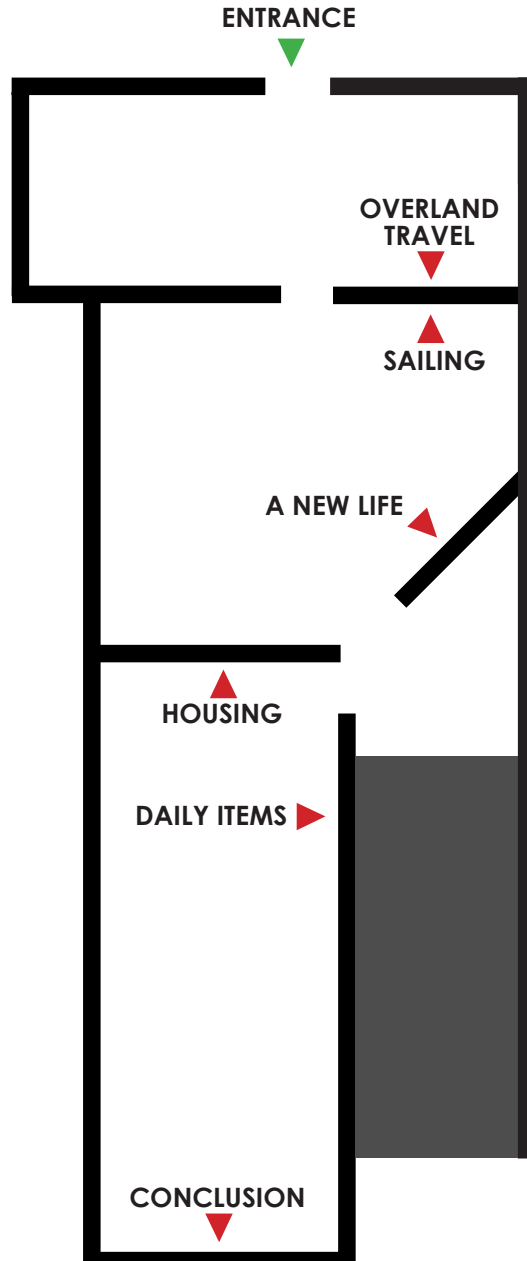
TO SCAN QR CODE:

iOS phone Users:

Open your camera app and point to the code and follow the banner link to the audio tour website!

Android Users (version 8 and above):

Go to your apps and click on the Google App, Activate Google Lens and go to Screen Search in Settings then point your camera at the code and follow the banner link to the audio tour website! Or download a QR Reader App on your phone.



OVERLAND TRAIL

- * Maria Matilda Anser Hudson, born 1852 in Santa Clara, California
- * Margaret A. McCarty Hotaling, arrived in 1853 from Kentucky
- * Harriet Zumwalt Smith, arrived in 1849 from Missouri
- * Cecilia Zenetta Dickson, arrived in 1852 from Illinois

SAILING

- * Harriet Virginia Peyton, arrived in 1849 from Alabama
- * Emma Anderson Sullivan, arrived in 1850 from Australia

NEW LIFE

- * Alida Wadhams Ferrill, arrived in 1850 from Wisconsin
- * Elizabeth O'Hagan Wainwright, arrived in 1849 from Valparaiso, Chile
- * Mary Barlow Burke, arrived in 1851 from Connecticut
- * Medora Wadhams Mundall, arrived in 1850 from Wisconsin
- * Margaret Frances Nolan, arrived in 1855 from Pennsylvania
- * Caroline Ellis Mosse, arrived in 1848 from Valparaiso, Chile
- * Nellie Thompson, arrival date and origin unknown

HOUSING

- * Anna Helen Jordan Sea, arrived in 1850 from Australia
- * Thiklay Dutard Kleinclaus, arrived in 1849 from Valparaiso, Chile
- * Caroline Ellis Mosse, arrived in 1848 from Valparaiso, Chile

ITEMS

- * Martha Goodsell, arrived in 1849 from Massachusetts
- * Lizzie Shepard Wangaman, arrived in 1850 from Ohio
- * Martha Jane Bradley Scoofey, arrived in 1849 from Tennessee

CONCLUSION

- * Ellen Lavinia Yount McMahan, arrived in 1851 from Indiana

MUSEUM COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy exploring items from the Ontario Museum of History & Art's very own collection. What details can you note on each artifact?



Sewing Kit
wood, textile, and mother-of-pearl
1985.1.5

This sewing kit dates to 1850. The box is made from rosewood and the embellishments of the sewing tools are mother-of-pearl. Inside is a pull away tray with separate compartments for storage. It has extra spools of carved mother of pearl, along with sewing scissors and other sewing implements. On the lid is a metal tab used to hold up a pattern.

Though this kit is fancier than what one might find on the trail, it is a great all-in-one kit that could be used to sew or mend most textiles. It is portable and has space underneath to store scraps of fabric, yarn, thread, and any other materials and tools that might be useful.



Dress
1985.8.1

Princess line cut-dress without a horizontal waist seam, fits more snugly to the body giving a long slim line, with a soft round slopping bustle. This trend started earlier-about 1876 and continued through early 1883. Due to the industrial revolution and the growth of the fashion industry, cheaper fabrics became more readily available. More women, even those living in rural areas, could get the fashionable silhouette, adjusted for practicality. This dress is made with a wool outer and a cotton inner fabric and is most likely a day dress. It retains the fashionable princess line silhouette while also being practical for rural life-not as many frills and add-ons.

While examining the dress, it was noticed that the back of the skirt was longer than the front and the inside around the waist had been adjusted or "taken in" to cinch at the waist. Staff determined that this dress was meant to have a small bustle in the back, which has been recreated out of cloth and safely attached to the mannequin to display the dress as it was meant to be worn.

Sieves (3)
metal
1994.14.56.3-5

These sieves were used in mining. They are labeled 60 and 100, from least fine to finest, 100 being the finest. Piles of crushed rock or dirt would be placed on top and sifted out on to the bottom sieve, then further sifted to the next sieve, until only minerals such as gold or silver remained.

Miners traveled far and wide to find gold and other precious minerals in the wilds of California. Sieves would have been used to filter the soil of their "claims" in hopes they would catch gold dust or other minerals in the sieve. Each sieve would have been used to filter out finer and finer particles until only, ideally, what remained was of some value.



HOW TO READ AN ACCESSION NUMBER

An accession number is a unique identifier given to objects in a museum collection.

Ex. 1985.1.5

1985 – Indicates the year the item entered the collection.

1 – Is the consecutive lot number/group number received that year. In this case this was the first donation of 1985.

5 – Indicates the fifth object of the lot/group.

PIONEER WOMEN OF ONTARIO



Eliza Boswell Chaffey | Source : Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library (Digital Collections)

George and William Chaffey, founders of Ontario. It is unfortunate that Sarah and Eliza's side of the story is not told, but that doesn't diminish their part in the history of the city of Ontario. The stories of many pioneer women are lost to time, we only get glimpses through the mementoes and photographs left behind.

When the Ontario Colony Lands went on sale in November 1882, settlers began to make their way to what would become the Inland Empire. The incentive of purchasers of land automatically receiving shares in the water company was enticing, and in 1883 the first house was built in Ontario. Located on 302 West Fifth Street, this home belonged to Isaac W. Whitaker. His wife, Mrs. Sarah Whitaker was the first woman to settle in Ontario. A year later in 1884, the home of Eliza and Ellswood Chaffey was built. Ellswood was younger brother to



Residence of Isaac and Sarah Whitaker | Source : Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library (Digital Collections)

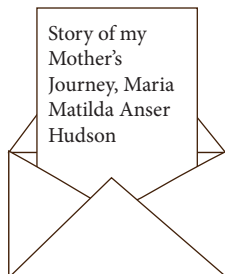
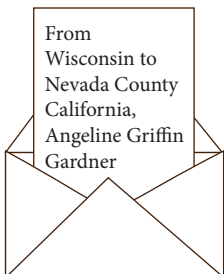
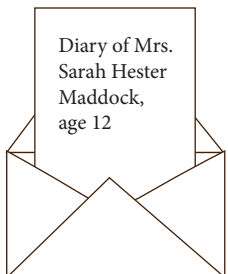
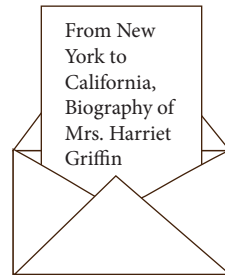
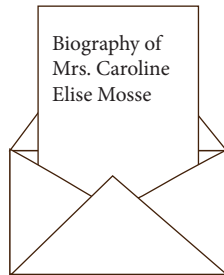
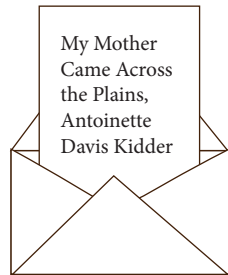
You can learn more about the Women of Ontario by visiting the Ovitt Family Community Library (215 East C Street), or explore local history online using the Ontario Treasures portal at: <https://ontariocitylibrary-montage.auto-graphics.com/>



LETTERS FROM THE PAST

Storytelling plays an important part of remembering and acknowledging a presence of an individual and historic moment in time. We often recount what we saw, what we heard, what we were doing or who we were with. This exhibit holds a treasure of stories and experiences that were preserved and collected by The Association of Pioneer Women in California. These stories recount the lives of those women who heard about California and made their way west, many of these women contributed to shaping the State of California.

In the exhibit, the public is invited to take a letter and read one of the stories that would have been mailed to a friend or family member about their journey to California. Listed are the written counts you can read from. Or you can take a letter written by a community member in the shared mailbox!



Now it is your turn! Take a moment and share your journey in California. If you were to share your life with someone who has never heard of California, what would you describe to them?

Instructions: Take a pen and paper provided and answer the following prompts to guide your storytelling. When you are finished. Fold your letter and place it in a shared mailbox for others to read and learn about your story.

Date _____

First & Last Name / or leave Anonymous _____

Age _____

I arrived to California ...

I first knew I was in California when...

My favorite place to visit in California is ...

These are the types of food I like to eat in California ...

I like to visit this place in California with ...

When I leave my home, I carry these things with me ...



PIONEER CLASSIC FAVORITE RECIPE

JOHNNYCAKES

Corn and corn products were an important staple that kept pioneers fed as they traveled westward. Not only did it have a long shelf life, but corn was also an important crop to have when starting a settlement. Many recipes at the time included corn, like cornbread, tortillas, and chowder. The Johnnycake came from the “jonikin” cake, which was made from oats. It was called Johnnycake when corn was used as a substitute for oats.

There are many ways to make Johnnycakes, as the recipe has been adapted and changed over the years. Here is how chef Kia Damon makes them:

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup whole milk or buttermilk
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup pork fat, rendered lard, bacon grease, or vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Instructions:

Place 1 cup all-purpose flour, 1 cup yellow cornmeal, 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder, and 1 teaspoon kosher salt in a medium bowl and whisk to combine.

Beat 2 large eggs in a small bowl until broken up. Add the eggs, 3/4 cup whole milk or buttermilk, and 1/4 cup water to the flour mixture and stir to combine.

Heat the 1/2 cup of pork fat and 2 tablespoons unsalted butter in a cast iron pan over medium-high heat until melted and shimmering. Use a 1/4 cup measuring cup to drop two portions of the batter into the pan. Cook until crisp and golden brown, about 5 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate and repeat with the remaining batter.



CRAFT ACTIVITY

making Yarn Dolls

Making

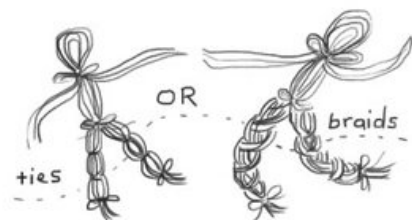
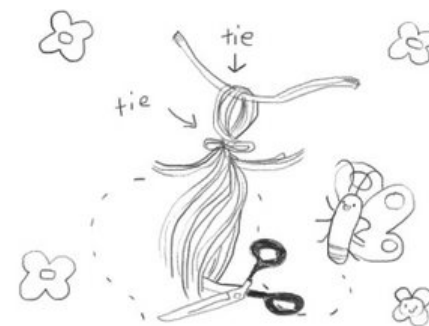
Yarn

Dolls



Step 1: Take your yarn and wrap it around your hand about 50 times. Be careful not to lose the ends.

Step 2: Slide your bundle of yarn off your hand and use extra bits of yarn to tie the top loop of your wrapped yarn. Cut the bottom loop.



Step 3: Decide if you want your doll to have pants or a dress! To make pants, make a waist by tying a knot in the middle of the doll. Split the bottom strands of yarn and tie them off separately. If you want to add some flair, try braiding the yarn into two braids to make the legs!

For a dress, simply make a waist by tying off the middle with yarn.





LITERATURE ON PIONEER HISTORY FOR THE FAMILY!

This list includes just a few of the many books about Pioneer History that are available at the Ontario City Ovitt Family Community Library located at 215 East C Street Ontario, CA 91764. For more information, please call (909) 395-2004.

Children's Picture Books

You Wouldn't Want to be an American Pioneer! A Wilderness You'd Rather Not Tame
by Jacqueline Morley

The Buffalo Storm
by Katherine Applegate

Elsie's Bird
by Jane Yolen

Papa and the Pioneer Quilt
by Jean Van Leeuwen

Welcome to Kirsten's World, 1854: Growing Up in Pioneer America
by Susan Sinnott

Children's Fiction

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: the Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell
by Kristiana Gregory

Children's Non-Fiction Books

California Gold Rush
by Peter and Connie Roop

Gold Rush and Riches
by Paul Robert Walker

Wagon Trains and Settlers
by Ellen H. Todras

How Many People Traveled the Oregon Trail? and Other Questions About the Trail West
by Miriam Aronin

The Story of Women who Shaped the West
By Mary Virginia Fox

Women of the Old West
by Judith Alter

Biddy Mason Speaks Up
by Arisa White and Laura Atkins

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM

Check out our upcoming programming, we hope to see you at the next event! For more details, visit our website at OntarioMuseum.org

‡ Public programs and workshops require a reservation.
To reserve your spot, please call (909) 395-2510

That's a Wrap Museum Edition

We've collaborated with the Lewis Family Branch Library to bring you holiday wrapping. Deck out your gifts by creating your own Ontario-inspired wrapping paper using treasured icons like our Frankish fountain, Armstrong Roses, and Nugent's Horseshoes!

Saturday December 18, 2021 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Workshop: Creative Approaches to the Selfie Portrait ‡

Participate in this community portrait workshop led by educator, artist, and scholar Richard May. You will re-discover parts of yourself that you love and have forgotten while experimenting with different portraiture exercises. Guests are invited to bring a self-portrait; all other materials will be provided.

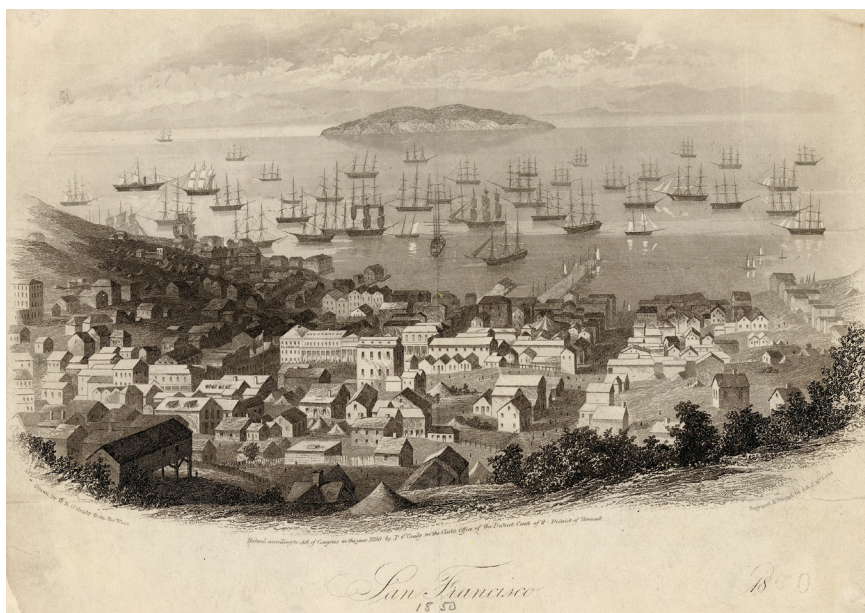
Saturday January 8, 2021 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Roundtable: Celebrate Women Civil Rights Activists

In the words of Coretta Scott King, "Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become the soul." Tour Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women exhibit and join us for a roundtable highlighting important women of the civil rights movement and those who played an important part of California history.

Thursday January 13, 2021 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

The Ontario Museum of History & Art, is a public-private museum operated by the City of Ontario with support from the non-profit Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates.



San Francisco, 1850
Courtesy of the Society of California Pioneers

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Mayor Paul S. Leon • Mayor pro Tem Alan D. Wapner
Council Members Jim W. Bowman, Debra Dorst-Porada and Ruben Valencia



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