

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area

**James Beckwourth**



Beckwourth was born to a slave woman about 1800. He became a trapper for the Rocky Mountain Fur Co. and also traded with Indians. He blazed the Beckwourth Trail in California - now Highway 70.

Bodie State Historic Park

**Billy O'Hara**



O'Hara operated a boarding house in Bodie and co-owned the Bunker Hill Mine. He is buried in Bodie.

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

**Gooch - Monroe Family**



Nancy Gooch and her husband Peter were brought to Coloma in 1849 as slaves. They gained their freedom and worked to bring their son, Andrew Monroe, and his family from Missouri. Their descendants sold land that became part of this state park.

Negro Bar, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

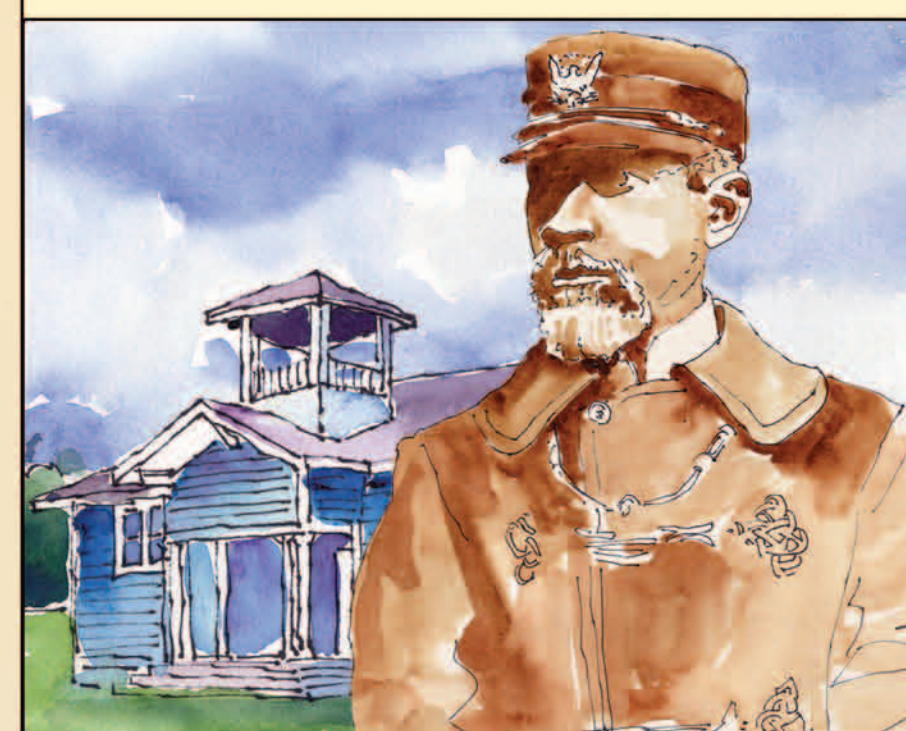
**William Leidesdorff**



Leidesdorff's business interests included the first hotel in San Francisco and the first schooner route between San Francisco and Sacramento. He served on the San Francisco city council and as U.S. Vice Consul to Mexico. The modern city of Folsom sits on the site of Leidesdorff's cattle ranch.

Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park

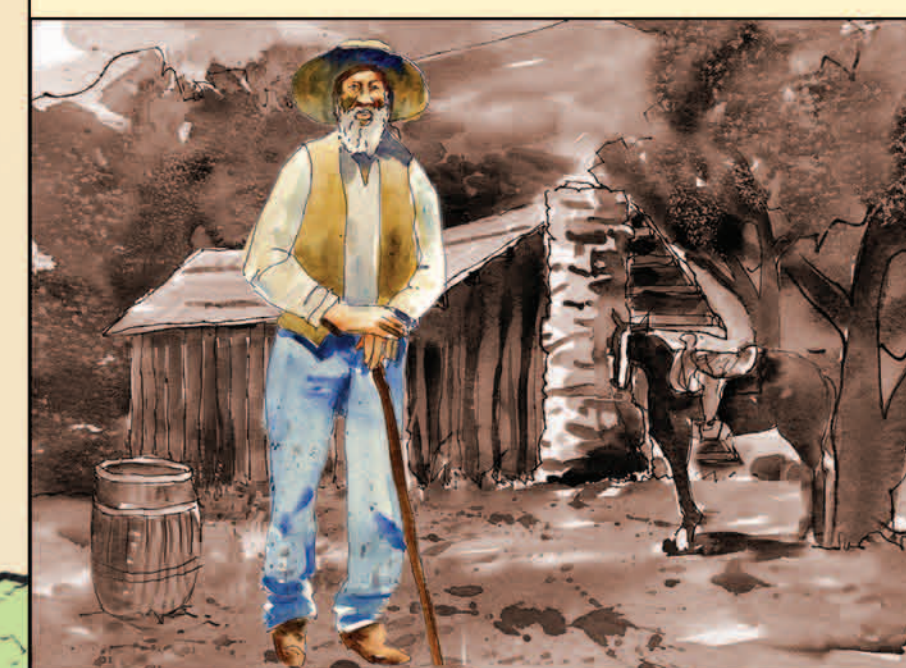
**Colonel Allen Allensworth**



Escaping slavery, Allensworth went on to serve a distinguished career in the U.S. military. Upon retirement he founded the self-governed black township of Allensworth in California's Central Valley.

Palomar Mountain State Park

**Nate Harrison**



Harrison arrived in California as a slave, gained his freedom and became a cowboy near Palomar Mountain. He built a homestead on the mountain where his kind offers of water to travelers resulted in the road being named "Nathan Harrison Grade."

Greenwood State Beach

**Nathaniel Smith**



Smith arrived by ship at Cuffey's Cove in 1849. He was a successful woodsman and fisherman, and one of the first settlers in the Greenwood area.

Jack London State Historic Park

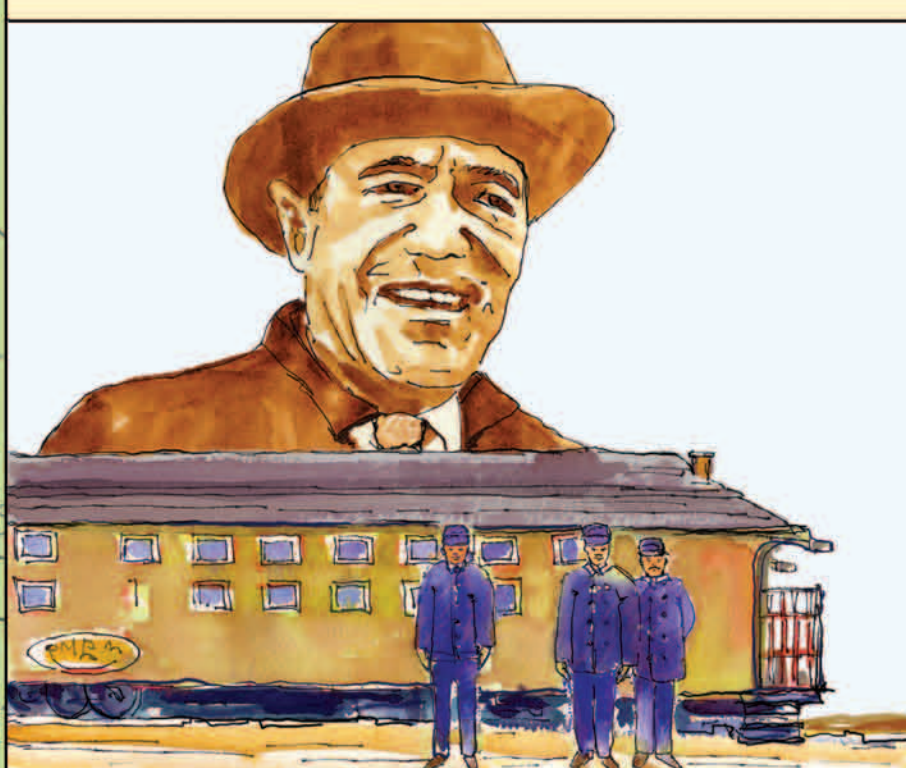
**Jenny Prentiss**



A freed slave, Prentiss settled in the Bay Area and became nanny to the young Jack London. Later she worked as a midwife in Oakland but always remained close to the famous author and his family.

California State Railroad Museum

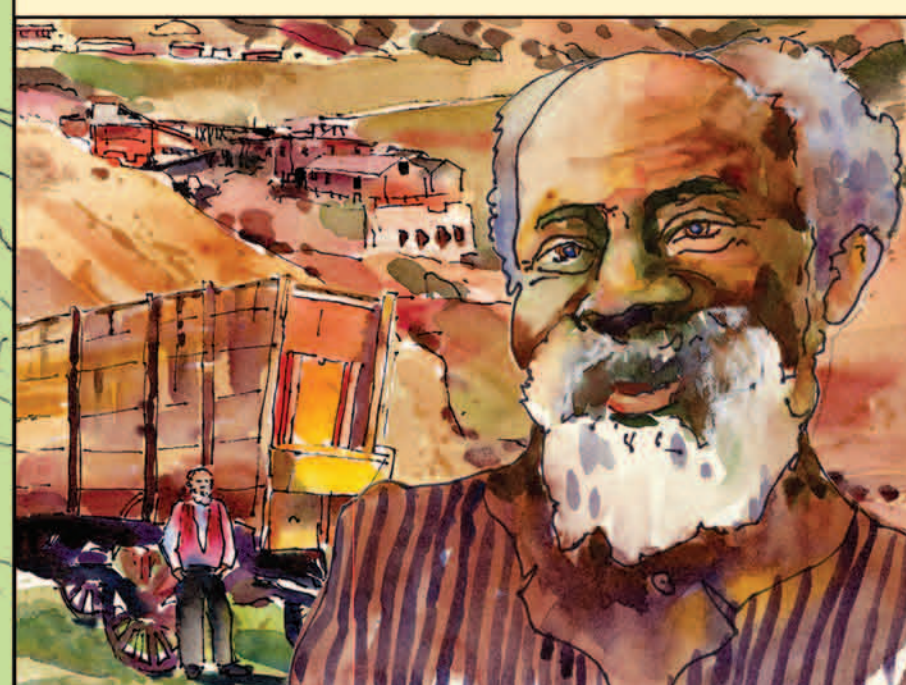
**C. L. Dellums**



Pullman porter C. L. Dellums was vice president of the first major African American labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

San Juan Bautista State Historic Park

**Ishmael Williams**



An ex-slave, Williams arrived in San Juan Bautista in 1858. Working as a teamster for the New Idria Quicksilver Mine, he devised a waterproof freight wagon.

Rio de Los Angeles State Historic Park

**Biddy Mason**



Mason arrived in California as a slave in 1851. After emancipation she became successful in real estate and was the first black woman to own property in Los Angeles. She was respected for her caring dedication to the less fortunate in her community.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

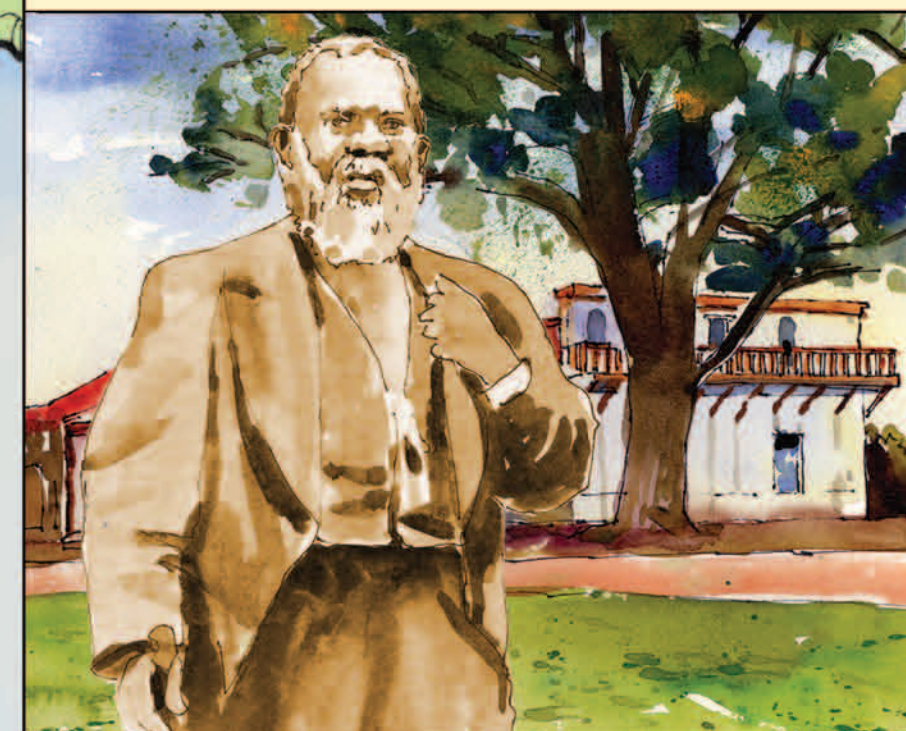
**Allen B. Light**



Light was an ex-slave who became a sea otter hunter. After helping Juan Bautista Alvarado gain the governorship of California in 1836, he was deputized to protect California's otter trade from foreign hunters. He was co-owner of the San Diego House in Old Town.

Pío Pico State Historic Park

**Pío Pico**



Pío Pico, whose ancestry included a mixture of Spanish, African, Indian and Italian, was born at the San Gabriel Mission in 1801. As a successful cattleman, he built his home, El Ranchito, and the first luxury hotel in Los Angeles. He was the last governor of Mexican California from 1845 to 1846.

# CALIFORNIA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEERS

African Americans have been an important part of the California story since the time of the first Spanish settlements. For many, California represented a chance to break free from the chains of slavery and become self-supporting citizens. Within the regions of many present-day state parks, African

Americans took on a variety of occupations, including those of hunters, farmers, teachers, cowboys, railroad workers, landowners, and even governor. In spite of racial prejudice and discriminatory laws and practices, black Californians have claimed their place in the society and history of the Golden State.

