



Pacific Currents

Newsletter of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa & Trust Territory of the Pacific

Facilities and staff in San Bruno, Laguna Niguel, and Riverside, California

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July 2014

Volume 13, Issue 4

Yosemite is 150



Yosemite Falls, reflected in a flooded meadow

such as Thomas Starr King, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Irish-born California Senator John Conness, who were concerned that commercial exploitation endangered this unique landscape.

The Surveyor General's letter to Congress facilitating the Act's passage is on temporary loan from the National Archives to the National Park Service for display in the Yosemite

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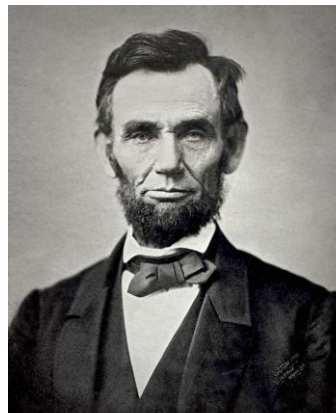
The Yosemite Act was lost in the tides of war, and only in recent years has its monumental significance been evaluated by historians. It is clear now that the reservation of Yosemite marked perhaps the most significant single event in the changing relationship of Americans to the land they live on.

Harold Gilliam

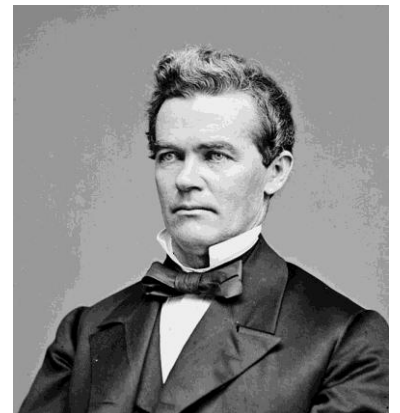
On June 30, 1864, in the midst of a bloody civil war, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, preserving forever one of the great natural wonders of the world, Yosemite Valley, and its surrounding landscapes. This was the first time the U.S. Government set aside public land specifically for preservation and public use.

Yosemite Valley is a glacier-formed canyon, flanked by sheer granite cliffs thousands of feet high, with awe-inspiring waterfalls cascading down them. The Valley with its nearby groves of Giant Sequoia redwoods and high mountain country continues to draw legions of visitors from all parts of the globe.

Passage of the Yosemite Grant Act was the culmination of a campaign by leading citizens



President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act



Senator John Conness authored the Yosemite Grant Act

FREE TRAINING: USING FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER SERVICES

August 20, 2014, at the Federal Records Center, Perris, CA

This free full-day Federal Records Center training covers

- ▶ The Archives and Records Center Information System (ARCIS)
- ▶ How to transfer records to your Federal Records Center
- ▶ How to make an online request for reference services

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Yosemite Anniversary

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Museum through October 18, 2014, as part of a commemorative exhibit, "Yosemite, the Great Experiment."

Yosemite Valley had long been home to the native Ahwahneechee, a Paiute-related tribal group of about 200, when they were forcibly removed by the State of California's Mariposa Battalion in the 1850s. Soon thereafter, early European-American visitors to Yosemite spread the word about its natural wonders. Tourists and commercial exploitation soon followed.

Following passage of the Grant in 1864, Yosemite became a California state park, but the state of California did little to protect it. Logging of the Giant Sequoia trees, sheep grazing in the high meadows and over building in the valley itself, all threatened this treasured landscape.

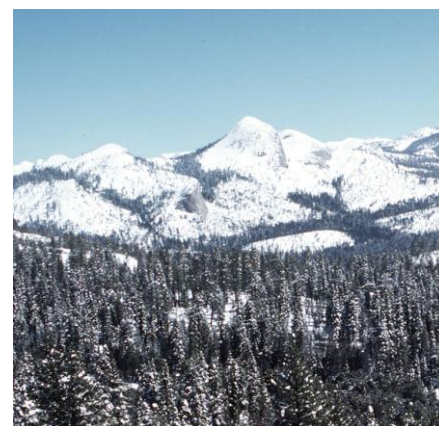
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Early visitors marveled at the Valley's natural beauty



Thomas Starr King, California's "Apostle of Liberty," campaigned for the Yosemite Grant Act



Mt. Starr King after a snowstorm, 1982
DOD photo. National Archives Identifier: 6353301

Other Anniversaries this Year

- 1814: Burning of Washington, DC
- 1914: Outbreak of World War I
- 1934: Founding of the National Archives
- 1944: Allied Invasion of Normandy
Passage of the GI Bill of Rights
- 1964: Freedom Rides
Passage of the Civil Rights Act
Passage of the Wilderness Act

Records Management Training, August-September, 2014

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/
or email our training registrar at laguna.workshops@nara.gov

For more information on our workshops, go to <http://nara.learn.com/recordsmanagement-training>

Sacramento, California

- Records Schedule Implementation (KA4)**,
August 4-5, 2014;
- Asset and Risk Management (KA5)**,
August 6-7, 2014;
- Records Management Program
Development (KA6)**, August 8, 2014

San Diego, California

- Records Management Overview (KA1)**,
August 18, 2014;
- Creating and Maintaining Agency Business
Information (KA2)**, August 19-20, 2014;
- Records Scheduling (KA3)**, August 21-22, 2014;
- Records Schedule Implementation (KA4)**,
September 15-16, 2014;
- Asset and Risk Management (KA5)**,
September 17-18, 2014;
- Records Management Program Development (KA6)**,
September 19, 2014

Yosemite Anniversary

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Starting in the 1870s, noted naturalist John Muir and his supporters led a movement to protect and expand the park and to remove it from California jurisdiction in favor of Federal protection. In 1890, they persuaded Congress to set aside large areas surrounding Yosemite Valley as forest reserves, later a national park. After the U.S. Army was brought in to patrol the new park, sheep grazing and other environmental damage was brought under control.

Muir also enlisted President Theodore Roosevelt in his effort to federalize Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove. In 1903, the two men camped out for



President Roosevelt and John Muir at Glacier Point, with Yosemite Falls in the background, May 1903

three days in the high country on the southern rim of the Valley. In 1906, with strong backing by Roosevelt, Congress returned the original Yosemite Grant to federal control, and the modern park was born. This event paved the way for the formation of the National Park Service in 1916.

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Records Management Virtual Classroom Series August-September 2014

Upgrade your skills with this convenient on-line training! All you need is an internet-connected computer and a phone to connect to the toll-free audio conference portion of the course. You can participate from your office, your conference room or from home. Register once to enroll in four 90 minute sessions. The cost includes all four sessions.

To register, go to: [NARA Learn Website](http://nara.gov/learn)

If you have questions, please contact us at:
nara.recordsmanagement@nara.gov.

Basic Records Operations (\$150 per connection)

This course describes what to file, how to file it, and how to remove files no longer needed for current business. It covers the variety of activities, including practical how-to's, related to Federal records. The webinar format allows participants to build their skills during four 90 minute sessions. Directed assignments help participants to apply these skills to their own workplace during the course. The target audience for this course is records liaisons, secretaries, files custodians, and others who maintain records as part of their jobs.

Dates offered:

- ▶ August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2014 (Wednesdays), 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., PDT
- ▶ September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2014 (Mondays), 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., PDT

Vital Business Information (\$150 per connection)

This course provides the knowledge and skills required to identify, protect, and make readily available the vital records needed to support the resumption of critical business functions after a disaster, and to establish and administer a vital records program. The webinar format will allow for participants to build their skills during four 90 minute sessions. We will use directed assignments to allow participants to apply these skills to their own workplace during the course. The goal is for participants to have a Vital Records Plan completed by the end of the course. This course targets Federal employees and/or contractors with records responsibilities, COOP managers, line managers and staff, and information technology.

Dates offered:

- ▶ September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2014 (Thursdays), 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., PDT



Members of the U.S. Army's Ninth Cavalry Regiment, on duty in Yosemite Valley, no date. The Army patrolled the park in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



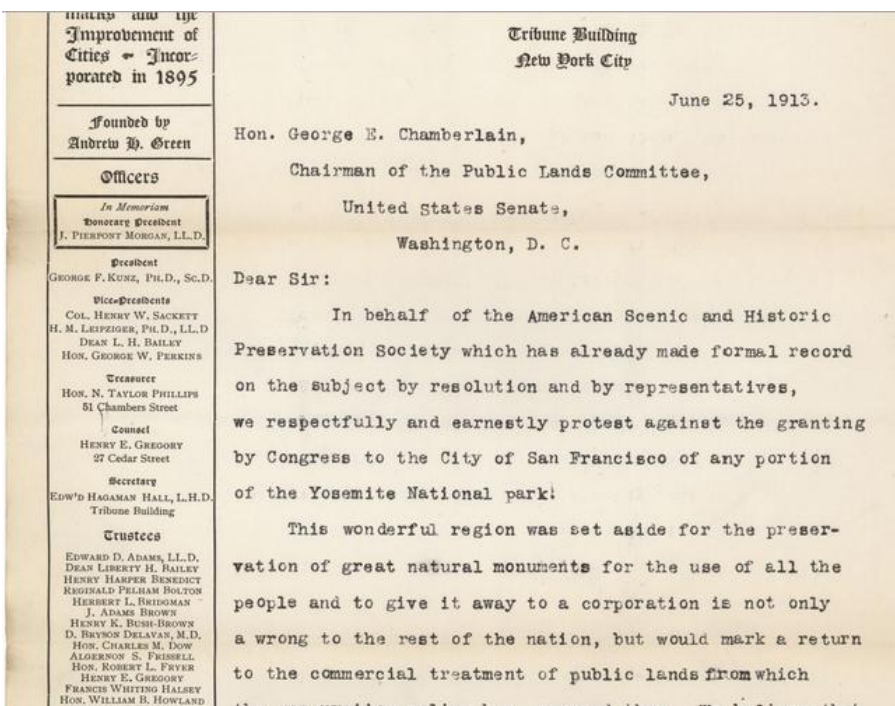
First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visits a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in Yosemite National Park in 1941. Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library Public Domain Photographs, compiled 1882 - 1962. National Archives Identifier: 196548

Yosemite Anniversary

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Concurrent with these events came San Francisco's controversial plan to dam the Hetch Hetchy Valley, a near twin of Yosemite Valley about 20 miles to the north. This proposal, strenuously opposed by Muir, his newly founded Sierra Club, and citizen's groups throughout the United States, gained support after San Francisco's Great Fire and Earthquake of 1906. The Raker Act, authorizing dam construction within the national park, was passed by Congress in 1913. Muir died a year later.

Today the park welcomes over 3 million visitors annually from all over the world. Controversies over land use and preservation have continued over the century since Muir's time. Since the 1960s, the National Park Service has taken many steps to limit human impact. Yosemite's natural wonders continue to amaze and inspire.



Petition from the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society against the Raker Act, asking Congress to preserve the Hetch Hetchy Valley. National Archives, Record Group 46, Records of the U.S. Senate, Petitions and Memorials, 1816-1948. National Archives Identifier: 7268069