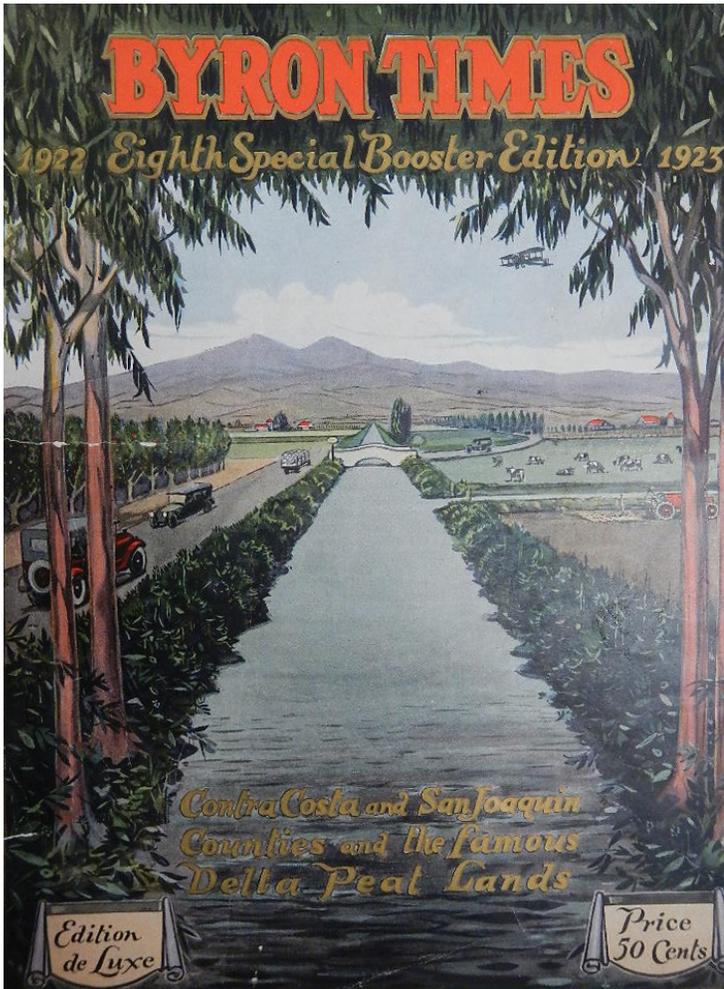


A Series on the “Delta Narratives” Project
California’s Delta: 1850 - 2015



Dr. Reuben W. Smith

Dr. William R. Swagerty

Department of History
University of the Pacific

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Park Tower Building
2nd Floor Conference Room
980 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814



One of the world’s largest natural riparian wetlands, California’s Delta has undergone profound change in the last century and a half. Habitat for many species and home to Native Americans for centuries, forces of change dramatically altered its ecology and human demography beginning with the Gold Rush. The Delta played a fundamental role in the development of Sacramento and Stockton as gateways to the Central Valley and the Gold Country. Steamboats, dredges, tractors, and trucks were interlinked with changes in specialty crops, ethnic communities, and recreational uses of this unique environment. An Eden to some, flood hazard to others, reservoir and potential water source for many; the entire region is dependent on its water.

This presentation, a product of the Delta Protection Commission’s “Delta Narratives” project, explores aspects of trade, transportation and communication history, while touching on reclamation, agriculture, and economics.

For more information on the Delta Narratives Project, visit http://www.delta.ca.gov/Delta_Narratives.htm.