

September 2011

La Lavandería



Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park

CHEROKEE GIFT TO LT. CAVE J. COUTS

An April 20, 1846 handwritten letter to “Lieut. C. J. Coutts, 1st Dragoons” from Cherokee Chief Will. P. Ross accompanied the gift of a rare beaded shot pouch and bandolier from “Tucquo, a venerable man who fought with General Andrew Jackson in the Creek War.” Chief Ross goes on to say “The cause that induces the old warrior (Tucquo) to make this present is the corect (sic) and manly views you have publicly expressed in regard to the recent disturbances and to the real character of the many desperate men who have fled from this country on account of their crimes ... Tucquo is glad to find in you a friend to truth and justice, and hopes you will be assured of his regard for the same - - - of his love and desire of peace, of his feelings towards the whites and his earnest desire to see, before he dies, the people and government of the Cherokee Nation happy and prosperous.”

Cave J. Coutts’s great granddaughter, Susan Coutts Springstead, has furnished Guajome with a remarkable photo of the restored pouch and bandolier, along with the full text of Chief

Ross’s 1846 letter, which Susan and her family have caused to now reside in the University of Tulsa’s Gilcrease Museum, 1400 Gilcrease Museum Rd., Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Rangers and furniture committee will consider how best to share the photos with our public at the Adobe. Ranger Jason Schwartze displayed the photos to the docents at their August 2nd meeting.

Submitted by Dr. Jerry Colling, RGA Docent



Susan Coutts Springstead with her great-grandfather’s historic gift

Ranger's Report: A Cog in the Green Machine

It is a constructive exercise to take a step back and look at the big picture. The wide angle or long shot in cinema is used to give the viewer a broad perspective of a scene. In parks and recreation a master or strategic plan is much like a wide angle shot in cinema, it gives the public a perspective of the overall vision and goals of a department. Here is a wide angle perspective of several environment-oriented, or green programs that our County of San Diego Dept. of Parks and Recreation either manages or participates in.

Strategic Plan

There are three key initiatives that guide the goals set forth in the strategic plan: kids, the environment, and safe and livable communities. The initiatives of the strategic plan also align with the goal of improving the quality of life of county residents.

County Trails Program

The objective of this program is to create a system of interconnected and continuous regional and community trails within the unincorporated areas of San Diego County. The goal of the program is to develop trails with the input of local communities to create a trail system that will meet the needs of a wide variety of trail users, such as hikers, walkers, bikers, equestrians and other non-motorized forms of transport.

Multiple Species Conservation Program

Lands that are acquired for conservation pur-

poses and through mitigation projects are managed by the County Dept. of Parks and Recreation. The stated overall goal of the MSCP is to "maintain and enhance biological diversity in the region and conserve viable populations of endangered, threatened, and key sensitive species and their habitats, thereby preventing local extirpation and ultimate extinction."

Watershed Protection/ Stormwater Program

Similar to other county agencies the parks department participates in a stormwater management program and adheres to regulations that help protect water quality. Since many parks include tributaries and waterways, it is especially important to ensure that parks adhere closely to stormwater management guidelines in order to prevent pollution. In most cases, prevention of soil erosion and clean-up of dumpsites are a few of the main ways in which park managers help to mitigate water pollution.

Working or volunteering at one park can give you a case of tunnel vision, so it's important to remind yourself of the big picture. Taking a look at county-wide programs and policies is a good way to give your peripheral vision a workout. The parks department may just be another cog in the green machine, but our department works closely with other departments, agencies and NGOs (non-government orgs.) to help ensure the entire green machine is firing on all cylinders.

Special Thanks to Susan Coutts Springstead

We are pleased to announce that Rancho Guajome Adobe has received a very generous \$3,000 donation from **Susan Coutts Springstead**. The donation will be used to restore the two historic documents that Mrs. Springstead donated recently; Cave Coutts West Point diploma and a certificate of membership from the Dialectic Society at West Point (a literary and debating society composed of Cadets at West

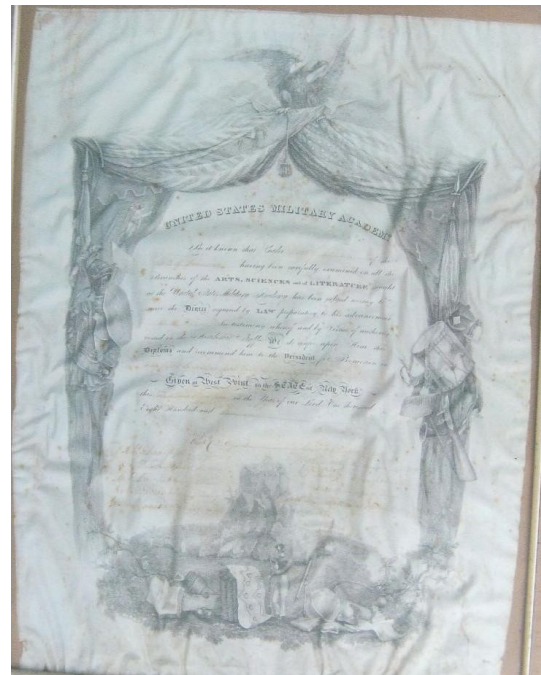
being restored at the Balboa Art Conservation Center. The documents will provide an intimate connection to the life and times of Cave Coutts.



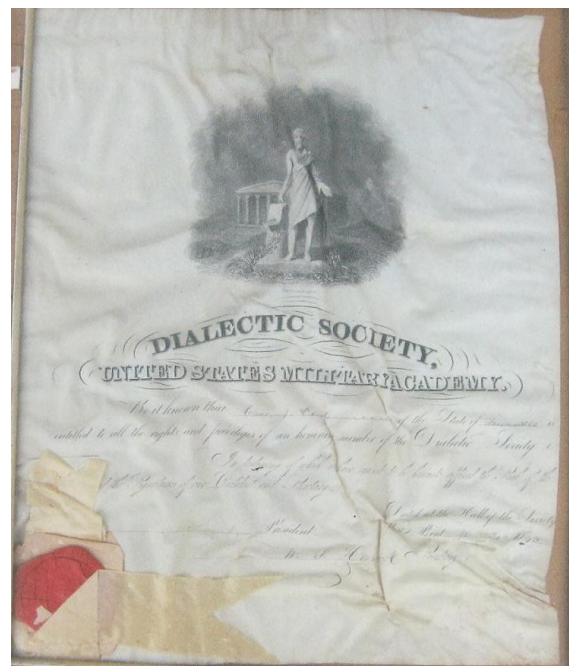
The lovely Mrs. Springstead at our Fiesta event last Summer.

Point). Her generous donations will enhance visitors' experience at the adobe and contribute to keeping her family's legacy alive.

The two historic documents below are the documents donated by Susan Coutts Springstead and are currently



Coutts West Point Diploma



Coutts Dialectic Society Certificate

Important Dates and Events @ RGA

Sept. 6th : Docent Meeting @ the Graham House @ 10am. Be prepared for a wagon ride courtesy of Wayne Mathias and his trusty tractor. We will be touring the Rancho Guajome trails.



Sept 13th: Docent Outing 9:30am @VHS

Sept. 14th: Furniture Committee Meeting @ the Graham House @ 9:30am

*Sign up now for school tours, weekend tours and gift shop shifts! Make it simple, just call the park or email us. 760-724-4082/ Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov

Praise for August

- ◆ **Jerry and Tina Colling:** Thanks to Jerry and Tina for being the conduit between many of our donors and the adobe. They were very helpful in facilitating the shot pouch photograph donation, the monetary donation for restoration of Cave's diplomas and a donation of silverware.
- ◆ **Ann and Danny Rupp:** Thanks to Danny and Ann for making the trek to Los Angeles and attending the LA Gift Show in order to find vendors for the adobe gift shop. Ann also made a long list of items that could be ordered for the gift shop.
- ◆ **Rancho Guajome Crew:** Thanks to Dan Adikes, Josh Swanson and Alex Rojas (CCC) for your help in installing the new and improved irrigation components for all of the planters and flower beds around the gardens.



- ◆ Docent Meeting @ the Graham House @ 10am on the 1st Tuesday of every month (except July, the meeting will be in the Victorian Garden)
- ◆ Furniture Committee @ the Graham House @ 9:30am on the 2nd Wednesday of every month

Park Projects & Updates

Chapel Curtains

Thanks to the Furniture Committee for acquiring the curtains for the chapel. Particular thanks to **Sue Allenbach** and **Pat Obetz** for hemming the curtains.



Sleeping Indian Questers to Donate Funds for Restoration

The Sleeping Indian Questers are planning to donate funds to Rancho Guajome. The donation will most likely go toward restoration of farm equipment, Ysidora's carriage and furniture within the adobe.

Check Out RGA Reviews on the Web

RGA's reviews can be found at <http://www.yelp.com/biz/rancho-guajome-adobe-vista>

Docent Outing for Sept.

RGA Docents to visit the Vista Historical Society in September

Pat Obetz has arranged for the Rancho Guajome docents to take a tour of the Vista Historical Society (VHS) in September. Here are the details:

When: Sept. 13th @ 9:30am

Where: Vista Historical Society
2317 Old Foothill Dr.
Vista, CA 92084

Phone: 760-630-0444

Cost: Donations Accepted

Please call the park 760-724-4082 to RSVP, also we do not plan to car-pool, so meet at the VHS.

Monthly Docent Meeting to Include Tour of RGA Trails

Docent **Wayne Mathias** has organized a unique opportunity for RGA docents to experience the winding trails of Rancho Guajome. After our docent meeting on Sept. 6th we will be treated to a tractor-drawn wagon ride along the RGA trails. The tour will be a good chance for docents to see all of the trail improvements that have been made over the last year.



General County Info

**Main Office Address:**

County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
5500 Overland Dr. Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123

General Information & Questions:

Dept. Phone: (858) 694-3030
Park Office: (760)724-4082

County Parks History Office

(858) 966-1305
History.DPRCenter@sdcounty.ca.gov

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Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov

San Diego County Parks Society

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Reservations:

(877) 565-3600; M-F 8am-5pm
or on-line at: www.sdparcs.org

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A legacy preserved