

This sudden empire, California; the story of the Society of California Pioneers, 1850 to 1950. With a foreword by Edward David Keil and decorations by Mallette Dean.

Teiser, Ruth.

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This Sudden Empire
CALIFORNIA

*The Story of The Society of California Pioneers
1850 to 1950*

*EDITED BY RUTH TEISER
WITH A FOREWORD BY EDWARD DAVID KEIL
AND DECORATIONS BY MALLETT DEAN*



San Francisco : The Society of California Pioneers : 1950

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FOREWORD

“This Sudden Empire—California” is the commemorative story of the dual centennial of the State of California and The Society of California Pioneers. The usage of the word “dual” does not seem presumptuous as the Californians of 1850 founded both the State and the Society.

Unlike most ancestral or historical societies, The Society of California Pioneers was not the distant afterthought of descendants who desired to investigate and recreate the historic past of their community and of their ancestors.

The Society of California Pioneers was formed in the year 1850—the year of California’s statehood and its story and that of the state are closely identified during all of the first century so that it is not unseemly that now its story should be told.

While the earlier years form the great portion of the story, the Society composed of the Californians of 1849 and their male descendants, has retained its pristine vigor and its social and historic role in the life of California into the present era.

The Society has accepted as its honored task the collection and preservation of revered flags, documents, records and memorabilia of the pioneer days of California and holds its duty to be to care for them, not only as a legacy from the earlier members, but as a sacred trust for the people of the State of California. To that end its halls are open to all who are interested and its members accept the responsibility to cherish and preserve from generation to generation the immortal “days of old, days of gold, days of ’49.” This responsibility is accepted by the Society in the highest sense, so that future citizens of California will know not only the romantic reminiscences which color the state’s history, but the fine core of courage, vision and statesmanship which gave character to the thirty-first state of the Union.

The sources of this story have been these original documents in the Society’s keeping and from the minutes of the Society since 1850. On those time-worn pages we find the flamboyance, the soft humor and occasionally pathos, as the events and meetings of the Society were contemporaneously reported. From these archives, written in the early days of California’s statehood and in the latter days—there comes to us of yet a later day—the concept of these men who shared a great adventure and who were inspired

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by a prophetic sense of the magnificent destiny of the land they had come to call their own.

It is with pride that we publish this volume. Not the pride of authorship—nor of ancestral distinction but rather it is the satisfaction that an important phase of California's history has been chronicled. It is our hope that through these pages all who love California may share our knowledge of the Society's history and honor the men who truly were the founders of this sudden empire.

EDWARD DAVID KEIL

August 31, 1950
Pioneer Hall
San Francisco, California