

*Grace
Dee May*

MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

ILLUMINATIONS

JAN / FEB 2023



Grace Dee May Museum & Library • 665 W Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007 • www.gracedeemay.org

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

Grace Dee May

MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

Board of Directors

Board President
Sean Foran

Board Secretary
Fred Davis

Board Treasurer
Reynold Blight

Board Members
Merrick Hamer

Ronald Hart

Ronald Hopkins

Margaret Jacob

Guy Richmond

Melvyn Stein

Maru Vázquez

Barbara Weiss

Grace Dee May Museum

Museum Curator
Sean Foran

Museum Archivist
William Hall

Museum Graphics
Ron & Jane Cooper

Director Emeritus

Audrey Marie Stein

In 2004, Audrey Marie Stein established the Grace Dee May Museum. Audrey believed that she had been richly blessed by the **Grace** of God. Audrey's nickname was **Dee** and she had been born in the month of **May**. So, as Director of the Foundation, she named the Museum the **Grace Dee May**.



JAN / FEB 2023 ILLUMINATIONS



Cecil B. DeMille, one of Hollywood's legendary filmmakers, believed, "The greatest art in the world is the art of storytelling."

DeMille began his career on the Broadway stage in 1900 and over the next decade he struggled to make his mark as an actor, producer, and as a budding playwright. In 1913, DeMille joined forces with Jesse Lasky to make short silent films in New Jersey. Then, looking for authentic western locations, DeMille boarded a Santa Fe train and headed west. He rented a barn in the rural community of Hollywood where the classic silent feature *The Squaw Man* was shot. The resounding success quickly transformed Hollywood as the film capitol of the world.

DeMille would, of course, go on to produce film blockbusters including *The Ten Commandments*, *The Greatest Show on Earth* and more – but the story of this remarkable man was broader than the big screens of movie palaces. In 1919, he founded the first commercial airline in California, Mercury Aviation. DeMille's Mercury Aviation operated out of a field near the corner of what is today Wilshire Boulevard at Fairfax. Aside from flying high in the film industry and operating two airfields, DeMille served as president and vice president of a few banks and personally approved a loan of \$250,000 to Samuel Goldwyn to build his movie studio. DeMille also was a real estate developer and was active in the United Oil Company.

Cecil B. DeMille was also a Freemason, initiated at Prince of Orange Lodge No. 16, in New York. Last year, the Grace Dee May Museum first featured his amazing life story as part of our "Masons and the Movies" exhibit. Our mission to illuminate the art, history and accomplishments of Freemasons will continue into this New Year and we invite you to make a resolution to visit our galleries and discover more stories of innovation, courage, and creativity that are woven into the tapestry of the West.

Happy New Year,

Sean Foran
Curator and President

**Support History & Art. Support Freemasonry.
Support the Grace Dee May Museum.**

Grace Dee May Inc. (EIN: 03-0591428) is a qualified tax exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

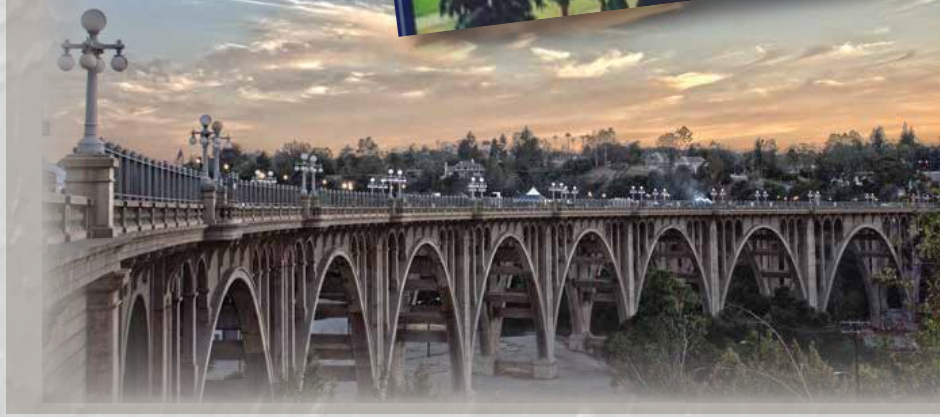
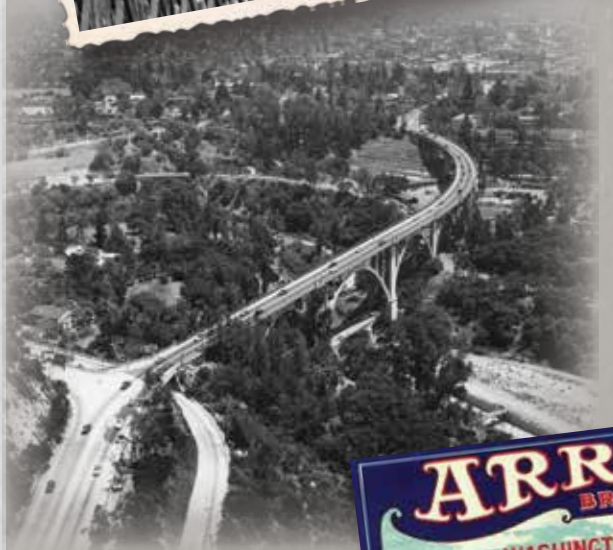
"First & Foremost in Los Angeles History"



John Drake Mercereau (1851 - 1912)
Builder of Colorado Street Bridge –
First curvilinear constructed bridge. At the time,
the highest concrete bridge in the world.

This bridge was the first street level crossing linking Pasadena to Los Angeles and was part of the transcontinental highway system known as The National Old Trails Route.

John Drake Mercereau was a member of Los Angeles Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar.





Edwin W. Sargent (1848 – 1929)
Father of the land title business in Los Angeles.

Edwin Sargent Founded the Los Angeles Abstract Company, the predecessor of Title Guarantee and Trust Company, which provided authoritative titles to land parcels in real estate transactions. Claims to land and resources were hotly contested in early Southern California. By issuing authoritative titles, the Los Angeles Abstract Company “brought order to the chaos” in the real estate title business.

Sargent was a member of Los Angeles No. 42, F&AM and Los Angeles Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar

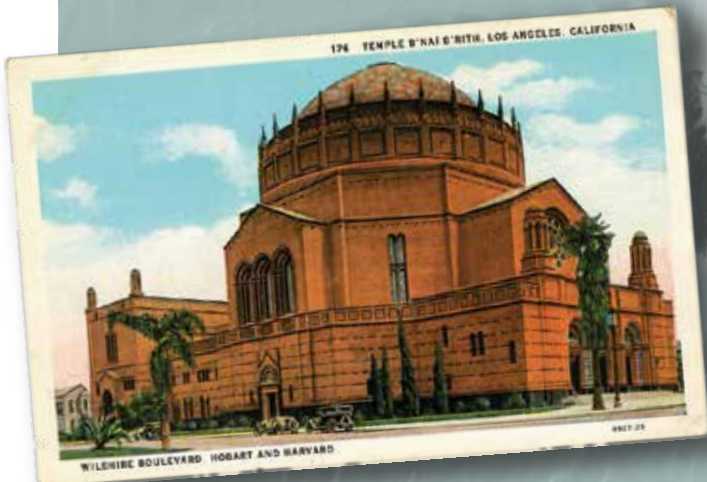
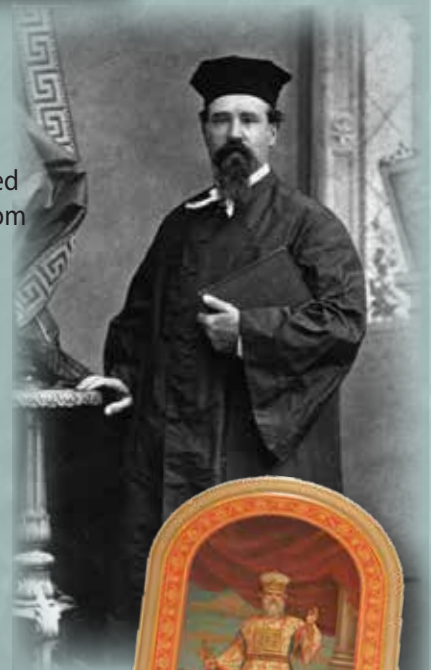


“First & Foremost in Los Angeles History”

Abraham Wolf Edelman (1832 – 1907) – Los Angeles’ first Rabbi.

The Pueblo of Los Angeles was a wild and unruly frontier town when Rabbi Edelman arrived to become the first full-time Jewish spiritual leader. He served Congregation B’nai B’rith from its 1862 inception to 1885. He was both Rabbi and Cantor. Since Rabbi Edelman spoke Spanish he was referred to as “padre” by Spanish-speaking residents of early Los Angeles.

Rabbi Edelman was a member of Los Angeles No. 42, F&AM and Los Angeles, No. 33, Royal Arch Masons



“First & Foremost in Los Angeles History”



**Cecil Blount DeMille (1881 – 1959)
Founding Father of the American Cinema
and Commercial Aviation.**

Important for his contributions as a movie director of both silent and sound films, Cecil B. DeMille was also a pioneer of commercial aviation.

Mercury Aviation Company was founded in 1919 by DeMille and was one of the first commercial airline services. Mercury flew both charter and sightseeing flights in surplus World War I Curtiss “Jennies” from DeMille Field No. 1 to Catalina Island, San Diego, and San Francisco. DeMille built another airport, DeMille Field No. 2 and later added Eaton Altadena Airport to service the Pasadena area. DeMille Field No. 2 was used in some early silent films and was the site of the first passenger plane to land from New York City. DeMille Field No. 2 had a unique gas station – one side was for filling up automobiles and the other side was for filling up airplanes.

Cecil B. DeMille’s Mercury Aviation Company purchased a Junkers-Larsen JL-6 to expand his commercial airline service. This new plane was delivered to DeMille Field No. 2 by WWI ace pilot, Eddie Rickenbacker a member of Kilwinning Masonic Lodge No. 297, Detroit, Michigan.

Cecil B. DeMille was a member of Prince of Orange Masonic Lodge No, 16, F&AM in New York and active in Hollywood Masonic Lodge No. 355.

Note: On display at the Grace Dee May Museum is an important Masonic souvenir given by Eddie Rickenbacker – the propeller of his aircraft and a length of cable tow used to rescue his plane. It is hand-carved with an eagle and Masonic emblem.





Frank Rader (1848 – 1897)
*Director of the Southern California Bank and
the Home Investment and Building Association.*

Frank Rader came to Los Angeles in 1883, and dealt in real estate and banking. He served as 22nd Mayor of Los Angeles from 1894 until 1896 and died at age 49 in Lake Elsinore and is interred at Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles.

Rader was a 33° Scottish Rite Mason, a member of Los Angeles Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar, and a Past Illustrious Potentate of Al Malaikah Shrine.



“First & Foremost in Los Angeles History”

Valentin Wolfenstein (1845 – 1909)
Opened the first photographic studio in Los Angeles.

Wolfenstein was one of the first photographers to use flash-lamps for photography. His subjects included many of the famous Californians in the 1870s and 1880s. A particular skill he developed was taking a double exposure "look-alike pictures" combining images of the same person in two different poses, such as standing and sitting. Wolfenstein died in Los Angeles in 1909 at the age of 63 and is buried at Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery in Central Los Angeles.

Wolfenstein was a member of Golden Rule Lodge #160, IOOF and Los Angeles Lodge No. 42, F&AM



WOLFENSTEIN'S ART AND PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY!

The facilities in this Studio for the execution of FINE PHOTOGRAPHS are
Unequaled by any other House in Los Angeles!

Old Pictures
COPIED, ENLARGED and RETOUCHEd at this Gallery ONLY!

None but the Best Artists Employed--all Work Warranted

⚠️ Avoid coming late in the afternoon during the short days, if you desire a soft and artistic Picture.



Book a GUIDED VIP TOUR for your group

Museum docents will share the fascinating history of the incredible impact of Freemasons on the City of Los Angeles.

Reservations are now being accepted for free VIP Group Tours of the this Grace Dee May Museum exhibit

"THE BUILDERS: *The First Century of Freemasonry in Early Los Angeles*"

Contact GDM Curator, Sean Foran at: info@gracedeemay.org or leave a message for our Curator at: 818-222-6796



Curator Sean Foran leads a group tour through our gallery and shares the history of early Los Angeles



Planning a Table Lodge or Festive Board?

The Grace Dee May Museum will share with your Lodge the history of the early Freemasons who launched the California Wine Industry

The Museum can provide:

- Brief video overview of Masonic vintners
- Wine Decorations, Banners and display panels
- "Raise a Glass to Masonry" wine coasters and Wine posters for each participant
- Short, illustrated talk about California Winemakers



Contact our Curator Sean Foran

by email: info@gracedeemay.org

or call: 818-222-6796

We'll happily put your event on our calendar.

Make 2023 the year you discover history

Resolve to share the history of Masonry

- Spread the word about the Grace Dee May Museum & Library to family and friends
- Forward links to the Grace Dee May Museum *Illuminations*
- Encourage your fraternal contacts to visit GDM exhibits
- Consider becoming a Grace Dee May Museum Docent



Secure the Preservation of Art and History

- Become a member of the Grace Dee May Founder's Circle

Bring History Home

- Order exclusive fraternal merchandise for yourself or as gifts for others



Contribute to Masonic research and education

- Consider a monthly or annual donation
- Make the Grace Dee May Museum part of your legacy giving.

**Support History & Art. Support Freemasonry.
Support the Grace Dee May Museum.**

Our Vision:

The Grace Dee May Museum will seek to present a thematic look at the American West by utilizing its extensive collection of Western Art, and incorporate California history to broaden and deepen the public knowledge and appreciation of the men and women that settled the western part of the United States.

Our Mission:

The Grace Dee May Museum is committed to advancing the public's knowledge and understanding of the American West and the contributions that Freemasonry has played in its development.

Sean Foran, BOARD PRESIDENT AND CURATOR
818-620-2058 / info@gracedeemay.org
www.gracedeemay.org

For information contact:

Sean Foran
info@gracedeemay.org
818-222-6796

Grace Dee May
MUSEUM
ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST

Grace Dee May
MUSEUM & LIBRARY
located at the historic Shrine Auditorium
665 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007

Grace Dee May Inc. (EIN: 03-0591428) is a qualified tax exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code