

A History of Native CA Lunch Series

Ch. 6: Working for Land: Rancherias, Reservations, and Labor, 1870—1904

May 29, 2026

Takeaways and Resources

The following resource(s) were shared during the webinar:

- [Register here](#) for the next lunch session on June 19: Chapter 7: Friends and Enemies: Reframing Progress, and Fighting for Sovereignty, 1905-1928
- For more on the context and end of Indian slavery in California, see [Freedom's Frontier: California and the Struggle over Unfree Labor, Emancipation, and Reconstruction](#) by Stacey L. Smith
- Here's a quick summary of the history of water in the Owens Valley: [WATER & LAND INJUSTICES – Owens Valley Indian Water Commission](#)
- Check out this law review article for a deeper dive the legal history of rancherias, villages etc.: [The Trajectory of Indian Country in California: Rancherias, Villages, Pueblos, Missions, Ranchos, Reservations, Colonies, and Rancherias](#) by William Wood
- To learn more about Ishi, check this book out here: [Ishi in Two Worlds by Theodora Kroeber | University of California Press](#)
- To learn more about the history of the Tule River (discussed in this chapter) check out this book: [Defying the Odds](#)
- To learn more about Round Valley community members picking hops: [We Were All Like Migrant Workers Here](#) (Prof. Bauer's book!!)
- To learn more about Southern California Indian Land Tenure: [Pushed into the Rocks: Southern California Indian Land Tenure, 1769–1986. By Florence Connolly Shipek](#)
- To check out C.E. Kelsey's investigations, check out these primary sources here: ["Primary Sources on C. E. Kelsey" by Larisa K. Miller](#)
- For more on Helen Hunt Jackson’s legacy in California, see [Helen Hunt Jackson and Her Indian Reform Legacy](#) by Valerie Sherer Mathes.
 - And her two books: [A Century of Dishonor, by Helen Jackson](#) and [Ramona by Helen Hunt Jackson](#)
- For more about Olegario Calac’s leadership, see “[The Struggle for Native American Self-Determination in San Diego County](#)” by Richard L. Carrico
- For more about the rediscovery of the treaties, see “[The Secret Treaties with California’s Indians](#)” by Larisa K. Miller
- To learn more about the unratified 18 treaties, check this website here: [California Unratified Treaties Map | California Indian History](#)

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- To learn more about the Cherokee forced removal on the Trail of Tears, check this book out: [Trail of Tears by John Ehle](#)
- For more information on how the Doctrine of Discovery was applied in English colonies: *Discovering Indigenous Lands: The Doctrine of Discovery in the English Colonies* by Robert J. Miller and Jacinta Ruru, Larissar Behrendt, and Tracey Lindberg
- To learn more about the Doctrine of Discovery: [Discovery doctrine - Wikipedia](#)

Selected resources relating to this chapter for additional reading:

- For more about Olegario Calac’s leadership, see “The Struggle for Native American Self-Determination in San Diego County” by Richard L. Carrico, available [here](#).
- For more on the context and end of Indian slavery in California, see [Freedom's Frontier: California and the Struggle over Unfree Labor, Emancipation, and Reconstruction](#) by Stacey L. Smith.
- For more on the Cupeno removal from Warner’s Ranch, see [Reservations, Removal, and Reform: The Mission Indian Agents of Southern California, 1878–1903](#) by Valerie Sherer Mathes and Phil Brigandi.
- For more about the rediscovery of the treaties, see “[The Secret Treaties with California’s Indians](#)” by Larisa K. Miller.
- For more on Helen Hunt Jackson’s legacy in California, see [Helen Hunt Jackson and Her Indian Reform Legacy](#) by Valerie Sherer Mathes.