



The WESTERNERS
Los Angeles Corral Roundup
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Almansor Court - 700 South Almansor St, Alhambra, CA 91801
Social Hour at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM



*Laura Voisin George will present an illustrated lecture on
“Robert Owens in Antebellum Los Angeles”.*

Robert Owens (circa 1806-1865) is relatively well-known in the history of the 1850's – 1860's Los Angeles as an early member of its Black community. He is best remembered for assisting the famous Biddy Mason to achieve her freedom from slavery in Los Angeles, but beyond this critical moment in 1855, few details are known about him due to the scarcity of primary sources and the conflation of his achievements with Biddy's.

We will look at how Robert Owens may have used his experiences and strategies in the South, on the Overland Trail and in California's gold country not only to protect his family, but also how his actions and his example helped to define and defend the legitimacy of Los Angeles's Black residents in this period. In this context we will see how his legacy contributed to the foundation of the city's growing Black community as it pursued social and investment opportunities unavailable in most of the U.S.

Laura is an architectural historian and a UCSB Ph.D. candidate in History. Her dissertation “Becoming Los Angeles: Its transition from Mexican Ciudad to U.S. Metropolis through its Architecture and Built Environment, 1835-1883” will analyze some of the earliest photos and maps of Los Angeles to examine the city's changing built form, illustrating when and in what ways it came to be seen as “American,” and how this visual evidence contributes to and also complicates previous scholarship. Her research on Los Angeles physician and developer John S. Griffin intersects with new work on Biddy Mason, and led to her research on Robert Owens. It provides a new perspective on how non-elite and under-documented persons contributed to the city's physical expansion and also to the community's trajectory in contingent spaces such as 1850s-1860s Los Angeles.

Menu Choices for 9/10/25 are: Sliced Top Sirloin, or Salmon, or Pasta Primavera with garlic cream sauce. Please indicate your preference when you reserve your spot for the next RoundUp.

Free Wine will again be offered to all attendees.

When you receive your order blank in the mail, please indicate your dinner choice and put your check for **\$45.00** made out to **Westerners, Los Angeles Corral**, and mail it to **Michele Clark, 226 1/2 Beacon Ave., South Pasadena CA 91030-1702**. Walk-ins are welcome but entree choices will be limited to the meal type available. The "late" price is \$50.00.

Or you can pay via Paypal at www.lawesterners.org. Go to the **Members Only** tab, then click on **Roundup Store**. The general password is **oldjoe**. Be sure to include your meal choice on the PayPal form. Please contact Michele Clark (email at mclark216@earthlink.net) or by telephone (626) 822-1522 and let her know you wish to attend and how you paid.

L.A. Coral Presentations for 2025

October 2025 Rendezvous, Location and Date TBA

November 12, 2025 Brian Dervin Dillon, "Lost in the 'Sixties, Hippie San Francisco"

December 10, 2025 Abraham Hoffman, "Another Look at the Llano del Rio Colony"

Car-Pooling: Many of our older members no longer drive or find night-driving problematic. Please reach out to those nearby and offer them a ride to our monthly RoundUps.

First-Time Visitors: Please don't hesitate to invite non-member friends to RoundUps they might find interesting...first-time visitors qualify for a special, reduced rate for their sponsors.