

Nate Harrison's "Cabin Collection"

Peter Brueggeman 2024



Nate Harrison at his cabin, c1903

Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson photo, SDSU Library

From the late 1880s to 1919, Nate Harrison lived on the west side of Palomar Mountain, high up on the west road up the mountain now named after him, Nate Harrison Grade [1]. After he died, these materials were found in his cabin by neighbor(s). Subsequently they have been called the "cabin collection [1]."

REFERENCES

1= Born a Slave, Died a Pioneer: Nathan Harrison and the Historical Archaeology of Legend. Seth Mallios. New York: Berghahn Books, 2019

Agua Libre

Jan 1 1884

Nathan Harrison:

Dear Sir: I will take forty (40) Cedar Posts to be delivered at South Store in the Pinon: and I agree to pay you 15 cent each for said posts, it is to be understood the said Posts are of good quality and size and proper length. Let me know by mail through Mr Ruff (or any other means you think best) when the Posts are ready and I will send you the Money. I want the Posts soon.

G. H. Zeigler

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO.

No 407

POLL TAX RECEIPT

1880

Under Sections 3841 to 3844, Political Code.



RECEIVED OF Nathan Harrison

this 11th day of May 1880, the sum of TWO DOLLARS,

in full payment for his Poll Tax for the year 1880.

Wm. J. Jasso

County Treasurer.

\$2

M. D. Hamilton

County Assessor.

Gilbert J. Jasso

County Auditor.

G. H. Zeigler

Deputy.

Transcription from “An Interim Technical Report for the 2017 Field Season: Archaeological Excavations at the Nate Harrison Site in San Diego County, California. Seth Mallios. San Diego, California, Montezuma Publishing, San Diego State University, 2017

Agua Tibia

Jan. 1, 1884

Nathan Harrison:

Dear Sir, I will take forty (40) Cedar Posts to be delivered at Scott's Store in the Rincon: and I agree to pay you 15 cents each for said goods, it is to be understood that “Said Posts” are of good quality and size and proper length. Let me know by mail through Mr. Ruff (or by any other means you think best) when the Posts are ready and I will send you the money. I want the Posts soon.

Lee H. Utt

San Luis Rey 30 de Mayo de 1878

Señor Don Olegario Lealac

Agente General
de todo mi Apellido y Distrito

Carino Reciba la Carta

Bueno Señor

Labondegada

de el Satros Licia con el Domingo

Lalle Barón del Campo

sin decir Margena el muchacho

y a ver si que Pa kasa con Laca

brac hoy mañana

y el Domingo lo mande de cin

que su pedia Binis o sino

de mandarme sin Carro y Los Lopez

pero

Bueno Portote

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San Luis Rey Mayo 30, 1877

Mr. Ologassie (?) Calac

My dearest general (authority)

Of all of my appreciation and _____ Darling, I received your letter.

Well Sir,

Our sheep herd (or sheep farm) was taken out Sunday, Lalle Buron del Campo did not say much. And he will continue to go down with the ca _____ I believe today or tomorrow. And on Sunday I will let him know [take note of]. If you can come or if not I will send mail and I'll wait for you.

Binuto Bolioto

ITEMS FOUND IN MATE'S CABIN AFTER HIS DEATH

| | |
|---|--|
| No | April 28 th Pomona 1880 |
|  | <p>RECEIVED of <i>Arthur Horis</i></p> <p><i>Five dollars</i> DOLLARS.</p> |
| \$ | <i>Arthur Scott</i> per <i>John A. Bidders</i> |

ITEMS FOUND IN NATE'S CABIN AFTER HIS DEATH



James H. Bates
Dear Mother
of Springfield, District
of Massachusetts

From Your Grand-daughter
Dora Mary Smith.
Norwalk Route
or Bloomfield, District.

Potrero 15 De junio de 1875

Mi Don eres mi muy estimado
tomo la pluma con el fin para
saludar a v. y union de mi amigo
Don eres Beuno Don eres a qui lle
go con mi hijo Petrisia De dona Calis,
tra de alla de San Juan es que
dijo dona Calistra que me aga
el favor a ser mi tabletas
Don eres yo quiero dos mil de
tabletas a si es que dijo ella
don eres Me di de una lle qua
pero ahora yo quiero tabletas
a si es que dijo dona Calistra
ahora eres yo y tu tenemos que a
Regular a qui somos
Señor Jose acate

My tablet to fill the lice with my whys
I would like for you to send the one of
sherry tablets

Al Duennod

My Dear

Dear Sir

My Dear

Mar 26 1875

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At left on PDF page

“Tablets” could be cedar shakes. Cedar trees grow on Palomar Mountain.

Potrero, June 15, 1875

Mr. Ines my very dearest,

I'll save my {pity} for the end and say my greetings for my friend, Mr. Ines. Well, Mr. Ines, I come with news from Mrs. Calistra from San Juan. Mrs. Calistra asked if you could do me the favor of making me tablets. Mr. Ines, I want two thousand tablets. Mr. Ines, you owe me a mare, but for now I only want tablets. That is what Mr. Calistra said. Now Ines, you and I need to fix this.

Mr. Jose Axcate

At right on PDF page

Ring Con [Rincon]

Mar. 26th, 1878

Dier [Dear] sir:

Mr. [Lindare]

You failed to fill the bill with me why so I would like for you to send the son [sum] of thirty dollars.

H. Durand

Anahim, Dic 10 de 1850

Señora Doña Luisa,

Le ruego a V. no se haga
la suela, acerca de las
yeguas que le vendí a su
esposo el difunto Miguel
Bran cosa de 6 ó 7 bestias
que V. misma las habra
visto cuando él las llevó
para Oaguanga, y hay un
fierro tambien, de lo cual hay
muchos testigos.

Pues las bestias se las vendí
fiadas por la suma de (\$80.00)
ochenta pesos, y le di un papel
de venta de dichas bestias,

y el me dió un pagari
tambien a mi el cual lo tengo
todavía.

Ahora yo quiero que V. me
devuelva el fierro y y (\$75.00)
en dinero ó en animales y
dicho dinero se lo entregara á
Don Anes Harrison, y yo
ire por allá. Federico Smith

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Anaheim, December 10, 1880

Mrs. Lucia,

I beg of you, do not play dumb [don't be coy] regarding the mares that I sold to your deceased husband, Miguel. It was about 6 or 7 beasts that you yourself must have seen when he took them to Aguanga. And there is also a metal [a piece of iron] of which there are many eyewitnesses. Well, I sold you the beasts [mares] for the sum of 80 pesos. And I gave him a receipt [a paper] of said sales of the beasts to which he gave me a promise to pay back [IOU], which I still have. Now I want you to return the metal [piece of iron] and 75.00 in cash or in animals. Give it to Mr. Ines Harrison, and I will head over there to collect it.

Frederico Smith

es decir que ni yo Tampoco no tendre
nada

Si. Señor, si Dios quiere

yo estare alli en Agosto para ver
la funcion de San Luis Rey.

y si no estoy alli en este
tiempo, sabe Dios en donde estare.

Hay de mi que hare yo no hay
vida tan misera como la mia.

A fin de todo esto.

Saludes para todos los que se
acuerdan de mi.

y tambien a toda la familia

de mi tia M. Margarita
y a Don J. José Maria Trujillo.

J. Frederick Smith

J. Federico Smith

San Luis Gonzales Banda
13 De Junio De 1873.

Muy Señor mio.

Si me acordaste deo mucho

que al recibo de esta carta se

acuerda en buena salud.

A pesar de que yo estoy muy rico

de salud y muy pacifico con

todos mis amigos con quienes estoy

presente.

Estoy muy contento ahora de ver

mi aventura, no como el año

año anterior, que durante cinco

meses andaba en una horrible

miseria de salud.

Ha como le he dicho que los

gastos de la enfermedad que tuve.

no bajo la suma de \$ 600.

Hombre nose que hacer ni que
decir, pues las plazas por aqui
son buenas para los hombres que
quieran trabajar, ami aqui me
hofuen \$ 30 por cada mes y
por eso digo yo que nose si me
ire o no, sin embargo tengo que
irme pero no le dire por ahora
cuando eh.

Pero mi deseo es siempre de verle a v.
el 23 o 24 de Agosto en este
año

Pero si yo no llego alli en el
mes de Agosto, entonces ya v.
perdera las esperanzas de verme
este año.

Porque si me quedo aqui, tengo que
trabajar poco mas o menos de un año,
entonces talvez me ire.

Ahora ahora estoy en la misma
Compania de Don D. Bastenbury.
Pero deseo de separarme del de aqui
seis o ocho dias

Aqui se van a terminar
todas mis palabras,
ya como le he dicho que si
yo no vuelvo a para alli
en Agosto.

ya sabe v. lo que va hacer
cuidar sus animalitos bien lo
mejor que pueda.

Son suyos todos los animalitos
que tiene v. ahora alli

Pero no son para que v. los vende
ni los abandone como en los
tiempos anteriores.

que todo su trabajo lo abandonaba
v. y esa es la causa que v.
no tiene nada ahora tanto
tiempo que ha estado en
California.

y si v. quiere cuidar su trabajo
desde ahora, al cabo de dos o
tres años tendra v. algo.

Pero si v. no cuida su trabajo bien
nunca tendra nada v. ni aun ya

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San Luis Gonzalez Ranch

June 13, 1873

My dearest sir,

Beloved stepfather, I really do hope that by the time you receive this letter you are in good health [that this letter finds you in good health]. Despite that I am rich in health [or rich with good health] and easy going with all my friends who I'm with, I am very happy to see my adventures [the condition of my life] unlike the previous year. During five months I went through a horrible misery of health. Now that I have told the expenses of my sickness that I had, the cost of 60 did not go down [the costs associated with my illness were not under 60]. Man, I don't know what to do nor what to say. The town squares here are good for men who want to work. Here, they are offering me 30 for every month. For that reason I say that I am not sure if I will leave or not. However, I have to leave, but I won't tell you for sure when I leave (eh). But my wish will always be to visit you on the 23rd or 24th of August this year. But if I do not get there during the month of August, then you will lose any hope to see me this year. Because if I stay here, I have to work more or less than a year, then maybe I'll leave. Now, I am in the same company of [staying with] Mr. D. Bastanchury. But I wish to separate from him here in about six to eight days. Here, I will finish with all my words (I will close by saying). Like I have told you, if I don't return by August, you will know what you have to do. Take care of all of your little animals as best you can. All of the little animals there are yours, but they are not for you to sell or abandon [or neglect] like in previous times. All this time that you have been in California, you have abandoned your work, and that is why you don't have anything now. And if you want to maintain a job as of today, in about two or three years you will have something. But, if you don't maintain your job you still will never have anything. It is to say that neither will I have anything [And I will end up with nothing]. Yes sir, if God permits, I will be there in August to see the function [the festival/show/performance] of San Luis Rey. If I am not there by that time, God knows where I will be. Oh poor me [Oh my], what will I do, in the end there is no life as miserable as mine. Greeting for all of those who remember me and to all of my Aunt Margarita's family, and Mr. Jose Maria Trujillo.

J. Frederick Smith, J. Frederico Smith