

Bridget ("Biddy") Mason



- CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION
- DONOR TO CHARITY
- CHURCH FOUNDER

"If you hold your hand closed... nothing can come in. The open hand is blessed, for it gives in abundance, even as it receives."



As a slave, Biddy Mason walked behind her master's wagon from Mississippi to California, where she went to court to sue for freedom. Then Mason worked as a midwife and invested in Los Angeles real estate. Becoming rich, she gave money to charities and sheltered orphans in her home, which she called "The House of the Open Hand." With her son, Mason founded the First African Methodist Church.



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Dolores Huerta

- LABOR LEADER
- CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST
- FEMINIST



With Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta started a union for farm workers. Leading farm workers in demonstrations and strikes, she helped them negotiate higher pay and better working conditions. Huerta convinced the government to pass new laws protecting the civil rights of immigrant workers, and she also has sued employers who treat male workers better than female workers.



"We must use our lives to make the world a better place to live.... That is what we are put on the earth for."



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A.P. Giannini



"Money is like frozen energy. Connect money with people's dreams and explosive things happen"



- BANKER FOR THE "LITTLE GUY"
- BOOSTER OF THE MIDDLE CLASS
- BUILDER OF MODERN SAN FRANCISCO

In the rubble of the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906, Amadeo Peter Giannini laid a plank across two barrels and started lending money to people who had nothing. In those days most banks only made big loans to a few rich people, but A.P. Giannini made small loans to many poor immigrants. By the time of his death, Giannini's two barrels and a plank had grown to be the America's second largest bank—the Bank of America.



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John Charles Fremont



- SURVEYOR
- SOLDIER
- SENATOR

"From the ashes of his campfire have sprung cities."

Nicknamed "the Pathfinder," Fremont explored the American West in six surveying expeditions. He was a military leader in the war to capture California from Mexico and was a Union major during the Civil War. In 1850, the new state of California elected Fremont to the U.S. Senate. He later ran twice for President. Fremont made a fortune in the Gold Rush, but died almost broke in 1890.

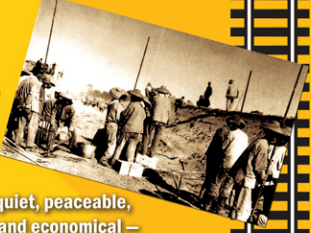


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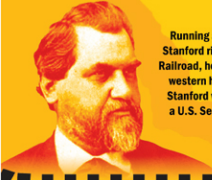
Leland Stanford

- BUSINESS TYCOON
- POLITICIAN
- FOUNDER OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY



"As a class they are quiet, peaceable, patient, industrious and economical — ready and apt to learn all the different kinds of work required in railroad building."

Leland Stanford, 1865, describing Chinese workers



Running a general store for gold miners made Stanford rich. As president of the Central Pacific Railroad, he hired Chinese immigrants to build the western half of the Transcontinental Railroad. Stanford was the eighth governor of California, a U.S. Senator from California, and founder of Stanford University.

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Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo

- GENERAL
- FOUNDING FATHER OF CALIFORNIA'S CONSTITUTION
- CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR



"When we join our fortunes...we shall not become subjects, but fellow-citizens, possessing all the rights of the United States.... California will grow strong and flourishing, and her people will be prosperous, happy, and free."



Although Mexican General Vallejo was jailed by American rebels during the Bear Flag Revolt, he liked the hardworking new American settlers and their democratic ideals. He talked his fellow Californios into accepting American rule, helped write the state's Constitution, and was elected to California's Senate in the new state's first elections.



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