

# 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 Rincon:  
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.

Yours truly  
L. H. H.

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 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 1880, the sum of TWO DOLLARS,

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

Wm. J. J. J.

County Treasurer.

\$2

M. D. Hamilton

County Assessor.

Gilbert J. J.

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 31 de Mayo de 1878

Señor Don Olegario Calac

Agenciado general

de todo mi Apellido y Distinto

Carino Reciba la Carta

Bueno Señor

Labondegada

de el Satros Licia con el domingo

Lalle Baron del campo

sin otros atenciones el mejor

yara de si que Pa kasa con Laca

brac hoy mañana

y el domingo lo mandado de cin

que su pedia pinto o sino

de mandando sin cargo y Los lo

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 Parrish 1880
	RECEIVED of Nathan Harris
\$	Three dollars 100 DOLLARS.
	Andrew Scott per John A. Bidders

ITEMS FOUND IN NATE'S CABIN AFTER HIS DEATH



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



My Dear

Mar 26 1872

Dear Sir

My Dear

I have to tell the little with me and  
I would like for you to send the one of  
the other

Yours truly  
H. L. Linnard

Potrero 15 de junio de 1875

Mi Don eres mi muy estimado  
tomo la pluma con el fin para  
saludar a u. y union de mi amigo  
Don eres Beuno Don eres a qui lle  
go con eligo Petisia 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 Meide de una lle qua  
pero ahora yo quiero tabletas  
a si es que dijo Dona Calistra  
ahora eres yo y tu tenemos que a  
Reglar a qui somos  
Señor Jose acate

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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. 26<sup>th</sup>, 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

Anaheim, Dic 10 de 1882

Señora Sonia Luisa,

Le ruego a V. no se haga  
la suela, acerca de las  
yeguas que le vendí a su  
esposo el difunto Miguel.  
Eran cosa de 6 ó 7 bestias  
que V. misma las habra  
visto cuando él las llevó  
para Oquanga, y hay un  
fiervo 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 pagare  
tambien a mi el cual lo tengo  
todavía.

Ahora yo quiero que V. me  
devuelva el fiervo y y (\$75.00)  
en dinero ó en animales y  
dicho dinero se lo entregara a  
Don Andres Harrison, y me yo  
iré 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  
acuerdon de mi.

y tambien a toda la familia

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

J. Frederick Smith

J. Federico Smith

San Luis Gonzales Ranch

13 De Junio. De 1873.

Muy Señores mio.

Despues de haber recibido 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  
anterior, y 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 \$ 60;

Hombre nose que hacer ni que  
decir, pues las plagas por aquí  
son buenas para los hombres que  
quieran trabajar, ami aquí 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 allí en el  
mes de Agosto, entonces ya v.  
perderá las esperanzas de verme  
este año.

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

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

Aquí se van a terminar  
todas mis palabras.  
ya como le he dicho que si  
yo no vuelvo a para allí  
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 allí

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 tendrá v. algo.  
Pero si v. no cuida su trabajo bien  
nunca tendrá 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 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> 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