

Becoming American

A Permanent Exhibit

A first impression of California

Excerpt from the book: *Echoes of Freedom*

"On arriving in the Sacramento Valley, one could not help but be reminded of the Punjab. Fertile fields stretched across the flat valley to the foothills lying far in the distance. Most of the jobs available were agricultural and I found many Punjabis already working throughout the area."
—Puna Singh, 1927

Pioneer Asian Indian Immigration to the Pacific Coast

1899 Sikhs Allowed to Land in San Francisco: *"The four Sikhs who arrived on the Nippon Maru the other day were permitted yesterday to land by the immigration officials. The quartet formed the most picturesque group that has been seen on the Pacific Mall dock for many a day."*
— *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1899.

1904 Guru Granth Sahib Ji: *Bhai Arjan Singh of village Malak, Dist. Ludhiana (Punjab) was the first Sikh to bring the GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI (the holy scripture of the Sikhs) to Vancouver.*

1906 Khalsa Diwan Society Established: *In 1906, the first Sikh organization in Canada, Khalsa Diwan Society was established. (Source: Khalsa Diwan Society - Canada)*

1906-1922 Astoria, Oregon—"Hindu Alley": *For more than 15 years Astoria had a Hindu Alley, a block of houses on Birch Street near the old Hammond Mill in Alderbrook.*

1907 Anti-Hindu Riot, Bellingham, Washington: *"On September 4, 1907, a mob of about 500 men assaulted boarding houses and mills, forcefully expelling Hindus from Bellingham (Washington) in what is now known as the Anti-Hindu Riot.*

1913 The California Alien Land Law of 1913, *revised in 1920, prevented immigrants from owning and leasing their own land, making it a difficult struggle for those who made their living as farmers.*

1923 The verdict of United States v. Bhagat Singh Tind *(U.S. vs Thind 261 US 204 (1923)) became a major setback for Asian Indians struggling to survive and exist in a new land.*

Although the courageous people of the Punjab encountered tremendous challenges, they always kept their high spirits and maintained their traditions. In the United States they have become respected members of society. From humble working-class roots, over a period of many years, the Punjabi-American community has clearly made its mark on U.S. society and can proudly claim its offspring as lawyers, scientists, doctors, engineers, farmers, teachers and accountants.



From the
San Francisco Chronicle,
6, April 1899

Becoming American

One of the major goals of the Punjabi American Heritage Society is to promote friendship and understanding amongst all people in the Yuba/Sutter area.

A Permanent Showcase

In an effort to meet and expand this goal, the Punjabi American Heritage Society, in partnership with the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, is currently in the process of planning a permanent exhibit to showcase the story of migration of the Punjabi Americans to the United States of America over the last century.

This exhibit will provide a wealth of information in an effort to educate the public at large. It will also include the contributions of Punjabi Americans to mainstream society, culture, faith, and heritage.

Why?

It is our hope that the exhibit will serve as a source of information to students, teachers and any other visitors to the museum. In order to accomplish our goal of completing this exhibit, we are in need of input, support, and monetary contributions from the community.

The Migration Story

Another phase of this project will include the publishing of a book, *Becoming American*. To put together a comprehensive and professional book, we will be hiring scholars and authors.

In addition to the story behind the migration experience, this book will provide a summary of the museum exhibit and recognize sponsors and donors of this project.

All of us have a cause to be proud of our country's history, shaped by the pioneering spirit of our forefathers...

Sponsorship Opportunities

Founders Circle \$25,000

Building a permanent museum exhibit takes serious money, and this is a serious donation. We recognize that only a few have the means to make such a sizeable donation, but if you can, here is your chance to assure that the Punjabi-Americans who migrated here will never be forgotten.

As a way of saying thank you, founders circle members will receive:

Full back page with family picture & history

Platinum \$20,000

Our gratitude and recognition at this level will include:

Full center page with family picture & history

Gold \$10,000

Our gratitude and recognition at this level will include:

Full page picture and brief story

Silver \$5,000

Our gratitude and recognition at this level will include:

Half page with picture and family message

Bronze \$2,500

Our gratitude and recognition at this level will include:

Quarter page with name, photo and brief message

Honorable Mention \$1,000-2,000

Our gratitude and recognition at this level will include:

Business card name, photo and brief message

Friends of Exhibit under \$1000

Our gratitude and recognition at this level will include:

A listing as a "Friend of the Exhibit"

Yes!

I would like to help sponsor the "Becoming American" a permanent exhibit at the Sutter County Museum. I would like to donate at the following level:

Founders Circle (\$25,000)

Platinum (\$20,000)

Gold (\$10,000)

Silver (\$5,000)

Bronze (\$2,500)

Honorable Mention (\$1,000/\$2,000)

Friends of Exhibit

My check/money order is enclosed, payable to: The Punjabi American Heritage Society (a not-for-profit 501(c)3) P.O. Box 3335, Yuba City, CA 95992

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address (City, State, Zip) _____

Phone _____

Website _____

email _____