



# Rancho Sisquoc

## Enduring Legacy of an Historic Land Grant Ranch

Judith Flood Wilbur  
Chase Reynolds Ewald

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- **Rancho Sisquoc: Enduring Legacy of an Historic Land Grant Ranch** is a richly illustrated and engagingly written portrait of one of the last intact Mexican land grant ranches; granted in 1845—One of only remaining intact land grant ranches in the US
- Today Rancho Sisquoc is a cattle ranch and winery operating on one of the largest private real estate holdings in Santa Barbara County
- One of largest private properties in Santa Barbara County at 37,000 acres, and one of first wine growing properties in Santa Barbara County
- The ranch's 50th anniversary as a Winery is in 2022
- Under one family's ownership for 70 years; 70th anniversary in 2022

**Rancho Sisquoc: Enduring Legacy of an Historic Land Grant Ranch** celebrates the spectacular landscape, fascinating history, colorful characters, and timeless traditions of one of California's last intact Mexican land grant ranches. The ranch's approximately 37,000 acres extend from the edge of the Los Padres National Forest to the lush vineyards on the mesas to fertile farmland in the bottomland, and range almost the entire length of the Sisquoc River valley in northern Santa Barbara County. Engaging text, maps, and archival documents are paired with vintage and contemporary photographs to bring the landscape and its history to life, from prehistory to the days of the vaqueros, from turn-of-the-century homesteading to the realities of a contemporary cattle ranch, farming operation, vineyard and winery with a passionate wine club membership of 1,500.

Forewords by former Governor Edmund Gerald Brown, Jr., a California history enthusiast; Stephen T. Hearst, whose interest in preservation extends to his oversight of the vast ranch lands surrounding Hearst Castle; and Eric Hvolboll, a rancher and longtime friend of the Flood family whose ancestors came from Mexico to Santa Barbara County in the 1700s, add depth and perspective to the narrative. An introduction by co-owner Judith Flood Wilbur and preface by author Elizabeth Clair Flood speak to the role the ranch has played in the lives of one family for seven decades, and their hopes for preserving it for future generations. **Rancho Sisquoc: Enduring Legacy of an Historic Land Grant Ranch** will give readers a sense of this special place and its unique role in California history.

**Chase Reynolds Ewald** is a freelance writer, columnist, and consultant and the author of fifteen books on architecture, design, cuisine, and western and rustic lifestyle. Her most recent works include *Bison: Portrait of an Icon*; *Modern Americana*; *At Home in the Wine Country*; and *Inspired By Place*, a 2021 monograph on the work of CLB Architects. A graduate of Yale and the U.C. Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, she lives in Tiburon, California.

**Stephen T. Hearst** is vice president and general manager of Hearst's Western Properties. He is responsible for managing Hearst's extensive ranching, timber, and property operations, including the historic 83,000-acre ranch surrounding Hearst Castle and the 73,000-acre Jack Ranch in Paso Robles.

**Edmund Gerald Brown, Jr.** served as California's Secretary of State and Attorney General and was also the Mayor of Oakland. He was elected as the 34th and 39th governor of California, serving from 1975 to 1983 and 2011 to 2019. He lives in Colusa County, California.

**Elizabeth Clair Flood** is a writer and photographer. The author of six western design and lifestyle books, her articles have appeared in *Architectural Digest*, *Cowboys & Indians*, *House Beautiful*, *Elle Decor*, *Mountain Living*, and others. She lives in Wilson, Wyoming.

**Judy Flood Wilbur** is co-owner of Rancho Sisquoc. She chairs the Flood Ranch Company and the Flood Corporation Board of Directors. She serves as Chair of the Brayton Wilbur Foundation and is former President and Trustee of the Commonwealth Club, Trustee Emeritus of The Asia Foundation, Trustee Emeritus of the Asian Art Museum, past President of the Hillsborough City School District, and past member of the Wilbur-Ellis Company Board of Directors. She is the recipient of numerous social service awards. A graduate of U.C. Berkeley, she lives in Hillsborough, California.

**Eric P. Hvolboll** is a friend of the Flood family. His ancestors came from Mexico to Santa Barbara County in the 1700s where they have owned and operated ranches for many generations. A graduate of Stanford University (A.B. in History; B.S., M.S. in Applied Earth Science, and J.D.), he lives and farms on his family's historic La Paloma Ranch in Gaviota, California.

