

## 2012: YEAR OF THE RANCHOS

Rancho Los Cerritos + 4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach, CA 90807 + (562) 570-1755 + [www.rancholoscerritos.org](http://www.rancholoscerritos.org)

### Rancho Los Cerritos History - Timeline

#### Important Dates In The History Of Rancho Los Cerritos

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2000-3000 BC | Native Americans live on Rancho Los Cerritos land. Eleven cogged stones from this period discovered in 1930. |
| 500-1769     | Tongva (Gabrielinos) live on Rancho Los Cerrito land. Tibahangna village north of present house.             |
| 1769         | First Spanish settlement in California at San Diego.   |
| 1771         | Mission San Gabriel founded.   |
| 1781         | El Pueblo de Los Angeles founded.  |
| 1784-90      | Spanish soldier Manuel Nieto receives 300,000 acres; this is reduced to 167,000 acres.                       |
| 1804         | Manuel Nieto dies; his land is inherited jointly by his four surviving children.                             |
| 1821         | Mexico achieves independence from Spain in 1821, California comes under Mexican rule                         |
| 1834         | Mission lands are secularized and the missions are closed.   |
| 1834         | Nieto's land divided into small ranchos. Daughter Manuela de Cota receives 27,000-acre Rancho Los Cerritos.  |
| 1834-35      | Manuela and husband Guillermo Cota build a small adobe on Rancho Los Cerritos.                               |
| 1843         | John Temple buys Rancho Los Cerritos from Cota family in December 1843 for \$3,000                           |
| 1844         | John Temple builds Monterey-style adobe for cattle-ranching operations; stocks 15,000 head of cattle         |
| 1846-48      | Mexican-American War   |
| 1848         | California becomes a U.S. territory  |
| 1848         | Gold is discovered in northern California  |
| 1849         | The Gold Rush begins   |
| 1849         | Benjamin Flint comes to California to seek his fortune in the gold fields                                    |
| 1850         | California becomes a state   |
| 1851         | Thomas Flint and Lewellyn Bixby arrive in the gold fields  |
| 1852-53      | John Temple defends his title to Rancho Los Cerritos before the U.S. Land Commission                         |
| 1852         | Jotham and Marcellus Bixby, brothers of Lewellyn Bixby, arrive in the gold fields                            |
| 1853         | Benjamin and Thomas Flint, and Lewellyn Bixby, form Flint, Bixby & Co. and bring sheep to California         |
| 1861-65      | Civil War  |
| 1862-64      | Period of severe floods and droughts in southern California devastate the cattle industry                    |
| 1866         | John Temple sells Rancho Los Cerritos to Flint, Bixby & Co.  |
| 1866         | Jotham Bixby and family move to Rancho Los Cerritos to manage Flint, Bixby & Co's sheep ranching operations  |
| 1869         | Jotham Bixby buys a half interest in Rancho Los Cerritos and forms J. Bixby & Company                        |
| 1874         | Jotham Bixby buys an interest in Rancho Palos Verdes   |
| 1877         | George Hathaway, J. Bixby's father-in-law and sister-in-law Martha Hathaway move to Rancho Los Cerritos      |
| 1878         | John Bixby, a cousin of Jotham and Lewellyn Bixby's working for them at Rancho Los Cerritos,                 |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
|         | leases Rancho Los Alamitos   |
| 1881    | Jotham Bixby and his family move to Los Angeles  |
| 1881    | J. Bixby & Company, together with John Bixby and I.W. Hellman, purchase Rancho Los Alamitos  |
| 1881    | J. Bixby offers lease with option to buy of 4000 acres to William Willmore who proposes to found Willmore City.                            |
| 1884    | William Willmore unsuccessful, but Long Beach Land & Water Co. purchases option and rename town "Long Beach"                               |
| 1884-85 | Jotham Bixby family moves back to Long Beach and builds a home on Ocean  |
| 1887    | Long Beach is incorporated   |
| 1897    | 7,000 acres of Rancho Los Cerritos sold to Senator from Montana; later becomes Lakewood  |
| 1906    | 1440 acres of Rancho Los Cerritos lands sold; City of Bellflower founded   |
| 1930-31 | Rancho Los Cerritos is remodeled by Llewellyn Bixby, Sr. for a family residence  |
| 1942    | Llewellyn Bixby, Sr. dies  |
| 1955    | Rancho Los Cerritos is acquired by the City of Long Beach and opened as a museum   |
| 1970    | Rancho Los Cerritos on National Register of Historic Properties and designated a <b>National Historic Landmark</b> (Long Beach's only NHL) |
| 1979    | Rancho Los Cerritos is designated a City of Long Beach Historical Landmark   |
| 1988    | Rancho Los Cerritos is designated State Historic Landmark No. 978  |