



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 9, 2015

***A Night at the State Library* presents:  
Building the Central Pacific Railroad: A Photographic Journey  
Wednesday, January 14, 6 - 7 p.m.**

**Sacramento** – Considered one of the great engineering feats of the 19th Century, the Central Pacific Railroad was a seven-year, 690-mile undertaking that connected California to the rest of the country. A special viewing of the only photographs taken of the railroad's construction will be shown on **Wednesday, January 14 at 6 p.m. at the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building, 914 Capitol Mall in Sacramento.** The event is free.

From 1864 to 1869, Alfred A. Hart, the railroad's official photographer, recorded the progress of the railway from Sacramento, over the Sierra Nevada range, across Nevada to Promontory, Utah, using a 5-by-8 inch wet-plate stereo camera and processing his fragile glass plates in a portable dark tent.

On Wednesday, a slide show of Hart's original glass plate stereographs will be presented by historian Mead Kibbey, who will trace Hart's journey from Sacramento to Utah. The remarkable scenes captured by Hart include tunneling through Sierra granite, cutting track beds on the sides of thousand-foot cliffs and building trestles across ravines.

Mead Kibbey is the author of [\*The Railroad Photographs of Alfred A. Hart, Artist \(1995\)\*](#) and has lectured extensively on commercial stereography, a technique that renders 3D-like images when shown on a [stereoscope](#). Kibbey has generously donated to the State Library the complete set of 364 original stereographs that Hart took of the railroad construction.

**RSVP at Eventbrite:** <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-the-central-pacific-railroad-a-photographic-journey-tickets-14641861201>

For more information contact: [Kimberly.brown@library.ca.gov](mailto:Kimberly.brown@library.ca.gov), 916-651-6466.

**A Night at the California State Library** continues the 165-year tradition of successfully connecting Californians to our collective history through its special events and is made possible by generous donations from the California State Library Foundation.

####