

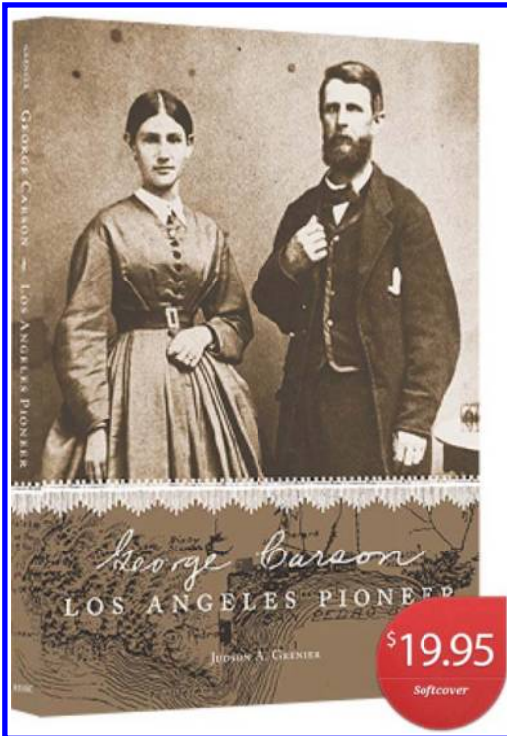
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# George Carson: Los Angeles Pioneer

by Judson A. Grenier

Historical Society of Southern California



Historian Judson Grenier offers us a rich panorama of America's nineteenth-century coming-of-age, from the first reach westward along the Erie Canal to long marches across the unforgiving desert to a vast estate of oil-rich pastureland in Southern California.

Grenier used primary source material to provide accurate background descriptions of events and settings that characterize not only the career of George Carson, but the nation's expanding vision at the time.

Grenier brings us the reckless fervor of the war with Mexico, with Carson signing up as volunteer, then suffering the drudgery of desert outposts. The army led to

his first business venture, selling supplies to the scattered forts along the Mexican borderlands. With his earnings he purchased a flock of sheep and drove them to Los Angeles in 1853.

In his easy, conversational manner, the author describes Los Angeles as Carson found friends, business partners, and a wife in the extended Dominguez family. Grenier highlights the pivotal episode when Carson superintended the land survey by which the vast acreage of the family's Spanish grant was parceled out for American development. From the farmlands to the beaches to the oil strikes in the hills, Carson's long career provide a rich historical tapestry of life and land in Southern California.

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