



**MOULTON™  
MUSEUM**

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**Moulton Museum, City of Laguna Hills and Elected Officials  
Celebrated Lewis F. Moulton Arrival Day on May 6 with a Ceremony  
at  
Moulton Ranch Center**

*The Ceremony Had the Presence of Federal, Statewide, Regional and Local  
Elected Officials Celebrating May 6 as Lewis F. Moulton Arrival Day*

**May 9, 2022 (Laguna Hills, CA)** - [Moulton Museum](#), an Orange County-based museum that works to keep the history of the region alive by archiving, restoring and preserving historical artifacts, hosted a ceremony with the Moulton family and elected officials proclaimed May 6, 2022 as Lewis F. Moulton Arrival Day. The dedication ceremony took place at the Moulton Ranch Center located at 25272 Cabot Road, Laguna Hills.

Lewis F. Moulton Arrival Day celebrated the pioneer spirit of the patriarch of the Moulton family and his influence on the historic ranching heritage of Orange County. On May 6, 1874, twenty-year-old Chicago-born Lewis Fenno Moulton arrived in Orange County, California after having traveled west from Boston on a Pacific Mail Steamship. Moulton journeyed five weeks by steamship that connected him to a train to cross the Isthmus of Panama. After a few days, Moulton caught a boat which landed him in Los Angeles, California. Moulton thereafter traveled by stagecoach from Los Angeles to Santa Ana, arriving in Orange County at midnight on May 6.

Moulton had big dreams and a hard working spirit when he journeyed from Boston to Orange County. He then continued this spirit and within 20 years of his arrival in Orange

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County, he amassed the 22,000 acres that became the Moulton Ranch and present-day Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Aliso Viejo, and parts of Dana Point and Laguna Beach.

In 1908, Moulton married schoolteacher Nellie Gail, who became an avid plein air painter and a major supporter of the arts community and education in Orange County. She was one of the founding members and transformative donors of both the Laguna College of Art + Design and Chapman University.

The legacy of Lewis F. Moulton and the love for the arts represented by Nellie Gail Moulton will continue to be honored by the 2022 opening of Moulton Museum in Laguna Hills, California.

State Senator Pat Bates (SD-36), Assemblywoman Laurie Davies (AD-73), Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett (District 5), and an aide to Congresswoman Michelle Steel (CA-48), as well as city council members representing Laguna Hills, Laguna Beach, and Dana Point were present for this momentous celebration. Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) general manager Joone Lopez and Boardmember Bill Moorehead were also present. MNWD is the founding partner of Moulton Museum. Jane and Scott Barnes, granddaughter and great-grandson of Lewis and Nellie Gail Moulton, as well as Jennifer Keil, Museum Director, spoke about the grand opening of Moulton Museum. Timothy Robert Smith's mural was dedicated at the Moulton Ranch Center with LCAD President Brittan.

### **About Moulton Museum**

Moulton Museum, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, works to keep the history of Orange County and its ranching era alive. Moulton Museum is committed to heritage, community, and philanthropy. Its core values are reflected in its archives, exhibits, educational programs, and partnerships. For more information, or to support by becoming a donor and/or a volunteer, visit [www.moultonmuseum.org](http://www.moultonmuseum.org).