

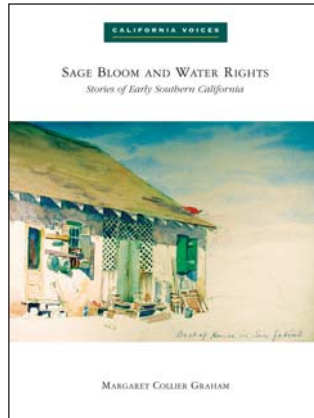
# A NEW BOOK: 'SAGE BLOOM AND WATER RIGHTS' Stories of Early Southern California

COMPILED BY ELIZABETH POMEROY, WRITER-HISTORIAN

Last autumn, Many Moons Press published a new edition of selected stories by South Pasadena's pioneer author, Margaret Collier Graham (1850-1910). The book contains ten highly entertaining tales chosen from her two collections *Stories of the Foot-hills* (1895) and *The Wizard's Daughter* (1905). The original editions are long out of print and hard to find, even in local libraries.

The new book is the third in a popular series called *California Voices*, which publishes writings on history and nature from California's past. These are authors who speak to concerns of today and who write in a very engaging way.

Margaret Collier Graham's fiction



gives a vivid look at the Southern California of her time, the life of early settlers, the importance of water, the hardships and humor, the strong characters, and around it all the beautiful land. The aroma of sage and the earth,

in sun or rain, rises from these pages with a satisfying richness. These are stories with literary merit and also historical truth.

Graham was an honored storyteller and essayist, admired by John Muir and Charles Lummis. Margaret was a familiar voice in Lummis's magazine *Land of Sunshine*, and her husband, Donald Graham, was South Pasadena's first mayor (1888-1889). Their South Pasadena home, Wynyate, is now on the National Register of Historic Places.


Franklin Walker, in his book *A Literary History of Southern California*, writes: "Here is the substance of rural Southern California of the 'nineties [1890s], done with loving skill. Margaret Collier Graham's fiction deserves a much wider audience than it has received."

Now modern readers have a chance to enjoy these stories once again.

The book is illustrated with photographs of the Grahams, their home Wynyate, and local scenes that were the context for her writing. The photos are provided courtesy of the Huntington Library. An introduction by Michele Zack, author of the recent history of Altadena, and a chronology of Graham's life completes the book.

The cover features a color painting of a Southern California scene by Pasadena artist Eva Scott Fenyes, dating from 1904, which is about the same period as the stories. (The Fenyes mansion is now the home of the Pasadena Museum of History.)


In this appealing volume, these stories by a witty and talented Californian, which have been out of print for a hundred years, are brought to life again. The books are available at local bookstores or directly from the publisher: Many Moons Press, P.O. Box 94505, Pasadena 91109 or [www.manymoonspress.com](http://www.manymoonspress.com). †



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