

More on Morrill

I enjoyed the latest issue of *California Agriculture* with emphasis on the Morrill Act (“The Morrill Act at 150: How a land-grant law launched the University of California,” April-June 2012). I have spent my entire college training and professional career at land-grant universities, but I knew only the basics of the important legislative acts affecting them. So with extra time after retirement, I began to learn more about the background of these important laws.

I’m sure that most of my colleagues don’t know that there are 107 land-grant institutions in the United States, that a 1994 act added more than two dozen Native American institutions to the total, that MIT is a land-grant university, or even that Rep. Morrill almost certainly was not the author of the Morrill Act of 1862, although he did yeoman’s service in getting it passed.

I have written up my findings (see <http://ucanr.org/u.cfm?id=46>) and shared them with various people on my campus. I am not a historian and this is not an authoritative scholarly work, but I believe it is accurate. I believe the Morrill Act of 1862 was one of the most influential events in the history of education in the world.

Arnold P. Appleby
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UC President Mark G. Yudof presented an excellent overview (“For 150 years, UC science and agriculture transform California,” April-June 2012). He concluded that without the Morrill Act, UC might not have evolved into world’s greatest public university system, which led California agriculture to a \$37.5 billion industry. President Yudoff credited Justin Smith Morrill, who proposed the federal land-grant system, which was endorsed by President Lincoln, who signed the Morrill Land-Grant College Act of July 2, 1862.

Your readers will be enlightened to learn that Rep. Morrill left school at the age of 15! He attended commons schools in Vermont: Thetford Academy and Randolph Academy. He never went to college, since his father could not afford to send him for further education. However, his school foundation enabled him to lead the people of Vermont in the U.S. Congress for 12 years, from 1885 to 1867. Later he became a U.S. senator for over 30 years. He died in 1898 while in office. The University of Pennsylvania gave him an honorary degree for his work as a congressman.

Dilipsinh M. Gaekwar
Mendham, N.J.

Morrill Act inspires

I appreciated the article in the current publication that reviews the history of land-grant colleges, beginning with President Lincoln (“UC’s land-grant mission fuels nation’s growth, prosperity,” by Rose Hayden-Smith, April-June 2012). I cannot imagine where the United States would be without well-funded agricultural research and technology from lab to field. UC has been a major leader, and it’s interesting to know how it has influenced agriculture around the world and the topics that are crucial for food production and healthy natural resources. Thank you, *California Agriculture* and the editorial staff, for sharing.

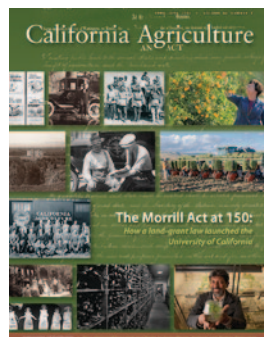
Karen Sweet
Rancher and Steering Committee Member
California Rangeland Conservation Coalition

I am here in Pakistan on a project to help Pakistan and Afghanistan develop an extension service. I brought a number of the current issue to share with colleagues and our trainees. I thought it was excellent, especially the specific details of Lincoln and the South’s secession aiding passage of the Morrill Act.

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UC Riverside history clarified

The UC Riverside College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences dean’s office just



April-June 2012
California Agriculture

received the magnificent April-June 2012 issue. I hasten to send congratulations to all who had a hand in it. I especially enjoyed Rose Hayden-Smith’s review of the effects of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act, a piece of legislation whose importance to American higher education is matched (perhaps) only by the GI Bill.

I must draw your attention to a mistake in your timeline — a rather serious one from our point of view. On page 47 you write, “The [Citrus Experiment Station] became UC Riverside in 1959.” Actually, UC Riverside was founded in 1954.

This error may have come about by a too-rapid reading of the UC Riverside website. The history presented at www.ucr.edu/about/history.html states, “In 1948, the University of California

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The editorial staff of *California Agriculture* welcomes your letters, comments and suggestions. Please write to us at: 1301 S. 46th St., Building 478 - MC 3580, Richmond, CA 94804, or calag@ucdavis.edu. Include your full name and address. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Corrections

On page 48 of the April-June 2012 issue, the years on two images (B and C) from the Ansel Adams Fiat Lux Collection at UC Riverside/California Museum of Photography were misidentified. The photographs were taken in 1966. *California Agriculture* regrets the error.

Due to an editing error, incorrect wording appeared near the top of page 43 in the print journal. The sentence should read, “A second Morrill Act in 1890 gave an additional boost to the land-grant system by fostering institutions serving African Americans in the Southern states” not “...and Native Americans.”

Although the 1890 Morrill Act later fostered tribal colleges (through a provision that land-grant schools could not deny admission based on race), funding did not occur until passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization Act of 1994.