

**Thursday, February 19, 2009 7pm**

*A lecture*

*by Martha A. Sandweiss on her latest book*

# PASSING STRANGE

***Martha Sandweiss will autograph copies of her latest book  
"Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line".  
Books will be available for purchase at the lecture.***



**After leading one of the four great surveys of the western U.S., Clarence King was appointed to be the first Director of the U.S. Geological Survey in 1879. For thirteen years he lived a double life—as the celebrated white explorer, geologist and writer Clarence King, and as a black Pullman porter and steel worker named James Todd. The fair, blue-eyed son of a wealthy China trader passed across the color line, revealing his secret to his black common-law wife, Ada Copeland, only on his deathbed.**

***Martha Sandweiss is a professor of History, Princeton University***

**U.S. Geological Survey • 345 Middlefield Road • Conference Room A, Bldg 3 • Menlo Park, CA, 94025**