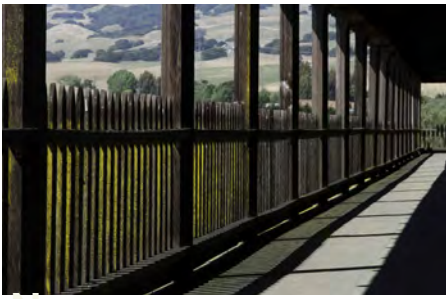


SONOMA and PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARKS



Docent and SPParks GAZETTE Winter 2025



SPParks UPDATE

As the calendar year winds down, SPParks and the Sonoma State Historic Park, finished with a flourish! In October we partnered with the Parks and La Luz to present in the Barracks Courtyard the animated movie "Coco", complete with hot chocolate and 'pan de muerto'. In November we hosted the Victorian Christmas Crafts Workshop at the Vallejo Home – always a fun, well attended event with gingerbread to decorate and crafts to create for a loved one or the Christmas tree.

In December SPParks worked with the Parks to put on Holiday on the Northern Frontier & Christmas at the Mission. Emphasis this year was on the decked-out Blue Wing Inn, with 'the man in red', cookies, crafts and music. The Toscano Hotel had the Pickle Creek String Band playing their lively tunes, and the Barracks Gift Store was open for browsing, in addition to the wonderful singing in the Mission. I hope you had a chance to participate in some of the happenings.

As always, Jerome kept us tapping our toes with music throughout the year, as well as enlightening our minds with interesting lectures. He guarantees there will be more next year!

The Bay Area District Office of State Parks also held a Public meeting in October, looking for input regarding what we, in Sonoma, want to see the Blue Wing Inn evolve into, as the development progresses. If you have an idea, or want to be the financial angel,



Potential Concession Location:
Historic Blue Wing Inn
at Sonoma State Historic Park

send a note to the Office in Petaluma.

[Editor's note: see also, State Parks Update, page 3]

(continued on page 2)

DOCENT ORGANIZATION UPDATE

We truly enjoyed our recent Quarterly Meeting at the Barracks on December 7th! We realized that 23 of the 28 people present were docents (the remainder were State Park staff). This represents NEARLY ALL the Docents who are presently active!!

And our Holiday lunch afterwards was scrumptious! Thank you to Kit Foster, Karen Pregler, Lisa Tremblay, and Suzanne Berube for sharing their culinary skills and hospitality. The hit of the day was Karen's Brussels sprout salad - and you thought you didn't like Brussels sprouts.

What a great group we are blessed with! Thank you all for your profound commitment to our important mission: to enrich the experiences for visitors to our State historic parks.

AND our numbers also reveal another obvious fact: we are a group in need of enlargement and enrichment with more volunteers. We like to say: "Old-timers are our backbone. Newcomers are our lifeblood!"

One important comment during the meeting: Responding to local visitors who express possible interest in volunteering... We need something to hand out at each location, and it's critical to give such prospects a local contact. For now, we can suggest visiting the state parks websites, or the SPParks websites. (links on page 8)

After two years of shared leadership, we (Ed & Kit) are stepping aside and "passing the gavel" to Karen Pregler. She has already been actively supporting us for most of 2024, and we look forward to her able leadership. At this point, she is "flying solo" without a designated partner-leader so please respond if/when she asks for help in any project!

*Kit Foster & Ed Purkey,
outgoing Docent Co-Chairs*

SPParks Update (continued from page 1)



Happy New Year 2025!

Time to Join SPParks or Renew
Your Membership

Just go to the SPParks website and
follow the instructions.

<https://www.sonomaparks.org/about/membership/>

If you need more information,
please contact Mike Owens,

Membership Chair,

at SPParks.membership@gmail.com

On another note, the Barracks Gift Store earns the bulk of the money SPParks raises to enhance programs and events at the Parks. Elizabeth, our Store manager, is always looking for volunteers to help staff the Store one day a week for a morning or afternoon shift. Please consider giving a hand - you will meet visitors from around the world and possibly a few 4th graders as they study California history! We hope you had a peaceful holiday, whatever your beliefs.

Anne Cox, Board President

Oriana Weatherbee Day (1838 - 1886)

Oriana Day was one of eleven children born in Marshfield, Massachusetts in 1838 to parents George Henry Weatherbee and Sara Briggs Clapp Weatherbee. In 1860, Orianna married Dr. William E. Rice and had a daughter. They later divorced. She would marry John Adams Day in 1868. They lived in Boston and she worked as an artist and exhibited three paintings at the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association Exhibition in 1874.

She and her husband moved to Vallejo, California in 1874 where John Day worked as a clerk at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. There they met Platon Vallejo and his father Mariano Vallejo. She eventually painted several historical scenes as related to her by Mariano Vallejo as well as several portraits of Vallejo. One such historical scene painting of Vallejo reviewing his troops is located at the Vallejo Home and displayed on the west wall of his study.

She was the second painter (after Henry Chapman Ford) to paint all 21 California missions and completed her series in 1884.

Oriana Weatherbee Day died in San Francisco, California at the age of 47.

Jim Dannaher, SPParks Board



*Mission San Francisco Solano
Painted circa 1877-1884 by Oriana Day
Located in the de Young Museum, San Francisco*



*General Vallejo Reviewing His Troops in Sonoma, 1846
Painted in 1879 by Oriana Day
Located in the Vallejo Home
(Property of California State Parks)*

State Parks Update

Blue Wing Inn concessionaire sought

On October 24, 2024, the CA State Parks held a Public Input Meeting to discuss plans for a concession at the Blue Wing Inn. The state is gathering ideas for ways to involve the private sector in restoring and reopening the historic building on East Spain Street in Sonoma.

In the meeting, representatives from State Parks HQ answered general questions about their intentions to preserve the building, and the financial investment needed to preserve and renovate the building so that a concessionaire can utilize it while keeping it accessible to the public. They tried to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the State in this process.

Several types of concessions were suggested, including food service businesses like restaurants or a cooking school, a historic museum, an event space, or housing. One thing was clear from attendees – we don't need another wine tasting room!

The State Park staff are collecting input and will issue a formal Request for Proposal in 2025. Interested parties can get on the email list by contacting Nicole Spaulding, Concessions Specialist, AGPA, Nicole.Spaulding@parks.ca.gov

Robert Pickett, Supervising Ranger



*Petaluma Adobe
(photo by Brian Baer, CA State Parks),*

In case you missed it, here is the link, shared by Tyler Markley, to a video about a cultural burn at Pepperwood Preserve, led by Clint McKay (Wappo, Pomo, Wintun), along with the Pepperwood staff and volunteers. In the video, he explains why this practice is so important to the ecology of California!
[Cultural Burn at Pepperwood November 2024](#)

NEWS FROM PETALUMA

Greetings to all our wonderful volunteers and readers! This fall season has been very busy at the Petaluma Adobe. When Fandango was unfortunately cancelled, we used that time to prepare for the Environmental Studies Program for the 2024-2025 school year! We have a total of 17 classes scheduled from January to June 2025. We held an ESP Staff Training Day on October 7th, 2024 and refreshed our basketmaking, candle dipping, woodworking, and wool spinning skills. Our ESP Teacher Training Workshop in October was well received and fun for both teachers and park staff. One of the highlights of the event was the delicious lunch made on-site by volunteer Nick Vanni, who is the husband of Carmen Vanni (Senior Park Aide at PASHP and SSHP).

We did many events outside of our regular school programs this fall. We were fortunate to partner with the Petaluma Historical Library & Museum while they hosted the traveling exhibit, *Telling Stories of Mexican California: Real Life & Myth Making*, which ran from September 12th to November 3rd, 2024. The Petaluma Adobe and Mariano Vallejo were featured in the traveling exhibit panels and the exhibit was supplemented by costumes and artifacts loaned from the Petaluma Adobe.

In November, we had a table at Finding History Day at the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Rosa. We represented both Petaluma Adobe and Sonoma State Historic Parks and connected with many visitors. We also hosted a tour of the park for the Petaluma Leadership Program which runs for one year and focuses on various topics, including history. State Park Interpreter Jennifer Hanson was also interviewed for the September 27th, 2024 issue of the State Parks Weekly Digest for a special article on the Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park celebrating Latino Heritage Month. You can read it online at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/bulletins/3b7951f>

Thank you for supporting California State Parks. Please come and visit the Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park the next time you are in town!

*Carmen Cintas Vanni,
Senior Park Aide (Interpretive)*

Travel Bug - aka Enrichment Opportunities

Docent Field Trip to Fort Ross State Historic Park

Sonoma SHP and Petaluma Adobe SHP volunteers took a special trip to Fort Ross SHP fortross.org in early October for a day of hiking and guided tours to learn about the fascinating connections between our state parks. With temperatures reaching 103 degrees in Sonoma, heading to the cooler coast was tempting on its own, but what really made the day unforgettable was the incredible Fort Ross team.

The staff and volunteers were absolute professionals and true experts on the topics they shared. The tour of the fort was so engaging that a few of our volunteers went home inspired to do further research on the historical connections we discovered. I have continued to receive emails from our volunteers letting me know what a memorable day they had. I have often heard the saying, "History is all connected," but after spending a day at Fort Ross, that phrase has never felt truer. For anyone looking for a fantastic day filled with beautiful views and captivating history, I highly recommend a visit to the park.



(photo by Tyler Markley)

A huge thank you to the entire Fort Ross SHP team for making it such a perfect day! If you would like to join us for future outings like this one, consider signing up as a California State Parks volunteer. Not only will you have the chance to participate in field trips like this, but you'll also help share our state's rich history with the public

Tyler Markley, State Park Interpreter 1

Notes from **Karen Pregler:**

We learned that Russian fur traders (otter) along with a surprising number of Native Alaskans established the colony in 1812. This settlement was one of the reasons General Vallejo was sent to Sonoma, to keep an eye on potential invaders. He needn't have worried.

We were fortunate to have Hank Birnbaum as our guide. He has a vast knowledge of the settlement and speaks fluent Russian. We toured the home of the commandant, the church, storage/supply building and living quarters. The role of Native Americans is being re-evaluated and better integrated into the fort's story. I now have a more complete understanding of how this area fits into California and Sonoma history. All this and a beautiful warm day at the coast!



(photo by Tyler Markley)

Suggested Reading:

So Far From Home: Russians in Early California, Glenn J. Farris (editor)

Notes from **Kit Foster:**

Hank and Matt gave an excellent tour of the fort. We had lunch in the courtyard then continued the tour until it was time to leave. The gift shop had been added since my last visit, when my boys were a lot younger - it has been about 40 years between visits. They have also added a museum exhibit just as you enter the gift store.

That part of the California coast can be very cool, but the weather was perfect for our tour. Perhaps we will invite the people who work there to visit our Petaluma and Sonoma Parks. They said that they might close up for the day to attend such an event.

Notes from **Lisa Tremblay:**

Besides a warm welcome from fellow docents and a surprisingly sunny day on the North Coast, my favorite thing about our Fort Ross field trip was hearing so much about indigenous people's lives at Fort Ross both then and now. Hank, our guide, gave us a clinic on how to integrate their stories in a culturally sensitive way.



Holding onto Her Faith: Maria Carrillo's Last Will and Testament

By April Farnham, MA; Senior Park Aide (Interpretive) Sonoma State Historic Park

When the newly widowed Maria Ygnacia de la Candelaria Lopez Carrillo arrived in Sonoma in 1837, Father Jose Lorenzo de la Concepcion Quijas was still serving the parishioners in the mission's old adobe chapel before it had collapsed into ruin. **[1]** In fact, he married General

Vallejo's brother Salvador Vallejo to one of Maria Carrillo's daughters, María de la Luz Carrillo y López at Mission San Francisco Solano on September 8, 1840 (SFS Marriage 00355). **[2]** For three years, from 1843 until 1846, the parish church at Mission San Francisco Solano was officially without a resident padre - until Father Jose Prudencio Santillan was assigned to the church in early 1846. That same year Maria's son Julio was imprisoned at Sutter's Fort in the Sacramento Valley along with her sons-in-law Mariano and Salvador during the Bear Flag Revolt. Two Bear Flaggers (Thomas Cowie and George Fowler) were murdered on Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa, Maria's 8,885 acre land grant. And then came the Gold Rush and the American annexation of California territory during which "many newcomers, especially from the Bear Flaggers and Volunteers of Stevenson's Regiment had settled in the [Sonoma] pueblo or had bought small ranches in the area" after California territory had been annexed by the United States. **[3]** Such events were likely a true test of faith to a devout Catholic parishioner who had been born in Alta California when it was originally a part of Spain.

[1] José de la Concepción Quijas was one of original group of Franciscans sent to Alta California from the College of Zacatecas in 1833 to assist in the mission secularization transition period. He was likely a native of Ecuador and assigned to both Missions San Francisco Solano and San Rafael. See Bacich, Damian "Surviving Secularization: A Mexican Franciscan in a Changing California, 1833-1851", California History, Vol. 94, No. 2 (SUMMER 2017), pp. 41-57 (17 pages)

[2] The Early California Population Project. Edition 1.1. General Editor, Steven W. Hackel (University of California, Riverside and The Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California, 2022.)

[3] Robert S. Smilie, Sonoma Mission, page 97

On February 28, 1849, at the age of 56, Maria passed. Historian Brian McGinty writes "as evidence of the respect in which she had been held, Señora Carrillo's body was interred within the hallowed walls of Mission San Francisco Solano de Sonoma.

There, the padres laid her beneath the font, so that her remains would receive holy water that fell from the hands of devout worshippers." **[4]** Yet a month before her passing, Maria dictated to Mariano Vallejo her last will and testament, documenting not only the legitimate heirs to Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa, but Maria's devotion to the Catholic faith. According to one story, when Maria was a young girl she was given a crucifix by Padre Junipero Serra. During her long journey from San Diego to Sonoma, Carrillo dropped the crucifix and it was crushed under the weight of the carreta's wheels. She picked up the pieces and kept them until her death. **[5]**

[This last bit cannot be true since Father Serra passed away in 1784 while Maria Carrillo was born in 1793. But perhaps the crucifix had been given by Father Serra to Maria's mother Maria Feliciano Arballo de Gutiérrez and passed onto Maria Carrillo. In any case it is likely that Maria Carrillo was buried with that crucifix.]



This 19th century daguerreotype photo of a woman is possibly María Ygnacia López de Carrillo (1793-1849), Santa Rosa's founder. If this unconfirmed image is Carrillo, it's the only photo of her, according to Eric Stanley, curator of the History Museum of Sonoma County.

Ms. Farnham will be speaking about Maria Carrillo and her connection with other women of mixed Hispanic/Mulata/Mestiza ancestry in Alta California at the California Missions Foundation conference at Mission San Jose in February 2025. You can read Maria Carrillo's translated last will and testament on Ms. Farnham's blog "Alta California Through Her Eyes" located at <https://altacaliforniastories.blogspot.com>.

[4] McGinty, Brian; Maria Ignacia Lopez; Joaquin Carrillo; and Julio Carrillo, "The Carrillos of San Diego ...: A Historic Spanish Family of California (Concluded)", The Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly, Vol. 39, No. 4 (December, 1957), pp. 371-391.

[5] Panama City Star, February 24, 1849: in San Francisco Directory for 1850.

DOCENT LIBRARY NEWS

Not much is happening in the Docent Library lately, so just for fun I asked docents at our holiday luncheon to list a favorite book, historical or not, and here are some of their answers. What an interesting and diverse booklist!

Donna Vigil: *Recuerdos*, by M.G. Vallejo *

Suzanne Berube: *History of Alta California*, by Antonia Maria Osio *

Jerry Pozo: *The World Rushed In*, by J.S. Holliday (CA Gold Rush)

Jennifer Hanson: *Brittle Joints*, by Maria Sweeney (Graphic Memoir abt. disabilities)

Tamra Rollins: *The Good Earth*, by Pearl S. Buck (fiction)

Ed Purkey: "anything by Jane Austen"

Hugh McBride: *The Bible According to Mark Twain*

Lavawn Whiting: *Blood and Thunder*, by Hampton Sides * (Kit Carson biography)

Ellen McBride: *The Conquest of New Spain*, by Bernal Diaz Del Castillo *

Lisa Tremblay: *Wide Awake*, by Jon Greenspan (pre-Civil War activism)

* this book is available in our Docent Library (for others, try the public library!)

Lisa Tremblay, Docent Librarian

[Editors note: book reviews of these favorites, or other treasured books are welcome for future issues of the Gazette.]

UPCOMING EVENTS in 2025

LECTURES: Third Thursday of the month, 7 pm Mission Chapel. \$10 general public, \$5 SPParks members, Docents and Park staff free.

- January 16: **Janet Sands** - A New Look at California Mission History
- February 20: **David Rickman** - Early Alto Californian Clothing
- March 20: **April Farnham** - Watercolor painter Eva Scott Fenyes
- April 17: **CW Bayer** - Lecture & Gold Rush Songs from the 1850s
- May 15: **Emily Walski** - Following Padre Altimira's Path
- July-August: No lectures - enjoy the summer!

MUSIC IN THE MISSION: First Thursday of the month, 7 pm Mission Chapel. \$10 general public, \$5 SPParks members.

- February 6: **Bobby Edmondson** - 60's & 70's fun tunes
- March 6: **Oscar Mooneyhan** and Friends
- April 3: **Dawn & Tony**
- May 1: **Chris Caselli & Sue Albano** with Scarlett Letters
- June 5: **Lisa Davis** - chamber music
- July-August: No concerts in the Mission - enjoy music in the Plaza Tuesdays and Sundays

SAVE THE DATE

CALIFORNIA MISSIONS AND PRESIDIOS CONFERENCE 2025

The 42nd Annual CMF Conference will be held at Mission San Jose in Fremont, CA on President's Day weekend, February 14-15, 2025.

To learn more about the CMF, visit [California Missions Foundation](https://www.californiamissionsfoundation.org/)

NEXT DOCENT QUARTERLY MEETING

Saturday, March 8, 2025
10:00 AM
BARRACKS A/V ROOM

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WORKSHOP - November 10, 2024

Mother Nature held back the rain just long enough to provide a beautiful, sunny fall day for the 33rd annual Victorian Christmas Crafts Workshop on Sunday, November 10th at Lachryma Montis (the General Vallejo Home). Sonoma Petaluma Parks (SPParks), in conjunction with Sonoma State Historic Park, hosted Sonoma children, parents and grandparents in creating ornaments and gift crafts at more than fifteen craft tables. Santa once again paid a visit and everyone enjoyed complimentary cookies and beverages. Thank you to all the docents and volunteers, including Park Staff, who help make this such a wonderful event each year. The Victorian Christmas Crafts Workshop is held annually in memory of Kay Archibald who created the event, and it is always a great way to share our Park with the community.



(photos by Dee Katson)



This beloved event could not happen without dedicated volunteers. Docents and other volunteers are always needed to support our treasured historic parks. To learn more about volunteering, contact [Tyler Markley](#) (Sonoma) or [Jennifer Hanson](#) (Petaluma).

HOLIDAY ON THE NORTHERN FRONTIER – December 14, 2024

The holiday spirit was alive and well once again as the rain stopped just in time for the annual open house event at Sonoma State Historic Park on December 14, 2024. This year’s celebration featured the Blue Wing Inn festively decorated for holiday revelry, including photos with Santa, clove orange making for the kids, and Alex’s XXX Moonshine for the rest of us. There were refreshments, crafts tables, and a campfire at the Barracks, the Pickle Creek String Band entertaining at the Toscano Hotel, and traditional holiday carols in the Mission. It was indeed another warm and welcoming celebration for hundreds of visitors to the Plaza.

(photos by Dee Katson)



LINKS

GAZETTE Editor: Dee Katson:
administrator@sonomaparks.org

Sonoma Petaluma Parks Association (SPParks):
sonomaparks.org

Sonoma State Historic Park
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=479

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=474

MEETINGS

SPParks Board meets 2nd Tuesday of the month,
 10 AM

Docent Quarterly Meetings at 10 AM in the Sonoma Barracks A/V room on the 2nd Saturday in March, June and September and on the 1st Saturday in December

Sonoma Petaluma Parks
 P.O. Box 1702
 Sonoma, CA 95476