

SONOMA and PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARKS



Docent and SPParks GAZETTE Fall 2023



SPParks UPDATE

First, thank you to the Docent co-chairs, Ed Purkey and Kit Foster for the invitation to the Docent Picnic on August 20th. It was a lovely time, great all the way around, including the History Trivia Contest, which my table did not win. Maybe next year.

California State Parks sponsored a Truth and Healing Council Meeting in the Barracks Courtyard on Friday, September 15th. Several SPParks Board members and Docents came to listen and learn from the California Native Americans present. It was a little intense and tears were shed. There is much work to be done as the process moves forward. There will be a written report to the Governor's Office by 2025.

The SPParks Board has been busy these past three months. Jerome Knill, Events Coordinator lined up two interesting lectures: in September, Igor Polishchuk spoke about the Russian / Fort Ross connection, and an upcoming October 19th talk by



Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz will expand on their research on General Vallejo. He also scheduled two concerts in the Mission! First up was 'The Big Luv Band' on September 7th, and on October 5th we will have a local duo doing great songs of the '60s & '70s. The concerts are a wonderful addition to our Thursday nights out. Keep an eye out for future concerts and lectures. Docents are free, SPParks members are \$5, and the general public is \$10.

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DOCENT ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Our quarterly meeting in September brought docents up to speed in the many activities planned by SPParks and the State Parks. We also proposed a few changes to our own docent organization. Our proposals:

1. A change in the election of a Co-Chair. Our idea is to stagger the Co-Chairs' terms, electing 1 every year, instead of 2 every two years. That way the senior member can tutor the junior member. That means that we will appoint someone this December to lead the docents in 2024-25.
2. A folder of instructions and duties of the Co-Chairs to hand down to the new people, so the next Co-Chair will learn what we do, and it will not be such a shock. We are working on that.

Our next quarterly meeting on December 2nd will include a Holiday celebration. Please consider volunteering to serve as Co-Chair for the next 2-year term starting in January 2024. Nominations should be sent to Kit & Ed prior to the meeting. And, bring an appetite – a *free lunch* will be on the agenda.

Kit Foster & Ed Purkey,
Docent Co-Chairs



SPParks Update *(continued from page 1)*

SPParks had a table at the recent Nature & Community Fair put on by State Parks staffer, Dave Duplantier. Sue Vargas, Mike Owens, Jerome Knill, and I shared our SPParks events and projects with the inquiring public as well as a potential volunteer/docent.

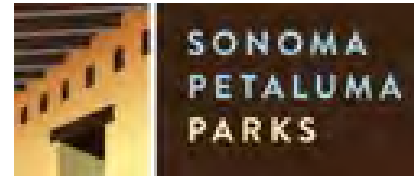
As the calendar year winds down, SPParks and State Parks are readying for several events, **Fandango** at PA; **Victorian Christmas Crafts Workshop** at the Vallejo Home; **Annual General Meeting**, to which all our membership is invited; and always popular **Holidays on the Northern Frontier**, which involves all the Sonoma State Historic Parks sites.

We welcome new volunteers, and members at all these events, so think about joining SPParks, and *SPPARK UP YOUR LIFE*. Membership also entitles you to a 20% discount (10% for books) at our SPParks fabulous Barracks Gift Store. Just saying... 'There is value in having a SPParks membership.' *Preservation, Interpretation and Awareness* - make it happen!

Anne Cox, Board President



SAVE THE DATE - SPParks ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Annual General Meeting for SPParks Members will be Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6 pm in the Sonoma Barracks. Details will be coming soon.

"A Year in Review" - highlights of 2023
 Nominations for Board Seats
 Presentation of Slate of Officers 2023-2024
 Light Supper * Refreshments * Desserts

Members interested in joining the Board should contact Anne Cox, SPParks President at anne.m.cox6@gmail.com

PLEASE JOIN US!

If you join SPParks after October 1, 2023, your membership will be good through the end of 2024. Current members can renew now for the coming year.

Our membership levels have changed, so watch for notices in your email, or download the renewal form from our website [HERE](#). Better yet, join or renew on our website using PayPal or credit card here. [JOIN](#)

As the Prez says: Sppark up your life! There is value in having a SPParks membership.



SPParks MISSION:

To further the preservation, interpretive, and educational functions of the Sonoma and Petaluma Adobe State Historic Parks.

Docent Library News

Our library collection grew this summer with several fascinating donations:

1849: A Tour of Duty in California by the Grandson of Paul Revere, by Joseph Warren Revere, donated by Kim Muratore

The Architecture of Country Houses and Victorian Cottage Residences, both written in the 1840s by landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing, donated by Jim Danaher

California Women Then and Now: Illustrated Biographies of Important Women in California History, published by Contra Costa County Chapter of the National Organization of Women and donated by its illustrator, Jazelle Lieske

Grave Matters, by Tony Platt, donated by Ellen and Hugh McBride

Lands of Promise and Despair, Early California, 1535-1846, edited by R. Beebe and R. Senkewicz, donated by Ellen and Hugh McBride

General Vallejo and the Advent of the Americans, by Alan Rosenus, donated by Ellen and Hugh McBride

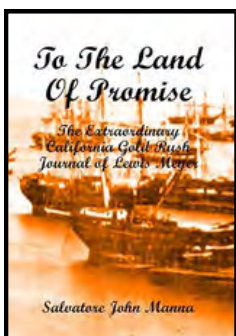
Jack London Historic Park by local author Elisa Stancil Levine, donated by Suzanne Berube

All these titles are available from the "New Books" shelf on the east wall of the Docent Library. Just a reminder, you can always borrow the library key from the Barracks Gift Store and may return library books within 30-60 days to the Mission front desk or bring them to the next Docent Quarterly.

Lisa Tremblay, Docent Librarian

TO THE LAND OF PROMISE: The Extraordinary California Gold Rush Journal of Lewis Meyer, edited by Salvatore John Manna

This Summer I attended a talk sponsored by the Sonoma Valley Historical Society. The speaker, Salvatore John Manna, had completed an editing of the Extraordinary California Gold Rush Journal of Lewis Meyer.



Meyer, a 30-year-old German immigrant boarded the ship Panama and embarked on a 187-day journey (February 3rd to August 8th, 1849) from New York City to San Francisco with only one port of call in Talcahuano, Chile.

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Professor Jim's History Mystery Quiz

1. What house, now a museum, is the oldest government building in California, and where is it located?
2. Whose presidential portrait is displayed in the Vallejo Home?
3. In what year was the last grizzly bear seen in California?
4. What is the oldest public educational institution in California?

Answers on page 5

Uladislao Vallejo, the General's Problem Child

research by Phil Glander

In her history of the Vallejo family, *"The Vallejos of California,"* Madie Brown Emparán devotes a biographical chapter to each of General Vallejo's children. But in telling the story of the restless and unhappy Vallejo son, Uladislao, much information about the end of his life is missing. Even in the latest editions, the date of his death is listed as "unknown," and the exact name of his wife is incorrect. Now with much more source material available online we can verify many facts about his life and fill in some of the missing pieces.

Uladislao has left some trace in the public record, but it doesn't tell us much. In the 1860 U.S. census he is listed as a student at St. John's Academy, the forerunner of Fordham University, where he was enrolled from June, 1860, to October, 1861. He worked briefly in San Francisco before leaving for Mazatlán, Mexico, in 1864 to fight with rebels trying to overthrow Emperor Maximilian. When he was taken prisoner, his father paid for his passage home from Baja California. He remained home until 1866 when he once again went south to join the Mexican Army, and became a member of Benito Juárez' staff. However by 1870 he was living in Sonoma again.

For the next seventeen years he lived a vagabond life never staying at any job or settling anywhere for long. He appears in the California voter rolls in 1870 and 1872 describing his occupation as "winemaker" (1870), "vintner," "farmer" (1872). He appears in the 1878 voter record living on Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, and lists his occupation as "none." Later, in the 1880 U.S. census he is "at home" in Sonoma, no occupation given.

In 1881 he worked in San Luis Obispo as a surveyor for the railroad, and the next year he tried his luck at mining in Inyo County. In 1885 his Mexican



Uladislao, Jovita, and Napoleon Vallejo

brother-in-law Ricardo Emperán found work for him in Todos Santos, Baja California, but shortly afterwards Ula was working as Town Marshall and Tax Collector in Sonoma.

In 1887 he absconded with the tax receipts and fled via Mexico to Guatemala, adding a final touch to the many misdeeds with which he plagued his parents.



In Guatemala, Uladislao Vallejo, who signed himself Ula Pedro Vallejo, and his wife, Maria de Evian Orantes, *Uladislao Pedro Vallejo* had four sons, two of whom lived to adulthood, and one daughter, according to Guatemalan records. His wife's name is recorded variously as Maria Vian, Maria Devian, Maria Evian and Maria de Evian.

Their first son, named for his two grandfathers, Mariano Vallejo and Prudencio Vian, and born in 1891, before his parents' marriage, was Mariano Prudencio Vallejo. Their second son, José Maria Vallejo, also born before their marriage, lived only one day in December 1892. It appears from a side note in the birth record of Mariano Prudencio that Ula and Maria, were married November 28, 1893.

The third son, Uladislao Demetrio, was born and died in May, 1894. He was followed by Uladislao Francisco, born August 17, 1895. Ula's fifth child was a girl named Maria de Jesus. Born May 30, 1897, died March 24, 1953, she married Leonidas Galindo Rangel and was the mother of a daughter named Guerda Judith. Luisa Emparán (General Vallejo's second youngest daughter) met mother and daughter when visiting Guatemala in 1933, according to Madie Brown Emparán in her book *"The Vallejos of California."*

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Uladislao - continued from page 4

Uladislao Pedro Vallejo died Dec. 17, 1906, age 61, in Guatemala City. His occupation is listed as language teacher, "profesor de idiomas". His wife died May 15, 1939, age 83.

Uladislao Vallejo's family never really severed its connection to California. In the 1916 catalog for St John's Academy and Fordham University, the same school his father attended briefly, Ula's son Uladislao [sic] Vallejo is listed as a student from Sonoma, California. Uladislao Francisco was living with his Uncle Platon in Vallejo, California, according to the information on his draft registration card for World War I dated Oct.11, 1918. Here he states that he is an American citizen and that his mother and sister are dependent on him since his father is no longer alive, and says that he is employed in agriculture in Chocolá, Guatemala.

**Blast from the Past**

For a good laugh, and surprisingly accurate historical facts, check out a 1956 episode of *Death Valley Days*, "The Bear Flag"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSx8X4fGJuY>

History Mystery Quiz answers

1. Customs House in Monterey
2. Abraham Lincoln
3. 1922
4. San Jose State University
(established in 1862)

Land of Promise - continued from page 3

Meyer describes a daily log of weather, crew, passengers, food and location for the entire voyage. His brief observations of New York, Talcahuano and Concepcion, Chile, and San Francisco and the gold fields of California is a first-hand account of what life was like during this fascinating period. Also, the editor included short biographical information on many of the passengers aboard the Panama.

The Meyer journal gives the reader an easy, unbiased, readable viewpoint of the of mid-19th century sea travel along with the anticipation of what one would expect to find at the unique time of California statehood. It highlights the economic challenges of an individual trying to make a "go" of it in the outlying gold rush fields near Stockton. Meyer also brings in a cast of American characters (49'ers) reflecting the call of manifest destiny.

This excellent book is now available in the Docent Library.

Jim Danaher, SPParks Board

UPCOMING FALL & WINTER EVENTS

Thursday, October 5, 2023 - **Music in the Mission**
 "Great Songs of the 60s and 70s". 7 pm Mission Chapel. \$10 general public, \$5 SPParks members, Docents and Park staff free.

Thursday, October 19, 2023 - **Lecture**
 "The Vallejo Family In Transition: 1846-1888", presented by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz. 7 pm, Mission Chapel. \$10 general public, \$5 SPParks members, Docents and Park staff free.

Thursday, November 9, 2023 - **Music in the Mission** – *Jazelle* performs a magical evening of story songs conveyed in the bardic tradition. 7 pm Mission Chapel. \$10 general public, \$5 SPParks members, Docents and Park staff free.

Sunday, November 12, 2023 - **Victorian Christmas Crafts Workshop.**
 The 32nd Annual Victorian Christmas Crafts Workshop is an Awareness Pillar event sponsored by SPParks for our local community enjoyment, and is very popular with children and adults alike. **Volunteers** are needed to manage the crafts tables (no experience required - all training provided), or the refreshments table, or in period clothing for ambience. If you'd like to volunteer please email Yvonne Bowers yvonne@sonomaparks.org or call (707) 843-0109.
 11 am – 3 pm at the General Vallejo Home- rain or shine! Admission \$3 adults, children free

Saturday, December 9, 2023 - **Holidays on the Northern Frontier.** Tickets for the holiday music presentation in the Mission will be available 11/18/23. **Volunteers** are needed for craft tables, and other duties. To volunteer, contact Tyler Markley tyler.markley@parks.ca.gov All Sonoma State Historic Park venues, 5 pm – 8 pm. Free.

Sunday, December 24th, 2023 – **Living Nativity.** Role players around a manger, live animals including a donkey and camels. Christmas Eve, 2:30 pm – 5 pm. Casa Grande courtyard. Free.

PRIVATE TOURS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Are you looking for a new way to entertain holiday guests? Tired of escorting them to wineries or dealing with holiday traffic to San Francisco? Consider arranging a private docent led tour of one or many Sonoma or Petaluma historical venues. Tours can be customized to meet the interests of your visiting family or guests.

SPParks is an official non-profit partner of Sonoma & Petaluma State Historic Parks, dedicated to supporting interpretation, education and park improvements. All tour donations are tax deductible. Trained volunteer docents would love to share Sonoma's fascinating past with your guests. For more information about arranging private group tours, email tours@sonomaparks.org or click here: [Private Group Tours.](#)

Suzanne Berube - SPParks Board



NEXT DOCENT QUARTERLY MEETING & HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, December 2, 2023
 10:00 AM
 BARRACKS A/V ROOM**

RECENT EVENTS AT STATE HISTORIC PARKS

FANDANGO!

presented by Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park, featuring **Baile de California**

Saturday, September 23, 2023

(photos by *Bob Alwitt & Dee Katson*)



Nature & Community Fair

presented by Sonoma State Historic Park.
Saturday, August 12, 2023, Casa Grande, Sonoma

(photos by Dee Katson)



LINKS

GAZETTE Editor: Dee Katson:
administrator@sonomaparks.org

Sonoma Petaluma Parks Association (SPParks):
sonomaparks.org

Sonoma State Historic Park
<http://parks.ca.gov/sonomashp>

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park
<http://parks.ca.gov/petalumaadobeshp>

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