

Aug - Oct
2016



Monterey State Historic Park Association

Presenting News of the Volunteer Program at Monterey State Historic Park

State Budget “Bump” Good News for Monterey State Historic Park

Monterey State Historic Park received some excellent news with the start of the 2016–17 fiscal year: It got a budget “bump” of just over \$30,000. Though this is fairly modest considering the full cost of staffing MSHP, every bit helps. The increase has been tied to a revenue-generation program that gives park units extra funding for programs that can increase revenue. The money will allow us to staff key adobes more often. In particular, the Pacific House Museum will be open every day, staffed by park aides Tuesday through Sunday and a volunteer on Mondays. The additional funds will also take us into the winter, so we’ll be free to concentrate on Christmas in the Adobes, MSHPA’s top fund-raiser.

—By Kimberly Wright
Newsletter Co-editor



Pacific House Museum, now open daily
—Photo by California State Parks

CITA Tickets to Go on Sale Mid-October

October 15 will be the kickoff day for selling Christmas in the Adobes tickets, and this year the Custom House Store will serve as the main sales point. The annual event is slated for December 9 and 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets will be offered online as well, at the Monterey State Historic Park Association website, www.mspha.org. Online purchases will include a printable voucher for visitors to redeem at Will Call, located in front of the Pacific House Museum, beginning at noon on both days of the event. This will leave more room at the Custom House Store for merchandise shoppers.

Prices are remaining the same as last year’s: Through October, there will be a special one-night rate of \$20 per adult. After that, prices will go up to \$25 per night for adults. Tickets for children ages 6 through 17 will be \$2 each (kids 5 and under are free). Two-night Gold Passes for adults will be \$40 apiece. Active military personnel and groups of 12 or more will receive a 10 percent discount off the standard price.

Volunteers who work the event, either

for State Parks or our partner buildings, will get a complimentary pass and parking permit for whichever night they don’t volunteer. If you are interested in participating, please contact Michael@parks.ca.gov or call 831-649-7172. If you have been a part of CITA in the past, the lead volunteer for your adobe will be contacting you soon!

The CITA planning committee has been meeting since April to bring the community another exciting event, and they have encountered some unique challenges. One of the most notable is the loss of the Cooper-Molera Adobe as a part of the tour, at least for 2106. Look for lots of details about what else will be new at CITA this upcoming holiday season in the next issue of our newsletter.

This is MSHPA’s most important annual fund raiser. Last year, sales topped \$45,000. We hope you can enjoy CITA as a volunteer or event-goer yourself, and tell all your friends about it.

—By Michael D. Green
State Park Interpreter II



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Custom House Store News

Our store at the Custom House continues to thrive. Situated in the heavily trafficked area near the Pacific House Museum, Fisherman's Wharf, and the recreation trail, the new shop brings in far more people than we ever saw at Cooper-Molera. Although not every visitor makes a purchase, many do, and sales are up.

The new location requires a different selection of merchandise, and we are learning all the time. Many buyers pick up inexpensive souvenirs. Custom House commemorative coins and small vials of gold are best sellers. Magnets featuring the MSHPA Custom House logo are also popular. We have a good assortment of postcards that reproduce vintage images of local buildings and sights, and some are available as magnets, too. We have two designs of souvenir tea towels, one featuring the "I Love You, California" bear and the other a vintage California map.

For more serious shoppers, we have the best selection of books on local and California history on the peninsula. We also have decorative items with a nautical theme, including telescopes and anchor paper weights. Other items include reproduction quill or horn-

handled pens, inkwells, and powdered ink. There is a selection of old-fashioned toys and games. We sell tea bricks and scissors-style candle snuffers, as featured in the museum display. Our Mexican-theme merchandise includes *papel picado* banners, canvas shopping totes, and Day of the Dead figures. Every loyal MSHPA member should consider purchasing our logo T-shirts, reusable shopping bags, and water bottles. And don't forget to pick up your 2017 Heritage Monterey calendar!

If you love our store, remember that we can always use more volunteer storekeepers. We ask that you commit to a minimum of two shifts per month. Comfort with touch screens and counting cash is a plus. If you would like to join us, please contact Michael Green at 831-649-7172 or email michael.green@parks.ca.gov. Our profits support educational and interpretive programs at Monterey State Historic Park.

—By Kimberly Wright
Store Manager

Welcome Our Newest Board Members

Two new members have joined our board of directors this year. Pictured here with his wife, Kate, Harish Joshi started volunteering as a storekeeper at the Cooper Museum Store shortly after retiring from the computer industry in 2015. He was invited to join the board in December and accepted the chair of the Retail Committee in April. He also oversees training of new volunteer storekeepers.



In July we welcomed Bonnie Van Meter to the board. Pictured here with her husband, Charlie, Bonnie is a retired reading teacher and literacy coach. Her friend and mentor Gayle Paul persuaded her to start volunteering at the Cooper Museum Store about four years ago. When not devoting her time to MSHPA, Bonnie enjoys



traveling, gardening, mah jongg, bridge, cooking, and sewing. She has agreed to serve as membership chair.



**Custom House
Store**

**Open Daily
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

2016 MSHPA Board of Directors

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Email: MSHPA@att.net / Website: MSHPA.org

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Monterey State Historic Park Association



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(831) 373-3755



The Paul Davis Partnership, LLP
Architects and Planners
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Monterey, California 93940

July 4th Parade and Living History Day



Clockwise, from above right: Pat Clark-Gray (left) and Jeanie Sturges lead MSHP's contingent of parade marchers. At the end of the day, blacksmiths Reb Monaco and Bill Martini enjoy a quiet moment with ranger Dan Kraft. Volunteer Randy Hawkinson drills the troops, assisted by park aide Aaron Gilmartin. Everyone tries walking on stilts, including park interpretive manager Michael Green. Volunteer ticket-sellers Rosemary Cappadocia and Gerry West help support our living history activities. Park aide Ian Bernstein (center) demonstrates a button game.

—Photos by George Wright and Callista Turner



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RLS Hosts Anniversary Tea



Ruth Anne Krotzer greets guests in the Stevenson House garden.

On May 21, the Robert Louis Stevenson Club of Monterey held its first annual anniversary tea to commemorate the 1880 wedding of Luly and Tiger Lilly, as the Stevenson couple affectionately called each other. Club members transformed the adobe's romantic garden into a private luncheon spot for 30 guests to enjoy finger sandwiches, home-baked scones, petite-fours, and of course tea while listening to Amy Krupski play the Celtic harp. Well-known RLS impersonator Keith Decker gave a spirited reading about Louis and Fanny's meeting in 1876 and their marriage several years later by the Reverend Dr. William A. Scott at his parsonage for St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

A drawing was held for special prizes, including the book *The Penny Piper of Saranac: An Episode in Stevenson's Life* by Stephen Chalmers. As a party favor, each person received a small Tiffany-blue box of chocolates, inscribed LULY & TIGER LILLY MARRIED 5-19-1880.

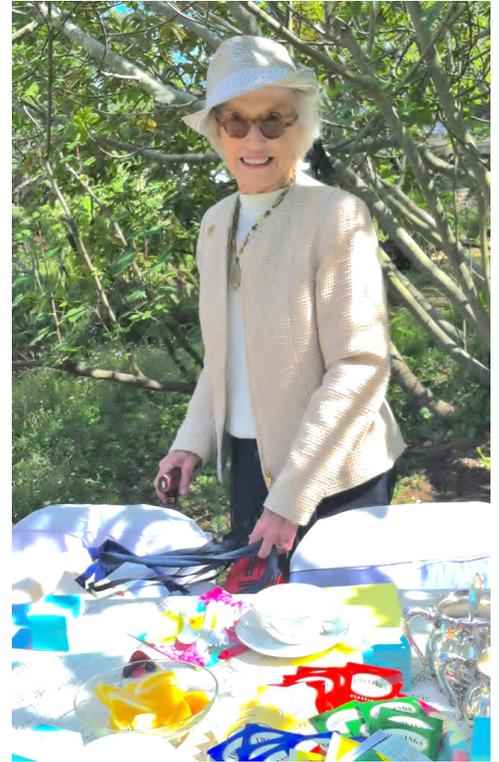
To highlight the event, a copy of the original marriage license was on display. Thanks to Barrett Dahl, executive director of the RLS Museum in St. Helena, California, for helping to make that available. Thanks also to Monica Hudson and entire team at the RLS Club for arranging the event, and to Volunteer Coordinator Michael Green for his assistance.

—By Ruth Anne Krotzer



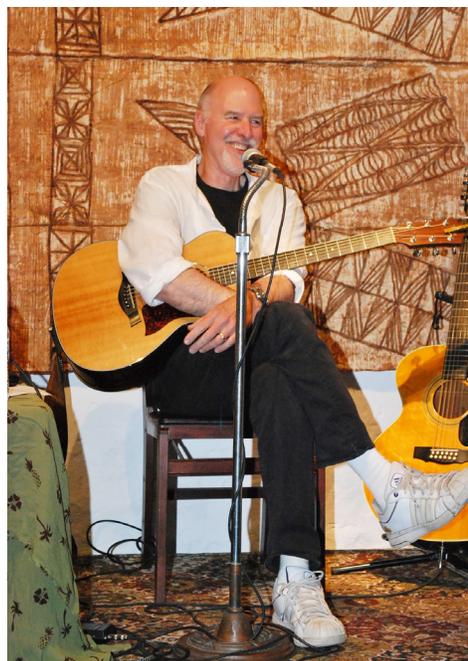
Monica Hudson, one of the tea's organizers.

The next RLS event will be August 27. See Michael Green's column on page 6 for details.



Rosemary Smith saves a seat in the sunshine. —Photos by Holly Haynes

Playin' Favorites

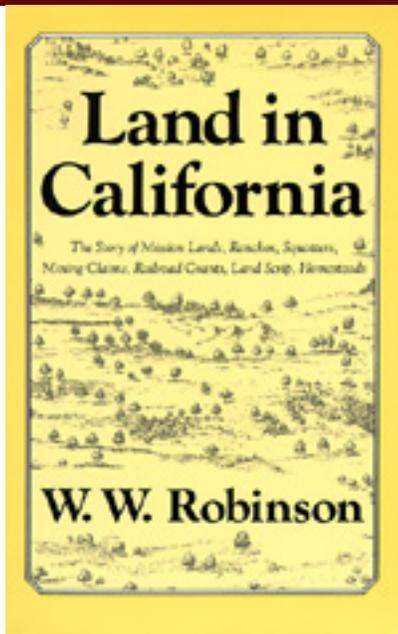


Michael Green and his guitars. —Photo by George Wright

State Parks Interpretive Manager and Volunteer Coordinator Michael D. Green turned troubadour on Saturday, June 25, as he and his wife, Lorri Rossi-Green, hosted a special musical evening for park volunteers at the Stevenson House. The event began in the garden, where Lorri treated about 40 of us to freshly prepared bruschetta, and the wine flowed. The action then moved indoors, where the entertainment began. Michael's experience as a professional musician was brought to the fore as he played guitar and sang a selection of his favorites. The program included blues, songs about the sea, pioneers and the west, plus a few numbers he felt just needed to be sung. Thank you, Michael and Lorri, for your gift to us!

—By Kimberly Wright

Unraveling the Web of Property Title in California



Upon first look, *Land in California* is a tough sell; after all, it's a history of title insurance. Written by W. W. Robinson in 1948, it's a look at who owned what in California, and why. Although the book offers a concise recitation of all the legislation involved, it also goes on to populate the story with lively characters who illustrate the human side of the tale. This human dimension is what makes *Land in California* a readable addition to the home California-history library.

In his quest for chains of title, Robinson opens his examination with the state's "first owners," the indigenous peoples, and the way (we surmise) they controlled the most desirable hunting, acorn, and fishing areas, usually through warfare. Then came the Spaniards, who claimed everything was owned by the crown and made their claim good through military force.

So far things were pretty simple. But then the crown, through its viceroy, started making land grants to missions and pueblos and to individuals for outstanding military service. The missions were initially created to Christianize neophytes and release them after 10 years to their own

plots of land. This system has since generated a raft of ambiguities. What is the status of these land grants today? Is ownership hereditary? Can the land be subdivided and sold? And who holds the deeds to the granted land?

Next came the revolutionary Mexican government, which was most concerned with secularizing the missions and populating and defending the "department" of California. The granting of ranchos became rather commonplace, with poor definition and little or no surveying of the individual grants. In the 1840's, a virtual rush of grants was made to combat the looming vultures of England, France, Russia, and the United States.

In 1846, the U.S. "won" the prize and took an entirely different approach to its conquered lands. In an effort to include the Californios as new, friendly participants in the Union, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo proclaimed all previous Spanish and Mexican land grants valid and established a commission to determine which lands were privately held and which were in the public domain. Through massive surveying projects, the commission and courts decided which areas would be rancho and which would be controlled by individual cities, townships, the state, or the federal government. Congress then issued patents of ownership to the rightful authority.

To further complicate matters, starting in 1849 another rush was on, and hundreds of American settlers, thinking all California lands were public domain due to conquest, began squatting on virtually all unfenced land. The squatters needed to be either displaced or bought off, which in turn created additional questions of title. Much of San Francisco was once "owned" by squatters who had to be bought off.

During the American era, grants were made by both state and federal governments for railroads and university campuses. Scrips—certificates redeemable for private ownership of public domain lands—were issued for outstanding military service. Homesteading was encouraged in some areas, and Congress awarded patents of ownership in most of these cases.

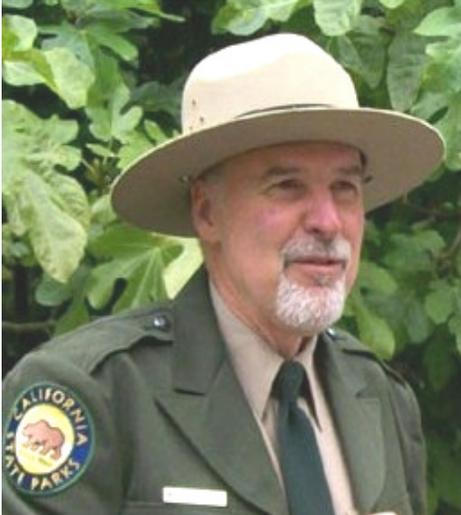
Perhaps I summarize too freely, but Robinson demonstrates that following a chain of title can be a very complicated process, and he illustrates several chains with enlightening historical examples. Through his use of lively storytelling, the author explicates the growing need for and the use of title insurance. *Land in California* is not as boring as its name implies.

Robinson ends his book with an interesting comparison of title development in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Due to the Gold Rush, San Francisco was burdened with phenomenal population growth within a short time and a confined geographic space. Los Angeles, on the other hand, experienced leisurely growth with virtually unlimited space through annexation of adjoining areas. Curiously, Los Angeles chose to interpret its original Spanish land grant as "16 leagues square" as opposed to the traditional "16 square leagues," though ultimately to no avail.

Robinson's writing style is quite readable, and his sense of humor further lightens an otherwise potentially heavy topic. From the perspective of 1948, Robinson gives some interesting insights as to where he thinks California is headed in the future. *Land in California*, by W. W. Robinson, is printed by the University of California Press and sells for \$27.95 in our Custom House Store.

—By George Wright

Coordinator's Corner



Summer is upon us, and MSHP is buzzing with visitors. The Custom House Store has proved to be a smashing success, due largely to the continued support of our volunteers.

The governor's budget sent slightly more funding to the park system this year, and MSHP is participating in a revenue generation program that augments our budget somewhat. But we're still not up to full operational capacity. Still, the

dollar signs are positive as we enter the new fiscal year.

A number of events kept us busy for the first part of the season. We honored our volunteers with an appreciation barbecue on May 15, celebrated the nuptials of Fanny and Louis Stevenson on May 21, and gave a one-man musical "thank you" performance on June 25. Plus, on July 4 we rocked the upper Custom House Plaza with our first Living History Day at that location, and on July 9 we attended the Sloat Landing ceremonial reenactment at Custom House.

Next up: A Stevenson House summer event, to be held August 27 at 4:30 p.m. RLS portrayal, scholar, and playwright Keith Decker will present *Saranac to the South Seas*, a special talk in support of the Monterey State Historic Park Association. Tickets are \$10 for MSHPA members and \$15 for the general public. They're for sale at the Custom House Store and, pending availability, at the door on the night

of the event. Light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

The staff of the Castro Adobe in Santa Cruz have invited MSHP volunteers to visit their site for a special tour on Saturday, September 17 at 10 a.m. Carpooling is recommended due to the limited parking. RSVP for this free event by emailing Michael@parks.ca.gov or by calling my office at 831-649-7172. (Note the abbreviated email address to make remembering easier!)

On September 21, the San Diego Maritime Museum is planning to sail a replica of Juan Cabrillo's "galleon of discovery," the *San Salvador*, into Monterey Harbor for visitors to enjoy. We have coordinated interpretive opportunities with the SDMM during their visit. SDMM staff have offered to train interested MSHP volunteers to interpret the ship for visitors during the four days it's docked at Fisherman's Wharf. Look forward to future announcements as the dates draw near.

—By Michael D. Green
State Park Interpreter III

Thank You, Volunteers!

One Sunday each May, State Parks turns the tables on volunteers and hosts the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue. It's an opportunity to thank the many people who are normally busy helping to keep Monterey's historic park open to the public and to let them relax, socialize, and be catered to instead. This year's event was held in the Memory Garden behind Pacific House.

Setting the laid-back style of the day was Volunteer Coordinator Michael Green, who put aside his uniform to emcee the BBQ in civvies (we hardly recognized you without the hat, Michael!). Nadine and Ricky Roldan cooked up a hearty lunch of their signature tri-tip steak, along



State Parks staff members Eugene Bruhanski, special event coordinator, and Calista Turner, guide I, stand ready to serve lunch —Photo by Holly Haynes

with barbecued chicken, potato salad, tossed green salad, and grilled veggies. To cap it all, Michael's wife, Lorri, baked carrot cake for dessert. Each guest also received a reusable water bottle with the new MSHPA logo of the Custom House on it (kudos to Kimberly for this thoughtful extra).

But wait ... there's more. The centerpiece orchids were raffled off, followed by a drawing for more than a dozen \$10 gift certificates to Starbucks.

Sector Superintendent Eric Abma addressed the crowd, describing the service-based budgeting that the state is transitioning to. He's hopeful this will increase funding for the

Continued on p. 7

Hands-On Education Continues Through the Summer

The State Parks' educational program this past school year was filled with exciting changes, and the fun continued well after the last class bell rang.

In mid-April, I kicked off a new public-awareness program by setting up a booth at the Tuesday afternoon farmers' market in downtown Monterey. On the first day alone, I spoke with more than 80 people, telling them about Monterey State Historic Park, our school programs, and MSPHA. To attract attention, I displayed a selection of items we use in our park, like tallow in the old candles and soaps, a branded leather hide, and part of a leather conveyer belt. These helped to illustrate the famous hide-and-tallow trade during California's Mexican era.

Then for two weeks in June, we saw the return of our summer day program, Los Niños de Monterey, for children entering grades 3 through 6. Each year, State Parks hosts two week-long experiential sessions in which participants dress up in Mexican-California period attire and learn how hard life was back then. We had

many returning families this past year and many new children who learned about the camp from the bookmarks we handed out during the school programs. One girl won a scholarship (thank you, MSPHA, for your generous donation). Her family drove her from Salinas every morning specifically to attend. Attendees learned about the lives of the people during several eras, starting with the Rumsien Native Americans, then the Spaniards, the Mexicans, and finally the Americans. To culminate each week, students held a fandango and gave a short presentation to their families. For me, the best part was getting to know my young charges by spending so much extra time with them and seeing how much they learned. They come to us with very little knowledge of California history and leave knowing more than their parents do!



The next month brought the Fourth of July, a time each year when State Parks and MSHPA put on Living History Day, an event that lets visitors enjoy historical hands-on activities. This summer we operated five stations: rope making, leather stamping, blacksmithing, military rifle drilling, and playing with 19th-century toys like stilts and button yo-yos. In total, 176 people paid to participate, and many more were onlookers. Several staff members also got into the spirit of things and dressed up. I'd like to extend a big round of thanks to the wonderful volunteers in period attire who ran these stations.

—By Callista Turner, Guide I
Monterey State Historic Park

BBQ

Continued from p. 6

peninsula, but any changes resulting from this model won't be implemented until next year. He emphasized that Monterey State Historic Park is woefully deficient in staff and therefore all the more indebted to the volunteers who donate their time so freely. Michael Green gave a special shout-out to Susan Miller for being instrumental in producing one of the first park brochures to be printed in Mandarin. "It wasn't easy navigating all the bureaucracy and administration in Sacramento to get this done," Michael said. MSHPA funded the brochures.

—By Holly Haynes
Newsletter Co-editor



Callista Turner and Los Niños student assistant Frances Cardinale prepare for this summer's attendees.

—Photo by Alex Cardinale

Do you have an idea for a newsletter article?

A question you would like answered?

Want to write an article?

Contact co-editors

Holly Haynes -
hf.haynes@gmail.com

Kimberly Wright -
kimberlywright@baymoon.com



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August-October 2016

Your tax-deductible membership and donation support our mission of children's programs and interpretation.

City Makes Plans for History Fest

Coming Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16, Monterey again hosts History Fest, the city's annual "history open house" full of special activities related to our unique past!

Visit historic buildings and sites, take a guided tour of some of California's most historic places, and learn about Monterey County's diverse cultural groups while meeting some of the folks in person. Join a fandango at the Custom House or participate in a history treasure hunt! See a Civil War encampment in Lower Presidio Park, complete with a horse-drawn ambulance and demonstrations of cannon muskets being fired. A highlight will be the yearly reenactment of California's Constitutional Convention. There will also be a film festival featuring select movies about Monterey, lectures on historical topics, and a bocce ball tournament. All events are free!

History Fest will be celebrated throughout the city, including in the historic downtown area, Cannery Row, Lower Presidio Park, Custom House Plaza, Old Fisherman's Wharf, Colton Hall, and more!

For more information, visit our website at www.historicmonterey.org.

MSHPA Calendar

Free Lecture on Cooper-Molera Adobe

Thursday, August 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Irvine Auditorium, McCone Bldg, MIIS, 499 Pierce St. Sponsored by the Old Monterey Foundation as part of the Marcia F. Devoe Fund Lecture Series.

Stevenson Summer Event

Saturday, August 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Stevenson House. Tickets available at the Custom House Store.

A Visit to Castro Adobe

Saturday, September 17 at 10 a.m.
Carpool to our "sister adobe" for a free tour.

History Fest

Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16.

Christmas in the Adobes Tickets on Sale

Beginning October 15 at the Custom House Store and online at www.mshpa.org. Early Bird pricing through October 31.

Christmas in the Adobes

Friday, December 9, and Saturday, December 10 from 5 to 9 p.m.