



American Monterey's First Customs Master The Colorful History of Andrew Randall

Even the slowest day at the Custom House can end up bringing fascinating rewards. I was reminded of this while tending the store on a rainy afternoon in February. A woman named Candy Mabry came in, and we started to chat. Candy, it turns out, is the great-great-granddaughter of Andrew Randall, the first American customs master in Monterey and a colorful figure. (Her mother's maiden name is Randall.)

Andrew Randall was born in Rhode Island in 1819. According to *Pieces of the Past*, a book by Jim Reis, Randall moved with his family to Grant's Lick, Kentucky, just south of Ohio, sometime after 1842. While in Kentucky, he married a woman named Elizabeth Todd, cousin to Mary Todd Lincoln, Mabry says. In Cincinnati, he edited and published the *Western Farmer and Gardener's Almanac*, from 1843 to 1844. Then, Mabry explains, he purchased a large

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This oil painting of Andrew Randall hangs in the President's Office of the California Academy of Sciences. —Photo: California Academy of Sciences

Without Volunteers, We Are Nothing

The mission of Monterey State Historic Park Association is to support interpretation, educational programs, and special events at Monterey State Historic Park in downtown Monterey. We do this in part by fund-raising. But more important still is the contribution of our volunteers, especially our school program volunteers, our docents, and our storekeepers. Simply put, however, we need more volunteers — in all of these capacities.

Both the Custom House and the Stevenson House would benefit from additional docents. This is an ideal role for people who enjoy talking to visitors from all over the world, and it's a great place to get started as a State Parks volunteer. Docents work a three-hour shift at least once or twice per month.

The Custom House has two docent shifts per day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. In the winter sea-

son, we add Thursdays. Here we interpret the history of the Custom House and the Mexican era in Monterey. Because the location is a popular tourist area, you may also field many other questions about Monterey and the region. At present, there are five active docents; we could use at least 12!

The Stevenson House is open with volunteer docents on Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., April through October. If you appreciate the writing of Robert Louis Stevenson and would enjoy sharing the fascinating story of his life, this is the place for you. Volunteers work in teams of two. There are currently six docents who have signed up for shifts this season, and we could use several more.

We also use volunteers in two grade-school programs. Our programs are unique, because they are limited to only one class at a time. Students have the opportunity to learn via hands-on experience, moving through various stations in groups of four to

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Volunteers Urgently Needed!

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six, depending on class size. An adult chaperones each small group, and the stations are staffed by volunteers when enough are available. Otherwise, we need to pay for park staff to run some of the stations, and occasionally it has been necessary to combine groups or omit an activity altogether due to a shortage of volunteers.

The Rumsien (Ohlone) program, held on Tuesdays, is designed for students in third and fourth grades.

Children participate in basket making, acorn grinding, storytelling, and hunting games. There are currently 6 active volunteers. These sessions are not scheduled on every school week.

The Mexican-California program, held on Wednesdays and Thursdays, is designed for students in fourth grade, when California his-



We celebrated our Custom House volunteers at the first of several socials planned for this year. Pictured, left to right: Gayle Paul, Harish Joshi, Michael Green, Jane Garrettson, Bende Kelly, Lindy Perez, Kimberly Wright, Suzan Barroso, Jill Lynch, Christine Warde, Julie Montero. Not shown: Kat Deering, Nancy Durein, Holly Haynes, Nancy Otis, Nancy Parsons —Photo by Suzanne Siegelman

tory is part of the standard state curriculum. These sessions are incredibly popular and are scheduled on nearly every school week. We offer five activity stations: cooking, rope making, branding (leather stamping on rainy days), sewing, and games. Ideally there should be five volunteers each day. Eight volunteers total have been active this school year, and unfortunately on most days we have had slots that went unfilled. We need at least twice the number of volunteers we currently have in order to ensure that all activity stations are covered.

The last regular volunteer position is storekeeper at the Custom House Store. This is both a fund-raising operation and the public face of MSHPA. On days when the Pacific House is closed, volunteers here are the public face of Monterey State Historic Park. Storekeepers are “docents plus”: Along with selling a selection of items chosen to enhance the history interpreted at the park, they are an additional source of information for visitors. Storekeepers should feel comfortable handling cash and be willing to learn the iPad-based point-of-sale system. We ask for a minimum commitment of two three-hour shifts per month. We currently have 20 volunteer store-keepers; we need at least 25.

Volunteers participate in special events as well, such as Christmas in the Adobes and the July 4th parade and living history demonstrations. Many people who take part in these types of events also serve as docents or storekeepers or help out in the school programs. As you read the remainder of our newsletter, you’ll find that we offer fun and inspirational learning opportunities for the volunteers themselves, such as field trips, lectures, barbecues, and more.

Because we are interacting with children, handling cash, and working around historic artifacts, all volunteers are fingerprinted and undergo a simple background check. Won’t you please consider joining our cause? For more information or to sign up, contact volunteer coordinator Michael Green at 831-649-7172, or by email at michael.green@parks.ca.gov.

—By Kimberly Wright
Newsletter Co-Editor



**Custom House
Store**

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

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Monterey State Historic Park Association
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Custom House Store
Monterey State Historic Park Association

State Park Expands Tour Offerings

Early this June, volunteers will have an opportunity to sample an exciting new MSHP tour called Following Whale Migrations: From Prey to Protected. It interprets the history of whaling in Monterey beginning in the 1850s, with a discussion of the Old Monterey Whaling Company and John Pope Davenport — the first shore whaler on the Pacific Coast and an innovative and successful whale-harvester — and concluding with current whale conditions in the bay and the advent of whale-watching businesses so popular today.

The 30-minute narrated walking tour, designed by Guide I Callista Turner, is being marketed in conjunction with whale-watching cruises and can be added either immediately before or after the sail. Starting at the Fisherman's Wharf parking lot, it will continue on foot to the First Brick House (where Captain Davenport lived), the Whaling Station, and the

First Theater before dropping off visitors in front of their boat. It's open to people of all ages, young students and adults alike, and the cost will be \$30 per group.

Two local companies have already signed on to the project: Princess and Monterey Bay Whale Watch. Callista will be contacting other companies as well, so look for the program to expand in the near future.

Volunteers, if you're interested in participating in a free tour yourself, please let Callista know by calling her at 831-649-7109 or emailing Callista.Turner@parks.ca.gov. Indicate your preferred day between June 6 and June 10. She will determine the actual date based on response.

FOLLOWING WHALE MIGRATIONS: FROM PREY TO PROTECTED



—Photo courtesy MSHP archives

For online information about school field-trip programs to Monterey State Historic Park, go to www.parks.ca.gov/mshp and select School Programs. From there, you will be directed to a site where you can learn more about these popular programs, see what dates are still open for this school year, and even register your class. Scholarships are available for Title I schools.

For more information, contact Callista Turner at 831-649-7109 or at callista.turner@parks.ca.gov.

Los Niños Returns

Registration is now open for Los Niños de Monterey, the summer day camp that State Parks runs for kids entering grades 3 through 6. Dates for this year's two Monday-through-Friday sessions are June 12 to 16 and June 19 to 23.

The program will be held again at the Pacific House and the Memory Garden and will be led by State Parks Guide Callista Turner, who also manages the educational programs during the regular school year. Activities include hands-on period crafts, games, and toys, plus tours of other historic sites in Monterey. The children are transported back to the early 1800s, dressing in period attire, enjoying songs and dances of early California, preparing and eating special foods, and even learning some Spanish vocabulary. Each session, which is limited to just 16 boys and girls, concludes with a "fandango" where campers get to showcase what they've learned and share the keepsakes they've made with family and friends.

Cost per child for the entire week is \$145, payable by check, and is due at least two weeks in advance. Scholarships are available for families that demonstrate need. Applications are available online at parks.ca.gov/mshp (click on School Programs - Los Niños) or at the Custom House Store, where they can also be dropped off in person or mailed. The MSHP office next to the Pacific House is accepting applications, too.

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Andrew Randall

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printing press and put out the area's first newspaper, *The Ploughboy*.

But Randall wore many hats. He had studied geology (as well as medicine), and by 1847 was working for the prominent geologist David Dale Owen, surveying U.S. territories that now make up the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. In April 1849, he published another newspaper, the short-lived *Minnesota Register*, which enjoyed just one issue. By the time it came out, he was already en route to California, having just been appointed customs inspector for Monterey by Colonel James Collier, who was serving the same post in San Francisco. Randall was the first person to hold this job since the town had become part of America. He lit out West via the Santa Fe Trail.

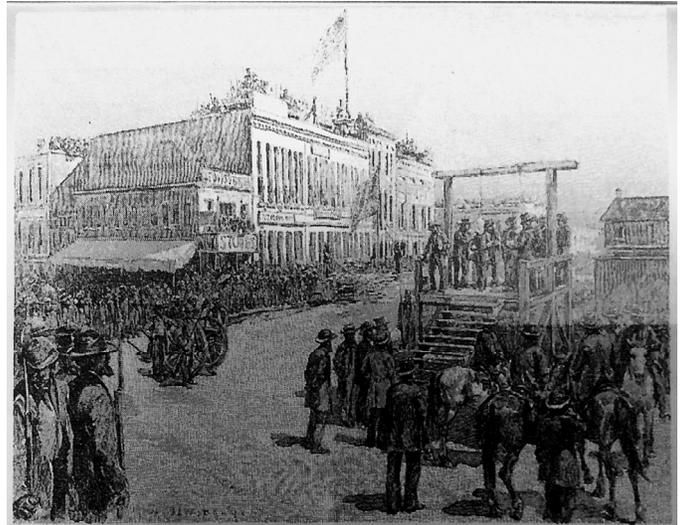
Reports vary. Some say he traveled from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, with the Collier party, escorted by the U.S. Army. Mabry says he worked again with Owen, this time mapping the Santa Fe Trail. What is known is that during his passage, Randall kept an extensive journal, one volume of which now resides in the California State Library in Sacramento. These field notes include "many drawings and descriptions of rock formations," Mabry says, plus flowers, minerals, and other resources "he saw along the way, as well as entries regarding encounters with 'natives.'" According to notes posted on Genealogy.com, these entries "make good reading even today. He was a gregarious and friendly man, curious about everything he saw and heard. His comments on the Army, Mexicans, Indians, settlers, and traders reveal a reporter's zeal for news. He wrote about Daniel Webster, Wm. McClure, Governor Edwards, Josiah Gregg, Dr. Geo. Englemann, Col. John C. Fremont, Bill Williams, Col. Agostin Haraszthy, David and Richard Owens, and Madam Tules, all figures in the momentous migration of the summer of 1849."

Randall's career was far from over, however, once he hit the Golden State. He also became postmaster of Monterey and, in 1851, was elected to California's first state legislature. He had further dreams of creating a scientific organization based in San Francisco. That small group finally took root in April 1853, with Randall as its first president. It continues to this day: the California Academy of Sciences.

Randall was a shrewd entrepreneur, too, with a tremendous appetite for real estate. In 1851 he acquired Rancho Cañada de la Segunda, a 4,367-acre parcel in present-day Carmel and Carmel Valley that includes Mission Trail Park. He bought it from Lazaro Soto for just \$500. At one point, he owned more than 110,000 acres in Monterey, Butte, and Marin Counties. Historian Jack Mason writes that in 1852, Randall paid Antonio Osio \$25,000 for a tract in Point Reyes. Two years later, Mason adds, he bought more than 13,000 additional acres there for \$150,000 in borrowed money.

In one particularly interesting deal, reported by the Monterey History and Art Association, he even obtained Colton Hall and the town's original jail located at the corner of Pearl, Tyler, and Munras Streets. He filed a complaint against its owner, the city of Monterey, for nonpayment of \$1,000 in street services, an obligation the city could not meet. The public property was forced into foreclosure and sold at auction for about \$1,100. Randall assumed ownership. He resold Colton Hall to Monterey County in October 1852 for \$5,000, and he sold the jail tract to José Abrego the following October for \$590.

Despite this tidy profit, Randall was either unable or, some suggest, unwilling to pay the property debts he owed. In one case, it was alleged that he actually stole land that belonged to General Vallejo, and Mabry has documentation of the lawsuit that the Vallejo family brought against him. "It's true," Mabry confesses. "He did steal the property."



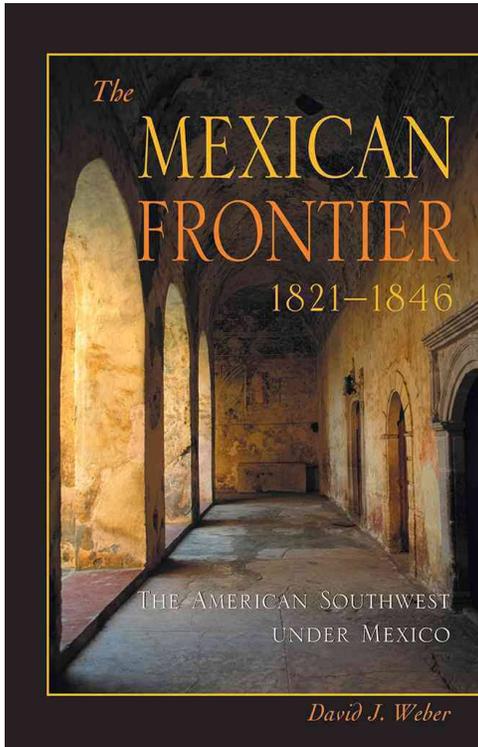
Andrew Randall's killer, Joseph Hetherington, is lynched in San Francisco. —Photo by Candy Mabry; original drawing from the *Alta California* newspaper

It was these very shenanigans, though, that ultimately caused his undoing. By 1856, he was living near San Francisco and visiting the city often. On July 25 of that year, an angry creditor named Joseph Hetherington shot him in a Barbary Coast hotel, the St. Nicholas. Three days later, Randall died from his wounds. The Committee of Vigilance hanged Hetherington on July 29 in a well-attended spectacle.

Lest you think that things settled down for the Randall family after this, consider that 25 years later, one of Andrew Randall's five children, Alder Randall, became the first mayor of Tombstone, Arizona. Mabry says that she was born in California instead of Arizona because after the shootout at the OK Corral, her grandmother announced, "Let's leave this place!"

—By Holly Haynes
Newsletter Co-Editor

Mexican California in Context



The MSHPA Custom House Store offers several books that can broaden our perspective on Californio history. In the newsletter's last issue, I examined Hipolito Bouchard's raid on Monterey from the viewpoint of the French revolution and the Argentine independence. This issue we take a look at Californio development from the standpoint of independent Mexico and its northern frontier, which the country acquired with its separation from Spain in 1821 — and then lost by degrees to the United States between 1836 and 1846. This quarter century of history had a significant impact on the future state of California.

Mexico's northern frontier consisted of what is now much of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. On the whole, it had many consistent features: ill-defined borders, vast areas of land, a meagre European population, various *indios bárbaros* groups, few and isolated *presidios*, and Roman Catholic missions. Much of the region was seen as fair game by settlers from other nations. Mexico inherited from Spain a mixed policy of velvet glove

and iron fist when dealing with the territory. In his 1982 book, *The Mexican Frontier, 1821-1846: The American Southwest Under Mexico*, author David J. Weber clearly demonstrates how events in one part of the region affected the others with a domino-like effect.

The mission system makes a good example. The Church had continuing difficulty in supplying clergy to the frontier; some missions were simply abandoned. Other missions were secularized by an Enlightenment-enthused government in Mexico City. Still more missions were eradicated by hostile indigenous tribes. Clearly the controlling influence of the Church was seriously diminished throughout the region.

The presidios were an understaffed and undersupplied system of failure, forcing the national army to race from one hot spot to another, or completely ignore some troublesome areas. Regional conflicts within central Mexico necessitated withdrawing the army from the frontier to settle internal disputes. Mexico's policing authority on the frontier, especially in regard to enforcement of statutes and collection of revenues, was almost nonexistent.

"To govern is to populate," or the "Texas Game," became the norm in the region. With little or no migration of Mexicans from the central regions to the frontiers, immigrants from other nations, mostly the United States, filled the void. Fleeing from debt during the crisis of 1819, thousands of Americans crossed from Louisiana into Texas, looking for cheap, unencumbered land and bringing along their English language, Protestant faith, and slaves. Soon enough there were more Americans here than Mexicans, and Texas was destined to join the United States. Weber's details on this process are instructive. (Governor Pío Pico pulls off a revolution in California while Antonio López de Santa Anna is busy in Texas.) The Santa Fe Trail led

American traders into New Mexico to barter their guns and ammunition for the *indios bárbaros*' stolen Mexican goods. Migrant trains began appearing at Sutter's Fort in California. Mexican authorities had every right to assume the Texas Game was being played all over again.

Weber does a convincing job of illustrating Mexican frontier history from a Mexican point of view, in many ways different from our customary northern perspective. By taking a broader outlook of an entire region, he fills in many gaps that persist in the mind of the student of Californio history. *The Mexican Frontier* (\$29.95 at the Custom House Store) is a scholarly work with copious endnotes but is surprisingly easy to read, even in its analysis of Turner's Frontier Theory. Weber's 1982 study is still valid, even as he admits it is far from complete, into our own time.

If you are a current member of MSHPA, be sure to ask for your 10 percent discount.

—By George Wright



In addition to writing book reviews, George volunteers with the Mexican-California Hands-On program. —Photo Michael D. Green

Coordinator's Corner



We're heading into the busy late-spring and summer seasons at Monterey State Historic Park, which means the calendar is filled with enjoyable events.

On Saturday, May 6, a fun day of living history at San Juan Bautista State Historic Park is planned for our Volunteers, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kimberly Wright will be demonstrating bread baking, and all are invited to wear historic attire if they wish. Attendees are urged to carpool.

The Robert Louis Stevenson Club will host its yearly Anniversary Tea on May 20 at 4 p.m. in the Stevenson

House garden. The afternoon will begin with a special viewing of club chair Monica Hudson's CD tour of the Stevenson House. RSVP to event organizer Ruth Krotzer at rkrozercolts@gmail.com. The group would love to recruit more members, so everyone is welcome!

Stevenson House will also be the venue for Chinese-American guest speaker Gerry Low-Sabado, who will discuss the role of the Chinese in Monterey on Saturday, June 24, at 1:00 p.m. in the sala. The building will be closed to the public that day. Please reply to michael@parks.ca.gov if you would like to attend.

On Tuesday, July 4, the town parade will be accompanied by Living History Day in the Memory Garden. Volunteers: Look for an email blast later this summer with more information!

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue will be held once again in the Memory Garden. This year's cookout will take place on Saturday, July 29, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Please respond to me at michael@parks.ca.gov.

And finally, it's not too early to be thinking about History Fest Weekend on October 14 and 15. As in the past,

MSHP will offer free tours, and the RLS calendar will add a sign-up page for Sunday, October 15. I will give an encore presentation of my weekend sail aboard the replica of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's ship, the *San Salvador*. Time and location to be determined.

Christmas in the Adobes 2017 is slated for Friday and Saturday evenings, December 8 and 9, so mark your calendars if you wish to help out. A Volunteer recruitment message will be forthcoming as the dates draw near.

And finally, it was pointed out by a conscientious grammarian that my habit of capitalizing the word *Volunteer* is incorrect. The word is not a proper noun, and unless I'm writing in German (a language that capitalizes all nouns), I should correct this habit. I'm aware that it's unconventional, but I do it intentionally to remind myself and all who read it just how important Volunteers are to Monterey State Historic Park. If I could, I would hire a skywriter to emblazon it in ALL CAPS across the horizon! We literally cannot serve the public as well as we do without you.

—By Michael D. Green
State Park Interpreter III

MSHP Volunteer Recruitment

As part of Monterey State Historic Park's drive to enlist more Volunteers, we held an evening recruitment presentation and workshop on Friday, March 10, at the Custom House. MSHPA, our cooperating association, approved funds for two sessions of print-media advertising and online promotion, which brought 10 people to see the 20-minute presentation we'd prepared. Many stayed longer to ask questions and express their interest.

As a result, we signed up four new Volunteers. Two more have promised to join the program when they retire in the near future.

Assisting me were longtime Volunteers Suzanne Siegelman, who shared information about the Hands-On educational program for children, and Monica Hudson, who gave a brief talk on Robert Louis Stevenson and encouraged potential docents to learn more about our favorite author.

Recruitment is continuing via ongoing distribution of flyers, online promotion, and print advertisement, including a 4-by-5-inch ad we placed in the April 21 Volunteer-appreciation edition of the *Monterey Herald*.

If you have friends or family who would enjoy meeting and working with some of the nicest people in the

county, please ask them to contact Michael Green at 831-649-7172 or by email at michael.green@parks.ca.gov.

—By M.D.G.



Volunteer Suzanne Siegelman at a school program —Photo courtesy MSHPA archives

Thank You, Docents, for Making Hands-On Great

This school year has seen the most educational programs ever for Monterey State Historic Park. We held four more classes than last year, and eight new grade schools visited the park. The number of home-schooled groups increased, and we even hosted a Girl Scout troop from Spreckels.

Altogether, 85 classes from 25 schools participated in Hands-On sessions. Although the vast majority attended the Mexican-California program, the Rumsien classes and the demonstration field trips were also extremely popular.

The largest increase was from low-income schools. A total of 23 classes from nine Title 1 schools came to the park this past year, up from 15 classes representing six schools in 2015–16! They all relied heavily on MSHPA's bus grants, and they most certainly would not have been able to take advantage of our programs without your support. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for these youngsters to participate in the Hands-On programs and, for some, to visit Monterey for the first time.



Volunteer Rosie Pettas demonstrates grinding corn for tortillas with a traditional *mano y metate*.—Photo by M.D.G.

Not only are *local* children attending, but as word about our excellent educational opportunities has gotten out, classes from up and down the state have been signing up as well. In 2016–17, we hosted California schools from as far away as Santa Barbara, Dublin, and Folsom. In fact, one Dublin school sent four groups of students, each on a separate date, aboard rented buses that cost the school \$1,200 apiece. And because of Bay Area traffic, they had to leave home at 7:15 in the morning to arrive here on time. This was all so the entire fourth grade student body could experience our Mexican-California Hands-On program.

As we wrap up this busy term, I'd like to extend a personal thank you to all of the school program docents who show up, unpaid, week after week. MSHP's educational offerings would not be possible if it weren't for the dedication and support you provide to keep them running as smoothly as they do. Paid only in tortillas and smiles, you keep history alive for the next generation. As Michael Green has mentioned, if anyone else is interested in helping mold

California's soon-to-be adults, please contact either of us, and we will be glad to describe the variety of programs available.

~ ~ ~

As good as this past year was, there's always room for growth. With this in mind, I set up a table at the Tuesday afternoon farmers' market in downtown Monterey last month to inform the public about MSHPA



Callista Turner at the Old Monterey Farmers Market

and the State Parks educational programs. Although I was granted an "entertainment" spot, I may have also passed out brochures about school programs, Los Niños summer sessions, and MSPHA. My theme on April 11 was Rumsien Native American ways of life on the Monterey Peninsula before European contact, and I displayed a selection of the hunting and gathering implements we use in Hands-On programs. Since this particular day was during spring break, many of the shoppers I met were out-of-towners; I spoke with families from the Bay Area, San Diego, and even Pennsylvania. I also made contact with a postdoctoral associate who works in Carmel Valley studying oak-acorn production in the Monterey valley and cultures that used acorns as a food source. In the two and a half hours I spent at the market, I talked to 133 people. Good thing I'm chatty!

—By Callista Turner, Guide I
Monterey State Historic Park



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Chinese-American Historian Gerry Low-Sabado Comes to MSHP



Award-winning lecturer and historian Gerry Low-Sabado will address Monterey volunteers and staff on the significant role that Chinese immigrants played in the economic, social, and cultural history of

California. This special event will be held at the Stevenson House on Saturday, June 24, at 1:00 p.m. in the sala. As a Monterey native and descendent of the first Chinese woman born in our town, Low-Sabado's passion for her subject is contagious.

The Stevenson House will be closed to the public for this presentation. Space is limited, so please RSVP to michael@parks.ca.gov or phone 831-649-7172 to reserve your place. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

MSHPA Calendar

- Volunteer Field Trip to San Juan Bautista State Historic Park**
Saturday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Carpooling is encouraged.
- Citywide History Hunt**
Saturday, May 13, at noon. Participants may pick up packets beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Custom House or at City Hall.
- Robert Louis Stevenson Tea in the Garden**
Saturday, May 20, 4 p.m. MSHPA members are welcome.
- Volunteer Education: Guest Speaker Gerry Low-Sabado Presents "The Chinese in Monterey"**
Saturday, June 24, 1 p.m. in the Stevenson House sala
- Independence Day Living History**
Tuesday, July 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Memory Garden, following the city parade
- Volunteer Appreciation BBQ**
Saturday, July 29, 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the Memory Garden
- RLS Club Summer Event**
Saturday, August 26, 4 p.m.
- History Fest**
Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15
- Christmas in the Adobes**
Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Tickets go on sale October 15.