

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2009

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Sonoma Barracks to host a series of California History Lectures in October

California State Parks and the Sonoma/ Petaluma State Historic Park Association will host a series of Saturday morning lectures at the Sonoma Barracks as part of the 2009 Sonoma State Historic Park and Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park docent training program. The public is invited to attend the lectures. The admission fee is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for members of the association. Proceeds from the lectures will help provide future interpretive presentations at Sonoma SHP and Petaluma Adobe SHP. All lectures start at 10 AM in the Barracks conference room. The lectures on October 10 and October 24 may be of particular interest because of the outstanding credentials of the featured speakers.

On October 10, Jim Rawls will speak on "Missions and the Hispanicization of California, (1769-1848)." Dr. Rawls is a local historian recognized internationally for his expertise in California history. He is author or editor of more than thirty books on California and U.S. history, including *California: An Interpretive History* now in its 9th edition. He has taught at UC Berkeley and SFSU and is the recipient of the National Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Texas. He has authored several books for children and is the editor of a multi-volume children's history series published by Little, Brown & Company. Dr. Rawls has served as a consultant for Walt Disney Imagineering in the development of "Disney's California Adventure" theme park, and for five years appeared as "Dr. History" on KNBR Radio, San Francisco.

On October 24 there will be talks by two archaeologists and a State Parks architectural historian. Breck Parkman, Senior State Archaeologist, will speak on "Archaeological History of the State Historic Parks". Breck Parkman has done extensive field work throughout California including the hippie commune at Olompali State Historic Park and examination of Angel Island after the fire earlier this year uncovered hidden artifacts

Glenn Farris will speak on "Russian-Mexican Relations in California: Fort Ross and Sonoma, 1823-1841." Dr. Farris is a consulting archaeologist and prior to retirement in 2008 had been an archaeologist with California State Parks for 30 years. He did surveys and excavations all over California, but has a special interest in Spanish/Mexican era sites and the Russian site of Fort Ross.

Marianne Hurley will speak on "An Architectural Perspective on Sonoma and the State Parks." Marianne Hurley is the staff architectural historian and preservation specialist for three districts, responsible for design review and environmental compliance of historic properties such as the John Marsh House stabilization project, the Vallejo Home landscape plans, and Jack London State Historic Park's cultural landscape study. She is an instructor at the state parks training center in Monterey, a contributor to the *Architectural Guidebook to the San Francisco Bay Area*, 2007, and is a board member of the Vernacular Architecture Forum.

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact Jennifer Hanson at (707) 762- 4871.

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