



THE POPPY PAPER



Official Monthly Publication of the
Boosters of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park
A Non-Profit Organization

March 2017

Superintendent's Message

By Richard Dennison

I hope you are fairing well with so much rain. The State Historic Park continues to be very busy with LOTS of school groups and a shout out to Interpretive Specialist Graham Kirkham, Park Aides Caitlin Meng and Tim Downing, Supervising Ranger Chris Lozano, the staff and volunteers who guide the excited kids and parents along. We also thank our community partners, including the Old Town Foundation, BOOT, Wells Fargo, Old Town Hospitality Corp., and the Mormon Battalion Historic Site. Lots of various funds are used from partners to have the schoolhouse open, donkey and blacksmith program, and other living history.

The 2017 event calendar is online at the park's website: www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego. Save the dates, and come on down.

The State Parks Department continues to make improvements based on recommendations in the *ParksForward* initiative, and updates are posted online at <https://castateparks.wordpress.com/>. A recent report was done regarding the *Volunteer In Parks* program. The report recognized the contributions of over 40,000 volunteers who work hard to enhance outreach, services to visitors, and stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Some recommendations were:

- Survey the field for recognition efforts and adopt best practices statewide, whereby increasing recognition tools, while keeping the Poppy and Medallion awards.
- Streamline the volunteer/docent registration processes.
- Revision of the Department Operating Chapter pertaining to volunteers.
- Create online volunteer training opportunities.
- Create an online database for tracking service duties and hours. (Old Town currently implements this with Volgistics.)
- End the practice of volunteers paying the fee for their fingerprinting.
- Research the creation of volunteer passes that are given as volunteers reach their required hours, so they may use their pass right away.

Should you have any questions or input on this important effort, you may submit them to the Statewide team at transforming.parks@parks.ca.gov.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is encouraged by the Statewide efforts to strengthen support for volunteers. We hope the Service Based Budgeting data supports and drives the effort for fulltime permanent staff to coordinate volunteers at the field level. We are fortunate to have a great volunteer coordinator, Tim Downing, though only part-time seasonal, supported by other staff and guild leads. **Thank you, Volunteers!!**

California Textiles in San Diego

By Susan M. Hector, BOOT Board Member

PART TWO (Continued from February 2017)...

Churro sheep produce a fleece that is long staple, glossy and silk-like in sheen, and low in lanolin. It is ideal for handspinning and weaving, particularly in areas where there is not an abundance of water to wash the fleece (Wheat 2003). I spun a series of singles yarns from Churro wool, and dyed them with a sampling of natural dyes that would have been available during the time that San Diego's mission was active (see Poppy Paper, January 2017 for a discussion of this process). The long staple of the yarn produces a fine single, and was easy to produce on both a spindle wheel and a flyer wheel. This material could be used for embroidery or weaving without plying. A two-ply yarn could be used as either warp or weft, although more traditionally as the warp yarn.

Bayeta, which was called *sabanilla* in New Mexico, was woven only if Churro sheep were available (Wheat 2003: 71). This fabric, which is loosely woven and was sometimes brushed into a flannel for outerwear, was the base material for traditional *colcha* embroidery (Benson 2008: 60-61). Later, cotton was used as the base material for *colcha* embroidery, and commercial yarns were used instead of handspun Churro singles. Without the glossy Churro yarn, the pieces lost their luster and quality.

Jerga fabric was also a commonly produced cloth. It was woven as a twill, in checks or plaid. Although most commonly woven as floor covering, it was also used for outer clothing, including shawls (Minge 1994). It is worth noting that twill weaving on a treadle floor loom requires at least three harnesses. We do not know what kind of looms were at the mission.

The 173 blankets listed in the inventory were probably made from these types of coarse, plain cloth. Lucero and Baizerman (1999: 12 – 13) noted that wool utilitarian cloth was produced as yardage on a loom for everyday use: work clothes, bedding, floor coverings, and blankets for "... laborer, farmer, Indian." The imported fabrics were used by the upper class military, landowners, and priests.

There are also arguments against these items having been produced at the mission. The detailed requisitions and invoices related to the Santa Barbara Presidio community list all of these types of cloth as having been obtained from San Blas (Perissinotto 1998). Or, it could be that as soon as fabric was woven, it was used or distributed to the neophytes or other Native people – and not stored.

The final piece of evidence for textile manufacturing at the mission is the list of items stored in the workshop (Engelhardt 1920: 341). The following items relate directly to textile production (Spanish terms were translated using Ponce de Leon 1910) :

- 4 looms
- 2 useless looms
- 2 spinning wheels
- 2 ½ hackle sets for preparing hemp or flax (hackles come in sets ranging from coarser to finer to first split and then comb the fibers)
- 1 reel for winding yarn
- 12 pairs of handcards
- 1 comb for making manta cloth (wool comb; should be in pairs)
- 14 spinning wheels used by young women
- 10 rods for beating (fulling) wool (called *baquetillas* in the inventory, but the word is properly spelled *baqueteos*)

The specific mention of a wool comb for making mantas is a direct statement that this fabric was manufactured at the mission. The list indicates that wool, at least, was combed, carded, spun, wound into skeins, and woven into fabric.

Continued on page 3...

Californio Textiles in San Diego (continued from page 2)...

Conclusions

Inventories from the missions and presidios demonstrate that the colonial Spanish had access to the world's textiles. European linen, Chinese silk, and Indian printed cotton fabric were all available in abundance at the missions, presidios, and pueblos of California, while Spanish government ships were supplying the colonies. This ended in 1810, due to conflicts that led to Mexican independence in 1821. However, even after Spanish government support of the colonies ended, privately funded Spanish ships continued to bring goods from Mexico and Peru (Archibald 1978: 123-124). In addition, other trade resources opened up, although with higher prices and shipping charges. Smuggling had always been a source of goods, particularly ships from the United States trading for pelts. The economic independence of California from New Spain in 1810 resulted in some very lean years, but also provided opportunity that had been illegal previously under Spanish control (Archibald 1978: 140-141).

By the time Old Town San Diego was settled, in the early 1820s, Mexico had opened up trade with the United States. Goods came west on the Santa Fe Trail (to Los Angeles), and by ship from Boston. Hides were shipped to the east from California, and returned as shoes and other leather goods. Commercial yarns were available after 1821, and were shipped from the eastern U.S. Saxony yarn, a 3-ply Merino dyed with plant and mineral dyes, was available as a replacement for single and plied handspun Churro (Fisher 1994: 158).

What dyes, if any, were imported into San Diego for use in producing textiles? Between 1769 and 1810, the mission had to order dyes from San Blas or smuggle them from elsewhere. Between 1810 and 1821, goods were obtained from a variety of both legitimate and illegal sources, including Yankee traders and Spanish ships (but not government ships). Peru was also a source for shipped goods.

After 1821 and Mexican independence, dyes could have been obtained from the world's markets, most likely brought by ship from the eastern United States. We know from the 1834 inventories that the mission community was still spinning and weaving at that time, and assume that they were dyeing as well. Dyes used in the early 19th century U.S. included the same ones imported from San Blas, as well as madder, walnut, woad, and many other dyes (Bemiss 1815 (1973); Ellis 1798). I propose that, beginning with the Mexican rule of California, a wide variety of dyes would have been available in San Diego, both at the mission community and in the growing town. However, no dye house has been identified in Old Town San Diego.

The mission inventory from 1834 is direct evidence that spinning and weaving took place in the workshop; the unknown is what textiles were made there. Again, we know that coarse wool fabric was produced; it is possible, and likely, that the mission workshop was used to make a variety of other textiles as needed.

It is most likely that spinning, weaving, and dyeing were practiced in Old Town both before and after the mission was secularized – at least for durable wool fabric. This would have been a continuation of the practices at the mission, and with 32,000 head of Churro sheep, it is assumed that they were sheared for their wool. Production of jerga, manta, sabanilla, and serape fabric would have been possible, and, if so, these were made of dyed fibers from Churro sheep. The historic record and inventory lists from the mission provide direct evidence for textile production in early historic period California.

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Treasurer's Notes

by Deanna Turton

Like most years, the month of January was fairly quiet. The Park Store typically is less busy this time of year; nonetheless, it is doing much better than in Januarys in years past. Additionally, the daily average in the donation boxes is low again at \$32.64 a day. These ups and downs are to be expected in the winter months when folks are not traveling so much, and perhaps spending less to pay off their Christmas credit card purchases.

The BOOT Board would like to thank Susan Hector, our new Board member, for her generous donation to the VIP account. With her donation of \$300, Tim Downing will be able to provide more perks to our hard working volunteers. Many thanks also go out to Patt Seitas for her \$500 donation for the same purpose. That check arrived today, and should really be reported in the next issue of the *Poppy Paper*; but, since I think it is always important to thank folks for their generosity, I thought it best to do it right away.

In December, Store Manager Mary Jones held off on ordering, in preparation for the January inventory. So, during January the UPS delivery truck brought several BIG boxes of books, historic toys, and badges! In addition, Vanessa Jones has been working on restocking the Period Attire Bank, as well as giving new volunteers their subsidies. So, on the expense side of the ledger, those were the only two categories over \$300:

\$4,092.31 – The Park Store
\$ 665.10 – Period Attire Bank

I am also happy to report that, during the early weeks of January, I did the year-end balancing, while I was recovering from a nasty cold. (What else can one do when one is still coughing and blowing?!?) This year, things went quite well and, although the books did not balance perfectly, the only error was 24 cents ahead in the checkbook. Unfortunately, a recent postcard from the IRS in Washington D.C. indicated that the 990 forms are not yet available; so, they could not fill my order. Until then, I will be in a holding pattern before I can complete the tax forms.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BOOT Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 pm, at Café Coyote. Monthly Board Meetings are always open to the public. If you would like to speak and/or present a project, please contact the BOOT Secretary (see page 9).

Craft Committee meets the 2nd Friday, 9:00 am to Noon.

The Old Town Native Plant Landscape maintenance work party is the 2nd Saturday, 9:30 am to Noon. Questions: Contact Peter and Kay at oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org

Kudos!!!

At the February BOOT Board meeting, Becky Halliburton told us she taught some ladies in Poway how to make tussie mussies. Former docents Martha Rosenberg and Lois Lundquist would be so pleased to hear that their legacy of teaching herbs and florigraphy is being taught to a new group of volunteers.

Many thanks, Becky, for your time and effort to spread goodwill to volunteer groups outside the park. (While she was teaching, Becky was telling everyone of our activities here in Old Town.)





Descendants Research Workshop

Saturday, March 11, 2017

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

McCoy House in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

Join us to take advantage of all our research materials, photos and reference books on early San Diego and its many pioneers.

There is always someone on hand to point you in the right direction, and if you're real lucky ... you might run into a "cousin."

Attendance is FREE ... stay for an hour or all day. There are many restaurants around for lunch when you need a break. We'll be located on the 2nd Floor in the McCoy House. Hope to see you there.

From the Editor's Desk...

When budget cuts in San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) forced the 4th Grade School Program to end nearly a decade ago, the opportunity for thousands of school children to visit Old Town San Diego State Historic Park ended. Not only did the students lose out, but many teachers and instructional aides lost their jobs, were reassigned to schools within the district, or were forced to seek employment elsewhere. While 4th Graders lost out on Old Town, the 5th Grade Balboa Park and the 6th Grade Palomar camp programs also disintegrated.

I have personally been involved in those programs as a classroom teacher, a State Park tour guide, a volunteer docent, and an educational coordinator for a Park concessionaire. In all instances, I can say, unequivocally, that the benefits of such programs are immeasurable to our students. There is no better way to excite the curious minds of students and instill a desire to learn more than to "take them there!" In fact, I have met countless **adults** who have said, "I remember the first time I came to Old Town **in 4th Grade.**" Whether learning about the garden, the ocean, the mountains, or California History – on-site learning is the best!!!

Historically, these programs were instituted many years ago to "provide students with positive, integrated experiences in unique environments which enhance the students' awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of cultural diversity." (Seems like we need this type of education more than ever these days!) Unfortunately, when it came time to balance the budget, these programs became "extras." But, it doesn't seem like cutting all those programs solved the problems, since SDUSD recently announced another \$124 million shortfall! So, students (and their teachers) will once again be faced with cuts to their educational opportunities.

Interestingly, the greatest expense incurred by off-campus learning is transportation costs (ie. paying for busses). So, when the school district cannot approve funds...parents, PTA organizations, private institutions, and grants are providing funds. Currently, in Old Town, many caring corporations and individuals provide funds for transportation, while the State Park staff and volunteers provide a quality educational experience for our students. It's great to hear that the school tours, coordinated and managed by Graham Kirkham and led by park staff and volunteers, are doing so well...and growing each year. When everyone comes together to solve a problem, it works. So, from this editor, who is also a dedicated classroom teacher at SDUSD...thank you all for coming together for our students!

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Spring, and Happy Reading!

Ruth French, Editor, poppypapereditor@gmail.com

(Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.)

A New Face in Old Town Brings a Wealth of Experience

By Gregg Giacopuzzi, State Park Interpreter I

As you walk the streets and pathways of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, you might encounter a new staff member to the Old Town family...Brian Lane. Brian has recently accepted a position as our new State Park Ranger.

Brian grew up in Oceanside, California and attended Saddleback College. Brian's career in California State Parks started in August of 2000 as a park aide, and then as a senior park aide at Doheny State Beach. Brian's primary job was to manage the Doheny State Beach Visitor Center and Aquarium. Brian enjoyed his time with California State Parks so much; he decided to make it a career.

Brian attended MOTT Training Center in Monterey, California where he attained the necessary training and skills to become a California State Park Ranger. His first assignment out of the training academy was at Channel Coast District, near San Barbara, California, where he furthered his skills working at Gaviota, Refugio, El Captain, Carpinteria, Emma Wood, San Buenaventura and McGrath State Beaches. Brian then transferred to the Orange County State beaches in 2007 and worked San Clemente, San Onofre, and Doheny State Beaches. In 2011, Brian was promoted to serve as the acting Supervising Ranger at Doheny State Beach until 2013. He then transferred back to his home town of Oceanside, California in 2013, and worked the Northern San Diego Coast State Beaches until joining us here in Old Town this year.

Brian is a member of the State Park SCUBA dive team, a field training officer, drug recognition expert, and a member of the San Diego Psychiatric Emergency Response Team. On a personal level, Brian is married with two children, and lives in Oceanside, California.

Please extend a warm welcome Brian Lane!



GOOD NEWS...TIMES TWO...

Volunteer Gardener JP Gendron, who had hip replacement in January, is now up and around. He is even well enough to visit the garden again. We are very happy his recovery has gone so well!

Volunteer Crafter and Seamstress Roseann Cook's husband, Don, underwent heart surgery on Christmas Day. We are happy to report that he was able to return home on Valentine's Day! Our best wishes to Don for a speedy recovery!

Twainfest To Focus on More Local History

By Victor Contreras, Descendant

Twainfest, an annual event in Old Town, celebrates the literature of the 1800s. The event includes foods, games, displays, re-enactments of historical writers, readings, and California history. The popularity of this event has grown through recent years.

The event is organized by the theatrical company *Write Out Loud*, headed up by event director Veronica Murphy, working closely with the staff and concessionaires in Old Town San Diego State Historical Park. For several years the event has been supported by the *Descendants of Early San Diego*. The Descendants have provided actors, information, stories, and scripts for the re-creation of local historical people, telling our local stories. These presentations demonstrated local history in the Greater San Diego area in the 1800s. They have been entertaining and informative. One story was about the first woman to vote in California, who was actually a woman, posing as a man, who voted before women were given the right to vote. Other stories have been about toys and games for kids of the period; women gambling in San Diego (when it was not acceptable elsewhere); the cattle industry; and contributions of particular ethnic groups, such as the Pacific Islanders who ran the hide tanneries.

Efforts for funding and to expand the event beyond one day are being explored, in consultation with the Descendants group. Last year, a writing competition was created, and two winners were awarded prizes of \$100 each. The winners of last year's contest were Victor Contreras, who wrote about the legend of Joaquin Murrietta; and Wendy Zeugschmidt, who wrote about one of her ancestors in Old Town San Diego.

This year, the *Descendants of Early San Diego* and *Write Out Loud* have decided to put a different focus on this particular part of Twainfest. The efforts are to request script submissions yearly, building a library of scripts that will be used for historical presentations all day long during Twainfest. Solicitations for new scripts will be done each year and, depending on funding, scripts will be accepted and compensated at \$100 each. This year, we anticipate funding two new scripts.

The script requirements are: Monologues from three to ten minutes of performance time, written in the first person (one who lived here during the 1800s). The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2017. Final selections will be announced at the annual Descendants Reunion Weekend, the last weekend in June (to be performed in August at Twainfest).

Please submit scripts to: Victor Contreras, Project Coordinator
110 N. 2nd Ave. #65
Chula Vista, Ca. 91910
viccroscn@yahoo.com

Descendants Research Workshops, website, and Park resources can be accessed, and are open to the public for historical research. For more information on the project, please visit the Descendants of Early San Diego websites:

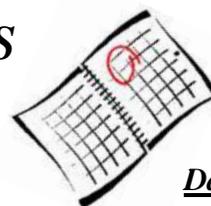
<http://descendantsearlysandiego.weebly.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/Descendants-of-Early-San-Diego-474183452627096>



The members of the Craft Committee and the The Park Store send a big “Thank You” to BOOT Board Member Bob Jones. He has spent incomprehensible amounts of time getting and keeping all of the technology up and running for the credit card system, as well as managing all of the pricing and inventory control for the Store. According to Volunteer JoBeth Hull, “I have no clue what he does - I just know we couldn’t exist without him!” Additionally, Bob serves as the Webmaster for BOOT, keeping our webside up-to-date and making sure *The Poppy Paper* is available online. Thank You, Bob, for all you do!!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS *Stagecoach Days*



July Events

July 4 th	<u>Date</u>
Games and Amusements	July 4
Women of the West	July 8
Taste of the Past	July 15
Soldiers and Citizens	July 22
	July 29

August Special Events

	<u>Date</u>
Trades that Shaped the West	August 5
Days of the Vaquero	August 12
Twainfest	August 19
The West on the Move	August 26

VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARK

In 2016, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park’s active 190 volunteers and college interns donated 12,450 hours of service. We brought 45 new volunteers into our family and a new volunteer group, Young Christian-Service Missionaries (YCSM). We mourned the passing of one of our oldest volunteers, Frank Van Wormer. By having the YCSM in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, we are now able to keep the Schoolhouse and the McCoy House museums open an extra 16 days a month!

Have you notices a larger number of school kids visiting the park during the week? Well, that’s because our school program is booked solid for the rest of the school year! We have seen some “large” days, with over 100 kids a day! That’s huge, to say the least!!! So, I will be sending out requests soon for volunteers to help staff some of the museums on those days.

I am happy to report that we have enough people interested to start the Adobe Brick Guild up again. I will be sending out more details soon, and then we will all be playing in the dirt and mud!

It’s hard to imagine, with all the rain we’ve been getting, that summer is sneaking up fast! I know, I know...not fast enough for some. But, it will get here, I promise. And, with summer comes our great summer events (above). I will be sending out requests for help for the 4th of July and Stagecoach Days. Last year we had a great turn out for the 4th of July, and I would love to see even more of us out there this year!

Again, thank you for all you do for the park to help make our living history programs some of the best around!

Tim Downing Volunteer Coordinator

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!





619-543-9057

Jeanne Ferrell

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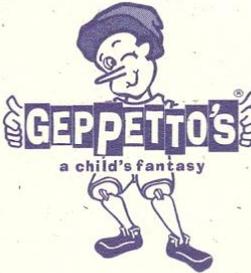
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- Thank you for all that you do for our community -

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BOOSTERS OF OLD TOWN

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Membership Application or Renewal

- _____ \$20.00 Senior (62 yrs. or older)/Single Student
- _____ \$25.00 Single Supporting Member
- _____ \$30.00 Senior Couple (62 yrs. or older)
- _____ \$40.00 Family (2 or more individuals)
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- _____ \$55.00 Corporate Basic Membership*
(includes window decal and 1 month business card sized ad in *The Poppy Paper*)
- _____ \$130.00 Corporate Enhanced Membership*
(includes window decal and 1 year business card sized ad in *The Poppy Paper*)
- _____ Donation Enclosed (Or Gift in Honor of: _____)

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