



# News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contacts:**  
**Steve Beck**, 916-445-3996  
Sutter's Fort SHP  
**Lisa Mealoy**, 916-323-7626  
Friends of Sutter's Fort

## **Sutter's Fort Admission is FREE During Sutter Health Community Appreciation Day on June 20 Fort to Offer Special "Hands on History: Sacramento's First Hospital" Focus**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – In conjunction with a large-scale Sutter Medical Center Community Day, a celebration to open their new Women's and Children's Center, California State Parks and Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) are proud to present special "Hands on History: *Sacramento's First Hospital*" activities on Saturday, June 20, 2015. Courtesy of Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, admission to both Sutter's Fort SHP and the State Indian Museum will be FREE all day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. While Sutter Medical Center will be hosting a large celebration on the grounds outside the walls of Sutter's Fort SHP, there will be a variety of interactive and fun activities happening inside the Fort on this special community day.

Even before the famous Gold Rush of 1849 that brought tens of thousands of gold seekers to the Sacramento Valley, John Sutter used a medical book to administer medical care and provided hospital facilities at the Fort for the citizens of his New Helvetia settlement and the thousands of Native Americans working on his land and living throughout the Valley. Then, shortly after the founding of Sacramento City – the original name of Sacramento – the city's first hospital, Sacramento Hospital, was established in an adobe structure near the Fort at the current location of Sutter General Hospital, which was recently renamed the Ose Adams Medical Pavilion.

On June 20, Fort guests will be treated to interpretive demonstrations provided by several physicians and a midwife showing many aspects of 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine, including dentistry and homeopathic cures. And, as a special guest, Dr. Bob LaPerriere, Curator, SSVMS Museum of Medical History, will deliver interesting presentations about Gold Rush-era medicine at 11:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. that will include intriguing artifacts on display such as an amputation kit circa 1870, bleeding and cupping implements, tooth extractors, ether mask, wooden splints, early medications and more. Plus, Fort docents will lead demonstrations where visitors can get involved and participate as "volunteer victims" to learn more about Gold Rush medicine practices. And, of course, demonstrations of black powder weaponry in action will take place, including the crowd-favorite firing of Sutter's cannon.

More information about Sutter's Fort SHP is available at 916-445-4422 or [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org).

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