



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Sutter's Fort to Present "Hands on History: *By Land and By Sea*" on 2/21

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Continuing a popular series of interactive and fun "Hands on History" activities each month, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) will present a special "Hands on History: *By Land and By Sea*" event on Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Through special presentations, exciting demonstrations and hands-on activities, docents will help Fort visitors understand the two different ways emigrants originally came to California -- by land or by sea -- while sharing the unique challenges they faced and what daily life was like during their journeys. A special station will be set up with pioneer clothes where visitors can select outfits and have their pictures taken with the wagon or with another pioneer setting (using their own cameras). More hands-on activities also await Fort visitors as they will help pack a wagon or trunk, make choices about what to bring along for their "journey of a lifetime," learn how to use a nautical compass, hoist a laden barrel, weave rope, learn simple knots, create maps with available resources and even join the Navy and receive pay in Stonington Bank \$2 bills.

As a highlight, guest speaker Dr. Richard Kaufman, a professor emeritus from CSUS and author of *Saving the Donner Party* -- a new book that uses modern geographic techniques to identify specific routes used by the parties sent to rescue the people trapped in the mountains -- will give special presentations at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. His presentation is focused on reconstructing the routes of the "Forlorn Hope Party" -- a group of young adults from the Donner Party that tried to break through the snow to get help. Dr. Kaufman's satellite research identifies the crucial landmarks from testimony of the survivors and perhaps alters previous interpretation as to precisely what happened. Also, Dr. Kaufman will be available to sign books available for purchase at the Fort Trade Store.

Admission to Sutter's Fort SHP costs \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6 to 17) and is free for children 5 and under. For more information, call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

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