

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Bob Russo

(916) 893-3445 mobile

Pati Brown

(916) 417-1159 mobile



Springtime at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park

Spring Planting Living History Day

Where: *Sutter's Fort State Historic Park*, 2701 L Street, Sacramento

When: Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Giveaways: 200 California Poppy Seed Packets

Special Events Admission: Adults \$6.00; Youths ages 6-17 \$3.00;
Children 5 and younger are free.

Event Media Contact: Bob Russo, (916) 445-0899 or (916) 893-3445

Ask a child today where his or her food comes from and “the store” is your likely answer. Join Sutter's Fort State Historic Park Docents for Spring Planting Living History Day on Saturday, April 5, 2007 and learn how food was grown and prepared in the 1800's, prior to supermarkets and cafes. Seed packets of our state flower, the California Poppy, will be given away to the first 200 visitors, courtesy of the Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West.

California has long been known as an agricultural capital. Vast fields of wheat, barley, alfalfa, tomatoes; rows of grape vines, corn, and strawberries; along with orchards and poppies can be seen as you travel the state.

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In Captain John Sutter's time, his Fort was the center of an agricultural empire in today's Sacramento Valley. Sutter had large herds of cattle, sheep and other livestock. His workers planted hundreds of acres of wheat, corn and even "millions of onions," according to Sutter. The pioneers who arrived from the east had to learn what would grow on their new farms and how to deal with California's different climate. Would the seeds they had brought grow here? How would they get water to their crops when there was no rain through the summer? Many turned to Sutter and other seasoned California hands for advice.

Sutter's Fort docents will bring the 1840s to life as they plan their spring gardens and discuss new crops. Long before the discovery of gold, Sutter and other immigrant farmers dreamed of golden fields of grain, rows of growing vegetables, and orchards full of fruit trees. Would their plans ever come to fruition?

Captain Sutter along with those immigrant families, carpenters, bakers, spinners, trappers, Mexican soldiers, and others housed in the protective walls of the fort, will bring early California's rich history alive. All characters and historical figures are portrayed by the Sutter's Fort State Historic Park Docents. Re-live the sights, smells and sounds of the past! Interested time-travelers can call Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, one of 278 California State Parks, at (916) 445-4422 for further event information or for information on joining the Living History Program as a volunteer docent.

Photo: Sutter's Fort SHP Living History Docents portray newly arrived immigrant buys seeds for spring planning from local purveyor .

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About Sutter's Fort State Historic Park

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the nonprofit Sacramento Historic Sites Association, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located in midtown Sacramento on L Street between 26th and 28th Streets, the Fort offers special events and living history programs throughout the year. Established in 1839 by Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Sutter's Fort was at the center of a flourishing agricultural empire named New Helvetia (New Switzerland.) This empire established Sacramento's earliest settlement and the first non-Indian settlement in California's Central Valley. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or visit www.parks.ca.gov and click on "Find a Park."

**For Special Events at the Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks
Visit www.parks.ca.gov**