



**Santa Barbara Trust
for Historic Preservation**
*El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens*

To preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Additional high resolution images available upon request

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Explore the Anza Trail with Presidio Pastimes Community Event and Lecture Series this Spring



Photo credit: National Park Service/D. Rickman

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – This May the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presents “Following the Anza Trail through Santa Barbara,” **a three-part spring event series focusing on the history of the Anza Trail**. Events include the **Presidio Pastimes living history day and a two-part lecture series**. Presidio Pastimes is on May 7 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. and the lectures are on May 12 and May 19 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Presidio Chapel (123 East Canon Perdido Street).

The series explores the expedition Juan Bautista de Anza led beginning in 1775 that brought over 240 people overland from Sonora, Mexico to establish a colony at the northern frontier of New Spain. Entire families undertook this journey, and many of them were of mixed racial heritage, including indigenous, European, and African. By leaving their homes to establish the Presidio of San Francisco, they would create a new society and change the face of California forever.

Saturday, May 7: " Presidio Pastimes: Following the Anza Trail through Santa Barbara "

Join SBTHP for a fun-filled celebration of our Santa Barbara heritage on Saturday, May 7 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. This free family day offers visitors of all ages a chance to step back in time and experience the culture and daily life of early Californians. Watch history come to life at El Presidio as you discover the Anza Trail and learn about early California food and music, archaeology, textiles, pottery, and adobe brick making. Museum admission is free on this day as the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation celebrates and shares Santa Barbara's distinct heritage.



Photo credit: National Park Service/D. Rickman

Thursday, May 12: Lecture: "Caste, Race, and Class in Spanish California"

Independent scholar Vladimir Guerrero's presentation will discuss the concepts of caste, race and class among the Anza settlers and the population of Alta California at the end of the eighteenth century based on the usage of racial terminology in contemporary frontier documents. Conclusions will be drawn from how terms such as *español* (Spanish) and *gente de razón* (people of reason) are applied by individuals of different racial and social background to self and to others. The analysis will reveal the high degree of racial miscegenation and social equality existing within the settler community. It will also show the clear caste and class differences this Hispanic group established between its own mixed race society and that of the local indigenous groups.

Vladimir Guerrero, PhD is an independent scholar interested in the history of Spain in the American Southwest and the Spanish interaction with native tribes during the period. He earned a PhD in Spanish from the University of California, Davis in 1999. He is the author of *The Anza Trail and the Settling of California* (Heyday Books, Berkeley, 2006) a twenty-first century re-telling of the Anza Expeditions based on original manuscripts. In 2007 he received a Haynes Research stipend from the Historical Society of Southern California and in 2008 was awarded the Maynard J. Geiger Memorial Fellowship from the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library. During 2010 and 2011 two of his articles appeared in the *Southern California Quarterly*.

Thursday, May 19: Lecture: "Marching for the Empire: Children on the Second Anza Expedition"

Vanessa Crispin-Peralta, adjunct professor of history at Westmont College, will draw upon her doctoral dissertation "Children at the Edge of the Empire: A History of Childhood in Coastal California's Pueblos and Missions, 1750 – 1850," to explore the integral role that children played in the expansion of the Spanish Empire and the establishment of Californio culture. The Anza expedition is one of the most dramatic stories of early California's history, but it is most frequently told from the perspective of the men who led the party. How might

the story change if it were told from the perspective of the children who were also on that epic journey? This shift in perspective allows us to see the purpose behind the colonization effort in a much clearer way and it also allows us to explore the beginnings of the unique culture of Hispanic California. For the children on this expedition this was much more than a geographical move, it was also the start of a social move. The families that came on the expedition were in some ways able to shape the culture of early California and in doing so they were able to shed the racial identity that had determined their position within the rigid racial caste structure of colonial Mexico. The children were the major beneficiaries of this change because they had unparalleled access to land, which in many instances allowed them to become powerful members of society, regardless of their racial background. While this was not the intention behind the decision to send families to colonize, these children and their families left an indelible mark on the culture of California.

Vanessa Crispin-Peralta is a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Santa Barbara and an adjunct professor of history at Westmont College.

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CALENDAR LISTING

Presidio Pastimes: Following the Anza Trail through Santa Barbara

Date: Saturday, May 7

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

Cost: Free

History comes to life at the Presidio as SBTHP presents "Presidio Pastimes: Following the Anza Trail through Santa Barbara." Discover the Anza Trail and learn about early California food and music, archaeology, textiles, pottery, adobe brick-making, and more!

For more information: Visit www.sbthp.org or call (805) 965-0093

Lecture: "Caste, Race, and Class in Spanish California"

Date: Thursday, May 12

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

Cost: Free

Independent scholar Vladimir Guerrero, PhD is author of the book *The Anza Trail and the Settling of California*. Guerrero will discuss the concepts of caste, race and class among the Anza settlers and the population of Alta California at the end of the eighteenth century.

For more information: Visit www.sbthp.org or call (805) 965-0093

Lecture: "Marching for the Empire Presidio: Children on the Second Anza Expedition"

Date: Thursday, May 19

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

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For more information: Visit www.sbthp.org or call (805) 965-0093

ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) – Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) works *to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, Santa Barbara's 18th century birthplace, under a unique agreement with California State Parks. Recently purchased, the neighboring building that housed Jimmy's Oriental Gardens provides an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara's Asian American community in the Presidio neighborhood. SBTHP also owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra and his family. The restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. Recently SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills near the town of Solvang as a future California State Park. These are a few of the projects SBTHP is presently pursuing—learn more at www.sbthp.org.

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