



*The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter— Fall 2024*

# *October is Archaeology Month!*

Society for California Archaeology  
Considering Cultural Landscapes  
Archaeology Month - October 2024



“The image for this year’s [SCA] Archaeology Month Poster is based on a piece by Cara Romero. Ms. Romero is an enrolled member of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and a renowned photographer known for her work which examines indigenous life through a contemporary lens. This particular piece from 2019 entitled “Evolvers” is from the series “Jackrabbit, Cottontail & Spirits of the Desert” whose images according to Romero are a response to cultural landscape, development, environment, sacred sites, political landscape, infrastructure, race and class....These images feature four special time-traveling visitors from Chemehuevi who have come to the ancestral lands....to remind us of our deep connection to the land, the stories contained within it, and how we can live within it.” - Immediate Past President Brendon Greenaway.

To see more of Ms. Romero’s work, visit Cara Romero Photography [www.cararomero.com/home](http://www.cararomero.com/home)

*Current and past posters can be ordered at [www.scahome.org/store](http://www.scahome.org/store). Posters are free to SCA members.*

# SCAS Tours the Castro Adobe—June 27, 2024

by Mary Gerbic



The Castro Adobe, built in 1848-1849 for the Castro family of Rancho San Andrés, survived two major earthquakes and has had many owners over the years. Unlike most adobes in the area, the two-story adobe was constructed with redwood floors and an attached cocina.

Our tour was led by State Parks Interpretive Ranger Paul Karz, Volunteers Charlene Duval, Randall McClune, and John Gralton. We started our tour in the rear garden of the adobe. This garden is not how it would have looked when the Castro family was here. They probably had a chicken house, a hog pen, a vegetable garden and an area for “night soil”. Later occupants located a swimming pool here. In the 1970s, when the Potter family owned the house, they hired a landscape architect, Thomas Church, to design a garden. State Parks restored the garden as it was in the 1970s, interpreting the features left by all the owners over the years.



After passing through the first floor rooms, including a museum exhibits of cattle ranching (p. 4) and the sala, a gathering room and the heart of rancho life, we went upstairs to the fandango room. This was the center of the social life for the area. People would come from all around to dance, and often spend the night. Dancing was an important social activity for Californios.



Laid out on the bed in the attached bedroom, are original hand-made Regency era dancing shoes, a period print cotton dress with cartridge pleating, a hand sewing technique used to gather fabric with strong thread, a shawl and an original tall hair comb.

(Photos by Mary Gerbic)

The floor of the fandango room was “bouncy” which must have enhanced the dancing, but the floor is not considered safe for more than a few visitors at a time, and so it is now supported



by a steel beam running west to east, which can be seen in the ceilings of the ground floor rooms. Notice at left the thickness of the adobe walls at the windows.

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks have renovated the entire adobe, holding volunteer days to make adobe bricks to repair the walls. They have endeavored to find ceramics for their exhibits that match the ceramic fragments found during archaeological surveys at the property. Archaeologist

Tom Layton, who spoke to us in 2018 about his work in coastal Northern California and his book “The Voyage of the Frolic” in was very helpful with this. Californios were importing luxury goods from China, and due to his archaeological work, he was able to help Friends match patterns. You will see these items on display with their matching shards. Friends and California State Parks have also ensured that adobe was seismically retrofitted to help prevent catastrophic failure in case of another large earthquake, and installed a new roof and a fire



In this photo, volunteer docent John Gralton from San Juan Bautista, a master craftsman, stands next to a replica Californio saddle which he made. The saddle is built on a two part wooden frame, with a horn. The frame is split down the middle so that nothing rests on the horse’s spine. The saddle had to be strong to support the roping of large bulls and bears.

Notice at the top there is a steel beam in the ceiling which helps support the upper floor.



Here are several items showcasing Rancho activities. Besides the beautifully tooled saddle, and an image of a vaquero (often a local Indigenous person), the *raitas* are made of braided rawhide and the *mecates* of twisted horsehair, usually from the mane. They are still made and used today. The *mecate* was about 15-30 feet long, and attached to a lead at one end and to the borsal or hackamore noseband, or snaffle bit. Horses were gently trained to respond to the rider's weight and learned to trust their rider, who sometimes had to ride without hands while roping cattle, or sometimes, bear. Once roped, the lasso was wrapped around the saddle horn, to arrest the captured animal. Spurs were mostly for show, and had attached jingles.

A vaquero typically had a string of 6-10 horses, which were ridden in turn to allow them to rest. Horses were much like the Criollo horse of contemporary South America, small and sturdy with tough hooves not requiring shoes. Except for military horses ridden by the soldados, horses rarely had shoes. Both Californio men and women were excellent horse riders.

suppression system.

Earthquakes are a part of life for all Californians. In 1906, during the great San Francisco earthquake, the owner of the adobe (Mrs. Hansen) was so frightened by the quake, she refused to live in it any longer, and had a house built nearby. After this, the adobe became a barn. Later owners were very interested in the history of the adobe and renovated it. This activity started with the Holtzclaw family in the 1940s. The Potter family is responsible for the modern garden and trees, as well as the conversion of the room east of the sala into a kitchen. At that time, the wooden floor was probably removed and debris may have fallen under the floor. When State Parks decided to put in a “lift” for those who can’t climb the interior stairs, (also a post-Castro addition), they commissioned archaeological testing in the eastern room. Some of their findings are on display in this area. There are pieces of shoe leather, toys, plain flatware, old matches, ammunition, and pieces of ceramics which appear to have been chipped into gaming pieces, possibly by some of the women who worked here.

In the 1980s, Monterey native and UCSC graduate, Edna Kimbro, lead the Adobe Coalition to raise awareness for the School Street Adobe on Mission Hill in Santa Cruz. She acted as consultant for the project, which brought the much-modified adobe back into its original configuration. It is now part of Santa Cruz Mission SHP. In 1989, she trained in Italy as a specialist in adobe conservation, and later became a State Parks historian, researching local adobes.

In 1988 Edna and her husband, Joe Kimbro purchased the Castro Adobe from the Potters and moved in. Unfortunately, in October 1989, the Loma Prieta Earthquake caused serious damage to the adobe, making it uninhabitable. Edna and Joe then built a house on the adjoining property downhill from the adobe. In 2002, they sold the Castro Adobe and its one acre grounds to California State Parks. After Edna’s passing in 2005, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks acquired the Kimbro House and its 10 acres. It now houses the Kimbro Archives. There are plans to make the house the Visitor Center for the park as well.

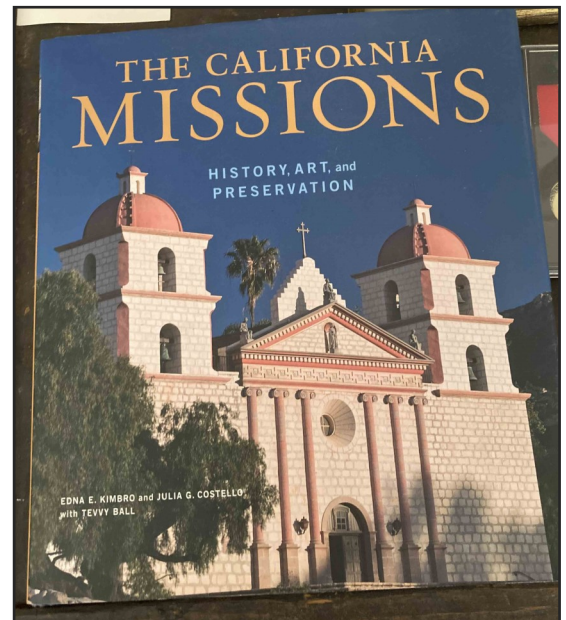


Inside the Kimbro House

Although the “archaeology” here is primarily post-contact, and there are no known Indigenous village sites, that does not mean that local Indigenous people weren’t here. At the rancho they were employed at the Rancho in many capacities, and undoubtedly brought their knowledge and skills with them. In Spanish days, Indigenous people were not allowed to ride horses, but at the Ranchos, life would have been difficult if not for Indigenous vaqueros (see photo page 4).

There is simply not enough room here to convey what we learned about the Castro Adobe and Kimbro Archives so this article has omitted many interesting facts. I recommend that anyone interested in local history take advantage of the public tours held every quarter.

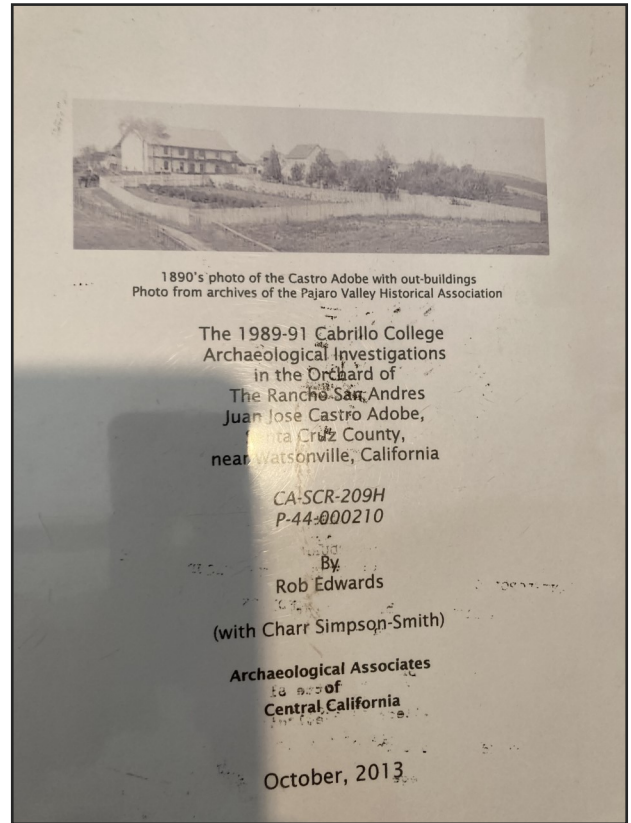
Ranger Paul and our docents were excellent and knowledgeable, and we were very fortunate to have Charlene Duval, volunteer and Kimbro Archive manager with us. Charlene arranged our one-off special tour and took us through the Archives. We enjoyed hearing from John who created a beautiful tooled leather replica of a Californio saddle and answered our questions about Rancho life, and Randall, who not only was raised next door in the Hansen House (Mrs. Hansen of the 1906 earthquake) but his great-grandfather was one of the former owners of the Castro Adobe. Randall told me that he is writing a book about his family and their ties to the Modocs of northeastern California as well as their local history. I’m looking forward to reading that book. The history here is many layered and deep. 🌸



Photos from the Kimbro Archives. This is part of the extensive book collection. Before she passed, Edna with Julia Costello, created this book on California Missions, published in 2009. At left are several books by Tom Layton, related to the *Frolic* and its backstory.



Ranger Paul Karz tells us how the “three burner” stove works. It is unusual to find a cocina attached to an adobe. The oven must have been located outdoors. This space was formerly used as a garage and a metal working studio. The stove outline was discovered during renovation of the cocina.



## More Resources

*Surveying the McClune Property: Connecting with an Old Adobe Hacienda.* Pat Paramoure  
[www.santacruzarchsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/SCAN\\_FALL\\_2015\\_Final.pdf](http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/SCAN_FALL_2015_Final.pdf)

Charlene Duval: *The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park—Through Edna’s Eyes*, March 17, 2016  
[www.santacruzarchsociety.org/charlene-duval-the-santa-cruz-mission-state-historic-park-through-ednas-eyes](http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/charlene-duval-the-santa-cruz-mission-state-historic-park-through-ednas-eyes)

*Community Archaeology at Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe.* Sarah Peelo and Danielle Dadiego.  
[www.santacruzarchsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/SCAN\\_Summer2017\\_Final.pdf](http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/SCAN_Summer2017_Final.pdf)

SCAS 2nd Annual Film Fest 10.18.18, including a viewing of “The Impact of the Frolic”  
[www.santacruzarchsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/SCAN\\_Winter2018.pdf](http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/SCAN_Winter2018.pdf)

<https://thatsmypark.org/visit/castro-adobe-project/>

<https://thatsmypark.org/visit/castro-adobe-project/edna-kimbrow-archives/>

*The California Missions: History, Art and Preservation (Conservation & Cultural Heritage)* First Edition by Edna Kimbro, Julia G. Costello and Tevvy Ball. (2009)

### Books by Thomas N. Layton:

*Voyage of the Frolic: New England Merchants and the Opium Trade* (Available from the Santa Cruz Public Library—*Californiana* section.)

*Gifts from the Celestial Kingdom: A Shipwrecked Cargo for Gold Rush California 1st Edition* (2002)

The “Other” Dixwells: Commerce and Conscience in an American Family (with Marianne Brokaw, and Rebecca Allen eds.) (2021)

# **Report: SCAS Board Meeting Minutes Summary – August and September, 2024 By Mary Gerbic, SCAS Secretary**

## **August Retreat 2024**

At the retreat, the usual agenda of topics was replaced by the following:

November Election for President and Secretary: We agreed that with an abbreviated ballot this year, we had time to return to our usual October election instead of November.

We are unable to find a person who would be willing to become SCAS's president. Several names were discussed. There is no prohibition in the by-laws for the tasks of President to be shared among the other Board members. That is what we agreed to do. The only prohibition is that no executive board member (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) could simultaneously hold two executive board positions.

SCAS's Relevance and Recruiting Issues: This topic is related to the problem above, but it is a more general problem as well. We are not the only avocational archaeological society in California that is having these problems—finding and retaining both board members and general membership. There is a recruiting problem overall in society, not just in archaeology. Santa Cruz (city and county) have become so unaffordable that young people are for the most part, unable to live here. Many who work here must drive long distances to their jobs. Other people who in past years would be considered “established”, are so busy trying to make ends meet, and raise families, they have little time to devote to volunteer work.

In the past, we had extensive involvement from Cabrillo and UCSC students. We still do, but they graduate and usually move away. So what can we do to maintain our Society?

Among the suggestions were:

- Keep inviting people. Be welcoming.
- Develop partnerships with local groups/agencies/tribes.
- What about having an informal board member who is liaison with a local tribe? This would be a non voting, committee level position, and could be held by one or more people at a time, or on an advisory basis so that we include tribal people from across the Monterey Bay region. (We plan to discuss and explore this idea further.)
- How to bridge a disconnect we seem to have between Board and regular membership. What do regular members want us to do to keep them more involved and appraised of activities? How can regular members make suggestions to the board? Regular members can attend Board meetings. Would some of our members like to be invited?

Technical Assistance for our hybrid General Meetings: Since we returned to in-person meetings, there have been some “hiccups” with our hybrid meeting model. Our Professional Advisor, Sarah, has been juggling the administration of the meeting, dealing with speakers and technical issues and other tasks. It is hard for her to both manage the Zoom aspect of the meeting and help the speaker get set up in the room. How can we streamline the process and bring sanity to the job?

- Split the tasks between two individuals.
- Ask speakers to bring their presentations on flash drives. If they want to use their own laptop, we request that it be a Microsoft OS computer, else they must have the necessary adapter and expertise to present from a Mac.
- Can we do without the Google RSVP form? “Zoom bombing” doesn't appear to be a thing anymore and the administrator can silence a person who is disrupting the meeting.
- We will arrange training for board members so that they can administer a meeting in Sarah's absence.

Define SCAS goals for the fiscal year: Financials were not discussed at this meeting. We discussed membership above, and ways we can raise our public profile, and partnerships with other organizations.



Current Board Job Descriptions: The executive board job descriptions in our by-laws are very generic. This year, we have had a couple challenges when board members were surprised by tasks they didn't know about. We agreed that all four of the executive board members would write up detailed job descriptions as they are performed today. Over time, some responsibilities have been added or changed. Some committee members have never had job descriptions. One has a flowchart showing how the process works, but it is extremely out of date. We think it would be helpful to all of the board members to go through this exercise, and it will not only help us with our jobs but smooth the way for new people coming onto the board.

News in the greater world of Archaeology: A couple board members noticed that there has been a change in the graduate archaeology program at Sonoma State University. The M. A. in Cultural Resource Management is now an M.S. program with two tracks. The name has been changed to "Cultural Heritage and Resources Management (CHRM)". The two tracks are Natural Sciences and Technology Program and Social Sciences and Interpretation Concentration. People who are considering going on after earning a bachelors degree might want to take a look at this refreshed program offering.

Who among us is attending the SCA Northern and Southern Data Sharing meetings in September and October? Possibly no one. The next SCA Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Burlingame, CA, March 13-16, 2025. We hope to have a presence at this meeting.

Next year, Windows 10 will be obsolete and soon after, the Newsletter Editor will have to decide what software to use for the newsletter. Microsoft has been very vague about what will replace MS Publisher, which she has been using, as it is an application she owns. She will be investigating the leading desktop publishing offerings. She wants a simple, intuitive tool with some new features, which could read former MS Publisher files, create .pdfs and has good templates. Good support for the tool is a plus. If possible, the new application would be open source or inexpensive. Our newsletter is not a complicated document, so advanced tools available in Adobe InDesign are not needed.

The Scotts Valley Display Project: We have been asked for a progress update. The Board has been on hiatus since June and little Society business has been conducted. Sarah, our SVDP chair, will be reviving the project by sending some "check in" mail to see where we are with the display. Then, we will get back to work. One of the sticking points has been getting the artifact casts colored and returned to us. Other tasks have moved forward.

## **September 2024**

Financial Notes: Kevin reported at the retreat that all financial tasks due in June were completed on time.

The ballots for the upcoming board election have been sent out and some have been received back. They are due by Oct 10, 2024, at the General Meeting.

Membership Report: We have had no new members this month. This may be a reporting anomaly. There were new members over the summer.

Members who have not paid dues since 2021 have been removed from the membership rolls. Branden is examining the member rolls for those who have not paid since 2022 now.

Adviser Updates: Sarah reported that the September meeting went smoothly. She eliminated the Google form was also able to concentrate on managing Zoom. The meeting room at the Resource Center for Non Violence (RCNV) was nearly standing room only thanks to a large showing by Dusty McKenzie's Cabrillo students.

Speakers and Website: Pat is still lining up more speakers for future meetings. Dusty McKenzie and Annamarie Guerrero are expected to speak in October. Kent Lightfoot of UC Berkeley will be with us in November. We have had some coordination problems with the RCMV but it appears they are mostly worked out now. Sarah will be training one of us to cover for her at meetings.

Outreach: The Castro Adobe visit went well. There was a good turnout of people, some of whom were friends of members. Attendees were able to visit the Kimbro House which now houses the Kimbro Archive for Friends of State Parks. This is an area not included on the public tours. There are photos of our visit on our website.

Scotts Valley Display Project: We do not have the artifact casts or molds yet. Ryan, one of our professional advisors

has volunteered to speak with the person Rob engaged to make and color the casts. Amanda Boesen, our exhibit specialist has sent us a mock up in .pdf form of what the exhibit looks like right now. We have completed all the interpretive text for the exhibit. Our carpenter has agreed to examine the exhibit doors to see why they are bowed. Progress!

Other Business:

- The membership fee discrepancies between our website and PayPal have been fixed and tested.
- The Board has been developing detailed job descriptions.
- We are investigating the possibility of an Indigenous advisor to SCAS. Kären has been in contact with a former advisor to get his input.
- Future aspirations include:
  - Developing partnerships with students, redesigning our outreach materials, having a table at Farmer's Markets, and other events, future purchase of some of Coyote Press's inventory for sale, presence at the next Society for California Archaeology conference in Burlingame next year, raise our public profile. Arrange to participate in work days and other collaborations with local tribes.



## ***2024—2025 Speaker Lineup***

We hold “hybrid” meetings: in-person and over Zoom (RSVP). In-person attendance is at the Resource Center For Nonviolence at 612 Ocean Street in Santa Cruz. For more information, and directions for how to RSVP for meetings, visit the SCAS website:

<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/calendar>

- Oct 10 Dusty McKenzie and Annamarie Guerrero
- Nov 14 Kent Lightfoot
- Dec 12 TBD
- Jan 9 TBD
- Feb 13 Samantha Schell—Pacific Legacy

## ***Archaeological Society Business***

### ***SCAS Officers and Contact Info***

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>President</b>	Kären Johansson (acting)	johansson.outrreach@gmail.com	831-247-3063
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*Mail completed application with dues to: SCAS Membership, P.O. Box 85, Soquel, CA 95073, or visit our website:  
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