

These comments were made at the August 2020 meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission. They were spoken by the DNG president, Steve Wright, after the Commissioners approved the CHL designation for the Site Of New Albion.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Commissioners and Ms. Polanco. I am Steve Wright, the 5th president of the Drake Navigators Guild, the group who submitted the nomination application for New Albion. I extend a special thanks to Mr. William Burg for shepherding this nomination through the process and Michael Von der Porten for his tireless preparation of the application. It is fun to imagine what Sir Francis Drake, the Coast Miwok, and the *Golden Hind* crew would think about us recognizing their 1579 encounter.

This is a really special moment for the Drake Navigators Guild, several who are second generation members. The work toward this designation began in 1949 when Matthew Dillingham, a US Navy vet living near Point Reyes began the improbable task of locating Francis Drake's careenage basin. Soon, a small group of men--including Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz--joined him, eventually located the site, and announced it in the 1950s. The research that began 71 years ago continues to this day. It has seen technology progress from surface supplied, copper-helmet diving in the 1950s to handheld, x-ray fluorescence testing in 2013.

We are especially grateful for the support of Point Reyes National Seashore's superintendent Cicely Muldoon and the Seashore staff. We hope to work together with them for a ceremony to recognize the site's California Landmark status. This will be an ideal opportunity to celebrate all who peacefully came together in 1579, namely

- the Coast Miwok and English
- the black community on behalf of the freed enslaved people who encamped with Drake at New Albion
- the Chinese community whose trade goods first reached California New Albion
- the Spanish and Portuguese people who were represented by pilot N. de Morena who stayed behind when Drake sailed and walked back to Mexico
- the Filipino people who are from where Drake's porcelains were shipped
- the Episcopalian church which recognizes its first church service in what would be the United States as held at New Albion

Again, many thanks. We look forward to perhaps seeing you where California land meets Drakes Bay for a celebration.