

Chinese WhispersSM Bay ChroniclesSM



Retracing the forgotten history of Chinese shrimp fishing around San Francisco Bay

A SAILING EXPEDITION AND
TRANSMEDIA ART INSTALLATION



Chinese shrimping junk in San Francisco Bay, 1888
(Telegraph Hill in the background)

SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK | NPS



The Grace Quan, replica 19th century
Chinese shrimping junk

KALW.ORG | JULIE CAINE



*Village of Chinese Camp,
fishers, Pt. San Bruno,
San Francisco Bay -
About 1889*

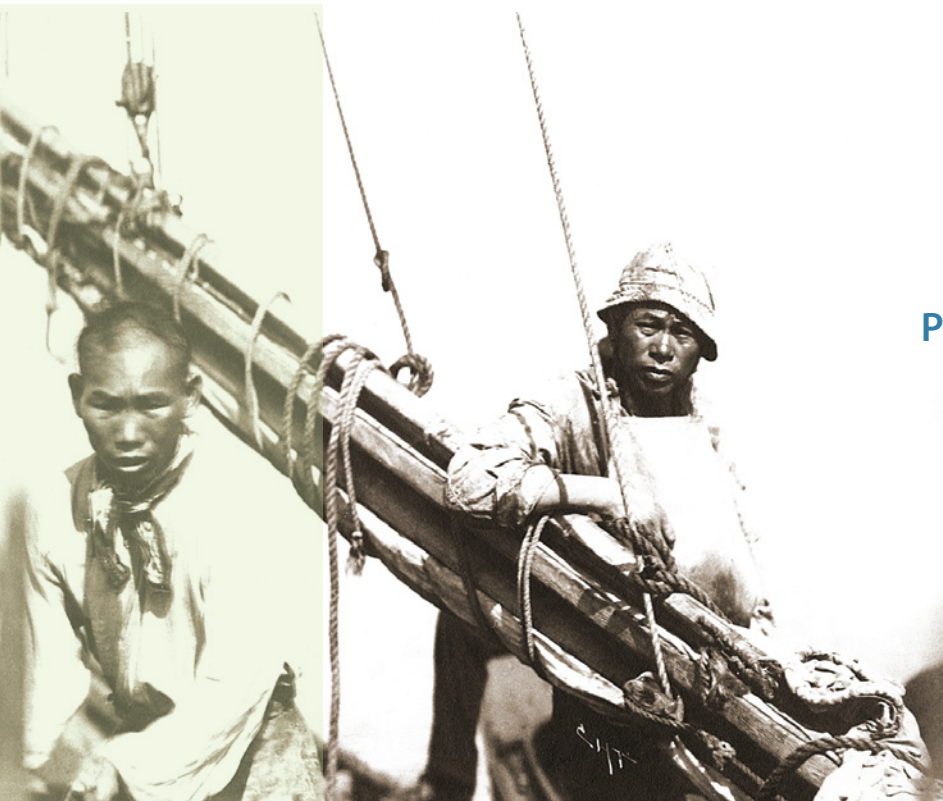
Village of Chinese shrimp fishermen,
Pt. San Bruno,
San Francisco Bay. About 1889

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

THE PROJECT

Chinese Whispers: Bay ChroniclesSM retraces the history of Chinese shrimp fishing in San Francisco Bay through sailings on the *Grace Quan*, an authentic 43-foot replica of a 19th century Chinese shrimp junk, to former Chinese shrimp fishing sites in the Bay. The captain of the boat will be John C. Muir, archaeologist and Curator of Small Craft at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, who led the building of the *Grace Quan*. Together with Chinese WhispersSM Director Rene Yung, an interdisciplinary team of visual, sound, and media artists will chronicle the journeys on the *Grace Quan*, along with environmental scientists from the San Francisco Estuary Institute.

Along the sailing route, landside public programs will connect local sites to the overall history. The project will culminate in a transmedia art installation in 2015 at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.



Chinese Whispers: Bay ChroniclesSM is a collaboration between Chinese WhispersSM and the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park that explores the history of Chinese shrimping activities as a vehicle to retrace an overlooked and important segment of the Bay Area's maritime history.

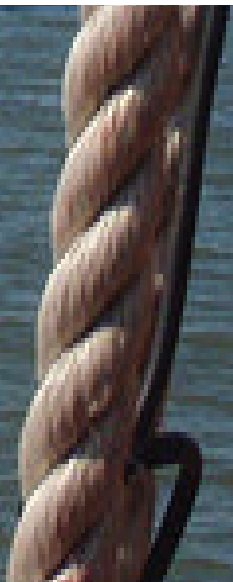
PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Place-based public programming at selected landing sites will reflect local history, community, and environment. Together, the different programs will convey a larger sense of history about Chinese shrimp fishing in San Francisco Bay and how it relates to changes in today's Bay environment. The programs will be thoughtful and accessible, and include facilitated dialogues that engage members of the audience.



FROM THE BEGINNINGS OF SAN FRANCISCO'S URBAN GROWTH, Chinese immigrants established fishing and shrimping villages around the Bay, including San Francisco's Hunters Point, Point San Pedro in Marin County, Point Molate in Richmond and Redwood City. To understand this history of the Chinese immigrants who settled in the Bay Area during the 19th century is to understand a history of obscuring and erasure from national memory, of both the contributions by the Chinese and the oppression they endured. Bay Chronicles creates an ecology of interconnected parts that resuscitates memory from social amnesia, to honor the forgotten Chinese shrimp fishing community and highlight San Francisco's maritime history.

REAL HISTORY. IN REAL TIME.



THE ITINERARY

The sailings connect sites in San Francisco, and the North, East, and South Bay. Each segment of the voyage is represented by a Hexagram from the *I-Ching, The Book of Changes*.

Approaching 臨 {lin}: China Camp to Richmond September 5–6, 2014 (Fri–Sat)

Sept 5 – Sail from China Camp to Richmond

Sept 6 – Kick-off event at Ford Point, Richmond

- Family-friendly public tour of the *Grace Quan*
- Public program at Craneway Conference Center
(In partnership with Craneway Pavilion, Richmond Museum of History, Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park, and San Francisco Estuary Institute)
 - Sounds and sights from the first day's sail!
 - Expert presentations including:
 - Building of the *Grace Quan* using comparative historical photographs
 - Chinese shrimping history in Richmond
 - Changes in Bay edgelands ecology as a parallel to Chinese shrimping history

Grouping 比 {bi}: Richmond to Redwood City September 7–11, 2014 (Sun–Thurs)

Sept 7 – Sail from Richmond to Redwood City

Sept 8 – Scouting through historical South Bay sloughs

Returning to Center 中孚 {zhong fu}: Redwood City to China Camp September 12–14, 2014 (Fri - Sun)

Sept 12 – Sail from Redwood City to Oyster Point via Point San Bruno

Sept 13 – Sail from Oyster Point to Hunters Point, San Francisco

- Public program at Heron's Head Park, Hunters Point
 - *Grace Quan* sailing demonstration offshore
 - Public program at EcoCenter
(In partnership with Aquarium of the Bay/Bay Institute, EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park, and the Bayview Historical Society)
 - Sail from Hunters Point to Hyde Street Pier

Sept 14 – Sail from Hyde Street Pier to China Camp

- Public celebration at China Camp Village on completing journey
 - Temporary sound installation of recordings from sailings
 - "Walking Time, Waking Place," audience participatory art intervention honoring the history of China Camp
 - Beachside ShrimpFest tastings and historical small craft displays
(In partnership with Friends of China Camp)



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1897 there were 26 Chinese shrimp camps on San Francisco Bay, but now only the vestiges of but one, China Camp in Marin County, remains.

In 1892 the shrimp fishery catch in San Francisco Bay was 5,310,075 pounds, at a value of \$241,163, and 976,400 pounds of dried shrimp was exported to China.

PARTNERS & PRESENTERS

Chinese WhispersSM is a cultural resiliency organization dedicated to bringing to light the overlooked history of the Chinese who helped build the railroads, mines, and settlements of the American West, through research and cross-platform cultural productions that include site-specific community storytelling events, and innovative public engagement programming for intercultural and intergenerational audiences.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, includes a fleet of historic ships, a Maritime Museum and Visitor Center, the Aquatic Park Historic District, and a maritime library. The *Grace Quan* is a 43-foot replica of a San Francisco Bay Chinese shrimp fishing junk. The park offers both regular programs and special events.

San Francisco Estuary Institute is a science-based organization that assesses of the environmental health of the San Francisco Estuary and its watersheds. SFEI's Resilient Landscapes program synthesizes diverse historical records to learn how habitats were distributed and ecological functions were maintained within the native California landscape.

The **Richmond Museum of History** promotes and encourages the study and research of the city's history (including the greater Richmond area) and disseminates that history. The Museum collects, preserves and displays historical materials and artifacts of significance to Richmond, and marks, preserves, and maintains places of historical interest.

Craneway Pavilion in Richmond is a state-of-the-art as well as historic, 45,000 square foot facility set on 25 waterfront acres. It is in an award-winning, architecturally significant Ford Assembly Plant building dating back to 1931. In combination with its adjoining 20,000 square-foot open-air patio, it seamlessly blends indoor and outdoor spaces.

The **Bay View Historical Society** encourages a sense of community by conserving, celebrating and sharing Bay View's rich heritage. Bay View Historical Society serves as a portal to, and archive for, celebrating Bay View's history and promise for the future.

Aquarium of the Bay is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, restoring, and inspiring the conservation of San Francisco Bay and its watershed, from the Sierra to the sea. Aquarium of the Bay is home to over 20,000 marine animals, including sharks, bat rays, anchovies, river otters, and more

EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park is operated and managed by Aquarium of the Bay, in collaboration with City College of San Francisco, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, and the Port of San Francisco. The EcoCenter offers opportunities for visitors to explore natural habitats and learn about environmental education.



Friends of China Camp is committed to helping the California Department of Parks and Recreation protect, interpret, preserve and develop public use, appreciation and enjoyment of the cultural history, natural history and aesthetic value of China Camp State Park.



CONTACT US

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