

## Santa Barbara Maritime Museum Presents A Deeper Dive Lecture on Richard Henry Dana and Santa Barbara

Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm

**Santa Barbara, CA, June 14, 2021** – The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBMM) presents the lecture “Hawaiians, Catholics, and the Town with a Bay in Front and an Amphitheater of Hills Behind: The Education of Richard Henry Dana Jr. in Santa Barbara,” given by Professor Rick Kennedy of Point Loma Nazarene University. This Zoom webinar will take place on Thursday, July 15 at 7pm PDT. The webinar is free, but registration is required, and donations are welcome. Register at: <https://sbmm.org/santa-barbara-event/the-education-of-richard-henry-dana-jr/>

This event is generously sponsored by Marie L. Morrisroe.

“More than any other port mentioned in Richard Henry Dana’s *Two Years Before the Mast*, Santa Barbara opened the author to a wider world than he had ever imagined and to more diverse populations than he knew in Boston,” said Professor Kennedy. “This informative lecture will give listeners a glimpse into a past of sailing, hide-gathering, what Santa Barbara was like in 1835-1836, who lived here then, who Dana crewed and worked with, and how his voyage and visit to Santa Barbara changed him.”



### About Richard Henry Dana, Jr. and his visit to Santa Barbara

As many of the children and parents who have participated in SBMM’s *Spirit of Dana Point* Tall Ship program know, Richard Henry Dana was a Massachusetts-born writer and lawyer, who was descended from America’s earliest settlers, and who championed the powerless in society, including seamen, fugitive slaves, and freedmen. According to Professor Kennedy, “The classic book, *Two Years Before the Mast*, is his coming-of-age story.”

Having contracted measles during his junior year at Harvard, which affected his eyesight, the then eighteen-year-old Dana signed aboard a hide-and-tallow ship, the brig *Pilgrim*, bound for California, as a common seaman for a two-year term, and sailed into Santa Barbara in 1835 when it was the central port of the coast. He arrived having grown up in a household picking sides between Trinitarian evangelicals and Unitarians during one of the Great Awakenings in America. SBMM Executive Director Greg Gorga said, “I’m excited about taking a deeper dive

into the stories behind Dana's voyage and book and learning more from Kennedy about the author that we can incorporate into the Tall Ship Program."



### **About the Speaker: Professor Rick Kennedy**

Born in Salinas, Rick Kennedy found a wife (1979) and education in Santa Barbara: BA (1980), MA (1983), and Ph.D. (1987). He was a Teaching Assistant for Richard Oglesby's California history class and earned his Ph.D. under Harold Kirker, who introduced him to historic preservation in Santa Barbara. As a professor of history at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, Dr. Kennedy teaches California History.

Between 2003 and 2017 he taught a summer school sailing course in California history, in which he and students sailed up the coast and through the islands reading *Two Years Before the Mast*. Every summer, Kennedy would also lead a walking tour of Santa Barbara, leaving the docks early in the morning and returning late in the afternoon. The author of books and articles involving both California and New England, Kennedy recently published "Richard Henry Dana, Jr., Evangelical Consciousness, and the Colony of Hawaiians in San Diego," in *California Dreaming: Society and Culture in the Golden State* (2017).

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Since 2000, the [Santa Barbara Maritime Museum](#) has featured many artifacts and stories to share the history of the Santa Barbara Channel with more than 40,000 visitors annually and provides year-round experiential maritime history and marine science education for local youth. Featuring the impressive *First-Order Fresnel Lighthouse Lens* from Point Conception, SBMM's current exhibits explore *the History of Oil in Santa Barbara Channel & Chumash Use of Asphaltum*, the *Honda Disaster*, and *Wives and Daughters: Keepers of the Light*, and *Heritage, Craft & Evolution: Surfboard Design 1885-1959*.

SBMM is located at the historic Santa Barbara Harbor at 113 Harbor Way, Suite 190, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. Visit [sbmm.org](http://sbmm.org) or call (805) 962-8404 for details.