

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE INVESTIGATOR OF DRAKE'S CALIFORNIA LANDING SITE



Duane Van Dieman, 66, is a Marin County native and local historian. He has been devoted to the discovery of Drake's true California landing place for many years. Duane has also given lectures and directed film archive studies on Marin's historic Mt Tamalpais and Muir Woods Scenic Railway (1896-1929) and was a staff member at the Mill Valley History Room for five years. The considerable collected evidence relating to his probable discovery of Francis Drake's true California landing site in southern Marin County has generated much interest and enthusiasm from established Drake historians and scholars, both here in California and in England.

The author of the book "Sir Francis Drake", John Suden, considered by many to be England's top Drake authority, had this to say about the discovery:

"I had a look at the (evidence) DVD. It is very clear, well-argued and informative, and studiously avoids the sensation-seeking quality you so often find on subjects such as this. I haven't had time to go into all the detail, but I found it very impressive. Your projected landing site is certainly well worthy of further study and investigation. You have tackled a hugely important historical subject and made a credible case, and I will look forward to hearing about any future developments."

Also worth noting is that John Francis, Vice President of the National Geographic Society, was impressed enough by the evidence to offer the assistance of one of their top archaeologists.

Through this clear and compelling evidence, Duane and his investigative team, The Drake Company of California, have received permission to conduct several deep excavations at the site from both private land owners, through unanimous vote of a homeowners committee, and from the local park authorities. Although these professionally conducted excavations have, to date, only found decomposed iron, Duane has reason to believe that there still may be Drake-related metallic artifacts near the proposed careening site of "The Golden Hinde", most likely in the cove itself.

Worth mentioning is the fact that Duane has been a professional entertainer all his adult life. He is best known for his many years as bassist and singer with Marin-based Warner Bros recording artists, "The Tazmanian Devils" (who still perform on occasion) and has given many colorful interviews over the past 40 years.

Through his many years of studying the life and exploits of Sir Francis Drake, Duane has become well educated and always enjoys sharing his passion and knowledge on the subject. His greatest hope is to help to solve and complete the story of what has been called, "The great, great grandfather of all California mysteries" and to help bring the amazing connection of Marin and Elizabethan England to life for all to understand and enjoy.