

Coast Miwok "Historic Route" markers along SFD Blvd

While speaking at a county Zoom session about the name, "Sir Francis Drake Blvd.", I showed a mock-up of a Coast Miwok "Historic Route" road marker idea that could be placed in areas along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. On the "Drake Debate" page of my website, (sfdrakefoundation.org) you can see examples of what these road markers could look like. "The Coast Miwok Trail" and "The Old Miwok Trail" are possible titles for this ancient, cross-county Miwok trail route. It would wonderfully combine both Drake and the Coast Miwok people in historic recognition. The idea was approved of by everyone who spoke at the meeting after my presentation. I'd like to thank Danette Citti, who shared the idea of road markers, for suggesting the use of these brown, "Historic Route" signs.

It has generally been accepted that Drake, who was a very young man during his brief involvement with his cousin, John Hawkins,' slave trade, became a champion for the fair and just treatment of both Blacks and Indigenous people as a mature man. The recent Drake debate has been mostly about inclusion of the Coast Miwok people, whom Drake closely befriended. Both Drake and the ship's chaplain, Francis Fletcher, wrote much about these native people in their published journals.

As a Drake researcher, I would like to point out that Drake and Fletcher's published journals go into their observations of these wonderful native people during their five week stay (in 1579) more than any other subject during their (nearly) 3-year journey of circumnavigation and are very respectful and informative. Keeping the name "Sir Francis Drake Blvd." and adding several of these "Historic Route" signs would be appropriate and would greatly add to the recognition of the native Coast Miwok people, who are so essential to our local history.

~ Duane Van Dieman, Mill Valley

(Below are two suggestions for the title of these "Historic Route" roadside markers)

