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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

SIX-MONTH EXHIBITION HONORING 'FOUNDING MOTHER OF SAN FRANCISCO' JUANA BRIONES OPENS SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH

- ***Bilingual exhibition drawing international interest from historians, enthusiasts and followers of early California***
- ***A wall from the site of Juana Briones' 1850s Rancho la Purísima Concepción is featured in the exhibition, along with paintings, maps, documents and artifacts, that trace the challenges and accomplishments of Juana Briones***

WHAT: Media are invited to the opening celebration of *Juana Briones y Su California: Pionera, Fundadora, Curandera*, a six-month bilingual exhibition at the California Historical Society about the life and times of Juana Briones – pioneer, founder, healer – and considered by many to be the “founding mother of San Francisco.”

The exhibition focuses on the life and times of Juana Briones (1802–1889)— one of San Francisco’s first residents (when it was Yerba Buena) and one of the most important women in California in the mid-to-late 1800s. Her challenges and accomplishments will be told in an engaging narrative and through paintings, maps, documents, and artifacts.

Revealing the transformation of California under three flags—Spain, Mexico, and the United States—the exhibition presents a vision of Juana Briones as a woman adaptable and undaunted in her pursuits. Through her story, visitors will see how this multi-ethnic woman, mother, landowner, businesswoman, healer, and humanitarian influenced California’s history on a wide-ranging yet distinctively human scale. The exhibition will also trace the decades-long effort at the close of the twentieth century to oppose the destruction of the Juana Briones home site in Santa Clara County, demolished in 2011. A restored portion of that home is a prominent feature of the exhibition.

The exhibition, presented in partnership with Stanford University and the Bancroft Library, runs through June 8, 2014. Public hours are Tuesday – Sunday, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. There is a \$5 entry fee for adults; CHS members and children are free. The exhibition will also feature numerous events that will inspire and engage diverse audiences and admirers. For a list of upcoming events go to: www.californiahistoricalsociety.org.

WHO: Dr. Anthea Hartig, Executive Director California Historical Society
Professor Albert Camarillo, Stanford University, Curator of the exhibition
Gil Sanchez, Architect, Adobe Restoration (oversaw the restoration project)

WHEN: **OPENING CELEBRATION: SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**
VIP Reception: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (1:30 p.m. program)

Public Open House: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (3:00 p.m. program)
This Sunday's Open House celebration is free to the public.

NOTE TO PLANNING EDITORS: Advance interviews available on Saturday and Sunday prior to opening by calling 415-963-2601.

WHERE: The California Historical Society
678 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA

VISUALS: Final preparations, exhibition artifacts, including restored portion of the wall from Juana Briones' original 1850s Rancho la Purísima Concepción. **Interviews available in both English and Spanish.**

The California Historical Society is a 143-year-old, non-profit organization with a mission to inspire and empower people to make California's richly diverse past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives. We hold one of the top research collections on California history, which includes over 35,000 volumes of books and pamphlets, more than 4,000 manuscript collections, and about 500,000 photographs documenting California's social, cultural, economic, and political history and development, including some of the most cherished and valuable documents and images of California's past. For more information visit www.californiahistoricalsociety.org