

Phil Sexton Shorter Bio

Phil Sexton is a senior cultural and historic interpreter for California State Parks in Sacramento, and from 2009-2017, he was the Deputy Director of the California State Railroad Museum. Phil has also worked for USDA Forest Service on the Tahoe, Inyo and Sequoia National Forests and for the National Park Service at Redwood National Park. He is a life member of the National Association for Interpretation and is a certified NAI interpretive trainer and guide. He is a member of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and the National Council on Public History (NCPH.) He has a B.Sc. from Humboldt State University in California. He's a contributor to Stanford University's *Chinese Railroad Workers in America* project, and is the only non-PhD. Faculty member for the UC Davis History Project, *Teaching the Transcontinental Railroad*, which provides continuing education for teachers from around the country.

As an historian/cultural interpreter, he has spoken to groups interested in railroad and 19th century history of western expansion in many locations, including the Smithsonian Museum of American History, National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and the Oakland California Museum. He has a continuing relationship with the 1882 Foundation and other groups promoting Chinese-American history. He has also presented on various aspects of cultural interpretation and communication at NAI Conferences and workshops across the nation. In 2002, he received the Gifford Pinchot award for excellence in interpretation from USDA Forest Service, and in 2017 was named a Master Interpretive Manager by the National Association for Interpretation.

Phil works with film and documentary producers and authors to do research, validate facts, provide context and review scripts. He has worked with film and video producers in the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan and China, and been an interview subject in episodes of *Tough Trains*, *Great American Railway Journeys*, *Ten Things that Changed America* and *Journey to Promontory* on PBS. From 2012-2015, Phil consulted with the producers and writing staff of *Hell on Wheels*, which aired on the AMC network and currently streams on Netflix. He also consults with and provides training for museums and natural history centers who are interested in providing quality services to their visitors.

Phil lives in Auburn CA on a one acre farm called "Wise Acres."