



**The Mission Period (1769–1833)  
& the Spanish, Mexicans,  
& Indians in California**



# **The Mission Period (1769–1833) & the Spanish, Mexicans & Indians in California**



**Mission San Francisco de Asís,  
San Francisco, CA**

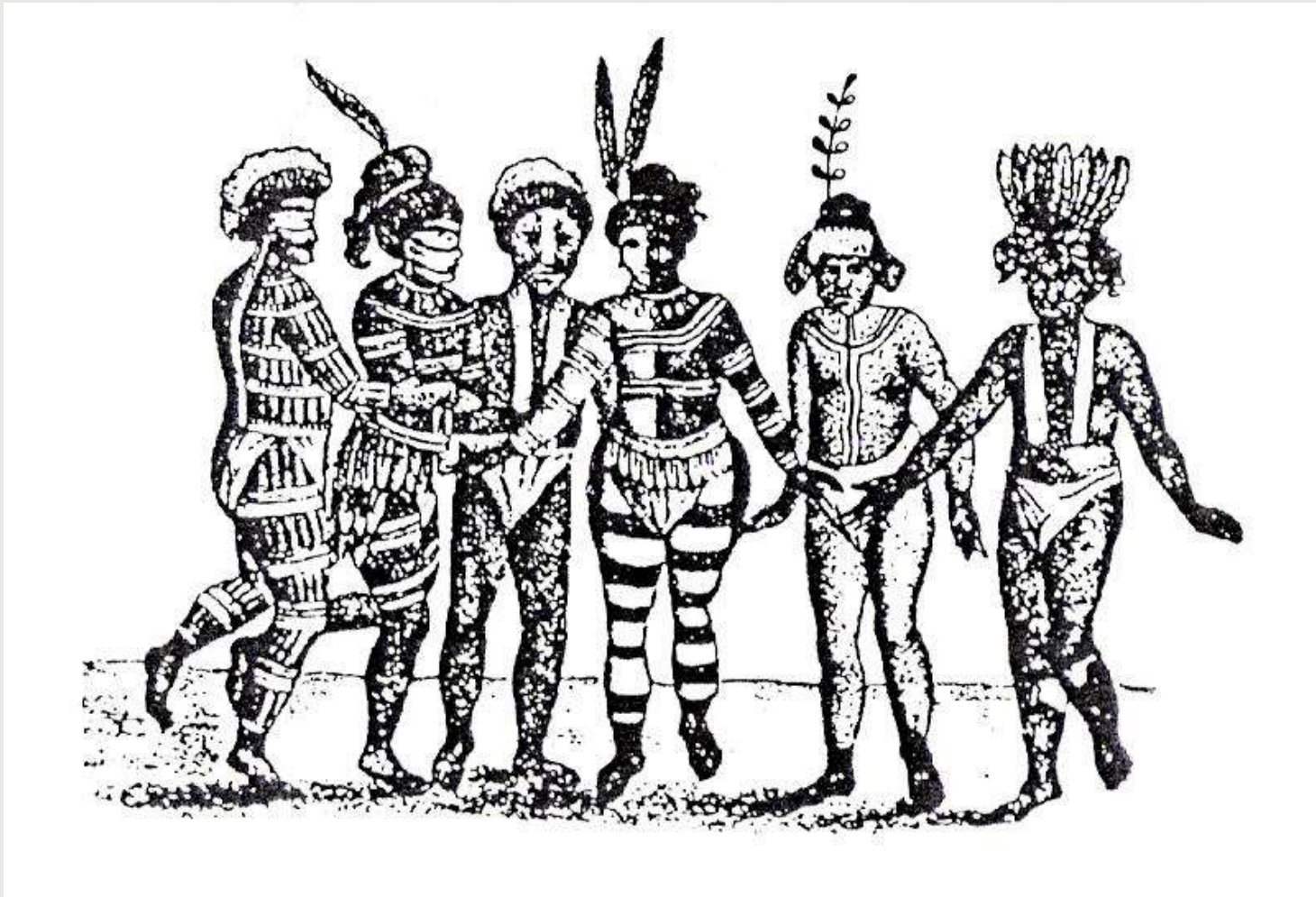


**Junípero Serra at age 61,  
ten years before his death.**



**The first recorded baptisms in Alta California were performed in “The Canyon of the Little Christians.”** Engelhardt 1922, p. 258 (From “Spanish Missions of California,” Wikipedia)





**Georg von Langsdorff, an early visitor to California, sketched a group of *Costeño* dancers at Mission San José in 1806. “The hair of these people is very coarse, thick, and stands erect; in some it is powdered with down feathers”, Langsdorff noted. “Their bodies are fantastically painted with charcoal dust, red clay, and chalk. The foremost dancer is ornamented all over with down feathers, which gives him a monkey-like appearance; the hindermost has had the whimsical idea of painting his body to imitate the uniform of a Spanish soldier, with his boots, stockings, breeches, and upper garments.” (From “Spanish Missions of California,” Wikipedia)**



**Foliage and acorns of *Quercus robur***  
(on Wikipedia.)



Many native cultures built cone-shaped huts (*wikiups*) made of willow branches covered with brush or mats made of tule leaves. The shelters were utilized primarily for sleeping or as refuge in cases of inclement weather. Europeans generally regarded such contrivances as “...evidence of the Indians’ inability to fashion more sophisticated structures.”

(From “California Mission Clash of Cultures,” Wikipedia.)





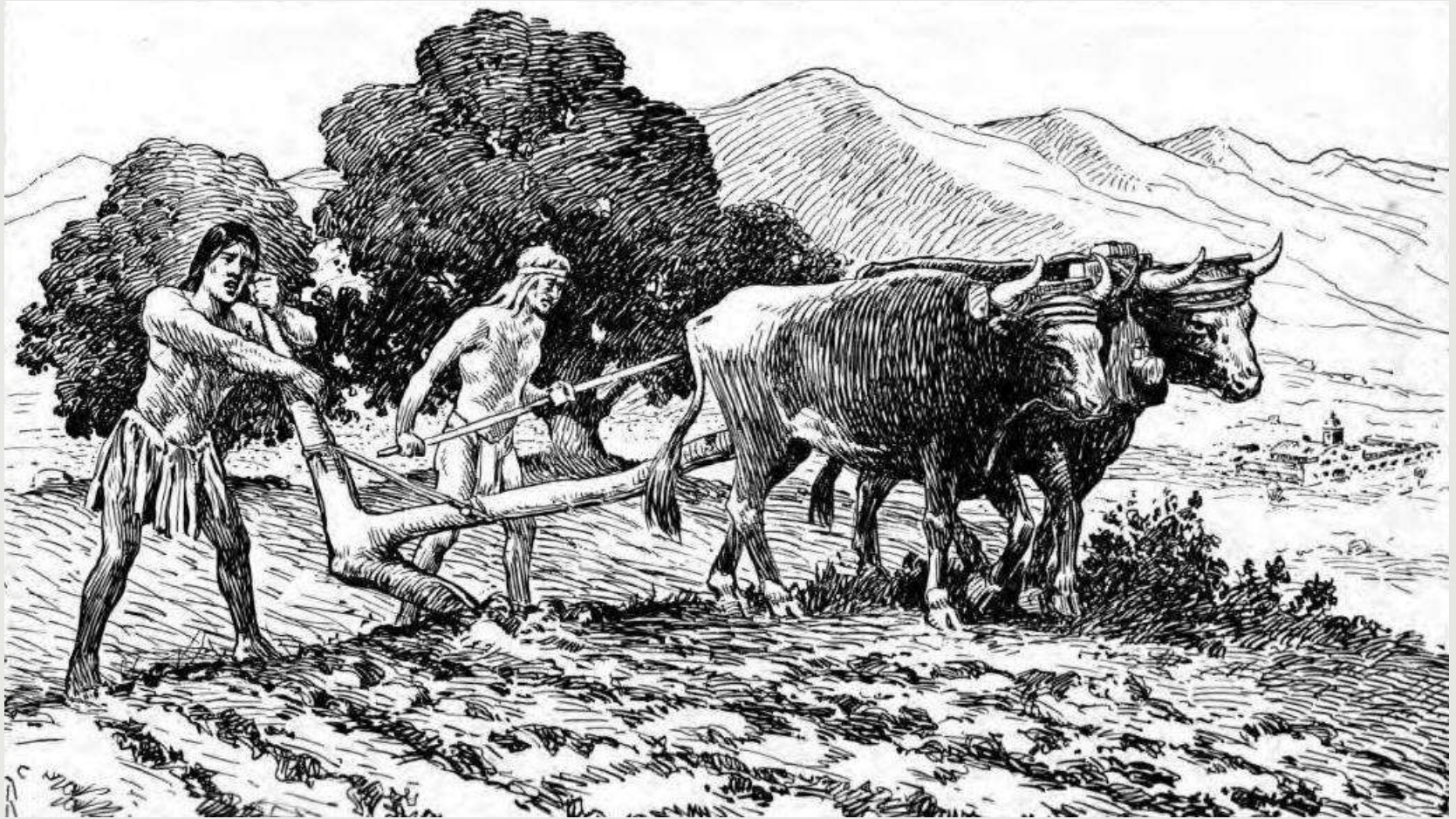
**Indian Dwelling at La Purisima Mission,**  
(on Flickr, Courtesy of PJM#1. Used with permission)



***Schoenoplectus acutus*, called **Tule****

Dyed and woven, tules are used to make baskets, bowls, mats, hats, clothing, duck decoys, and even boats by Native American groups. At least two tribes, the Wanapum and the Pomo People, constructed tule houses as recently as the 1950s and still do for special occasions. Bay Miwok, Coast Miwok, and Ohlone peoples used the tule in the manufacture of canoes or balsas, for transportation across the San Francisco Bay and using the marine and wetland resources. Northern groups of Chumash used the tule in the manufacture of canoes rather than the sewn-plank tomol usually used by Chumash and used them to gather marine harvests.” (From “*Schoenoplectus acutus*” on Wikipedia)





**Natives utilize a primitive plow to prepare a field for planting  
near Mission San Diego de Alcalá**

(From "Spanish Missions of California," Wikipedia)





**“The Missionaries as They Came and Went.** Franciscans of the California missions donned gray habits, in contrast to the brown that is typically worn today.”

(from “Spanish Missions of California,” Wikipedia)



**San Diego de Alcalá Mission**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Spanish mission founded July 1769 at San Diego**  
**Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p. 71**



**“The chapel façade of Mission San Diego de Alcalá  
as it appeared in 2008.”**

(from Wikipedia)



**Old Mission Dam, a major irrigation project of the early 19th century,  
supplied water to the Mission of San Diego de Alcalá.**

“A flume carried water about 5 miles from the dam to the mission grounds.”

(from the National Park Service web site, “Explorers and Settlers (Old Mission Dam (Padre Dam)).”



**2nd – San Carlos Borromeo Mission founded June 1770  
at Carmel, Monterey County; Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p83**



**The façade of the *capilla* (chapel) at  
Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo.**

(from Wikipedia)



**Cathedral of San Carlos Borromeo Façade  
completed in 1794**

by Darren Kruger on Flickr (Used with permission)



**3rd - San Antonio de Padua Mission founded in 1771  
Alta California (29 miles from King City, Monterey County);  
Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p101**



**View of the front of Mission San Antonio de Padua Mission,  
with a Stone Mill Wheel, Monterey County, CA**

(copyright Matthew Lee High on Flickr; used with  
permission under the creative commons license)



**The reconstructed Mission San Antonio de Padua as it appears today.**  
The baked brick Campanario is unique among the Missions.

(from Wikipedia)





**Fountain Mission San Antonio de Padua**

(from the 1950s restoration), by Darren Kruger on Flickr (Used with permission)



**Viewing the bottom of the water wheel at the mill outside  
Mission San Antonio de Padua, CA**

(copyright Matthew Lee High on Flickr; used with permission under the creative commons license)





**Another photo of the bottom of the water wheel at the grist mill outside  
Mission San Antonio de Padua, CA**

(by Homer-Dog on Flickr)  
(Used with Permission of Homer-Dog)/





**Cobblestone Foundations at Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA**

(copyright Matthew Lee High on Flickr; used with permission under the creative commons license)





**Cobblestone Foundations at Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA**

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**Cobblestone Foundations at Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA**

(copyright Matthew Lee High on Flickr; used with permission under the creative commons license)





**Indian Grinding Stones at Mission San Antonio de Padua,  
Monterey County, CA**

(copyright Lisa Paul, Left Coast Cowboys, Creative Commons license)





**Threshing Floor at Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA**

(copyright Matthew Lee High on Flickr; used with permission under the creative commons license)



**4<sup>th</sup> – San Gabriel Arcángel Mission founded in 1771  
at San Gabriel, Los Angeles County; Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p. 113**



**A view of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel in April, 2005**  
...to the left is the six-bell *campanario* ('bell wall') that was built after the original bell structure, located at the far end of the church, toppled during the Wrightwood Earthquake of 1812.

(from Wikipedia)



**Stone feature and mask at Mission San Gabriel Arcángel**

(by Caeruleus3, on Flickr, Used with permission)





**Stone feature and mask at Mission San Gabriel Arcángel**

(by Caeruleus3, on Flickr, Used with permission)

**5<sup>th</sup> – San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Mission founded  
at San Luis Obispo in 1772.<sup>2 p. 127</sup>**



**Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa *circa* 1909.**

(from Wikipedia)



**6<sup>th</sup> – San Francisco de Asís Mission founded in 1776  
at San Francisco today known as Mission Dolores;  
Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p. 139**



**San Francisco de Asís Mission founded in 1776 at San Francisco.**  
“The original adobe Mission structure is the smaller building (at left),  
while the larger structure is a (Mission Dolores) basilica completed in  
1918....” (on the right).

(from Wikipedia)

**7<sup>th</sup> – San Juan Capistrano Mission founded twice in 1875  
and again in 1776 at San Juan Capistrano, Orange County;  
Secularized 1833<sup>2</sup> p.153**



**A close-up view of the ruins of Mission San Juan Capistrano’s “Great Stone Church,” dubbed by architects the “American Acropolis”....“The most important and pretentious building of the whole Mission period...” was modeled after the Byzantine cathedrals scattered throughout Europe and Western Asia.”**

(from Wikipedia)





**“San Juan Capistrano Mission,”** by Sarah Kotlova on  
Flickr (Photo used with permission)

**8<sup>th</sup> – Santa Clara de Asís Mission founded in 1777  
at the Indian village of *So-co-is-u-ka* on the Guadalupe River, Santa Clara County;  
Secularized 1836<sup>2</sup> p. 167**



**Santa Clara de Asís Mission**

(from Wikipedia)





**Statue enclosed by Rock Wall at the Mission Santa Clara de Assis**

(by Robert English, on Flickr, Used with permission)/



**9<sup>th</sup> – San Buenaventura Mission founded in 1782  
at Ventura, Ventura County; Secularized in 1836<sup>2</sup> p. 177**



**San Buenaventura Mission**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)





**Portion of the remains of the aqueduct built by the Chumash Indians that provided water from San Antonio Creek to the San Buenaventura Mission.**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Reproduction of the fountain at San Buenaventura Mission**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)





**Metal-rimmed stone wheel**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



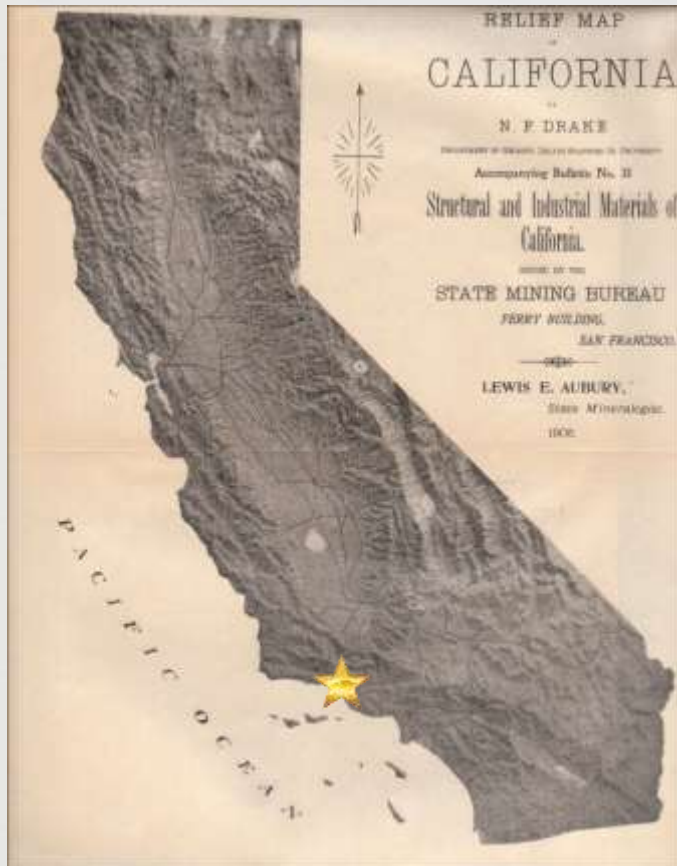
## **Mortars, pestles, metates, etc., at Mission San Buenaventura**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)

More photographs of the [San Buenaventura Mission](#) and grounds are available on our web site at: San Buenaventura Mission.



## 10<sup>th</sup> – Santa Barbara Mission founded in 1786 at Santa Barbara<sup>2</sup> p. 187



**The *capilla* (chapel) at Mission Santa Barbara**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Mission Santa Barbara's *lavandera* was constructed  
by the Chumash Indians around 1806**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)





**Santa Barbara Mission lavanderia viewed from the north end**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)





**Another View of Santa Barbara Mission lavandera viewed  
from the north end**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)





**Close-up of bear figure located at the north end of the Santa Barbara Mission Lavanderia (sandstone blocks can be seen lower-right hand corner in lavanderia wall of photo)**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Close up of Lion figure at the south end of the lavanderia at the Santa Barbara Mission**

(Photo by Pat Perazzo)



**Moorish fountain built in 1808 in the front of the Santa Barbara Mission**

(Photos by Peggy B. Perazzo)





**Sandstone Pillar**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Sandstone sundial**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Roman doorway decorated with 2 genuine skulls and crossbones embedded in mortar and one (under Moorish window) carved in stone**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Sandstone mausoleum & wall**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)





**Sandstone buttress and wall in the cemetery area of Santa Barbara Mission**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Close-up of sandstone wall**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)

**11<sup>th</sup> – La Purísima Concepción Mission founded in 1787  
at Lompoc, Santa Barbara County;  
Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p. 202**



**La Purisima Concepción Mission**

(from Wikipedia)





## **Grinding Stone at La Purisima Mission**

(on Flickr, Courtesy of PJM#1. Used with permission)/





## **Indian Dwelling at La Purisima Mission**

(on Flickr, Courtesy of PJM#1. Used with permission)





## **Stone Buttress at La Purisima Mission**

(by Jonathan K. Essl, on Flickr, Used with permission)



**Ditch Lined with Rocks at La Purisima Mission**

by John Schrantz, on Flickr (Used with permission)





**Stone & Brick Structure at La Purisima Mission**

by John Schrantz, on Flickr (Used with permission)

**12<sup>th</sup> – Santa Cruz Mission founded in 1791 at Santa Cruz;  
Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p. 219**



**“The reconstructed Mission Santa Cruz chapel”**

(from Wikipedia)





## **Stone Baptismal Font at Mission Santa Cruz**

(by Robert English, on Flickr, Used with Permission)

**13<sup>th</sup> – Nuestra Señora de la Soledad Mission founded in 1791  
3 miles south of Soledad, Monterey County;  
Secularized 1835<sup>2</sup> p. 224**



**Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad**

(from Wikipedia)

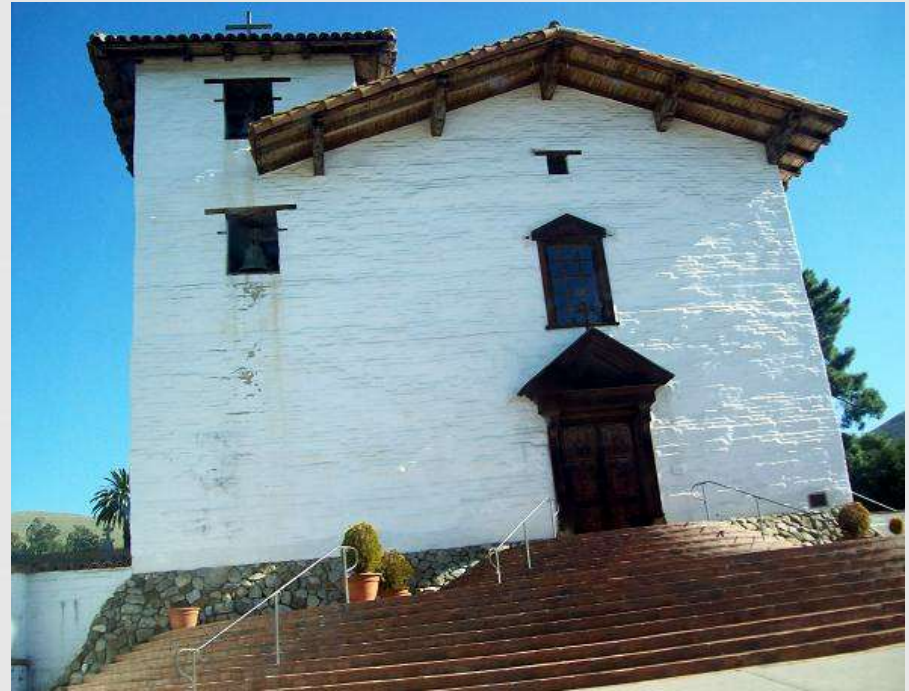




**Mortar & Pestle at Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad**

by Robin Kanouse, on Flickr (Used with permission)/

**14<sup>th</sup> – San José Mission founded 1797  
northeast of San Jose; Secularized 1834<sup>2</sup> p. 231**



**Mission San José**

(from Wikipedia)





**Another view of Rocks used at base  
of Adobe Butress at the San José Mission**

by Jonathan K. Essl, on Flickr (Used with permission)/



## **Fountain in Mission San José Garden**

by Jonathan K. Essl, on Flickr (Used with permission)/



**15<sup>th</sup> – San Juan Bautista Mission founded 1797  
at San Juan Bautista; Secularized 1835<sup>2</sup> p. 241**



**“A view of the restored Mission San Juan Bautista and its added three-bell *campanario* (“bell wall”) in 2010....”**

(from Wikipedia)



**Fountain & Front of Mission San Juan Bautista**

by Kaspar Bams, on Flickr (Used with permission)/





## **Rock Structure in the Garden of Mission San Juan Bautista**

by Anna Fox, on Flickr

(Used with permission, according to licensing rights on Flickr)/

**16<sup>th</sup> – San Miguel Arcángel Mission founded in 1797  
at San Miguel, San Luis Obispo County;  
Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p. 254**



**Front of Mission San Miguel Arcángel**

by TheMuseCalliope's, on Flickr  
(Used with the permission of "E. Collacott.")





**“The ‘Mission on the Highway’ *circa* 1910,”**

(from Wikipedia)



**Front of Mission San Miguel Arcángel**

by TheMuseCalliope's, on Flickr (Used with the permission of "E. Collacott.")





**Brick, Rock & Mortar Bell Tower at Mission San Miguel Arcángel,** by Danel W. Bachman, on Flickr (Used with permission)



**Bell Tower, San Miguel Arcangel Spanish Mission,** by Danel W. Bachman, Jan. 2010, on Flickr (Used with permission)



**Rock & Mortar Bell Tower at Mission San Miguel Arcángel**

by Robert English, on Flickr (Used with permission)



**17<sup>th</sup> – San Fernando Rey de España Mission founded in 1797  
northern Los Angeles, Los Angeles County;  
Secularized in 1834<sup>2</sup> p. 263**



**“Mission San Fernando Postcard, circa  
1900,”**

(on Wikipedia)



**An exterior view of the *Convento*, at Mission San Fernando**

(on Wikipedia)





## **Fountain at Mission San Fernando Rey de España**

by Tamera Godfrey-Pixton, on Flickr (Used with permission)





**Fountain at Mission San Fernando Rey de España**

by Tamera Godfrey-Pixton, on Flickr (Used with permission)



**18<sup>th</sup> – San Luis Rey de Francia Mission founded 1798**  
**East of Oceanside, San Diego County; Secularized 1833-34<sup>2</sup> p. 273**



**Mission San Luis Rey de Francia**

“Today, Mission San Luis Rey de Francia is well maintained. This Mission is architecturally distinctive due to the combination of Spanish Renaissance, Moorish—Mudéjar, and Spanish Colonial architecture styles.”

(on Wikipedia)



**Gargoyle Waterspout in the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia**

by Nicole McCleaf, on Flickr (Used with Permission)





**Gargoyle Waterspout in the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia**

by Nicole McCleaf, on Flickr (Used with Permission)





**Gargoyle Waterspout in the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia**

by Nicole McCleaf, on Flickr (Used with Permission)





## **Gargoyles Waterspout in the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia**

by Nicole McCleaf, on Flickr (Used with Permission)



**Grindstone & Mortars at Mission San Luis Rey de  
Francia, by Konrad Summers**

(copyright Konrad Summers; Used with permission, according to  
licensing rights on Flickr)





## **Grindstone & Mortars at Mission San Luis Rey de Francia**

by Just Chaos' / Jean

(copyright Jean; Used with permission, according to licensing rights on Flickr)



## **Part of the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Water System**

by Konrad Summers

(copyright Konrad Summers; Used with permission, according to licensing rights on Flickr)





**Water Feature at Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia**

by Nicole McCleaf, on Flickr (Used with Permission)

**19<sup>th</sup> – Santa Inés Mission founded at Solvang 1804  
Santa Barbara County' Secularized 1836<sup>2</sup> p. 286**



**Mission Santa Inés in 2005**

“The original bell structure (erected in 1817) collapsed in 1911 and was reconstructed out of reinforced concrete in 1948. The campanile has been compared by architectural historian Rexford Newcomb to the one that originally abutted the façade of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel.”

(on Wikipedia)





## **Olive Mill Wheel at Mission Santa Inés**

(photo date: 4-3-04)

## **Lavanderia at Mission Santa Inés**

(photo date 9-14-03)



(Photos by Kenneth Larson, used with permission)



**South side of west grist mill at  
Mission Santa Inés**

(photo date: 4-3-04)

**Two mills and mission beyond at  
Mission Santa Inés**

(photo date: 4-3-04)



(Photos by Kenneth Larson, used with permission)





**West grist mill south side corner – detail of rock wall.  
Mission Santa Inés**

(Photo by Kenneth Larson, used with permission)

**20<sup>th</sup> – San Rafael Arcángel Mission founded 1817  
at San Rafael, Marin County<sup>2</sup> p. 295**



**Mission San Rafael Arcángel**

by Raul, on Flickr (Used with permission)/



**21<sup>st</sup> – San Francisco Solano Mission founded 1823  
in Sonoma; Secularized 1834<sup>2</sup> p 301**



**Mission San Francisco Solano**

by Robert English (Used with permission)



**Mission San Francisco Solano *circa* 1910**

(on Wikipedia)





## **Mission San Francisco Solano**

by Peggy B. Perazzo, 6/2010