



Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, No. 2

AUTUMN 2023

The President's Message

Dear Friends,

The Friends recently received two very large donations, one from Robert and Angela Amarante, and the other from Terry Hicks and Megan Michael. Thank you very much for your generous donations!

In light of the size of these donations and our desire to assist the Mission with its historical preservation, restoration, and educational activities, the Board met recently to decide on some funding priorities. Among other things the Board wanted to support the improvement of the communication capabilities of the Mission, by purchasing internet satellite hardware. We have also decided to add our support for the required geophysical surveys in advance of vineyard restoration work at the Mission. See the article by Joan Steele regarding an update on Mission San Antonio including her vision for the development of a vineyard restoration.

We are also planning to construct *nichos* to highlight some of the historical structures that are no longer standing on the mission grounds. *Nichos* are traditional Hispanic displays which will include text and graphics showing what these historical structures looked like. These *nichos* will be used to supplement our walking tour brochure.

One thing we have been doing during the last couple of years has been to step up our support of Mission Days, which is the largest single day educational event at Mission San Antonio. See page 6 for some photos of Mission Days 2023.

Another funding activity we have been involved in has been the creation of a mural of Mission San Antonio in downtown King City. This mural is expected not only to help beautify the area but also to encourage interest in the Mission and its history.

Debbie Jewell, a landscape architect and FHSAM Director, has provided us with an article on changes to the landscape associated with the agricultural activities at the Mission.

Finally, John Grafton, another of our FHSAM Directors, has provided us with an interesting article in which he translates into English an interview of Estevan de la Torre by Thomas Savage in 1877. The interview sheds light on the abuse of the Native People via the secularization policies of the Mexican government.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. We are continuing to send out the newsletter in black and white print via mail, but we are also sending color digital versions by email. We are also posting a color version on our website at <https://www.fhsam.org/>.

FHSAM funding for a Mission San Antonio Mural in King City

By Karen Jernigan, FHSAM Board member

Sincerely,

A mural of Mission San Antonio de Padua is underway on North Second Street in King City across from the Hartnell College Campus. Student artists, led by Gloria Sanchez, began work in August and hope to finish later this year. Our Friends group helped sponsor the art work by purchasing two bricks that will have our Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission painted on them. Bricks are being sold for \$150 each and can be purchased by calling 831-240-1298. The non-profit group, King City In Bloom, is sponsoring this mural to add to others that have been beautifying the town.



The mural, work in progress on N. Second Street in King City.

Mission San Antonio Events

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES, 2023-24

Afternoon in the Garden	November 4, 2023, 3:00-6:00 pm
Christmas Eve Mass	December 24, 2023, 5:00 pm
Mission Days	April 6, 2024, 11:00am-3:00 pm
Mission Fiesta Mass	June 9, 2024, 10:30 am

Special Note: Part Two of Archaeological Evidence for Fishing at Mission Santa Clara de Asís, by Linda Hylkema, was originally scheduled to be published in this newsletter. However, it will now be published instead in the Spring 2024 edition.

Fall Harvest

By Joan Steele,
Mission Administrator and FHSAM Board Member

Shorter days and crisper nights . . . the change of seasons is upon us. The long, hot days of summer are waning and the time of harvest is once again here. We are prompted to review our summer achievements. What did we accomplish during those long hot summer days?

Here at the Mission, we did a LOT of clean up and maintenance! It takes an enormous amount of work to maintain a well-loved and cared-for Mission. Eighty-six acres in constant need of attention! We mowed acres and acres . . . we weeded (70 fifty-five-gallon barrels from the quadrangle garden alone) . . . we repaired plumbing and electrical . . . we pumped sewage . . . reworked gravel roads . . . replaced aging security cameras, etc. We took down the small building located to the southwest of the Mission; thereby removing an unsafe liability and providing access to a much more historic foundation, of the original mayordomo's house from the 1800's, located beneath. Future archeological work in this area will reveal the expanse of that significant structure, and aid in the accurate historic interpretation of the site.

By the time this copy reaches print, we will have completed installation of our Donor Tree in the mission garden. Max Randolph has expertly captured the essence of the *Valley of the Oaks* in his beautiful creation, honoring those individuals who donated \$5,000 or more to our Retrofit/Restoration project during the years of 2014 to 2021, honoring this beautiful valley, and the Salinan People upon whose homeland the Mission was founded.

So much has been accomplished! So many people came together to complete what some thought was impossible!

Now that the seismic retrofit, the restoration of two of our septic systems, and the building removal are complete, we are turning our attention to two other areas of the Mission property for restoration.

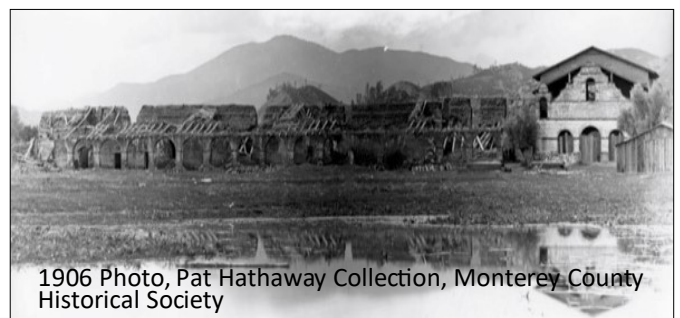
The first is an area located to the north of the Mission, commonly known as the *fiesta grounds*. This area sits adjacent to Mission Creek and has been home to the Mission's Annual Fiesta for the past 65+ years. The pavilion needs a new roof and the rest of the building needs a remodel. Plans to provide classroom space will make this area more conducive to educational groups and archeological field schools. The trees in the fiesta grounds require some much-needed attention. We

plan to address some civil work in this area to make the grounds more usable and accessible. In past years, this area has been used by Boy and Girl Scouts, Family 2 Family (foster care programs), Fifth-grade Science Camps, Diocesan Youth Day, Army Unit BBQs, and much more. This is a great space to demonstrate our *vision* for the future.

The second area where we are envisioning future community interaction potential is located in the southwest portion of our property . . . the location of the Mission's original vineyard. We are just getting started on the investigation and documentation of this historic area. It is our intention to have magnetic soil surveys and ground-penetrating radar surveys conducted to document the original planting and irrigation design of what may be the first vineyard on the central coast of California. Once again, this Mission is unique in that it still has this historic area available and undisturbed, enabling scanning and documentation. Since we still have original grape stock on site, when we are ready to replant portions of the vineyard, we will ensure maintenance of our historic integrity by using cuttings from these vines to repopulate the vineyard. This restoration project promises to be another multi-year project. It will involve multiple University *schools* (Archeological, Architectural, Agricultural, Viticultural, and Technological) . . . and numerous students for many, many years to come. They will be able to study here in this beautiful, natural, and historic setting.

As the seasons change and the sun sets earlier, we find that we need to turn on lights to see. We don't, however, light up the whole world around us, like daytime. We light up the things we want to focus on. As Fall approaches, and our work outside needs to conclude earlier in the day, we are reminded that we need to choose what to focus our light upon. The same applies to the Mission's future. We need to focus our light, our sight, on areas of restoration that will ensure that we remain vibrant and relevant to our greater community.

The mandated work of the seismic retrofit is complete. Now we turn our *vision* to our future. We set our sights on the work that needs to be done to enable us to offer valuable interactive experiences for future visitors and guests . . . our new *friends and future supporters!* Please continue to support our shared *vision!*



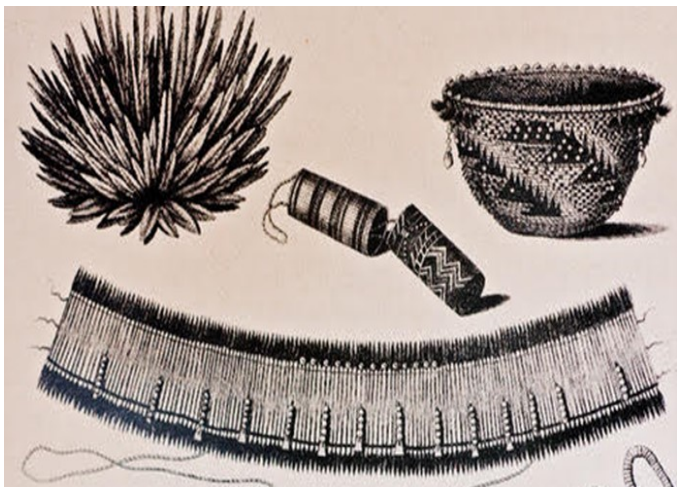
1906 Photo, Pat Hathaway Collection, Monterey County Historical Society

Changes to the Landscape by California Missions

By Debbie Jewell, FHSAM Board Member

California has been introduced to many layers of vegetation over time, but missionaries can be accredited with initial alterations to the states' flora. They introduced multiple species, implemented agricultural and irrigation techniques from Europe which thrived in our similar climate, and influenced our current farming methods and landscape design.

Before the Missions were settled, the local Salinan people lived in harmony with the land and they ate a variety of nuts, seeds, acorns, bulbs, and berries. Other plants were used for fiber, jewelry, basketry, and medicines. The Salinan people did not practice systematic agriculture, but they did utilize agricultural methods such as burning off the brush under the oak trees to expose the



Salinan Indian baskets and jewelry were created from plants and shells

acorns, growing edible plants near their villages, and storing food in above ground granaries woven from white willow for winter use.

When settling the Missions, Alta California was ideal due to the climate being very similar to Spain and the missionaries recognized importance of the Pacific Ocean on the climate. Father Junipero Serra carefully selected each Mission site, checking for a friendly population of native people, sources of water, and viable land for fields, vineyards, orchards, and grazing. The padres were familiar with farming arid lands and they were able to determine which plants would thrive in Alta California based on their past experience. The missionaries experimented to see what crops would succeed and their results created the agricultural heritage that is the basis of many of the edible plants grown in California today.

The open spaces surrounding the Missions gradually changed as the missionaries used the land's resources, terraced agricultural land, and introduced non-native plant species. Trees were cut down for construction and firewood and weed seeds were unknowingly brought in with deliveries which quickly spread out into the surrounding landscape areas and forever changed the ecology of coastal California. The missionaries also introduced sheep, cattle, and pigs which grazed selectively on the perennial native grasses, shrubs, and trees and created expanded areas of open grassland. This new grassland system became dominated by annual European grasses, which eventually caused issues with wildlife forage, wildfire, runoff, and erosion.

In 1774 there was a year of drought at Mission San Antonio and the missionaries began constructing an unlined irrigation ditch to water the wheat fields. The ditch was completed in 1778 and the Mission was then able to harvest wheat, corn, beans, and peas. In 1806 a water-powered gristmill was constructed to grind grain and in 1826 the Noria well and reservoir were completed to irrigate the outlying orchard and vineyard areas. The previous areas of native bunch grasses were replaced with fields of wheat and barley, and enclosed orchards and vineyards were developed with rows of fruit trees and grapes.



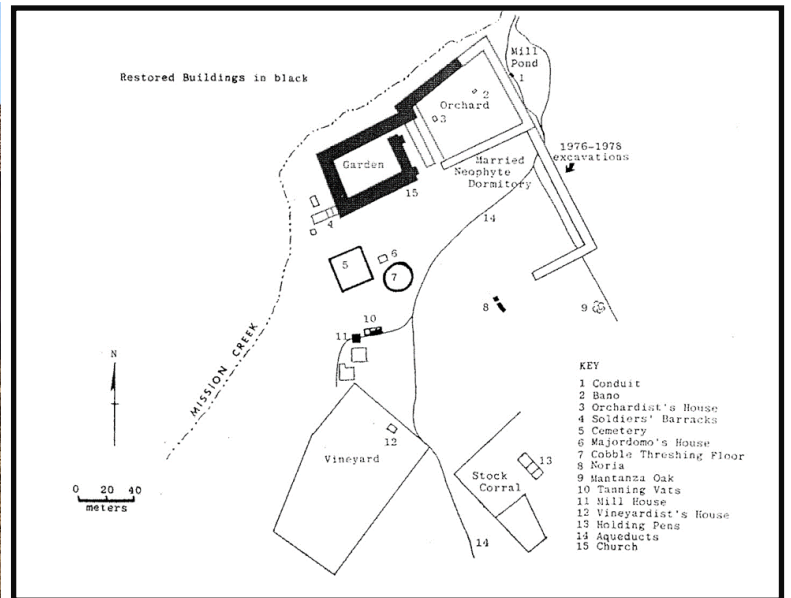
Photograph from La Hacienda looking south at the original the site of Mission agricultural fields



The original grape vine in the Mission quadrangle

The supply ship *San Antonio* was documented to bring grape vines from Mexico for planting at the California missions around 1778. Mission San Antonio's vineyard is one of the first planted in California and it eventually contained approximately 4,000 vines and 20 fruit trees. The vineyard was enclosed with an adobe wall to keep out deer and other animals. The Missions typically cultivated a species of wine grapes native to the Mediterranean region, *Vitis vinifera* variety '*Listan Prieto*', which were brought from Spain and became known in Alta California as "Mission Grapes" and are still cultivated commercially in the Canary Islands of Spain. Mission San Antonio has vines from an original grape stock in Mallorca, Spain which is thought to be one of the first planted on the West Coast of California.

The missionaries also introduced the first formal enclosed garden to California. A *huerta* (orchard) was located within an adobe wall east of the Mission, and it was approximately 12 acres in size and contained about 175 grape vines, 45



Map of Mission San Antonio (courtesy of Dr. Robert Hoover)

fruit trees, and beds for flowers, vegetables, beans and squash. The map above depicts the vineyard and orchard at Mission San Antonio. There were aqueducts and fields south of the current property boundary, and corn and other vegetables were grown in the *milpitas* ("little corn field") between the Grist Mill and the Mission Creek.

A tradition from the Mediterranean region, which dates back to ancient Rome, is to plant olive trees in association with grape vines. At Mission San Antonio there are olive trees which date back to the mission period.

The inner quadrangle of the Mission contained a sheltered location for a few ornamental and fruit trees, but it was used primarily for the storage of carts in the evening and a place for young unmarried men to sleep and work under the arcades. Following the dissolution of the Missions, the quadrangle was transformed into a kitchen garden for the padres. The central quadrangle at Mission San Antonio has been recently restored and contains native plants which were traditionally used by the Salinans.



The recently restored garden in the Mission San Antonio quadrangle

The missionaries introduced dozens of plants from Mexico, many of which had initially come from Spain. There is no surprise that they were primarily edible plants. Multiple ornamental plants were also grown, but most also had practical uses. Below is a summary of some of the trees and shrubs planted at Mission San Antonio:

SHRUBS

Alcea rosea, Hollyhocks (single)
Grapes (trained to bush form or grown against trees for support)
Vegetables and flowers (in square beds)
Beans and squash
Garlic, onion, cabbage, carrots, and beets
Herbs
Corn and wheat

TREES

Pomegranate trees
Olive trees (mission variety)
Pears (Pera de San Juan variety)
Citrus (oranges and/or lemons)
Cherries, quinces, apples, apricots
Pepper trees (mother tree still survives)

After the missions were secularized, the gardens fell into ruin, supplies stopped arriving and the economy shifted towards cattle ranching. Many Mission gardens in California are no longer existing, but Mission San Antonio is fortunate to still have their agricultural areas. The original vineyard and field areas remain and the views are unspoiled due to the Mission's remote location and protection within the military base. Mission San Antonio provides a unique opportunity to teach about a past Mission lifestyle and allows visitors to see the original farming areas and learn about their intricate irrigation design. We welcome you to visit Mission San Antonio and to also refer to our website at <https://www.fhsam.org/> for more information about the Mission, such as our recently completed brochures on native plants used by the Salinan Indians and the Mission San Antonio water system.



Mission water system & grist mill during a recent wet winter.

Eyewitness account of Secularization

By John Grafton, FHSAM Board Member

An interesting account, and opinion, of the California Missions can be found in "Reminiscencias de Estevan de la Torre" from the Bancroft Library. De la Torre was born in Monterey in 1812, and he was a first-hand witness of the California Missions when they were in full operation. He was interviewed by Bancroft worker Thomas Savage in 1877. The interview was done in Spanish and Savage took hand-written notes, and the following is my translation of some of what de la Torre expressed, and what Savage wrote down (quotation marks added to distinguish translated text):

"There is no doubt that that the Mission founders proposed in the beginning to not only Christianize Indians, but to instruct them in the arts of living so that they would be able to take care of themselves and become useful members of society. But be that as it may, the Indians never received more instruction than the necessary for the work that they were dedicated to. Never the Padres nor the Government insisted in making them able to manage themselves in the case of the Missions being secularized, according to the Royal orders, at 10 years from being founded. In the first place they did not follow the laws, because no mission was secularized in the time that they (the Royal Orders) prescribed. The Neophytes did not become as some big children with many vices, but they were useless for governing themselves or earning their subsistence (except in some rare cases) - This was clearly seen in the secularization of the San Carlos Mission, when Don Jose Joaquin Gomez was named Commissioner to effect this. This Senor had the Order to divide the property into 3 portions, one for the Indians, the other for the Government, and the third for Church worship. The Indians took their part of horses, sheep, cattle, and goats, grain, plus a plot of land for each individual, and two plots to those who had family of 3 or 4 children minors of age and above. It was prohibited to buy this property but everything went to false paperwork, and by the end of the year, more or less, the Indians had lost the resources which they had not eaten or drank. Little by little they were finished, or they dispersed, abandoning their land, and the Government therefor began to deed the land to "Gente de razon" in large ranches."

Editor's note: The above account is enlightening regarding the effects of secularization, by the Mexican government, on the Native People. Secularization was the mechanism by which the Mexican government took the land from the native tribes in coastal southern and central California, and why to this day most of these tribes have no dedicated reservations.

Mission Days at Mission San Antonio, April 15, 2023

Mission Days was held on a beautiful spring day and was well attended. Docents in historical costume portraying soldiers, artisans, vaqueros, musicians and dancers. Docents from La Purisima Mission near Lompoc provided demonstrations to the many children and adults who attended. The Mission was honored also by the attendance of the Salinan Tribe of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties, whose ancestors built the mission. Four large tours were given of the museum and mission grounds. Mission era food was served to 286 attendees, and the Friends sponsored free meals to the many docents who made the event possible.



Above are members of the Los Arribeños de San Francisco musical group from the Bay area, serenading in the Garden. Below are some members of the Los Californios musical, from the San Diego area, who played in the encampment area (old mission orchard).



Jim Aceves, with his horse Taza, reprised his role as Cisco Jim, the singing cowboy.



Babette Smith passed away in 2022 at her home in Lockwood. Babette was the chairperson of the Mission Days event for many years and she was a dedicated parishioner and volunteer at the Mission. Among her many tasks she maintained the garden in an always beautiful condition. Babette's ancestry included Californio settlers in the De Anza expedition of 1776. The Friends funded a plaque in remembrance of Babette, and the plaque was dedicated in the Garden for Mission Days 2023.

Many Thanks to Our Supporters!!

Fall 2022

Lindsey Alsaadir
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Bob and Christine Hoover
Norman and Patricia Hughes
Gary Smith and David Ligare
Tim and Phoebe Cheney
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Spring 2023

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Terry Hicks and Megan Michael
Angela and Robert Amarante
Kevin and Joan Steele
Fred and Carol Kenyon
Dominic and June Gregorio
John and Karen Jernigan
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Douglas Ferguson

Our newsletters will be going digital!

Please help FHSAM by updating your contact information

Please send your name, email address, and phone number to
Dominic Gregorio, FHSAM President at:

dgregorio112275@gmail.com

Or write to P.O. Box 603, Jolon, CA 93928

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BE A FHSAM "SUPPORTER."

The Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission is a non-profit organization.
No financial assistance is given to the Catholic Church.

- I am re-enrolling
- I am a new Supporter
- I am making a Special Donation

Name: _____

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I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation to enroll me as a "FHSAM Supporter."

\$15 (suggested minimum)

\$25

\$50

Other \$ _____

Send this form and your donation to: FHSAM/ Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission, PO Box 603, Jolon CA 93928

Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission, PO Box 603, Jolon CA 93928 <https://www.fhsam.org/>



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