



Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2024

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Connections between people, over time and over space, are an important part of the human experience. In this Spring issue we explore one such connection between the missions, the story of Toypurina. Toypurina was a Tongva rebellion leader at Mission San Gabriel, and has grown to be somewhat of a folk hero in southern California. After the rebellion was thwarted, her sentence was to be exiled from southern California to a mission in northern California. Initially this exile was to be at either San Antonio or Santa Clara. While she certainly passed through San Antonio, once she was sent north we lose track of her for a while. She likely landed at Carmel, where she eventually finds her way back into the record when she married a Spanish soldier, Manuel Montero. We know that she gave birth to children at San Luis Obispo and at Monterey. In 1797 Manuel and Toypurina brought their family to Mission San Juan Bautista, where she died in 1799. After her death it is likely that her children were sent to Mission Santa Clara, where they apparently stayed as adults. Her descendants still live in northern California to this day, so the human connections extend from 1785 to this day.

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/>.

Sincerely,

Dominic Gregorio



Photographer E. A. Cohen captured this east-side view of Mission San Antonio de Padua dated February 15, 1906. Note the deterioration of the building which was further damaged on April 18, 1906 during the San Francisco Earthquake. This image is from the Pat Hathaway Collection at the Monterey County Historical Association in Salinas. Mr. Hathaway had an amazing collection of historic photos of all 21 California missions.

Mission San Antonio Events

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES FOR 2024

Mission Days April 6, 2024, 11:00am-3:00 pm

Fiesta Mass, followed by bring your own picnic lunch June 9, 2024, 10:30 am

Afternoon/Evening in the Garden Nov. 2, 2024



This photo, labeled 1895 by Photographer Arnold, is among the many mission photos in the Pat Hathaway Collection at the Monterey County Historical Society in Salinas. It shows the front of Mission San Antonio de Padua at a time when the mission was deteriorating.

Our newsletters are now available digitally and on our website at <https://www.fhsam.org/>.

Please help FHSAM by updating your contact information, including your address, email address and phone number. You can receive the newsletter by email. Please let us know if you would like to get our newsletter by email.

You can mail your contact info to FHSAM, P.O. Box 603, Jolon, CA 93928, or you can email Ms. Debbie Jewell, FHSAM Secretary, at djewell461@gmail.com.

California Mission Walkers Conference Oct. 5, 2024

By Karen Jernigan, FHSAM board member

The California Mission Walk is a pilgrimage on foot between the twenty-one historic Spanish missions founded in California from 1769 to 1823. A growing number of people are walking this challenging 800-mile route that follows the historic El Camino Real through California. Over the past twelve years, a supportive community of over 2,500 people has grown around this walk and created the California Mission Walkers organization. This first conference gathers this community at picturesque Mission San Antonio de Padua to share their experiences, to encourage and help others to start their journey, to celebrate those who have walked the missions, and to further strengthen the bonds of this growing community.

The California Mission Walkers Annual Conference will be held at Mission San Antonio de Padua on Saturday, October 5, 2024. For information and tickets please contact californiamissionwalkers@gmail.com. More information about California Mission Walkers can be found on their website <https://missionwalk.org/> and on their Facebook page.



California Mission Walker Ambassador Pam Ray (left) took this photo documenting the event in October 2023 where a group of people walked between California missions. Organized by CMW Ambassador Jill Ballard, this group started at Mission San Antonio de Padua and spent a week traveling on foot to Soledad Mission and ended at Carmel Mission. Last year another group of Mission Walkers started at the mission in San Luis Obispo and visited Mission San Miguel and ended at Mission San Antonio.

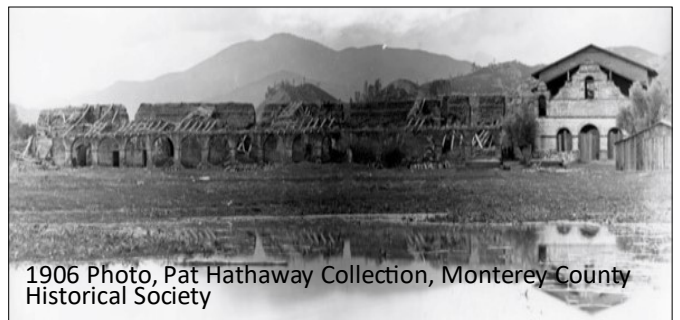
Mission Update

By Joan Steele, Mission San Antonio Administrator

Winter is still fully upon us, with lots of wind and heavy rain. Spring, however, waits, with barely restrained anticipation, on the horizon, to spread her warming breezes across the valleys, bringing with them the birth of a beautiful array of California wildflowers. Soon, Mother Nature will be painting the landscape with an extraordinary pallet



February 2024 Seasonal Wetland. Note the same seasonal wetland below in the 1906 photo.



1906 Photo, Pat Hathaway Collection, Monterey County Historical Society

of colors, as only she can.

While the construction portion of the Mission's retrofit project has been completed, the work of restoration, conservation, and preservation is ongoing.

Maintenance of adobe structures requires constant attention. Thus, the painter and plasterer are on-site at least bi-annually tending to areas that need repair. The grounds themselves, all eighty-six acres of them, require care; from trimming trees, cleaning out gutters and aqueducts, mowing, weeding, patching potholes, deadheading plants, etc. With a staff of only three full-time employees, there is never time to dally.

We are focusing on several maintenance projects at this time, including freshening the quadrangle garden, tree trimming, and plaster repair. When the weather is a little more *Spring-like*, we will move ahead with the ground surveys (including ground-penetrating radar) of the historic mayordomo's house area and the historic Mission vineyard. These scans are important to the historic documentation of the land usage at Mission San Antonio. The results of these scans will be shared at a later date.

In the meantime, you may wonder how we fill our days. Many

visitors to our Mission are amazed at how busy we are, especially since we are located twenty-six miles from the nearest freeway (Hwy 101) and are surrounded on all sides by an active military base (Fort Hunter Liggett) which serves as the Western Regional Training Facility for all branches of the Military.

Trust me, even though we don't have as many visitors as other Missions, like Mission Carmel and Mission La Purisima, we do enjoy meeting people from all over the world, those adventurous enough to brave leaving the hectic free-ways of life.

Visiting Mission San Antonio is a unique Mission experience, as the Mission still dwells in a setting that appears as if *time has forgotten it*. Snuggled firmly against the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountain range, the Mission appears as it would have over two hundred and fifty years ago. Many fourth-graders from schools all over the area (and all over California) visit the Mission each year in their quest to understand California's history.

Mission San Antonio was the first California Mission to be built without a presidio (fort). Fray Junipero Serra (now St. Serra) did not want a military presence at this Mission because he was experiencing so many problems with the Spanish soldiers mistreating the Native Peoples at the first two Mission sites. Ironically, we are now the ONLY California Mission completely surrounded by a Military Reservation! We consider this a blessing, though, as the Military and the Federal Police on base are very protective of us.

All of these factors contribute to our Mission Retreat Center being a very, very busy place! Open Wednesday through Saturday evenings for both individual and group retreats, our calendar remains super busy year-round. To reserve a room or the entire retreat center, please contact us at office@missionsanantonio.net. You will need to provide your full mailing address and a contact phone number to complete your reservation. We are a non-smoking facility and only certified guide dogs are allowed.

Mission Days at Mission San Antonio set for April 6, 2024!

Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 11am to 3pm, we celebrate our annual **Mission Days** event. Docents from four California Missions participate in this educational, interactive, festive family event. Cost is \$20/car for entrance. Delicious meals from Tacos La Potranca de Jalisco, water and soda are availa-

ble for purchase. If you are coming with a group, please let us know ahead of time so we can make sure we order enough food!

Members of Los Arribeños de San Francisco will be performing historical Californio music and dance from the Mission period. Many of our Consignment Artists (from the Gift Shop) will be here in person to offer their unique gift items for sale. As our internet access (needed for credit card transactions) is often unreliable, please bring cash. We do NOT have a ATM.

This year we are thrilled to welcome Access Adventure back to the event. Michael Muir, descendant of the naturalist, John Muir, will be here to showcase his non-profit's wonderful vocation of providing safe and assessable adventure for the mobility-challenged community. Music, dancing, crafts, demonstrations, docent tours and carriage rides all provide for a wonderful, wholesome, family-friendly event! Please join us!

Toypurina/Regina Josefa

By Dominic Gregorio and John Grafton, FHSAM Board Members

Mission San Gabriel was founded the same year as Mission San Antonio, in 1771. Mission San Gabriel, located in what is now Los Angeles County, and had a very turbulent early history. The local Tongva tribe violently opposed Spanish colonization, partly because of abuses committed by soldiers on tribal people.

Nine years before the Spanish arrived in California, and eleven years before Mission San Gabriel was founded, Toypurina was born at a Tongva village, *Japchibit* (aka *Jachivit*), at what is now called Chilao Flats in the San Gabriel Mountains.

In 1785 there was a rebellion at Mission San Gabriel. The rebellion was mostly sparked by the Spanish ban at San Gabriel on the annual dances associated with the Tongva ritual for the dead. The rebellion was principally organized by Nicolas Jose. Nicolas Jose had been a baptized neophyte at the Mission for about ten years. He was also a prominent tribal leader, having been recognized as an alcalde of the neophytes at the Mission.

Natives at the mission, principally led by Nicolas Jose, reached out to non-baptized Tongva to assist with the revolt. Toypurina was an influential shaman, and the brother of the chief of *Japchibit*, an important village. At that time Toypurina was a gentile, i.e. she was not baptized. Toypurina was recruited by Nicolas Jose to be one of the leaders of a rebellion against the Mission. According to the trial records, it appears that Toypurina's motivation was that she was unhappy with the presence of the Spanish in Tongva tribal lands.

The rebels, composed mostly of gentile Tongva, attacked the Mission at night on October 25, 1785 with the intention of killing the Spanish and the Indians from Baja California who inhabited the mission. The insurgents were armed except for Toypurina, who planned to use her powers as a shaman against the Spanish. The soldiers quickly foiled the uprising, with no deaths recorded. Several rebels were arrested, including Toypurina and Nicolas Jose.

In 1786 the leaders of the uprising, Toypurina, Nicolas Jose, and two gentile native men, Temejasaquichi (chief of Juyubit or Juvit) and Ajiyivi (chief of Jajamobit or jajamovi) were placed on trial. Following the trial, while awaiting sentencing, the men were imprisoned at the San Diego Presidio and Toypurina was kept in captivity at Mission San Gabriel. Toypurina and Nicolas Jose were found guilty and sentenced to banishment from southern Alta California. Nicolas Jose was further sentenced to six years confinement and labor. Temejasaquichi, Ajiyivi, and several other "accomplices" were flogged and released.

Ironically, after her arrest and the arrest of her fellow rebels, Toypurina was marked for death by other members of the Tongva tribe. It was generally believed that the failure of the revolt was her fault, in that she was unable to kill, harm or incapacitate the padres and soldiers through her supernatural powers. Toypurina converted to Catholicism and was baptized at Mission San Gabriel by Padre Miguel Sanchez, who was one of the priests targeted during the revolt. First, her son was baptized Nereo Joaquin on May 12, 1786 and on March 8, 1787, Toypurina was baptized under a new name, Regina Josefa. Nereo Joaquin died at the age of eighteen months on August 29 1787.

As terms of her banishment Governor Pedro Fages requested Padre Fermin Lasuen (then father president of the Missions) that Regina Josefa be sent to either Mission San Antonio or Mission Santa Clara, to which Padre Lasuen agreed. Whether Regina Josefa was eventually stationed at San Antonio, and for how long, is unclear to the authors. However, even if she was stationed further north, she would have at least had to travel through and stay overnight at San Antonio.

Eventually Regina Josefa eventually found her way to Mission San Carlos (Carmel), where she was married to a soldier at the Monterey Presidio, Manuel Montero. Being a soldier Manuel had different assignments in Alta California. Two children were born at Mission San Luis Obispo in 1790 and 1792, so Manuel was stationed there at that time. Another child was born in 1794 at Monterey, after the family had moved back to the presidio. During their travels they would have passed through Mission San Antonio. Manuel and Regina Josefa also came to own property in Monterey. Their descendants still live in the north central coast today.

Eventually they relocated again to the new Mission San Juan Bautista, established in 1797. It appears that Regina Josefa assisted by encouraging native people living in the San Juan area to join the Mission. She died in 1799 at the age of 39, and she would have been among the first people to be buried at the San Juan Mission. A new cemetery site was established after earthquakes destroyed the first Mission church, but recent archeology work has determined the location of the first burials, one of which would be that of Regina Josefa/Toypurina.

The co-author, John Grafton, lives in San Juan Bautista, and walks by these burials each time that he goes to Mass at the Mission Church. Occasionally he pauses to ponder who Toypurina, or Reyna Josefa de Montero as she was known when she died, was really like as a person. She has been portrayed in modern times as something of a spiritual Indian woman warrior out to kill invading Spaniards, but a look at the historical evidence that we have of her seems to suggest that she was probably a much gentler person. She lived during a time of great change and turmoil affecting the community that she was born into. In the end though, she transcended differing cultures and was perhaps able to achieve some degree of peace, love, and family.

Adobe Construction Recorded in the San Juan Bautista Mission Reports

By John Grafton, FHSAM Board Member

Some construction of adobes was recorded in the Mission "informes" or reports. Of particular interest at the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park might be the building of six adobe houses for the "troops" during the years of 1801 and 1802. The Plaza Hotel was built on what probably was the site of these adobes, and at least material from them would have been used in the construction of the hotel.

These structures were described as being 7 "varas" in length and 6 in width, and of adobe with thatched roofs. A "vara" is the Spanish version of a yard, and is about 33 inches in length so one of these homes would have been a little more than 19 ft. long and about 16 1/2ft. wide.

Rick Wilkerson, In Memorium

That would have been something of a "tiny house" by our standards of today, but those dimensions may well provide an indication of the typical size of an Early California Spanish period adobe home. Cooking and most other of life's activities were mostly done outside, with the indoors used primarily for sleeping and storage. Not all Californios had the luxury of a bed, with many of them sleeping on the floor on top of a cowhide, so with no in-door kitchen and little furniture it seems that even a fairly large family could probably get inside the adobe for the night's slumbers.

Some of the larger adobes in San Juan Bautista, such as the Castro/Breen adobe, have been preserved up to the present day, but unfortunately few of the more common family sized adobes have. Larger adobes were often rancho headquarters with multiple families living in them, but the Castro/Breen adobe was built as an administrative building and was not a rancho headquarters. Nevertheless, it would have been blessed with numerous people including the Castro's large family, relatives, visitors, and people working there, and was likely a very active place.

In 1815 construction of seven adobes for neophyte families was recorded. They were 6 varas square, or about 16 1/2 ft. by 16 1/2 ft., a little smaller than the barracks houses built some years before. It was noted that they were built with windows and doors, however, and had tile roofs.

It appears that the Mission took a rather long time to finally get adobe houses built for the Neophytes, but we can't be certain that adobes weren't previously built but not recorded in the reports. But anyway, the Neophytes may have been living in ramadas for several years before enjoying "higher class living." Many people in this world are still living in ramada-like houses, even after centuries of habitation, so perhaps this is nothing really unusual.

Marry Trotter, In Memorium

We are sad to report that Mary Trotter passed away on September 7, 2023 at the age of 81. Born Mary Harrington, she was a lifelong resident of Monterey County. Mary and her late husband Walter Trotter resided in Big Sur since the early 1970s. The Trotter family was one of the original pioneer families in Big Sur.

Mary was a Board member of the Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission and was also a charter member of the Big Sur Historical Society. She was also a member of the Big Sur Land Use Advisory Council.

Mary will be sorely missed by the Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission and by the entire Monterey County community.

We are also sad to report that former FHSAM board member Richard "Rick" Wilkerson passed away in the spring of 2023. Very interested in local history, he served 20 years on the Monterey County Historical Advisory Commission, many as their President. Also, was Past President of the California Conference of Historical Societies and their Regional Vice President, serving Monterey and San Benito Counties for many years.

At a young age he began collecting postmarks of Monterey and San Benito Counties that turned into the biggest collection held in Monterey County. Many times he was turned to for information on Post Offices and their history along with writing articles on them. Although, a resident of the Monterey Peninsula he had a keen interest in the southern part of Monterey County.

Rick will also be sorely missed by the Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission and by the entire Monterey County community.

Archaeological Evidence for Shellfishing at Mission Santa Clara de Asís

by Linda Hylkema

This is part two of a two-part article on fishing and shellfishing at Mission Santa Clara. In part one, we discussed the results of our excavations, which resulted in the recovery of thirty-nine species of fish, comprised over fifteen thousand elements. Also identified were forty-four different invertebrate taxa, including both freshwater and marine varieties, which are the subject of this article.

Fishing (including shellfishing) played a major role among most aboriginal groups in California. Hundreds of published sources over the last century indicate that archaeologically and ethnographically, groups in the San Francisco Bay region fished for coastal and freshwater shellfishes for thousands of years. Shellfish were a staple food for Ohlone and for Coast (Bay) Miwok (Jacknis 2004:200), (Heizer & Elsasser 1980:91). A modified digging stick was used for most shellfish gathering, or they were gathered by hand (Jacknis 2004:186, 201). The use of a specialized tool similar to a digging stick was in use along the entire west coast of California (Jacknis 2004:189).

During ethnographic times, the Yokut peoples traveled to the coast (probably through Ohlone territory) to gather shellfish (Jacknis 2004:182). Northern Pomo peoples made 4-5-day trips to the coast to gather and dry shellfish, fish and seaweed (Jacknis 2004:196; Loeb 1926:192). Fresh shellfish were commonly roasted in hot coals and dried shellfish were commonly stone-boiled in baskets (California Indians, Jacknis 2004:196, Jacknis 2004:196, from Driver 1939:315, 381; Drucker 1937:234).

They continued these practices during the Spanish Colonial period in California (AD 1769-1834), despite being subjected to the many strictures imposed on them by mission life. Archaeological data from Mission Santa Clara shows that native foods continued to be vitally important, and that the procurement and use of fish and shellfish persisted throughout the colonial era at Mission Santa Clara. The dataset discussed in this article comes from the excavation of sixty-one significant Mission Period features from within the Ranchería. The features identified include adobe room blocks, communal and household refuse pits of various forms and functions, hornos, and a possible subterranean pit house.

Our archaeological team identified forty-four different invertebrate taxa, including both freshwater and marine varieties. The shellfish represent sandy shore or sandy substrate habitats and rocky environments. This required travel to and from a diverse set of habitats at varying distances from the mission settlement, implying a permeable colonial setting in which the neophytes were highly mobile.

A very large quantity of shellfish was identified from the Rancheria excavation. By weight, this included over 11,700 grams of shell from 44 different invertebrate taxa. These taxa include both freshwater and marine varieties, though the latter category far outnumbers the former, both by weight and number of taxa identified.

Freshwater taxa identified included the freshwater mussels, freshwater pearl mussels, and several species of "floaters" (mussels in the genus *Anodonta*). These typically are found in the Western United States, in rivers, streams, and lakes. Their status as food items among Native Americans has been well documented. These relatively fragile, thin-shelled specimens are found in soft-bottomed ponds, rivers, slow-moving streams, and small lakes. They are adapted to warmer water and prefer a low level of dissolved oxygen. Freshwater pearl mussels were an important Native American food item. Specifically, we identified Western pearl shell (*Margaritifera falcata*), a moderately thick-shelled species that inhabits fast-moving and cold freshwater streams and

rivers. It is generally found in gravelly or sandy substrates with a high level of dissolved oxygen. We identified a number of marine invertebrate taxa as well, which we divided into three different ecological preferences: (1) rocky shore; (2) bay/estuary; and (3) sandy shore or sandy substrate habitats. This latter category is combined because a number of the taxa in this category can be found in either sandy or marine mud environments. Rocky coast genera/species identified during the shellfish analysis include red abalone and black abalone, California mussel, barnacle, owl limpet, black Katy chiton, purple olive, gooseneck barnacle, black turban snail, and purple sea urchin. Broader taxonomic categories identified from the rocky coast habitat are various limpets, chitons, whelks, crabs and other crustaceans, and various gastropods.

Taxa belonging wholly to bay/estuary habitats include California horn snail, bay mussel, and Olympia oyster. Taxa typically found in sandy shore or sandy substrate habitats include Nuttall's cockle, Pacific littleneck clam, Pacific Gaper, flat-tip piddock, and various piddocks and angelwings. The data demonstrate that by the Late Mission Period (as identified for Santa Clara, 1822- 1850) the neophyte Mission vertebrate diet became restricted in the kinds and proportions of resources consumed. For shellfish, the temporal trajectory suggests an initial, almost exclusive, focus on rocky shore habitats, especially mussel beds, that wanes over time. There is also an interesting inverse relationship between the decrease of rocky shore shellfish and the increase of freshwater fishes in the Late Period. This seems to indicate that Late Period Mission neophyte populations were focusing their subsistence activities on the resources that could be exploited in local environments, especially nearby wetland habitats. Conversely, the proportion of taxa from freshwater habitats (especially unidentified freshwater mussel) accounts for very small proportions in the Early and Middle Periods, then rises to 23% of the shellfish assemblage during the Late Period.

It is possible that this relates to a decreased connection with the outer coast; by the Late Period, Mission Ohlone were second or third generation, and may well have had fewer ties with coastal Ohlone. Furthermore, inland Miwok and Yokuts groups joined the Mission at this time, and coming from inland areas would likely have emphasized freshwater and terrestrial resources with which they were already familiar.

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Mytilus californianus
United States, California, La Jolla
NMR 16434. Actual size 118 mm



Select species represented at Santa Clara:

Top row: Owl limpet (*Lottia gigantea*); Red abalone (*Haliotis refescens*)

Middle row: California mussel (*Mytilus californianus*); Black Katy chiton (*Katharina tunicate*); Flap-tip piddock (*Penitella penita*)

Bottom row: Olive snail (*Olivella biplicata*)

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