



Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission

NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, No. 1

SPRING 2023

The President's Message

Last fall I wrote about the serious drought in California in 2022. The historical climate of California has been dominated by a cycle of natural droughts (La Nina years) and deluges (El Nino). The Salinans knew about this natural cycle, and the Padres and other Spanish colonists quickly learned to adapt.

The three year long drought was a result of a naturally occurring La Nina cyclic condition. However, this year it appears that the La Nina period is over. California and the Pacific Ocean we are now in an ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation) neutral period, and it looks like El Nino may become firmly established in 2023. Furthermore, separate weather phenomena termed atmospheric rivers dominated California's climate in January. As a result of these major atmospheric rivers, rainfall on the Central Coast is about 200% of average. The Salinas River was in flood stage. On the bright side the Mission grounds and the surrounding San Antonio River watershed were blessed with an abundance of rain. At the mission the seasonal wetlands remain inundated, and the old wells are full. Poppies are already blooming in the garden.

In this newsletter Joan Steele, Administrator at Mission San Antonio, gives us an update on the completed earthquake retrofit work, as well as ongoing and future restoration projects. One of these future projects is the replanting and restoration of the vineyard. For context I also provided a short article on the Mission Grapes at San Antonio.

Another article in this newsletter is by Linda Hylkema, an archaeologist at the University of Santa Clara and an FHSAM Board member. She writes about archaeological evidence for fishing during the colonial period at Mission Santa Clara. The Salinans at Mission San Antonio were also known for both freshwater and saltwater fishing.

Coming up on April 15 the Mission will offer its annual Mission Days event. If you get this newsletter in time, please spread the word to your friends.

Finally, please see the article by Karen Jernigan, an author and FHSAM Board member, regarding the availability of new books that feature Mission San Antonio.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. This spring 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

In Memoriam: Hugo Bianchini

We are extremely sorry to report that Serafino Hugo Bianchini, a long-time Monterey Peninsula resident and past Board Member of FHSAM, recently passed away in January 2023. Hugo was 89 years old.

Born in 1933, Hugo was a son of Italian immigrants from Tuscany. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Hugo then served as an officer in the Navy. He moved with his family to Monterey and practiced architecture locally for over 30 years. Hugo had a special affection for dogs, and a love of trees and wildlife. He valued natural harmony in architecture, and he was an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Hugo loved the California Missions and was a past president of the Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission. Even after retiring from the Board, Hugo continued to provide generous donations to FHSAMA.

Hugo was a loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Maureen, and their three children.

Hugo, rest in peace.

Mission San Antonio Events

SAVE THESE FUTURE DATES IN 2023!

Mission Days	April 15, 2023 11:00am-3pm
Mission Fiesta Mass	June 11, 2023
Evening in the Garden	November 4, 2023
Los Posadas	December 24, 2023 4:30pm
Christmas Eve Mass	December 24, 2023 5:00pm



The Mill Pond Reservoir full of water! The stone wall is part of the original mission water system developed in the 1770s.



In January, the Zanja (water supply ditch) was full all the way to the Grist Mill!

Mission Update: Use Your Words and Use Your Pen

~ by Joan Steele, Mission Administrator and FHSAM Board Member

“*Use Your Words*” we tell children. Express your feelings with your words. Good advice. Sometimes as adults, we need to remind ourselves to “*use our words.*”

When we started our mandated seismic retrofit in August of 2014, everyone was eager to talk about the project. “*What would we have to do? How would we do it? Who would be the experts we would hire to do it? How would we pay for it?*” And always, the ever-present, often repeated question, “*When will it be done?*”

The *Campaign to Preserve Mission San Antonio de Padua* was formed and the project began with a lot of energy, interest and enthusiasm. In spite of our warnings that it would be a multi-year, multi-million-dollar project, attention to the project waned a bit as the years dragged on. A full eight years later, we completed the momentous project! This was done, expressly because of your support! Great job! You each deserve a pat on the back and a hearty, “Thank you!”

The *Campaign* continues! Restoration, and preservation, are ongoing operations. Mission San Antonio is uniquely blessed with its pristine historic setting. With eighty-six acres of undeveloped land surrounding the Spanish-Colonial Mission, we have an ethical obligation to document the entirety of our historic site for posterity.

Throughout the past two years, we have stabilized and applied a protective layer of limewash to our lavandaria and threshing floor walls. This helps protect the walls from erosion (both weather and people related) and helps them to *stand out* in the landscape to aid visitors in locating them. Other historic outbuilding ruins onsite are also receiving this protective application as funds are made available.

As we begin our journey through 2023, we can already see the need for maintenance and some restoration on the adobe walls of the church and adjacent quadrangle buildings. Remember, our historic buildings are made of mud! The protective limewash layer needs to be continually monitored and restored as the elements wear away at it. For decades prior to our Retrofit project, the walls were not maintained consistently and we can all remember the condition of the Mission when our project began in 2014. Let’s not repeat history. When Spring arrives at the Mission, and as warmer, drier weather allows, we will reengage with the *Ingram Lath and Plaster Team* to resume the maintenance and restoration of our external walls.

Throughout the Fall and Winter months of 2022, we have been working with the Diocese and Monterey County to get the proper permission and permits to remove the small construction office building (often called the casita) from its southwest position in front of the Mission. This building was erected many years ago and has become unusable. Part of the building was built over the foundation of the historic mayordomo’s house (the Mission foreman in the 1800’s). With its removal we will be able to better document the historic landscape that lies beneath the ground at this spot. Stay tuned for more details as this project unfolds.

While we were proceeding with the seismic retrofit, we were also installing upgrades to our electrical, plumbing, fire and security systems. We are now maintaining these new systems with annual inspections and adjustments/repairs as needed. This costs money. It is much more efficient and responsible to inspect and maintain on an annual basis than to have to face major repairs down the road from lack of maintenance.

The California State *mandated* work is completed – we can now move on to significant projects that will activate and ensure increased future community/educational interaction with the Mission.

One of the projects that needs to be addressed is the restoration/remodel of the pavilion and the entire fiesta grounds area of the Mission property. Located to the north of the Mission, this area was originally developed for Mission *events*. The **Mission Fiesta** (always the second Sunday of June) historically has taken place in this area. Once again, it is an area that has received little attention or maintenance for decades. Due to water damage, the pavilion now needs a new roof and a great deal of internal repair. With the potential future use by California university students in mind, the pavilion interior could be remodeled from a simple storage area to classroom and laboratory space. When completed, this project will enable us to resume Archeological Field Schools at the Mission, a critical source of funding. The electrical, fire detections and security systems also need to be reviewed and upgraded for this area.

The remainder of the fiesta grounds area also needs some tender loving care. The trees require professional maintenance and the area needs restoration/renovation to continue ensuring the safety of the accommodations for future use by Diocesan, educational, and other non-profit groups.

In addition to this major project, we are investigating the possibility of the future reestablishment of the Mission vineyard (historically located in the southwest field of the property). Once again, this will be a multi-year, multi-phase undertaking.

Before we can even think about grafting our original grape stock in preparation of replanting the vineyard, we need to go through many phases of documentation. To begin, we need to conduct a land survey of the original vineyard site (approximately 7.5 to 10 acres). We additionally plan to conduct a magnetic survey, which will document the historic use of the land. We will engage forensic dogs to ensure there are no burials in this area, perhaps predating the Mission era. Having successfully used companies in these professions in prior years, we already have good relationships with people who can handle these projects with professional and ethical expertise.

An archeological survey will need to be conducted to expose the historic foundations of the original vineyard adobe walls. In conjunction with local university architecture students, we could rebuild the 8-ft. high adobe walls, to protect the vines. Metal game fencing is prohibited here due to our historic site status. When we reach this point in the project, we will have the opportunity to work with local agriculture students in

preparing the ground to receive the new grape stock. University viticulture students will plant and work the vineyard, undergoing both *current-day* and *living-history* experiences.

Yes, the seismic retrofit/restoration work is complete, but the restoration and preservation work will keep us busy for generations!

How can you help us? Please “*use your words!*” Continue to tell people about the Mission. Tell the stories that you have about your *Mission experiences*. If you don’t have any, come see us and enjoy all that we have to offer. Then you, too, can share the stories that bring others to *see for themselves*. I know you *love* the Mission. I know because you have already shared your time, talent and treasure helping save this precious Mission. That’s how we were able to complete the tremendous amount of work that needed to be done over the past eight years. We had many naysayers who didn’t think it could be done. We have proved them wrong.

So now I come to you and ask you to “*Use your words*” and spread the word about the exciting new work that we are embarking on. I will, of course, also ask you to “*Use your pen*” as well. Write in your facebook updates, your blogs, your old-fashioned letters (remember those?) and tell your stories, tell our story, and tell of our continued need for funds. Then, take out your checkbook and “*Use your pen*” to send a much-appreciated donation our way.

Siempre Adalante ... Always forward ... never back! We can’t move forward without you! Please “*Use Your Words and Use Your Pen!*” Thank you.

The Wine Grapes of Mission San Antonio de Padua

~ by Dominic Gregorio, Retired Scientist and FHSAM President

On July 14, 1771 the third mission in Alta California, *San Antonio de Padua*, was established in the Santa Lucia Mountains of Monterey County by Padre Junipero Serra. This was the homeland of the Salinan tribe, and by 1773 there were many Salinan baptisms. A permanent settlement was constructed at the confluence of the San Antonio River and San Miguel Creek. The first irrigation system in California was built and soon afterward grape vines, transported by ship from Mexico, were planted. The vineyard was planted, surrounded by an eight foot adobe wall. The padres taught the Salinan tribe to practice viticulture and winemaking. A home was built for the Salinan vineyard keeper who tended the vines. Thus the wine industry was established on the Central Coast.

As the vines flourished two large wine vats and a wine cellar were constructed. One the original vats and the cellar is still preserved at the Mission today. By 1841 there were 4000 vines thriving in the vineyard. However, after the Mexican government secularized the Mission, it was temporarily abandoned in 1844. The vineyard suffered. The mission was re-established as a parish church during the Gold Rush. Its

pastor, Father Dorothea Ambris, moved a few of the vines into the courtyard in order to preserve them. A large, productive vine remains there to this day next to an ancient well. Meanwhile, American settlers transplanted grape vines from the missions to their own vineyards, and the mission grape spread into other parts of the state.

Recently, Spanish scientists led by Alejandra Milla Tapia performed genetic testing on the original colonial grapes found in the Americas, including California. This colonial, or “mission” grape were found to be the same as Listan Prieto, an ancient wine grape still grown on the Canary Islands (which are provinces of Spain). Then scientists, from the University of California at Davis, confirmed that the grapes in the courtyard at Mission San Antonio also perfectly matched Listan Prieto as well.



Vineyardist's adobe, date unknown, no longer standing

Archaeological Evidence for Fishing at Mission Santa Clara de Asís
~ by Linda Hylkema, Archaeologist and FHSAM Board Member

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 fishes for thousands of years. They continued these practices during the Spanish Colonial period in California (AD1769-1834), despite being subjected to the many strictures imposed on them by mission life.

Among other things, the Native populations of the California missions were inculcated into Spanish agricultural and stock-raising practices. These new subsistence practices were in direct contradiction to their traditional hunting and gathering lifeway, which was based on the acquisition and consumption of wild plants, animals, and fishes. Indeed, it has historically been a common perception of Native life in the Spanish missions that domesticated species were the predominant food sources consumed, and that traditional species were only marginally important to the diet.

However, 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. The dataset discussed in this article comes from the excavation of adobe room blocks, communal and household refuse pits of various forms and functions, *hornos*, and a possible subterranean pit house. Our excavations revealed thirty-nine species of fish. The fishes from this faunal assemblage represent a diverse set of habitats requiring different recovery methods: nets, hook/line, and tule reed boats; 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. The fish taxa are diverse and constitute primarily freshwater types. The most ubiquitous taxa include Sacramento sucker, hitch or California roach and Sacramento perch. Euryhaline taxa, or those that can survive in a wide range of salinity, include northern anchovy, sardines or herrings, silversides (jacksmelt and topsmelt), cabezon, longjaw mudsucker and indeterminate gobies, and a small number of bat ray and sharks from the Smoothhound family. Taxa that may come from either freshwater or euryhaline habitats include sturgeon, smelt, salmon or trout, threespine stickleback, and surfperches. Wholly marine taxa in the assemblage include rockfishes, greenlings, lingcod, pricklebacks, and kelpfishes. In addition to the faunal remains themselves, we recovered a variety of artifacts that directly and indirectly are related to fishing. We recovered lead fishing weights, fishhooks, and bone awls traditionally used for basketmaking. In general, the fishes from the faunal assemblage come from individuals small enough that they were most likely caught with nets. Out of the 15,608 fish specimens that had size identified, 10,925 were recorded as very small, and 4,120 as small. Only 551 were considered medium-sized, and a mere 12 specimens were identified as large. As a result, the vast majority of fish remains from this project come from individuals smaller than 30 cm total length, and most of those on the smaller end.



Native Californian fishhooks

Our data demonstrate that by the Late Mission Period (as identified for Santa Clara, 1822-1850) the neophyte Mission vertebrate diet became dominated by freshwater fishes. This seems to indicate that later neophyte populations were focusing their subsistence activities on resources that could be exploited in local environments, especially nearby wetland habitats. 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.



A smelt, native to coastal ocean waters and San Francisco Bay

Part Two of this article will be printed in a subsequent newsletter will focus on shellfishing and its relationship to the vertebrate fishing described in this article.



Los Arribenos de San Francisco at Mission San Antonio



John Grafton, FHSAM Board Member, and other historical re-enactors

Mission Days April 15, 2023

Come to the pristine Valley of the Oaks and enjoy a step backward in time to the mission era. Attend Mission San Antonio's annual Mission Days event on Saturday April 15, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parking and Admission is \$20/car. Authentic mission era food will be offered for \$15/plate with water and soft drinks also available.

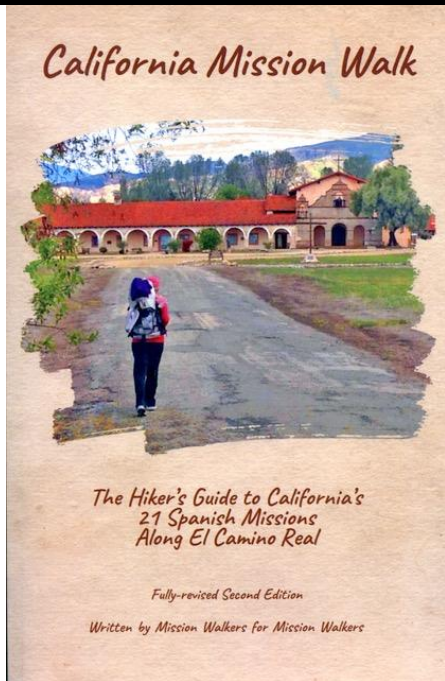
There will be historical interpreters in costume portraying soldiers, artisans, vaqueros, musicians and dancers. Mission crafts and activities will be demonstrated, including weaving, blacksmithing, candle making, and much more. Members of Los Arribenos de San Francisco will be performing historical Californio music and dance from the Mission period. Artists will be present to display and offer for sale their original artwork.

For more information visit our website at www.missionsanantonio.net or call [831-385-4478 ext.17](tel:831-385-4478).

Recently published books prominently feature Mission San Antonio de Padua
 ~ by Karen Jernigan, Author and FHSAM Board Member

Three recently published books prominently feature Mission San Antonio de Padua in the story of the history of early California.

Published in October 2022 was the *California Mission Walk, The Hiker's Guide to California's 21 Spanish Mission Along El Camino Real*. This is a full-revised second edition of the guidebook first published by Ron "Butch" Briery in 2012. Briery had walked from San Diego to Sonoma and shared information about the route to make the experience easier for others. The second edition includes recommendations for places to eat and sleep as well as highlights along the way.



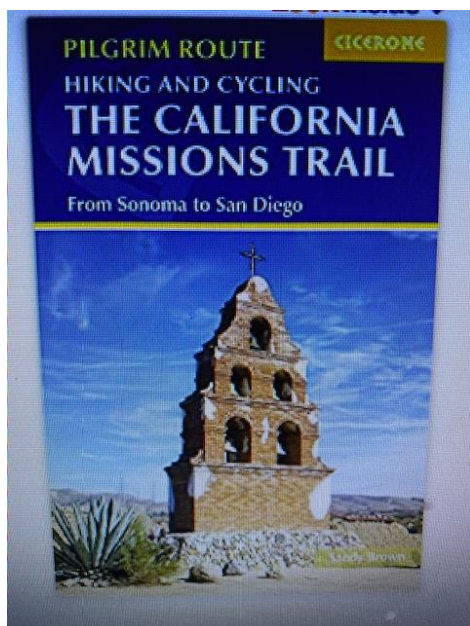
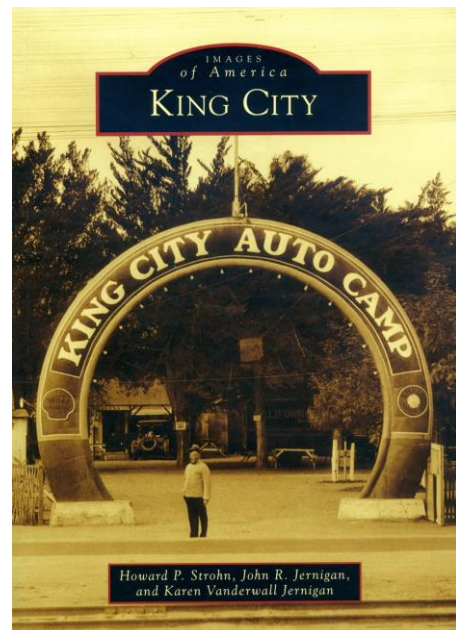
The *King City, Images of America* book was published in July 2022 by local authors Howard P. Strohn of San Ardo and John and Karen Jernigan of King City. Working during the Covid-19 pandemic, these Salinas Valley authors put together a history of King City, one of the towns closest to Mission San Antonio de Padua. A photograph in the book depicts the mission on page 32 as well as one of the Encinales family at the mission. The Encinales were native Americans from the Salinan people who were devoted to the mission.

Howard Strohn is a former president of the Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission (FHSAM). He has done more than 40 years of research in Monterey County. Karen Jernigan currently serves on the board of the Friends of Historic San Antonio Mission and is an ambassador to California Mission Walkers. John Jernigan is a collector of historic photographs and serves on the board of the San Antonio Valley Historical Association.

Mission Walkers have formed a Facebook community to encourage others and it was a group of those hikers who worked together to update Briery's guidebook. Prominently featured on the cover of the book is a photograph of Mission San Antonio de Padua.

Scheduled for release January 5, 2023 is a travel book written by Sandy Brown. It is entitled, *Hiking and Cycling the California Missions Trail from Sonoma to San Diego*.

Brown hiked and biked the route three times in 2020-2021. He is also the author of five other guidebooks about pilgrimage hikes in Europe, including the 500-mile Camino de Santiago.



All three books are available at Amazon.com, The California Mission Walk book is available on Kindle, and the paperback book is available on missionwalk.org. The Sandy Brown guide is available for pre-order and *King City Images of America* is available in paperback. The gift store at Mission San Antonio de Padua also carries some of these books.

Another book released in January 2021 features Mission San Antonio de Padua. It was published by Christian Clifford who walked the 800 mile mission trail. His book is titled *Pilgrimage: In Search of the Real California Missions*. More about this book can be found at Clifford's website Missions1769.com or his social media @Missions1769.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

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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, Lolon, CA 93928



Federation of Historic San Antonio Missions
1856
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No financial assistance is given to the Catholic Church.

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