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# The Golden West



By J. Alexander Forbes

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J. Alexander Forbes

# THE GOLDEN WEST

## SOUVENIR

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
TO THE NATIVE SONS AND  
NATIVE DAUGHTERS  
OF THE STATE

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### *PRIMITIVE YEARS IN CALIFORNIA*

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BY

J. ALEXANDER FORBES

*Formerly Keeper of the Spanish and Mexican Archives  
in the Office of the U. S. Surveyor General for the  
District of California, and Government  
Translator from 1877 to 1892*

Copyright, 1919  
By J. Alexander Forbes



Los Angeles Public Library  
May 7, 1913.

MR. J. ALEXANDER FORBES,  
Guadalajara,  
State of Jalisco,  
Mexico.

*Dear Sir:*

We are very glad to furnish you with the enclosed copy of your biography from Davis' Sixties in California. We also enclose copy of your biography which appears in the History of the Bay of San Francisco, Vol. 1, page 574.

Very truly yours,  
EVERETT R. PERRY,  
Librarian.

Extract from Davis' Sixty Years in California, page 603:

"I am indebted to Mr. James Alexander Forbes for the following list of arrivals of vessels at California ports from the year 1774 to 1847.

"Mr. Forbes has been for many years past, official government translator and keeper of the Spanish and Mexican archives in the United States Surveyor General's office for the District of California, and without his aid I could not have obtained any data concerning the earlier shipping.

“He is the son of the well known pioneer, James A. Forbes, who during his lifetime was esteemed and respected by all who had social and business relations with him. J. A. Forbes, Jr. was educated in Santa Clara College and, being a master of several languages, obtained the position of official translator of the laws of California during the years 1867, 1868, 1869 and 1870. He has the reputation of being the most accurate translator and fluent interpreter in the State.”

A true copy of the biography of Mr. James Alexander Forbes as it appears in Davis' *Sixty Years in California*, page 603.

(Signed) EVERETT R. PERRY,

Librarian Los Angeles Public Library.

Extract taken from the History of the Bay of San Francisco, Vol. 1, page 574, Biography of James Alexander Forbes:

“J. Alexander Forbes, government translator and keeper of government archives, was born in Santa Clara county, this State, March 17, 1838, and is a descendant of one of the old and influential families of this State. His father was J. Alexander Forbes, and was a native of Scotland.

“He married Miss Ana Maria Galindo, daughter of Don Juan C. Galindo, a wealthy and highly respected citizen of Santa Clara Mission. Mr. Forbes, Jr., was reared in the above named county. His early education

was received at home from a private instructor. Later he became a pupil in Santa Clara College, being one of the first to complete his collegiate course in 1857. Following this he became interested in mining in the southern part of the State, and also took charge of the public schools of Santa Barbara for a year.

“In 1867 he came to San Francisco and taught in the Catholic Schools there, also in Martinez, Contra Costa county. He then went to Sacramento where he obtained a position translating the Statutes of 1867-8 for the Government, also the official reports and government affidavits of 1869-70. He next established an office in San Francisco and became official court interpreter until 1878 when he took his present position. By those in a position to judge, Mr. Forbes is said to be the best Spanish scholar and most accurate interpreter on the Coast.”

(A true copy of the Biography of J. Alexander Forbes which appears in the History of the Bay of San Francisco, Vol. 1, page 574.)

(Signed) EVERETT R. PERRY,  
Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library.

*Note:* After the publication of the above named histories, Mr. J. Alexander Forbes was appointed by President Harrison, to the position of United States Consul for Guay-

mas, Sonora, Mexico, on the 23rd day of August, 1892, and his name as such must appear in the Consular Register for said year in the State Department at Washington, D. C.

“As a teacher of languages he has no equal. Mr. Forbes has a system of his own to teach the English and the Spanish languages and is considered to be the best teacher of these languages that has ever been known in the State of Jalisco, Mexico.”

Guadalajara, January 17, 1914.

CARLOS F. MICHEL.

# California

Etymology of the name of California according to a Jesuit writer, Don José Campoi:

We are informed by the Spanish historian, Bernal del Castillo, that when Hernan Cortez discovered his new-found country he gave it the name of the bay in which he landed in 1536.

Don José Campoi states that the said bay was San Lucas, which in Spanish is called "Cala" (open roadstead) and that in the south end of said roadstead is an immense arch through which large schooners can pass even to this day. This arch in Latin is called "Forniax" and Cortez called his country as that of "Cala" and Arch "Forniax."

Or

*Cala* (Roadstead)

*i* (and)

*Forniax* (Arch)

making the entire name *CALIFORNIAX*.

By constant use and for the sake of euphony the "X" was suppressed and an "S" used instead, the same as in the words, "Mejico" for "Mexico," "Jalisco" for "Jalisco," "Tlascal" for "Tlaxcala," etc.

In the ancient Spanish archives the country was always called "Californias" and never "California" unless it was to distin-

guish the south from the northern portion. The Mexican Government has always designated the country as the Department of Californias and not California.

In support of the above theory the Bay of San Lucas still exists as well as the immense arch through which ships can sail with perfect safety up to the present time, thus corroborating the assertion of the historian quoted above.

California has grown to be a great and glorious State by nature, and no other in the American Union can boast of having a wider variety of scenery in land, ocean, mountains, bays, rivers or valleys. All seems to have been previously arranged by some mysterious hand on a grand and impressive plan. In geological history the Pacific slope is younger than the Atlantic, yet is equally interesting in every way, and California, although but a young State, already has a sublime history of its own that each one of its citizens should and ought to duly appreciate. It is the name that was assigned to the new-found country by the followers of Hernan Cortez when he discovered it in the year 1536, and is supposed to be the great Cipango of Marco Polo, or the Terrestrial Paradise of Yao Fohi mentioned in the famous novel of Amadis Di Gaula "Sergas De Esplandian," which everybody seemed to be anxious to go even across the ocean to see.

For a period of more than 100 years the Spanish Government had not been able to accomplish anything. Missionaries of the Jesuit Order and Franciscan Friars accompanied the Spanish conquerors in Mexico, North America, and in Peru, South America, as well as the French explorers in the great and extensive valley of the Mississippi in the United States of America. As the Spanish Viceroy of New Spain had failed in his attempts to colonize the new country he consented to grant the charter of colonizing the same to priests of the Jesuit Order and recommended to the king the granting of said privilege to two Jesuits named Kino (Kuhn) and Salvatierra, who were to have command of the monastic government of the country in order to convert the inhabitants thereof to Christianity.

In this arduous task they founded twenty-eight missions from Cape San Lucas in the extreme South to the Bay of Santa Maria in the North. The country seemed to be in a flourishing and prosperous condition, and the conversion of the native tribes of the Coras, Pericuis and Cochimis seemed to be complete. Every mission contained thousands of Neophytes and Catechumens. The Jesuits had accomplished a gigantic undertaking in which they had been aided very materially by a pious group of people in Mexico City who had created a fund with which to pay all the

expenses of the Jesuit missionaries in the foundation of their establishments. The said fund was known by the name of the Pious Fund (*fondo piadoso*).

It was in the year 1767, however, when by royal decree all Jesuits were expelled from the Spanish dominion and the Franciscans took their place.

Spain had great commercial relations with the East Indies and needed to have a good harbor on its Pacific coast in North America as a stopping place for her navigators where they could get supplies and make repairs. This, together with the zeal of the Franciscan Friars for the conversion of the natives to Christianity, led to the ultimate occupation of my glorious country California.

### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

In the year 1769 several expeditions were sent to find the port of San Diego. Two expeditions came by sea and two more by land. The expeditions by sea were under immediate command of Gaspar de Portalá, who had been appointed Governor of the Province; the land expeditions were under the immediate command of the Reverend Friar Junipero Serra and of one, Canizares.

This expedition started from the port of Chametla on the coast of Sinaloa to cross the Gulf of Cortez and land in Santa Maria



Bay where the last Jesuit mission was founded immediately before their expulsion. All arrived safely at Santa Maria and from there to their place of destination, which was San Diego.



### GASPAR de PORTALÁ

The above picture represents the first Spanish Governor of the Province of California, Don Gaspar de Portálá, who came by sea and found the port of San Diego as mentioned above. Here follows a list of all the Spanish Governors up to the date of the Mexican Independence:

Gaspar de Portalá, from	1767	to	1771
Felipe de Barri,	“	1771	“ 1774
Felipe de Neve,	“	1774	“ 1782
Pedro Fajes,	“	1782	“ 1790
José Antonio Romeu,	“	1790	“ 1792
José Joaquin de Arrillaga,	“	1792	“ 1794
Diego de Borica,	“	1794	“ 1800
José de Arrillaga,	“	1800	“ 1814
José Darío Argüello,	“	1814	“ 1815
Pablo Vicente de Sola,	“	1815	“ 1822



JUNIPERO SERRA.

The plan of the Franciscan Friars to convert the Indians to Christianity was the same that had been adopted by the Jesuit Order.

The building of churches, around which the Fathers lived, instructing the neophytes in the faith and requiring them to work and live in the ways of civilization. These establishments were called or given the name of missions and were the chief feature of the colonization of California. The mission padres were earnest, devout and energetic men, who dedicated their entire lives to their work which they all superintended voluntarily with a singleness of purpose that insured absolute success. In 1780 sixteen missionary priests were the spiritual rulers of more than 3000 native converts and by the end of the century they had founded eighteen missions with forty padres and a neophyte population of 13,500.

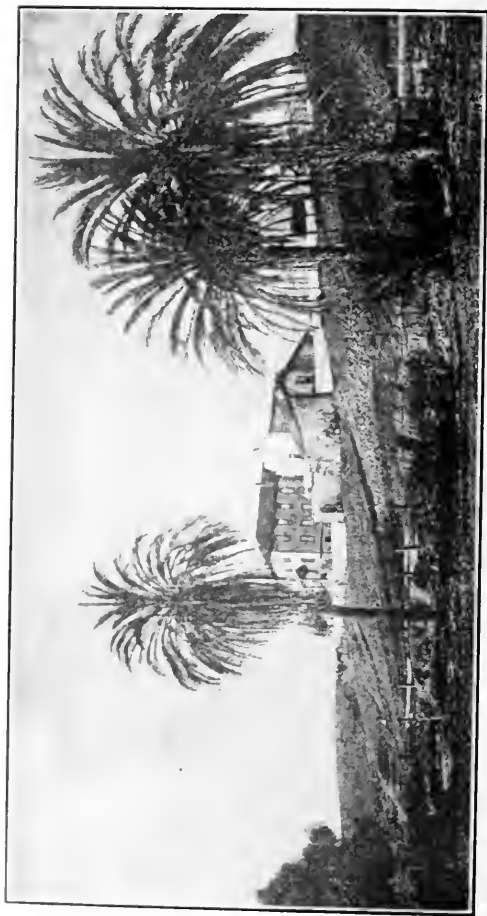
With reference to agriculture, they had raised crops of from 30,000 to 75,000 bushels per year, their harvests being the only ones raised in the territory. They likewise had, according to the report of the Father President, 70,000 head of horses and cattle with more than as many more head of sheep and goats. The value of their improvements in churches and other buildings was estimated to be worth more than one million dollars or pesos.

The plan of the Spanish government in colonizing California included not only the religious establishments to be known as missions, but also the foundation of pueblos

(towns) as business and military centers. The military quarters were named presidios. There were four of these military stations in California:—San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey and San Francisco.

Here follows a minute description of all the missions of California together with a picture of their appearance at the date or after the date of the American occupation of the country July, 1847.

THE MISSIONS  
OF CALIFORNIA

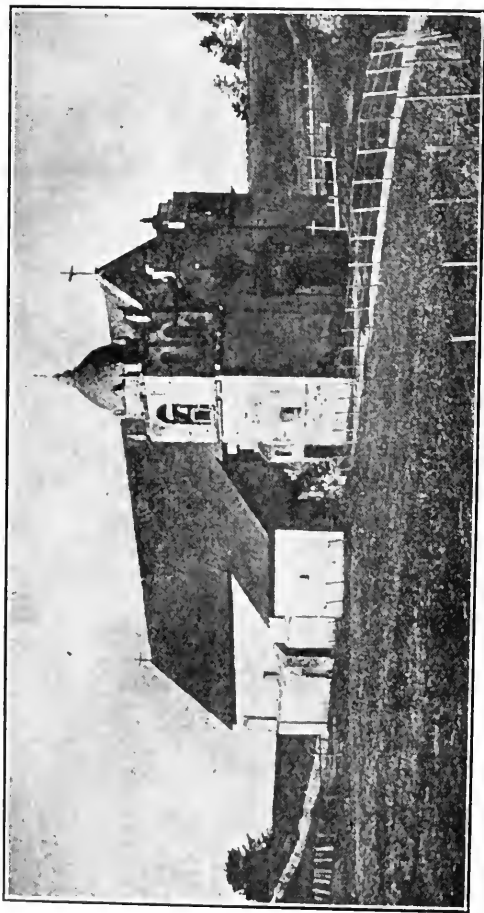


SAN DIEGO DE ALCALÁ—1769

## SAN DIEGO de ALCALÁ (No. 1)

This mission was founded June 16, 1769, latitude 33.

It was the first one founded, and is located in the small valley known as the Cañada of San Diego, at the termination of which is the ancient presidio of the same name. The place selected has a very picturesque appearance. It is only a few miles distant from the bay. The old mission buildings have all gone to ruin.



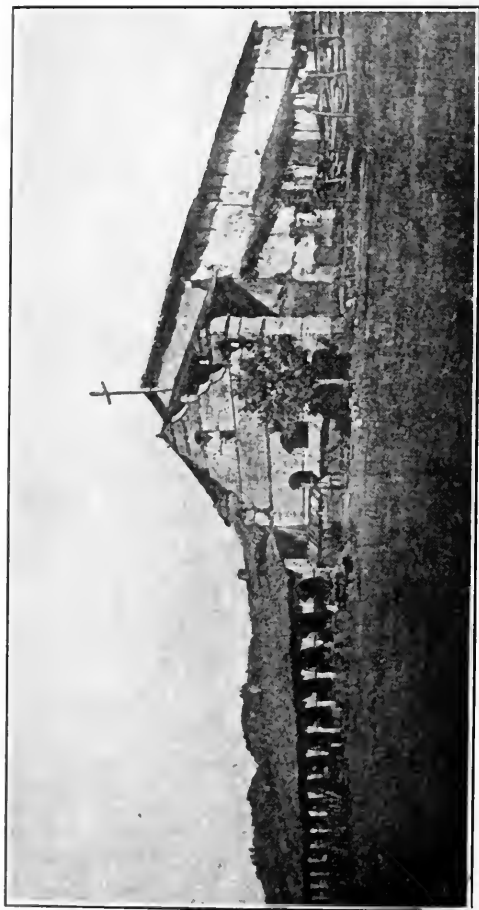
SAN CÁRLOS BORROMEO (CARMEL)—1770



## SAN CÁRLOS. EL-CARMELO (No. 2)

This mission was founded June 30, 1770, in latitude 36:44.

It is located in the Carmelo valley on the coast, west of the presidio of Monterey; and was the second one that was founded by Father Junipero Serra. The edifice has always been noted for its fine type of architecture.



SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA—1771

## SAN ANTONIO de PADUA (No. 3)

This mission was founded July 14, 1771, in latitude 36:30.

The San Antonio mission is located in the beautiful valley of Las Milpitas; that extends southwest to the Santa Lucia range of mountains that run along the coast and is in Monterey county. The old mission buildings are in a good state of preservation, owing to the fact that Mr. James Alonzo Forbes, one of the leading citizens of Monterey county, with residence at Jolon, undertook the job of making some substantial repairs on the old walls that were left after the death of the old Mexican parish priest, Ambriz, who had been there in charge for more than forty-five years.

Mr. Forbes performed a gigantic task in making the renovation and left the former ruins that were crumbling to pieces in the condition that they appear in the picture.

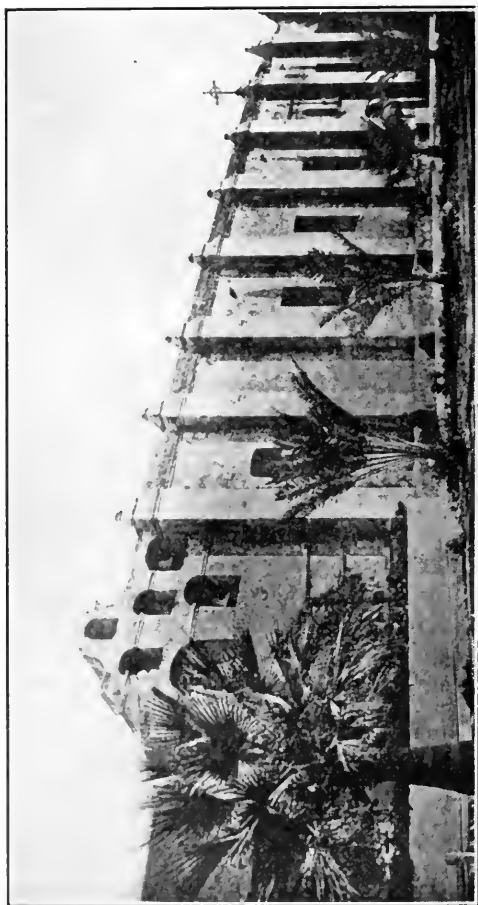


SAN CÁRLOS BORROMEIO (MONTEREY)—1770

## SAN CARLOS CHAPEL

Situated at Monterey; built in the year 1770.

This chapel is not properly a mission, but was the first church erected in the presidio of Monterey which in after years became the capital of the province.



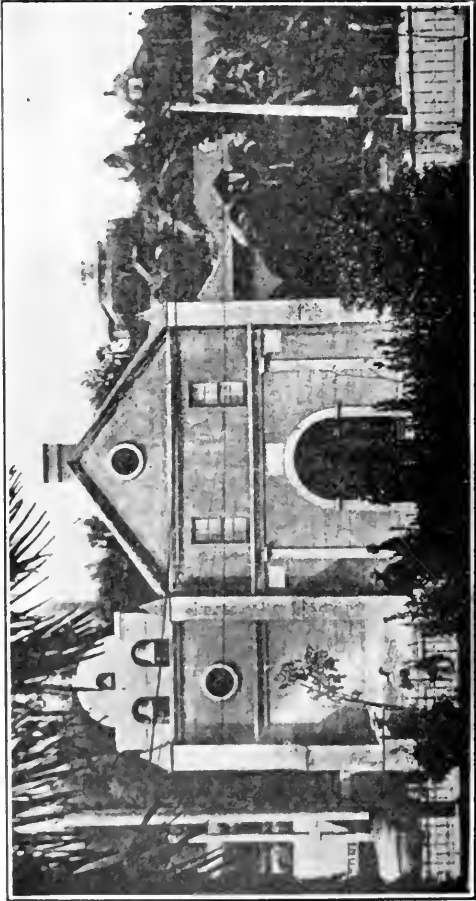
SAN GABRIEL ARCHANGEL—1771

## SAN GABRIEL (No. 4)

This mission was founded in September 8, 1771, in latitude 34:10.

At the time of its foundation it was dedicated to the Archangel Gabriel. It is in Los Angeles county, and the buildings are in a good state of preservation. It is located in the eastern entrance to the valley of Los Angeles, distant only a few miles from the most beautiful city in California, known all over the world as the true "City of the Angels," (City of Los Angeles). The mission proper is surrounded by many other thriving cities and towns, like Pasadena.

It can be reached by electric railway lines that traverse in all directions from and to Los Angeles.



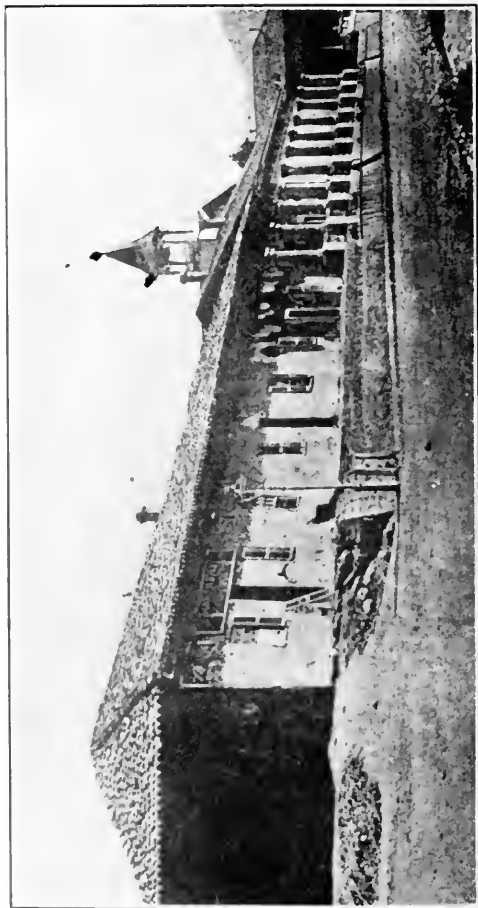
NUESTRA SRA. DE LOS ANGELES



## CHURCH IN LOS ANGELES

Chapel on the old Plaza of the ancient pueblo of the actual city of Los Angeles.

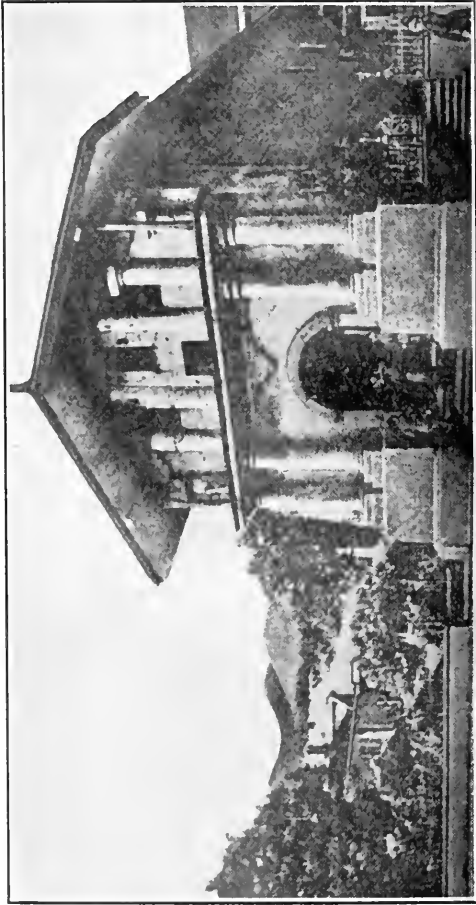
Its foundation was laid immediately after the establishment of the pueblo (town) by order of the Viceroy of new Spain. It was built when the entire population did not reach the number of 1000, and was consecrated and given the name of "Church of Our Lady of Queen of the Angels." (Templo de Nuestra Señora Reina de Los Angeles). It was one of the four branch churches (asistencias) to the Mission of San Gabriel. Dedicated in the month of December, 1822.



SAN LUIS OBISPO—1772

## SAN LUIS OBISPO (No. 5)

This mission was founded by Junipero Serra on September 1, 1772, in latitude 35:36. This mission was founded by Junipero Serra and has always been in a good state of preservation; on account of the fact that after its secularization in 1834 it became an Indian pueblo (town) with its ejidos (community lands) to the extent of 8876 acres, to which it was entitled by Royal Regulation. Religious services have been celebrated inside of the church daily up to the present time.

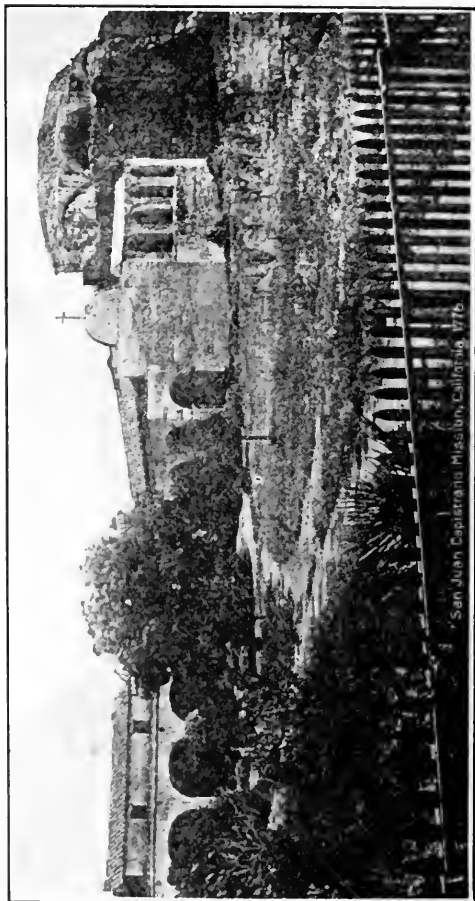


SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS (DOLORES)—1776

## SAN FRANCISCO de ASIS (No. 6)

This mission was founded on October 9th, 1776, in latitude 37:40. It was called Mission Dolores (Our Lady of Pains).

It was founded by the exploring party at the time that the entrance of the Port of San Francisco was discovered. The foundation was made on the 9th of October because it was the day of San Francisco, the patron saint of the Order. On the same day the bay was given its actual name of San Francisco. The dedication was made with great pomp and solemnity, as described in "Forbes California." The mission proper is situated in what now is the heart of the populous and thriving city of San Francisco.

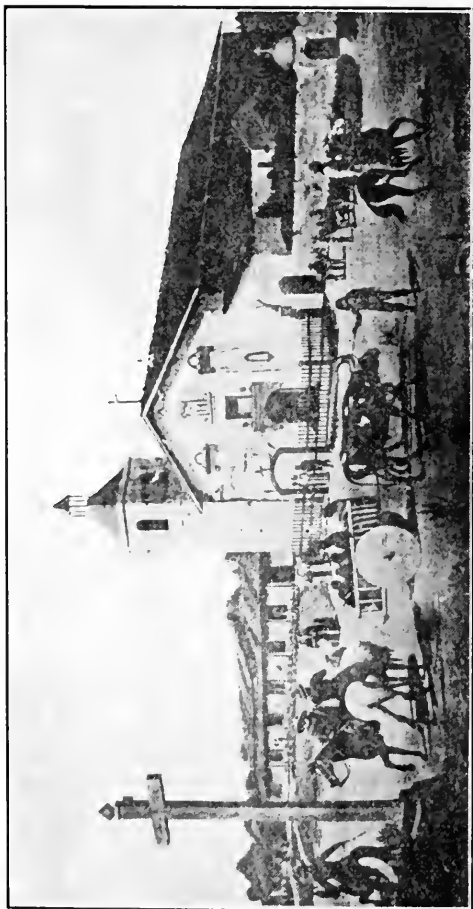


San Juan Capistrano Mission, California, 1776

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO—1776

## SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO (No. 7)

This mission was founded at first on the 30th of October, 1775, by Father Fermin de Lazuen, on the feast day of its patron saint. The mission proper stands today between two streams—on that of the Trabuco and on the south that of the San Juan, which comes down from the ravine called Mission Vieja (old mission), with the best of agricultural land in its surroundings. Father Lazuen was the founder of the first establishment that only lasted one year, on account of its destruction by the Indians of that vicinity. After that came Father Junipero Serra, Father Mugar-tegui and some soldiers from San Diego, and resumed the work of the foundation. San Juan, in primitive times, was considered as one of the most beautiful structures in the entire country, but was only used six years and three months, as it was destroyed by a terrible earthquake on December 8th, 1812. It is reported that at the time of the catastrophe the entire congregation perished with the exception of one woman and child. This mission was never rebuilt, and represents today the same appearance that it did fifty years ago, with the exception of the most valuable and useful improvements that are being constantly made by its actual worthy and energetic parish priest Father John O. Sullivan.



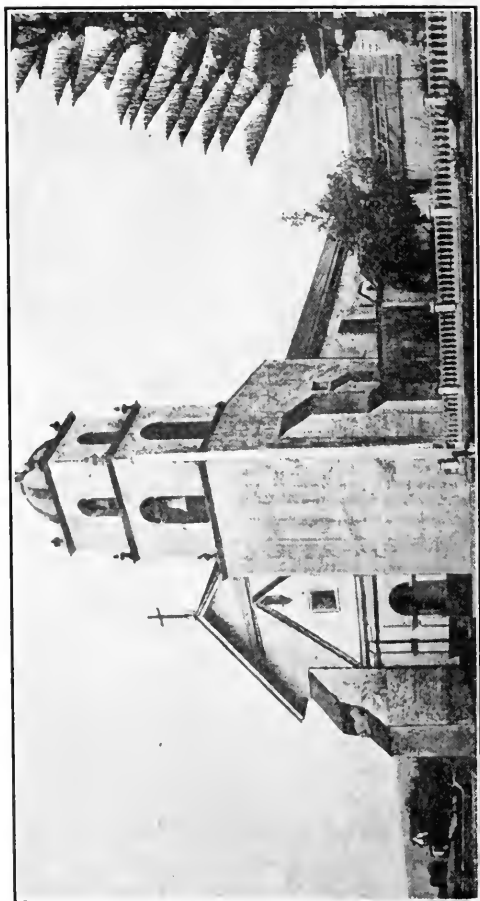
SANTA CLARA, 1777



## SANTA CLARA (No. 8)

This mission was founded on January 18th, 1777, in latitude 37:20. It was located at first on the banks of the river named Guadalupe. Next it was located close to the railroad depot at Santa Clara, where stands today a large cross in memory of the second foundation which was destroyed by an earthquake in the year 1813.

For the benefit of my readers I will explain why Col. Don Juan Bautista de Anza in the year 1774, while on his journey from the presidio of Tubac in Sonora, to found the presidio of San Francisco, gave the above name to the said river. His entire party had been for nearly two days without water; when he arrived at the willow grove that still exists in the suburbs of the actual city of San Jose. There they camped and found the above mentioned river and had all the water that they needed. Anza gave the river the name of Guadalupe, in honor of the Virgin Mary, who was the Patron Saint of the entire party— Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Our Lady of Guadalupe) who is said to have appeared corporeally in the Sixteenth Century on the mountain of Tepeyac on the valley of Mexico to the Indian Juan Diego. The picture shows the mission as it was after it was secularized in the year 1834 and converted into an Indian pueblo with its parish priest and ejidos (commons or townlands) to the extent of two square leagues around the old church building. Santa Clara has been ever since the flourishing and thriving City of Santa Clara in the fertile county of the same name.

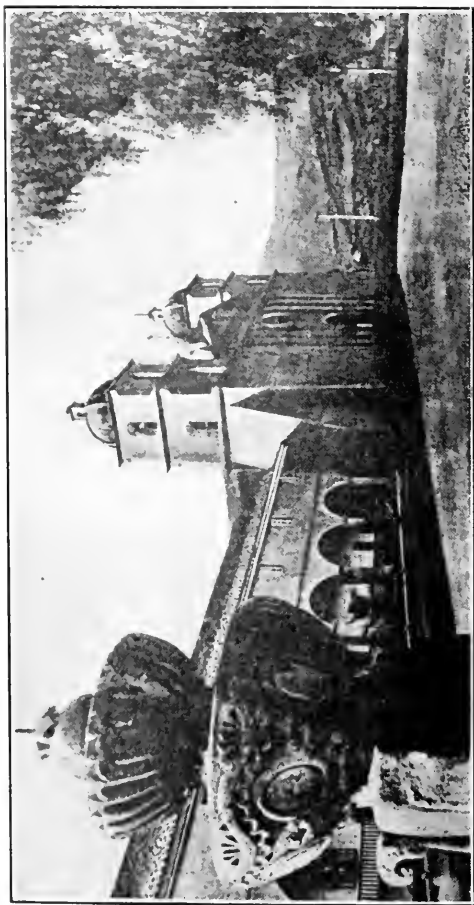


SAN BUENAVENTURA—1783

## SAN BUENAVENTURA (No. 9)

This mission was founded March 31, 1782, in latitude 34:36.

This mission is situated in the beautiful district of country south of Santa Barbara county, and is the county seat of the county of the same name. The valley upon which it is located is or was known in former times as the Santa Clara valley of southern California in San Buenaventura county. The mission building is in a good state of preservation and religious services are held daily in the said temple as in days gone by. The church is highly decorated inside.



SANTA BARBARA—1786

## SANTA BARBARA (No. 10)

This mission was founded December 4th, 1786, in latitude 34:40.

It was one of the most conspicuous in California on account of the fact that it was a military post (presidio) of the same name, as well as the place where was established the celebrated college of the Order of the Franciscans. Santa Barbara mission was one of the primitive monastic establishments created in California, for the ordaining of new priests of this religious order.



LA PURÍSIMA CONCEPCION—1787

## PURISIMA CONCEPCION (No. 11)

This mission was founded December 8th, 1787, and was in existence only a few years when it was extinguished to give place to that of Santa Inez, which seemed to be of greater importance. It was situated about thirty miles west of Santa Barbara and located in the Lompoc valley.



SANTA CRUZ—1791



## SANTA CRUZ. (No. 12)

This mission was founded in August 28, 1791, in latitude 37:00.

It is situated on the seashore, near the entrance to the bay of Monterey in Santa Cruz county. It was founded in the same year as the mission of La Soledad in the Salinas valley in Monterey county. In January, 1840, an earthquake and tidal wave destroyed the buildings very materially. The final disaster occurred in 1851, when the church walls fell in. The mission of Santa Cruz has now entirely disappeared.



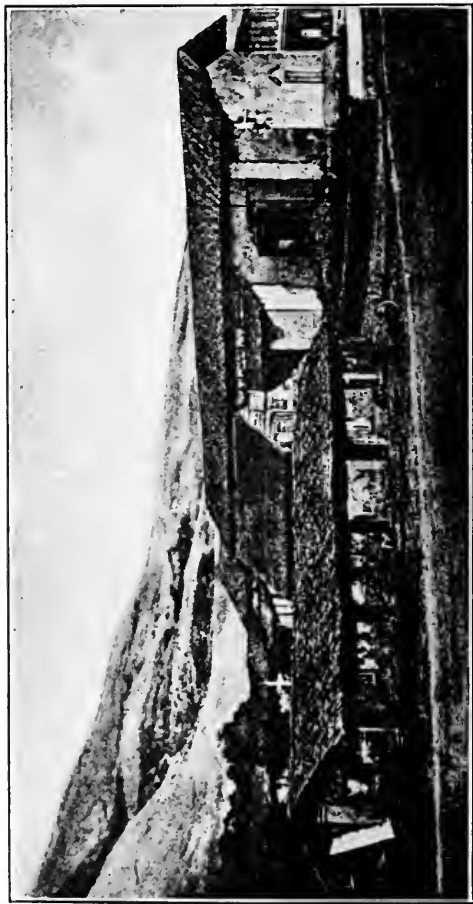
NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA SOLEDAD—1791

NUESTRA SEÑORA de la SOLEDAD  
(No. 13)

This mission was founded on October 9th, 1791, in latitude 36:38.

The name of this mission was Nuestra Señora de la Soledad (Our Lady of Solitude). It is perhaps one of the most historical in California as it was the residence of one of the most notable governors of California during the Spanish regime.

It was the place where Don José Joaquin de Arrillaga died on the 25th of November, 1814. It was also the place where in the year 1818 Governor D. Pablo Vicente de Sola transferred all the records and all articles of value, from the capital of the province which was Monterey, when the pirates attacked and robbed the pueblo and destroyed the presidio. Governor de Sola transported everything of value beforehand so that when the pirates anchored in Monterey bay the governor could not be found because he was in La Soledad with all that belonged to the government and to him.



SAN JOSÉ DE GUADALUPE—1797

## SAN JOSÉ (No. 14)

This mission was founded June 11, 1797, in latitude 37:30.

It was built for the purpose of having an adjunct establishment to that of Santa Clara. It is situated in the great and fertile valley of Santa Clara and in the neighborhood of the "Garden City" of Santa Clara county and about fifty miles distant from the city of San Francisco. Nearly all of the mission buildings are in ruins. The only building that remains is the ancient monastery thereof.

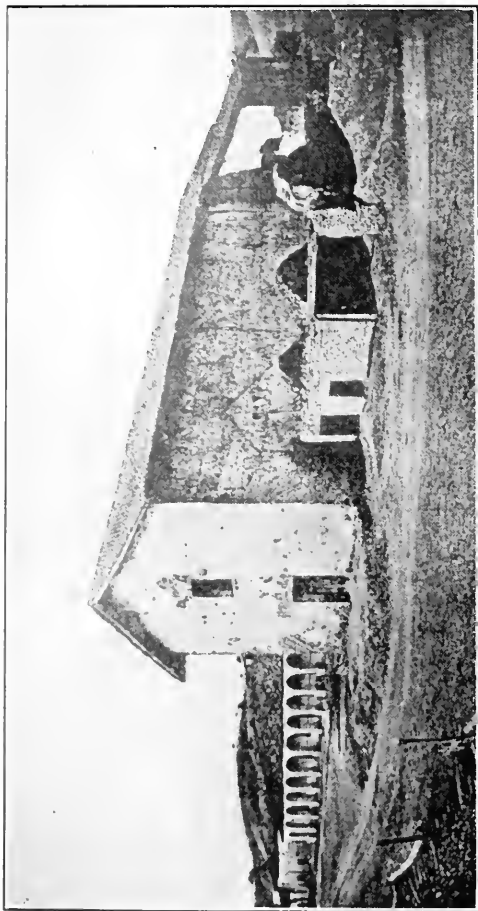


SAN JUAN BAUTISTA—1797

## SAN JUAN BAUTISTA (No. 15)

This mission was founded on June 24, 1797, in latitude 36:58.

It is located in Monterey county and about seven miles from the Pajaro river. It was the residence of the prefecture of the district which embraced all of the counties north of Monterey. It was there that the last Mexican prefect exercised the functions of prefect, who was Manuel Castro. The mission buildings have disappeared.



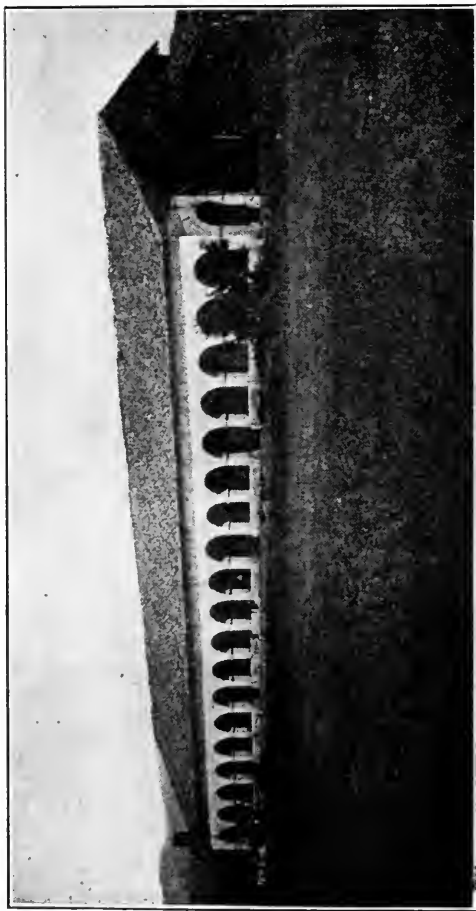
SAN MIGUEL ARCANGEL—1797



## SAN MIGUEL (No. 16)

This mission was founded on July 25th, 1797, in latitude 35:43.

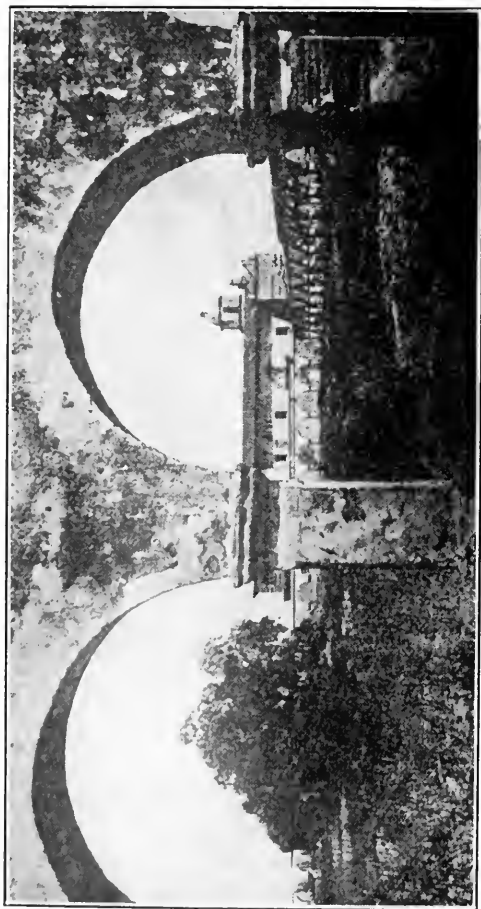
This mission is situated in the immediate vicinity of Paso Robles, in San Luis Obispo county; Paso Robles is especially noted for its hot springs and sulphur mud baths whose healthful and curative virtues are enjoyed by thousands of persons who visit the locality. The mission proper has been for many years partially abandoned, but for the past eight years has been improving wonderfully. The ancient San Miguel mission will soon become a thriving and important business center of San Luis Obispo county.



SAN FERNANDO REY DE ESPAÑA—1797

## SAN FERNANDO REY (No. 17)

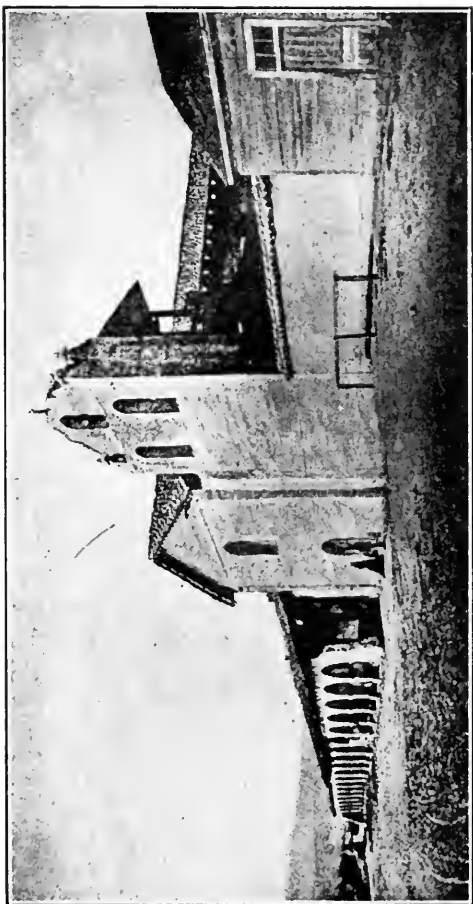
This mission was founded on September 8, 1797, in latitude 34:16, and dedicated to Ferdinand III, King of Spain. The mission buildings were made in a very substantial manner, but were partially abandoned in the year 1806, and suffered severely during an earthquake several years later. The mission proper is located in the fertile valley of San Fernando. It was granted to Andres Pico, and Eulogio de Celis by the Mexican governor Don Pio Pico, in the year 1845.



SAN LUIS REY DE FRANCIA—1798

## SAN LUIS REY (No. 18)

This mission was founded on June 13, 1798, in latitude 33:03. It was the last mission founded in the eighteenth century. It is known as the grandest and richest of the California missions and was located in a most picturesque section of San Diego county, near what today is known by the name of Ocean-side, some fifty miles from San Diego.

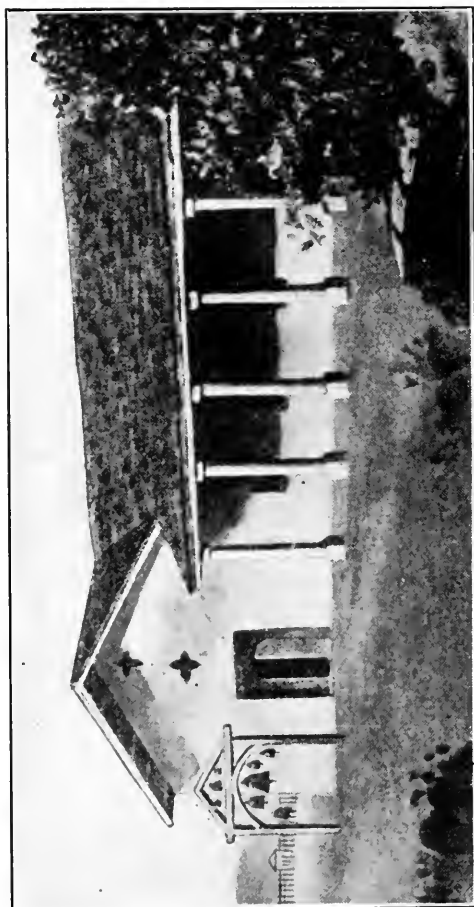


SANTA INEZ—1804

## SANTA INEZ (No. 19)

This mission was founded on November 17, 1804, in latitude 34:32.

It is in Santa Barbara county, and is considered to be of great importance because it had a college for the instruction of the growing generation. In proof of this, I will say that during the Mexican regime, a grant of land was made to the catholic church for the support and maintenance of the said college. The name of the rancho or grant was Cañada de los Pinos or "College rancho." College rancho, six square leagues in Santa Barbara county, patented to archbishop of California, confirmed March 16, 1857, for 35,499.37 acres.



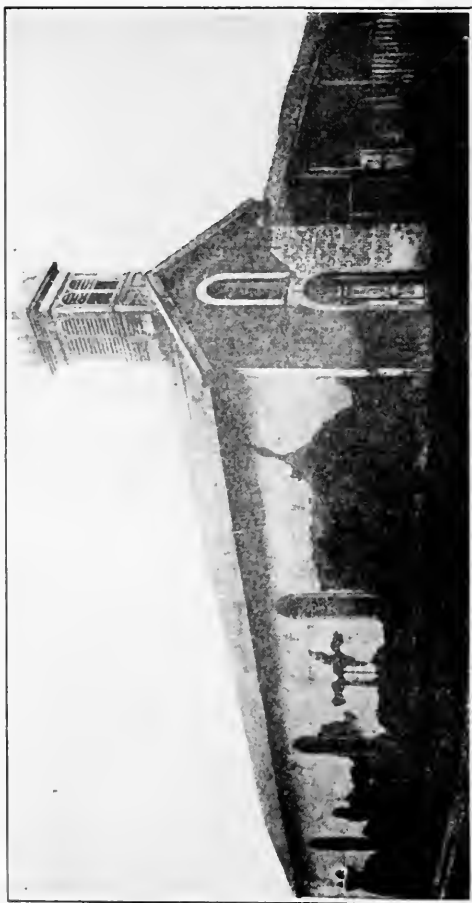
SAN RAFAEL ARCANGEL—1817



## SAN RAFAEL ARCANGEL (No. 20)

This mission was founded on October 14, 1817, in latitude 38:00.

This was the first mission established north of San Francisco. It is in Marin county, and never had any considerable number of neophytes, and during the time that it lasted as a mission proper was not prosperous.



SAN FRANCISCO SOLANO DE SONOMA—1823

## SAN FRANCISCO SOLANO (No. 21)

This was the last mission founded in California. It was dedicated on July 4th, 1823. It never flourished as a mission and was converted into a military garrison immediately after its secularization, and Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo assumed the ownership thereof without having any right to do so.

The said mission is in the present town of Sonoma.

## MISSION REPORT

Report on the missions of Upper California; taken from the mission records on file at the termination of the year.

Name of Mission	Date	Lat.	Bap.	Mar.	Deaths	Living
San Diego	June 16 1769		6243	1684	3965	1876
San Luis Rey	June 13 1798	33,33	4994	1173	2573	2756
San Juan Capistrano	Nov. 1 1776	33,26	4199	1119	2920	947
San Gabriel	Sept. 8 1771	34,10	7556	1833	5393	1386
San Fernando	Sept. 8 1797	34,16	2711	789	1851	832
San Buena Ventura	Mch. 31 1782	34,36	3824	1071	3014	789
Santa Barbara	Dec. 4 1786	34,40	5275	1410	3682	762
Santa Ynez	Sept. 17 1804	34,32	1299	385	1118	485
Purissima Concepcion	Dec. 8 1787	35,	3200	889	2487	448
San Luis Obispo	Sept. 1 1772	35,36	2620	747	2049	328
San Miguel	July 25 1797	35,43	2380	718	1690	747
San Antonio	July 14 1771	36,30	4333	1115	3460	710
Soledad	Oct. 8 1791	36,38	2033	618	1605	333
San Carlos	June 30 1770	36,44	3587	976	2707	234
San Juan Bautista	June 24 1797	36,58	3783	948	2581	986
Santa Cruz	Aug. 28 1791	37,00	2348	788	1831	364
Santa Clara	Jan. 18 1777	37,20	8268	2376	6408	1389
San Jose	June 11 1797	37,30	6008	1750	4144	1766
San Francisco	Oct. 9 1776	37,40	6879	2033	5092	236
San Rafael	Dec. 18 1817	38,00	1700	448	523	1026
San Francisco Solano	Aug. 25 1823	38,30	505	138	88	704
Totals			83696	22009	59082	18731

There are 228 leagues from San Diego to San Francisco Solano by direct route, of which the missions of Santa Cruz and San Jose divert. The distance from San Diego to San Miguel in Lower California is 17 leagues.

(Signed) FRAY JOSE SANCHEZ,  
President.

## REPORT OF THE FOUNDATION

Report of the foundation of the missions of Upper California, with their dates respectively, and distances from one another as given above.

## Summary of totals:

Baptisms .....	83,696
Deaths .....	39,082
Fugitives .....	5,833
Living .....	18,781

Escaped as fugitives and dead 64,965, or 77 per cent of diminution of the natives in the missions, during the eighty-six years of the conquest. According to past experience the decrease was found to be much greater between the year 1828 and the date of the secularization of the missions which was the principal cause of their total ruin in the year 1837.

## POLITICAL AND CIVIL RESULTS

The population of the country, and its liberation, from barbarism, was never of any benefit to Mexico, but has always been beneficial to the United States.

\* \* \*

I hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true copy, made from the original thereof, which I received from the hand of the Rev. Father President of the missions, Friar Nar-

ciso Duran, and which said paper forms a part of my private documents.

Mission of Santa Clara, September 9th, 1828.

(Signed) FRAY NARCISO DURAN,  
(paraph.)

(Signed) DIEGO A. FORBES,  
(paraph.)

#### FACTS CONCERNING THE MISSIONS OF CALIFORNIA

As by the Royal Regulations issued by the king of Spain for the foundation of missionary establishments in the province for the conversion of the native Indians to Christianity it was declared: First, that no mission could exist for a longer period than ten years as it was supposed that within said period the neophytes thereof would be sufficiently instructed to govern themselves in separate and independent communities.

Second, that any mission which did not prosper should be extinguished and its neophytes and catechumens transferred to the nearest prosperous establishment of the same kind.

Third, that ten years after the foundation of any mission, it had to be secularized and such communities as were capable of governing themselves were declared to be Indian pueblos (towns) with their respective civil authorities and their parish priest entitled to

receive two square leagues of land around the mission buildings as townlands (ejidos).

After the date of the Mexican Independence and when the first Mexican Congress met at Chilpancingo in the State of Guerrero in the year 1824, all of the missions of California were ordered to be secularized. Nothing, however, was done until the year 1828 when the government appointed Don José Maria de Echeandia, governor of this territory, with orders to make the secularization of the mentioned pious establishments. Mr. Echeandia came and did nothing.

After him came Guadalupe Victoria, who likewise failed to do anything in that matter and the priests continued as before in their arduous labors.

Next came General Don José Figueroa with special instructions to carry out the above mentioned decree of secularization of the said establishments, which he did in the year 1834, causing thereby the total ruin and desolation of the entire country. He appointed a majordomo (overseer) in each mission who took possession of all the properties that the priests possessed in mission buildings and other improvements, together with all the cattle, horses and sheep that in some of the missions like San Gabriel and San Luis Rey reached to the hundreds of thousands. These majordomos shamefully appropriated to themselves the said estates to satisfy their

inordinate greed and ambition, ignoring absolutely the rights of the priests as well as those of the Indians themselves. As the country continued in 1835, 1836, 1837 and 1838 in constant revolution, the majordomos never rendered any account to the governor of their administration.

Nearly all of the missions of California were either granted to private individuals for debts that the mission priests had contracted or were granted as cattle ranchos (farms). The few that remained as separate communities were not declared to be Indian pueblos in conformity with the above mentioned regulation but remained simply as villages or towns and did not receive the quantity of town lands as mentioned above, and because the governors of the department continued making grants to individuals up to and adjoining, and even including in many instances, the mission buildings themselves.

The following is a list of the tracts of land granted to private persons in the vicinity of said establishments.

#### SAN DIEGO

Nearly all of the mission lands granted to Santiago Argüello in May 10, 1845, without including the lands of the present city of San Diego, because those belonged to the ancient town that was founded with the old presidio (military garrison) in the year 1769.



The National Ranch, where National City now stands, granted to John Foster in December 11, 1835.

Melijó Rancho granted to Santiago E. Argüello on May 17, 1834.

Guejito granted to José M. Orosco September 20, 1845.

The island or peninsula that forms the Bay of San Diego, and upon which the Coronado Hotel now stands, granted to Pedro C. Carrillo on the 15th of May, 1846.

El Cajon granted to Miguel de Pedrorena on the 23rd of December, 1845.

San Jacinto granted to Mrs. Pedrorena on the 9th of May, 1846.

La Soledad granted to Rafael Serrano on the 7th of May, 1836.

Cuyamaca granted to Agustin Olvera on the 11th of August, 1845.

San Jacinto Nuevo granted to M. del Rosario Estudillo de Aguirre on the 14th of January, 1846.

Tolla granted to Pablo and José Apis on the 7th of November, 1845.

#### SAN LUIS REY

Buenavista granted to Felipe Indian of said mission on the 8th of July, 1845.

Guajome granted to Andrés and José Manuel (Indians) on the 19th of July, 1845.

Santa Rosa granted to Juan Moreno on the 30th of June, 1846.

Cuca granted to Juana Maria on the 15th of May, 1845.

Agua Hedionda granted to J. M. Marron on the 10th of August, 1842.

Santa Margarita and Los Flores granted to Pio Pico and Andrés on the 10th of May, 1841.

Los Encinitos granted to Andrés Ybarra on the 23rd of January, 1846.

Los Encinos granted to Tomás Gutierrez on the 11th of December, 1833.

San Alejo granted to Juan M. Osuma September 15, 1836.

Las Milpitas granted to Silvestre Marron on the 11th of February, 1845.

Buenavista patented to Jesus Machado on the 3rd of October, 1856.

#### SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

La Paz and the mission Vieja (old mission) granted to Agustin Olvera on the 14th of April, 1845.

Potrero of the Sierra with the warm springs (Agua Caliente) granted to John Foster on the 5th of April, 1845.

El Trabuco granted to Santiago and Ramon Argüello on the 31st of July 1841, but patented to John Foster together with nearly all of the lands surrounding the said mission

building, which were afterwards recovered by the archbishop of California, Joseph Sadoc Alemany, in the fifties by decree of the United States District Court.

### SAN GABRIEL

Three square leagues granted to Julian Williams on the 1st of April, 1843.

Close to the dam of the mission one square league granted to Joaquin as magistrate (Alcalde) and to forty Indians more around the mission buildings on the 3rd of May, 1843.

Azusa granted to Henry Dalton for a mission debt on the 26th of May, 1845.

Cucamonga granted to Y. Coronel on the 15th of June, 1846.

La Puente granted to Perfecto Hugo Reid and W. Workman on the 22nd of July, 1845.

La Puente granted to John Rowland on the 14th of January, 1842.

Santa Anita granted to P. Hugo Reid on the 31st of March, 1845.

500 varas sq. to Simeon, a mission Indian, on the 1st of June, 1846.

1000 varas sq. granted to Serafina de Jesus on the 3rd of May, 1843.

500 varas sq. granted to Don Manuel de Silvera on the 18th of May, 1843.

200 varas sq. granted to Arno Maerbe on the 20th of May, 1843.

200 varas sq. granted to Santiago Silva on the same date.

An extension of 500 varas sq. granted to Serafina de Jesus on the 31st of December, 1845.

#### SAN FERNANDO

All of the valley with the mission buildings granted to Andrés Pico and Eulogio de Celis and patented by the United States District Court for 115,000 acres of land, except the mission buildings. The date of the grant was January 8, 1845. This mission was extinguished at the date of its secularization.

El Encino granted to Francisco and Roque, mission Indians, in July 8, 1845, but patented to Vicente de la Osa.

El Escorpion granted to Urbano Odon and Manuel, also Indians, on the 7th of April, 1845.

#### SAN BUENAVENTURA

San Miguelito granted to Ramon Rodriguez, on May 21, 1846.

Mission lands granted to José Gabriel and Juan de Jesus on the 22nd of July, 1845.

The rest of the mission lands granted to Camarillo and Poli on June 12, 1846.

Mission lands to Serro Maria, September 23rd, 1845.

#### SANTA BARBARA

This mission remained as a pueblo (town) because it had been recognized as such since the primitive foundation of the place by the Spaniards of the province as one of the four

royal presidios (military garrisons) of California. The mission buildings were dedicated as a convent or monastery for the Franciscan friars who inhabit the mentioned locality up to the present time.

Nearly all of the surrounding tracts of land were granted as follows:

Dos Pueblos to Nicholas Den on the 18th of April, 1842.

La Goleta granted to Daniel Hill on the 10th of June, 1846.

Huasana to Isaac J. Sparks on December 8, 1843.

#### PURISIMA CONCEPCION

This mission was extinguished and granted to Anastacio Carrillo with buildings and all on May 18, 1837.

#### SANTA YNEZ

Eight square leagues granted to the bishop of California for the foundation of a college or seminary.

La Laguna granted to Octaviano Gutierrez November 14, 1845.

La Carpinteria granted to Cósme Vanegas on the 18th of January, 1834.

Los Alamos granted to José de la Guerra on the 8th of March, 1839.

Los Alamos and Agua Caliente to Pedro C. Carrillo on the 14th of October, 1843.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO

This mission was also converted into a thriving town, but all of the surrounding tracts were granted to private persons as follows:

Santa Margarita granted to Joaquin Estrada on the 18th of September, 1841.

Asuncion to Pedro Estrada on the 10th of April, 1844.

Cañada de los Osos to Scott and Wilson on the 24th of September, 1845.

San Miguelito to Miguel Avila on the 10th of May, 1842.

Arroyo Grande to Seferino Castro on the 25th of April, 1841.

## SAN MIGUEL

This mission discontinued after its secularization and its lands were granted like the others.

Paso Robles to Pedro Narvaes and Petronilo Rios on May 24, 1844.

El Nacimiento to Mauricio Gonzalez on the 10th of February, 1842.

El Pleito to Antonio Chavez on the 18th of July, 1845.

## SAN ANTONIO

The Milpitas granted to Ygnacio Pastor (Indian) on the 10th of April, 1846.

Los Ojitos to Mariano Soberanes on April 5, 1843.

## LA SOLEDAD

This mission was granted to Panfilo Soberanes with mission buildings that were all in ruins and the adjoining tract of Los Coches to Josefa Soberanes on the 14th of June, 1841.

## SANTA CRUZ

This mission was destroyed by an earthquake but continued as a town of some importance, being the county seat of Santa Cruz county. Some of the tracts that were granted to private individuals were the following:

To Pedro Sansevain, El Rincon, on the 25th of April, 1846.

To José A. Bolcof, San Agustin, on the 7th of September, 1841.

1000 varas sq. to Nicolas Lucero on the 18th of March, 1844.

## SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

This mission remained as a town and was the seat of the first prefecture of the department up to the date of the American occupation of the country in the year 1847.

## SANTA CLARA

The mission buildings in part were granted to J. Alexander Forbes, together with the adjoining tract of El Potrero (enclosed tract) known today as the Stockton Ranch between the mission and the city of

San Jose. Santa Clara is now the thriving city close to the Garden City of the State which is no other than the ancient pueblo founded by order of the Spanish government in the year 1780 under the same regulation as that of Los Angeles, original name San José de Guadalupe.

#### SAN JOSE

This mission was extinguished as it was only a branch of Santa Clara.

#### SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS (Los Dolores Pains)

It was claimed that this mission had been granted by the governor to its parish priest Santillan, but the land commissioner rejected the claim and the mission remained simply as a town and was the place where all the civil authorities resided as they could not be established in the small settlement of Yerba Buena with only a few houses (less than 23).

The grants made were to José de Jesus Noe, San Miguel on December 26, 1845. Laguna de la Merced to B. Galindo January 7, 1842. Visitacion and Rodeo to Jacob P. Leese on the 31st of July, 1841.

#### SAN RAFAEL (In Marin County)

This remained as a town and is the county seat. It was claimed to have been granted to Timothy Murphy but the claim was re-



jected by the land commissioner. San Rafael is now a flourishing city, distant only four miles from the State penitentiary at Point San Quentin.

#### SAN FRANCISCO SOLANO (Alias SONOMA)

This was the last mission founded in 1823 and was extinguished and converted into a military garrison and claimed and confirmed to General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo in the fifties.

The Archbishop of California, Joseph Sadoc Alemany, presented a claim to the land commissioner for all of the mission buildings and land that had been granted as above set fourth. His claim was rejected as to the outside lands but confirmed for the mission buildings and a small number of acres around the mission church.

We are assured that the missionary fathers, as soon as the decree of secularization was issued, lost all hope and ambition and commenced to slaughter their cattle by the thousands for the meat, which they cut up and dried in the sun and made into bales, saving also the best horns, hides and tallow, which they sold to the several merchants who frequented the coast every six months.

In this way the mission padres proved that they did not intend to lose all the wealth that they had accumulated after many years of toil and labor.

We are also assured in Forbes California that the richest missions were those of San Gabriel and San Luis Rey and that these possessed as many as two hundred thousand head of cattle, over five hundred head of horses, and over forty thousand head of sheep, and San Gabriel about one hundred and fifty thousand grapevines.

Although Washington Irving qualified the San Gabriel valley as an immense lava bed with dustlike smoke, his mistake was only the result of his utter ignorance of the facts relative thereto.

The original settlers of San Bernardino county were José Antonio and José Maria Lugo, Vicente Lugo and Diego Sepulveda, who received a grant of seven square leagues each from the Mexican government on the 21st of June, 1842. José del Carmen Sepulveda was also one of the grantees and after the date of the American occupation in 1847 a Mormon colony came and settled there until the Mexican grant was confirmed by the United States District Court.

#### PRIMITIVE LIFE OF THE NATIVE CALIFORNIANS

The entire white population of California in 1846 may have reached 1000, chiefly composed of Spanish families who had come from different parts of Mexico in the several expeditions that had arrived to colonize the

country. Many of them were of pure Spanish blood.

The leading business and occupation of the people was cattle raising for their hide and tallow, which they sold to American and other traders along the coast. The universal price fixed on hides was two (2) pesos each for which the merchants would pay in goods. Land was held in large tracts that had been given to them gratis by the government, Spanish as well as Mexican, and the tracts were called ranchos and their owners rancheros, who lived an easy unprogressive life.



Pio Pico

Their general mode of travel was on horseback. They were all skilled riders, natural musicians and graceful dancers.

The above picture represents the last Mexican governor of the territory of Upper California immediately prior to the date of the American occupation. Pio Pico was without doubt the most influential politician in the country as he was kept in office from the year 1822 to 1846. When he was not acting as governor he was member of the territorial deputation or member of the departmental assembly. Don Pio, as he was called, was very rich at the time that the Americans commenced to come into Los Angeles county; he was well liked by all his countrymen, and highly respected by all the Americans who had the good fortune to know him during his lifetime.

Here follows list of Mexican governors in California after the date of the Mexican Independence.

Luis Antonio Argüello	from 1823	to 1824
José Ma de Echeandia	" 1825	" 1831
Manuel Victoria	" 1831	" 1832
Pio Pico as Pres. of the Territorial Deputation	" 1832	" 1833
José Figueroa	" 1833	" 1835
José Castro	" 1835	" 1836
Nicolas Gutierrez	" 1836	" 1836
Mariano Chico	" 1836	" 1836
Nicolas Gutierrez	" 1836	" 1836
Juan Bautista Alvarado	" 1836	" 1842
Manuel Michelorena	" 1842	" 1845
Pio Pico	" 1845	" 1846

## FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN CALIFORNIA IN 1846.

American whaling ships appeared along the California coast in the Pacific ocean early in the century. Regular trade with the California missions began in the year 1822 and grew rapidly and even trappers made their way into the country as early as 1826. From the year 1839 to 1846 Americans commenced to come. Thomas O. Larkin, a native of Massachusetts, was the first American consul in the country and established himself at the port of Monterey.

The Donner party was the name given to a group of American emigrants that ventured to cross the entire continent to satisfy their anxiety to reach California during the year 1846. They were very unfortunate in traversing the great western plateau and were overtaken by winter when they were still in the midst of the Sierra Nevada range of mountains. They lost their cattle and oxen in a great and terrible snowstorm and were left without food or shelter. They had a terrible struggle against cold and starvation and their fate seemed to be sealed. The whole party originally consisted of about 86 persons; twenty-two of the most courageous and daring tried to get through the snow to Sutters Fort, but only seven reached there, all the rest having perished. Expeditions of relief were sent out one after another from the valley of Sacramento, but were useless. The few

survivors of the Donner party were rescued from their precarious situation only after the snow had melted.

#### CAPTAIN JOHN A. SUTTER

This individual was a Swiss who came to California and was an employée of the Russian settlement in Bodega Bay in Marin county, north of San Francisco. He was the well known pioneer who first settled in the northern part of the State; he was the military commander of that district of the country and the owner of the extensive tract of land named New Helvetia. It was upon his rancho that the great gold discovery was made by Marshall in the year 1848.

#### THE BEAR FLAG

As the present generation of California cannot acquire a correct knowledge of all the events that occurred in their country except by history, and as historians in many instances pass unnoticed many things that happened before their time, or transform them to suit their fancy, I have made up my mind to write something relative thereto. My readers perhaps will be pleased with the information that I take the liberty of qualifying as interesting.

In the same manner that the Mexican government gave to Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston an empresario grant to colonize

Texas in the thirties, so also did the Mexican government of California, General Don Manuel Micheltoarena, in 1843 and 1844, give to all the American immigrants of the Whitman party who had crossed the Sierra Nevada range of mountains and come into the northern part of California instead of going to Oregon, which was their true place of destination. The Mexican governor established a military post in the Sacramento valley at the place where the Americans had to pass on their way to Oregon. They put Sutter in charge with orders to give to many Americans who would ask for grants eleven square leagues of land (48,818 acres), for which he had given him blank grants duly signed by him as governor of the territory. I insert herein a partial list of some of the Americans who received land grants and located in California in 1844 and 1845 instead of going to Oregon.

Josiah Belden Barranca, Colo.	11	sq. leagues
J. Sheldon, Cosumnes River	5	“ “
W. Gulnac, French Camp	11	“ “
W. Flugge, Feather River	5	“ “
Ed. Farwell, Sac. River	5	“ “
R. Ridley, Callayome	6	“ “
Fr. Dye, Sac. River	7	“ “
W. Hartnell, Sac. River	11	“ “
Pearson B. Reading, Sac. River	6	“ “
Joel Dedmond, Sac. River	6	“ “
W. Chard, Sac. River	4	“ “

Thomas O. Larkin, Sac. River	10	sq. leagues
John Bidwell, Sac. River	7	“ “
Charles R. Wilson, Sac. River	5	“ “
John A. Sutter, New Helvetia	11	“ “
W. Leidersdorf, American River	8	“ “

with many others.

As time went on things began to get worse. The Mexican government was deposed and the country was in revolution between Castro, Alvarado, Vallejo and Pico. Micheltorena was taken prisoner and shipped on a sailing vessel at San Pedro and sent back to Mexico.

The American settlers in the north became greatly alarmed at the condition of things and realized that the country would have to follow the same example as Texas. They therefore assembled on a certain day near Sonoma and W. B. Ide issued a proclamation protesting against the arbitrary acts of the new Governor Pio Pico and declared the territory of California free and independent. They raised a white flag made out of common sheeting with the picture of an enormous bear tinged with berry juice thereon. All the Americans including some of the Fremont party marched to the military post of Sonoma and after some skirmishes took the place and captured General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, who was the military commander of the place.



General Don José Castro who had come to the rescue and was stationed at Santa Clara from the opposite shore of San Pablo bay, shipped his soldiers across in boats. The first boat contained José Reyes Berreyesa and the two De Haro brothers, who, on reaching the opposite shore, were killed by the Americans that were waiting for them to land. That occurrence put an end to further hostilities and thus ended the first attempt to make California the only Bear State of the American Union, as in a short time thereafter the stars and stripes were floating triumphant over the government building at Monterey, the then capital of the territory.

#### JOHN C. FREMONT

This distinguished person was born in Georgia in the year 1813 and was educated as an engineer; he was commissioned in the United States army and employed in 1842 to explore the passes of the Rocky mountains for the purpose of finding an overland route to the Pacific ocean. His first explorations were made in the region of the great Salt Lake in Utah, entering California through the Sierras at the headwaters of the American river in the winter of 1843-1844. Upon his return with the result of his important work he was again sent to California in 1845 to explore more thoroughly the region along the coast. Fremont reached Sutters Fort with

about 60 of his men in the year 1846 and obtained permission from General José Castro, who was Mexican military commander stationed at the mission of Santa Clara, to make explorations in the San Joaquin valley. This permit was immediately revoked and Fremont expecting an attack turned northward toward Oregon.

Rare document to the commander of the American Corvett Portsmouth in San Francisco Bay.

#### MILITARY HEADQUARTERS OF UPPER CALIFORNIA

The undersigned commandant general of the department, having been credibly informed that the boats of the American ship of war, Portsmouth, now at anchor in the harbor of San Francisco, navigate in said bay armed for the purpose of searching and examining all other ships or crafts that sail therein. As in the opinion of the undersigned the mentioned ship, even as a war vessel, cannot legally perform such acts in a part that belongs to the Mexican nation:— He now addresses this communication to you as commander of the said American vessel in order that you will be pleased to inform me by what right and for what purpose you have adopted such measures. I am anxious to receive an answer to my inquiry in order that I may be enabled to act in conformity

with the strict orders that I hold from my government.

The undersigned has the honor to reiterate to the commandant of said war vessel the assurance of his regard and proper consideration.

Chief Military Post at Santa Clara, June 23,  
1846.

God and Liberty,

JOSÉ CASTRO

After the foregoing document was sent to the captain of the Portsmouth, Castro withdrew from Santa Clara and Monterey and joined Governor Pico in Los Angeles. Fremont joined Sloat at Monterey.

Captain John B. Montgomery was commander of the Portsmouth at San Francisco and on the 23rd of July, Sloat gave up his command to Commodore Stockton.

Stockton and Fremont began military operations on the assumed ground that Americans in California needed protection from the forces of Castro. Moving south they entered Los Angeles without resistance. Pico and Castro lost all hope and left for Mexico.

Then came a proclamation from Stockton declaring the country the property of the United States and military officers were stationed nearly in every town.

Thus ended Mexican rule in the now great State of California.

Yerba Buena, July 16, 1846.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that a native of this country, Vicente Peralta, by name, a very worthy quiet person and man of property, was, previous to your occupation of this port in the name of the United States government, taken prisoner either at New Helvetia or on his return from that place (whither he had gone for the purpose of seeking Indian labourers for getting in his crops) and has been retained until the present time, to the great sorrow of his friends and relatives, and more especially his disconsolate wife, who lies ill and in a very precarious state in consequence of the fright she received on learning of the misfortune of her husband.

The individual alluded to has never been engaged in revolutionary movements of any kind but, on the contrary, has always been a law abiding citizen and has now lost by Castro more than one thousand dollars worth of fine horses.

I take leave to request that you will be pleased to accept my responsibility, both in person and property, for the liberty of the said Don Vicente Peralta, and should you require it, I will give my bond for his neutrality and good conduct.

Should my proposition accord with your views, permit me Sir to hope that I may be enabled to send for Peralta, either by land or

water, for which purpose I shall require your safe conduct, four persons, with an order for his liberation.

I have the honor to be

Yours most respectfully,

(Signed) J. ALEXANDER FORBES,  
H. B. V. Consul.

To CAPT. JOHN B. MONTGOMERY,  
U. S. Corvett Portsmouth  
Yerba Buena.

(COPY)

B. V. C. Santa Clara 3rd Jany. 1847.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I was solicited this morning by Capt. Marston of the U. S. ship Savannah to accompany him under a flag of truce to the California party, with which he had an engagement yesterday and whose commander sent in a request on the same evening to that effect.

The result of the conference will of course be communicated to you by Capt. Marston, but I consider it a duty I owe to the confidence reposed in me by the Californians, as well as in the fulfilment of my social relations, to use every honorable exertion towards the welfare of these people.

I take pleasure in flattering myself that

my constant assurances to these people that although their country has been occupied by the stern laws of war, yet their individual rights and property will be respected by the United States forces will now be proved to them to be the sentiments that animate all the regular officers of the United States service.

I am happy to say to you that Lieut. Bartlett of the U. S. Ship Portsmouth has been delivered up to me as my guest pending the armistice.

I have the honor to be

Yours most respectfully,

J. A. FORBES,

B. V. Consul.

#### AMERICAN MILITARY GOVERNORS

Commodore John D. Sloat, in 1846.

Commodore Robert F. Stockton, in 1846-1847.

Colonel John C. Fremont, General Stephen G. Kearny, in 1847.

Colonel Richard B. Mason, in 1847-1849.

General Bennet Riley, in 1849.

Without any regular civil government and a disagreement between the military chiefs of the newly conquered country, each one did what he pleased and took what-

ever suited his fancy. In said condition of things the new commanders had perplexing questions to decide, at the same time that solid work was being carried on and a good foundation laid for self-government.

The small town or village of Yerba Buena, which according to the census of 1847, contained only 459 persons, was given its historic name of San Francisco. The little cluster of houses were located around the beautiful curving beach of Yerba Buena Cove with Telegraph Hill looming up on the north side and Rincon Hill on the south.

After the Bear Flag incident the Californians became alarmed and suspicious. Guerrilla warfare was imminent, but was prevented by the news that hostilities had commenced between Mexico and the United States. Commodore Sloat, commanding the fleet in the Pacific, was ordered to gain possession of all the ports. Accordingly he arrived at Monterey, San Francisco, in 1847.

The municipal government of the new town had fallen into the hands of bad men. The ruffian element became uncontrollable. A band of the most lawless called themselves "the hounds" and committed all sorts of criminal acts by open violence, robbing whom they pleased. This state of things caused the organization of the Vigilance Committee in the year 1851.



PETER H. BURNETT

The above picture represents the first American Governor of the State of California.

It was on the first day of the month of September, 1849, when the first Constitutional Convention met or assembled at Monterey, the majority of the members being persons who had been residents of California previous to the gold discovery.

Here follows a list of all the American Governors that served in said capacity from the year 1850 to 1887:



Peter H. Burnett	1849 to 1851
John McDougall	1851 " 1852
John Bigler	1852 " 1856
J. Neely Johnson	1856 " 1858
John B. Weller	1858 " 1860
Milton S. Latham	1860 " 1860
John G. Downey	1860 " 1862
Leland Stanford	1862 " 1863
Frederick F. Low	1863 " 1867
Henry H. Haight	1867 " 1871
Newton Booth	1871 " 1875
Romualdo Pacheco	1875 " 1875
William Irwin	1875 " 1880
George C. Perkins	1880 " 1883
George Stoneman	1883 " 1887
Washington Bartlett	1887 " ———
Robert W. Waterman	1887 " 1895
H. H. Markham	1895 " 1899
James H. Budd	1899 " 1903
Henry T. Gage	1903 " 1907
George C. Pardee	1907 " 1911
James N. Gillett	1911 " 1915
Hiram Johnson	1915 " 1918
William D. Stephens	1918 " 1922

The above picture represents the founder of the well known institution at Palo Alto, in Santa Clara County, and is known by the name of The Leland Stanford, Jr., University.



LELAND STANFORD.

The erection of buildings for the most richly endowed university in the world by a single gift is now in 1888 going on. The gift was made in 1885 by one of California's former worthy Governors, Leland Stanford, and his wife, Jane Lathrop Stanford, in memory of their only son, Leland Stanford, Junior, who died on March 13th, 1884. The endowment consists of 83,200 acres of highly improved land, valued at \$20,000,000, and the management is vested in a board of twenty-four trustees. The university is to be open to young men and to young women alike.

## THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

The flourishing center of trade with a population of more than half a million is the same place where the original Spanish Pueblo was founded on the 5th of September, 1781, by order of the Spanish Governor Don Felipe de Neve on the same site where the ancient Indian village of Yang-na stood in primitive ages.

In conformity with the requirements of the Royal Regulation issued by the King of Spain for founding new missionary establishments and pueblos of white people (*gente de razon*) Governor de Neve issued a proclamation on the 20th of August, 1781, at the mission of San Gabriel (de los Temblores) of the earthquakes setting apart a tract of land about eight miles west of said mission and on the banks of a stream known by the name of Porciuncula, which is the actual river of Los Angeles. The waters of said river were for the use of the following retired soldiers and their families, to-wit: Villavicencio, Rodriquez, with their families; Quintero, Camero, Moreno and Rosas, each of them with their respective families; Navarro, Mesa, Vanegas and Lara.

These twelve soldiers with their respective families, which in all numbered forty-six (46) persons, were given formal possession of the same locality where the present City of



LOS ANGELES IN 1873

Los Angeles now stands, they being the original founders of the primitive pueblo of white people (*gente de razon*), whereby they became entitled to four square leagues of land around the town itself as commons (*ejidos*), as required by the mentioned Regulations. Of the twelve soldiers only two were natives of Spain, one was a native of China and nine were natives of some of the Spanish provinces which afterwards became States of Mexico.

Perhaps it would be proper to mention the fact that only three pueblos were founded in conformity with the said regulation in the internal provinces of the West, which were Sonora, Sinaloa and California. In Sonora was founded that of Pitis, which today is Hermosillo, the capital of that state, and in California two, that of San José in Santa Clara County and that of Our Lady of the Angels (*Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles*) which is the present city.

The Governor gave to each of the soldiers 1 yoke of oxen, two mules, two mares, two head of sheep, two goats and one jackass, with all the necessary tools with which to build their houses and cultivate their land. The small settlement was made around the same small square that is known today as the ancient Plaza in the city. The number of adobe houses built on three sides of the said square were twelve.

The size of the plaza was one hundred varas long by seventy-five varas wide. The settlers were only allowed to build on three sides, reserving the fourth for a church and other public buildings. The church was built on the said plaza in the same year, but was dedicated as an addition to the Mission of San Gabriel in the month of December, 1822.

There were thirty fields or tracts of land measured out, 200 varas square each, called suertes, and two given to each soldier, who knew very little about farming, according to the opinion of Don Jose de la Guerra y Noriega, who was the commissioner for the said pueblo in the year 1815, and in his report to the governor he says that the pueblo has not prospered very much, although it had already been in existence 35 years.

The following is an extract from his report:

With only 94 inhabitants who compose all of the people in said pueblo, as shown in the foregoing list, the greater number of their tracts are cultivated by them in a very poor way. Their plantations are very small and they change about from one to another to suit their fancy. Such tracts as are marked herein as vineyards are so in reality, but such as are designated as some have not even one fruit tree. The inhabitants of the pueblo

spend most of the time in the neighboring mission of San Gabriel.

Santa Barbara, April 2, 1816.

(Signed) JOSE DE LA GUERRA Y NORIEGA.

The original settlers did not prove to be good farmers and they did not make any effort to do anything for their own good, although the Governor had selected for them the most beautiful location for them to have perpetual and abundant crops. They spent most of their time in fiestas (feasts) and bull fights.

It was in the fifties when I first visited the above ancient pueblo. I came overland and on horseback and was on the road as many as sixteen days, from San Jose in Santa Clara county by way of the Pacheco Mountains in San Benito county, having passed over by what was then no more than a desert and now contains the flourishing cities of Madera, Merced, Fresno, Bakersfield, etc.

Upon my arrival in Los Angeles I don't believe that the population of the town was as many as one thousand persons.

After California became a State by act of the legislature a law was passed creating the county of Los Angeles, which embraced all of San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties of today with a large part of the Mohave desert and the greatest portion of Kern county.

The boundaries of Los Angeles county were changed several times and many segregations were made.

The largest land grants were those made in Los Angeles county by Governor Don Pedro Fajes in the year 1784 to retired soldiers for meritorious services. Santa Gertrudis (alias) So be in, to Manuel Perez Nietolly with the following boundaries: In the Los Angeles valley and bounded on the north by the small range of hills of San Gabriel, on the south by the Pacific ocean, on the east by the San Gabriel river to its mouth and on the west by the Santa Ana river to its mouth, aggregating when confirmed as many as 190,834 acres of land. The grant was afterwards partitioned off to the several heirs of Nieto by Governor Don José Figueroa in the year 1833.

Next came the well known San Pedro Rancho granted to Juan Jose and Christobal Dominquez, which embraced the rest of the valley between the San Gabriel river and the pueblo lands reaching up to and near the low range of hills between the valley proper and the port of Wilmington. This grant was approximately for twenty-seven leagues or 118,842 acres.

Santa Ana, granted on the 12th of October, 1784, to Jose Antonio Yorba and to Pablo Grijalva for more than fifteen square leagues of land or 66,970 acres.

The lands of the ex-mission of San Fer-



nando were granted to Andres Pico and to Eulogio de Celis, a Spanish merchant to whom the mission padres owed a large sum of money for supplies to the mission during the date of its existence.

#### FIRST GOLD DISCOVERY IN CALIFORNIA

Gold was first discovered in Los Angeles County in 1843 and not in Coloma by Marshall in 1848 as has been generally supposed. The discovery was made by one of the many vaqueros (rough-riders) of the Rancho de Piru that belonged to Don Carlos Antonio Carrillo of Santa Barbara and adjoined the Rancho of Don Ygnacio del Valle of Los Angeles. It seems that said vaquero, whose name was Francisco Lopez, was looking for some stray horses of the rancho and while sitting at noon under the shade of a tree commenced to pull up some wild onions (cacomites) to take to his house on the rancho, found some particles of gold in the roots thereof. He was greatly surprised and commenced to gather all he could find. He went to Santa Barbara and informed the owner, Mr. Carrillo, who immediately came to the place with several of his friends and found some gold also. The news of the discovery spread like wildfire even in the pueblos of Los Angeles and Don Ygnacio del Valle went to the gold fields also, together with many others of his friends from this city and in a

few weeks there were many hundreds of people engaged in washing the entire surface of the newly discovered auriferous ground.

Don Santiago Arguello in San Diego, who was Prefect of the First District of the Territory, was notified of the new discovery and came to this city and appointed the necessary local authorities for the above named mining camp. All of the above facts appear of record in the Mexican Archives of the country in Book of Prefections, Vol. III, during the year 1843.

The work of explorations for gold in this locality continued for a long time and even until the year 1848, when the great bonanza of the precious metal was found by Mr. Marshall at Coloma in the northern part of this state.

J. J. Warner tells us that he was sent to the said gold fields of Southern California in the month of March, 1843, by the well known pioneer of Los Angeles Don Abel Stearns to buy some of the Piru gold and succeeded in getting as much as 19 ounces, which Mr. Stearns sent to the U. S. Mint at Philadelphia where it was found to be of the best quality of placer gold according to the following memoranda:

Memorandum of gold bullion deposited on the 8th of July, 1843, in the United States Mint by Grant & Stone, as agents, in Phila-

delphia. Receipt and value of the placer gold was as follows:

Before melting	18.34	ounces
After melting	18.01	“
Fineness	926.	1000
Value	\$344.75	

Deducting expenses in sending to Philadelphia and agency \$4.02. Net value of the gold after melting \$340.73, which Mr. Alfred Robinson sent to the brother of Mr. Stearns as per his instructions according to a letter sent to Mr. Stearns from New York on the 6th of August, 1843.

The original deposit of said placer gold exists now among the records of the Society of California Pioneers in San Francisco.

After the great discovery of Marshall all or nearly all of the gambucinos of El Pirri abandoned their camps and left for Sacramento and Sutter counties, where they could gather the gold by the shovel full and where, as they were informed, the precious metal was plentiful.





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