



A History Of Indian Marriages in San Gabriel Mission

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The San Gabriel Mission

- 1771: Founded
 - 4th mission to be founded
 - In the region of Los Angeles
 - Founded by Junipero Serra
- 1775: Mission moved to current location
- 1804 and 1812: Damaged by earthquakes
- 1821: Mexican Independence
- 1834: Mission secularized



Major Questions

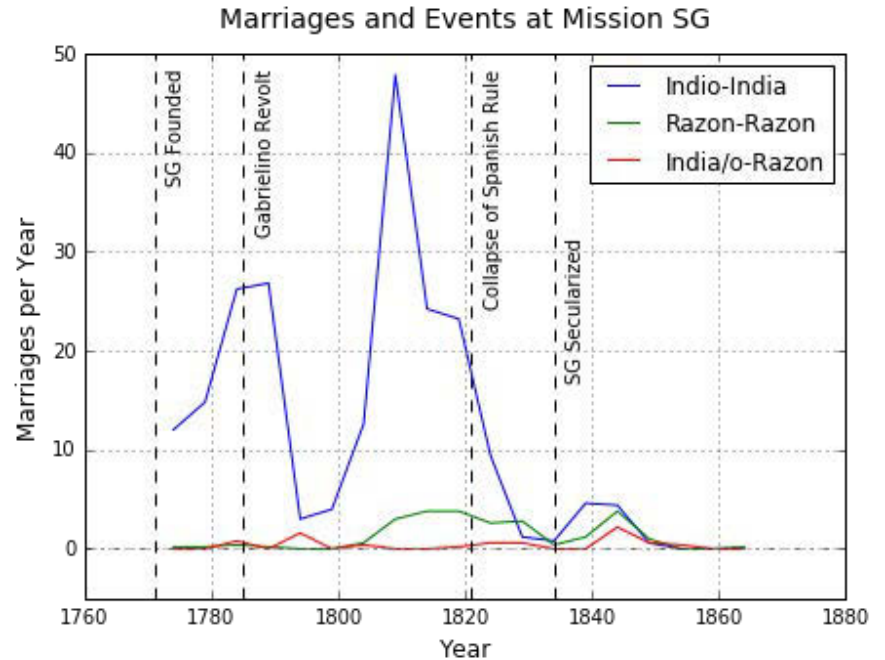


Between 1805 and 1820, we observed major peaks in Indio marriages. Why did these peaks occur?

In the years following 1820, we observed that marriage numbers began to decline. How can we explain this?

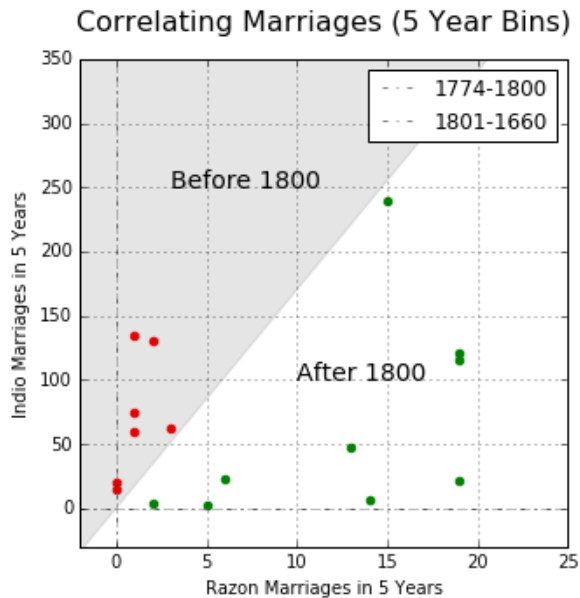
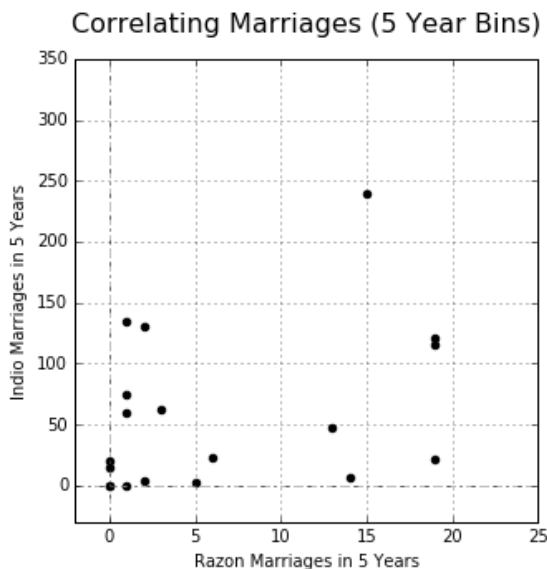
What are the sociopolitical repercussions of marriages?

How are marriages connected to the economic aspects of the mission?

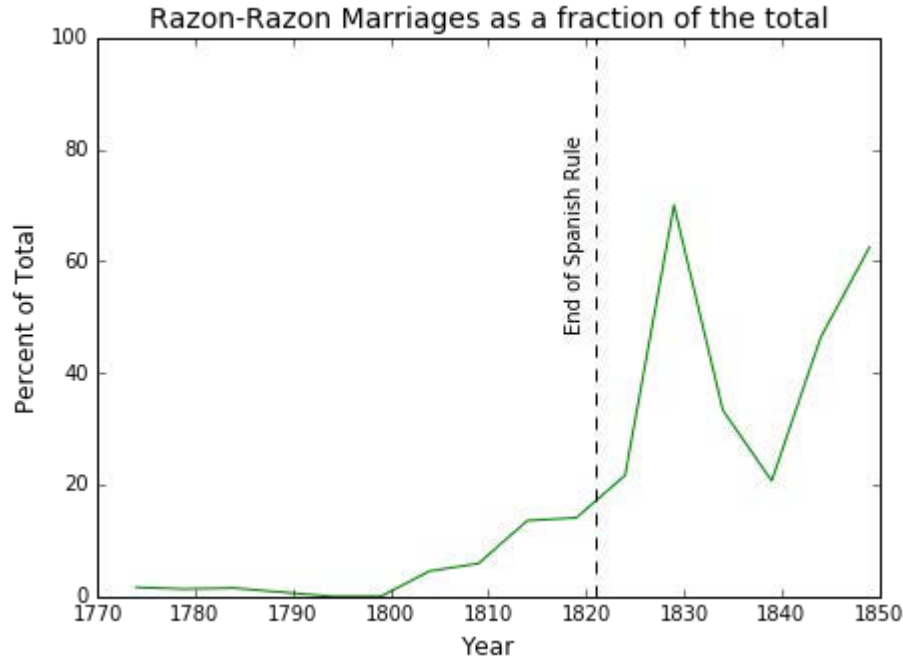


Increasing Razon Marriage Rates

There is no correlation between Razon marriages and Indio/a marriages, but the data shows a gradual increase in Indio-India marriages over time.



Increasing Razon Marriage Rates



Over time, the percentage of marriages at the San Gabriel Mission between Gente de Razon increased

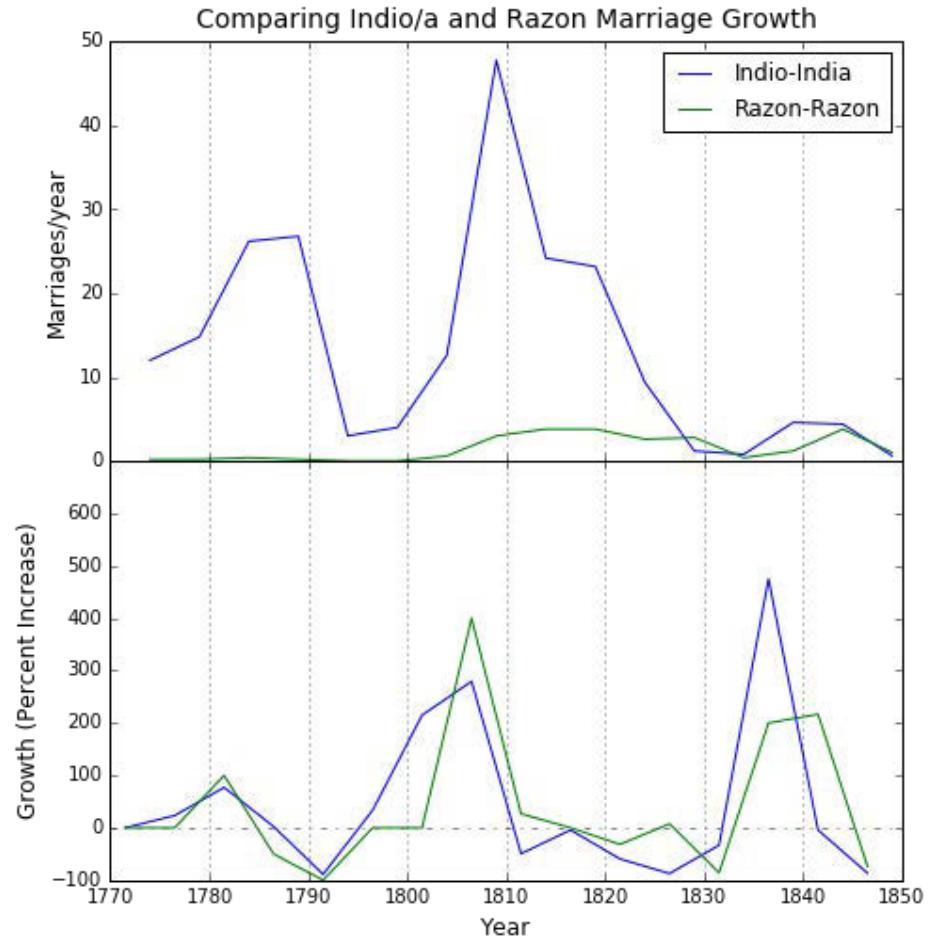
This might indicate:

- Increasing Razon population
- Declining Indian Population
- Diminishing or distracted efforts to attract, convert, and hispanicize Indians

Growth

From this representation, we can tell just by looking that:

- Razon-Razon marriages rate trends rarely opposed Indio-India marriage rates
- In years when the number of Razon-Razon Marriages grew, so did Indio-India

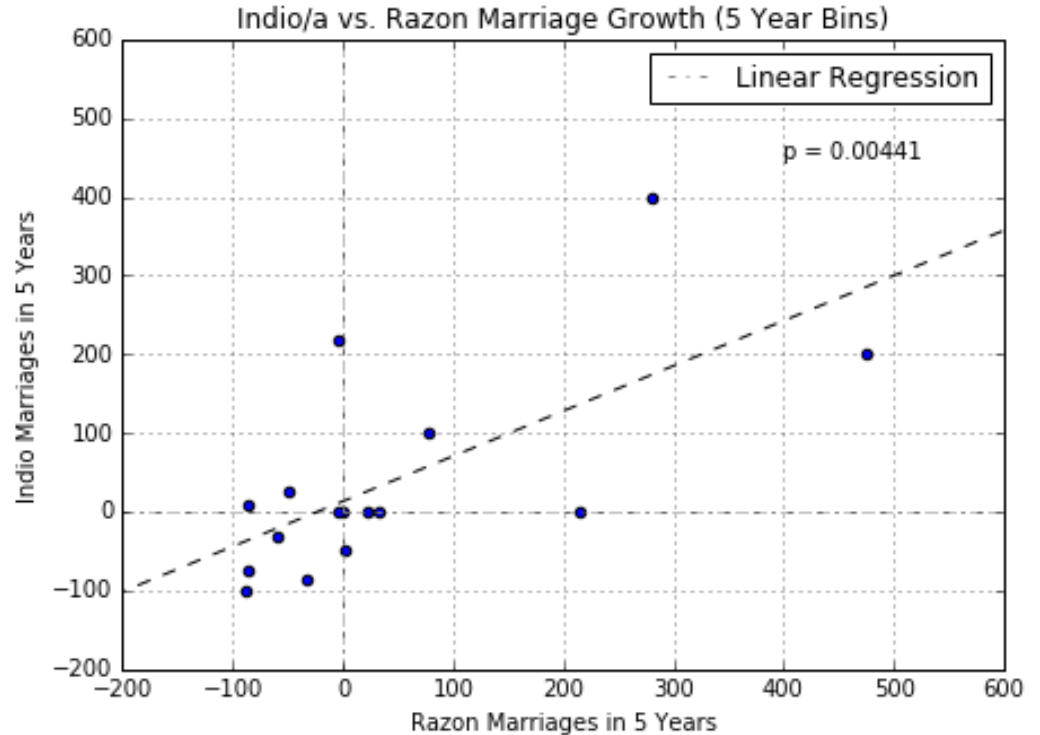


Growth

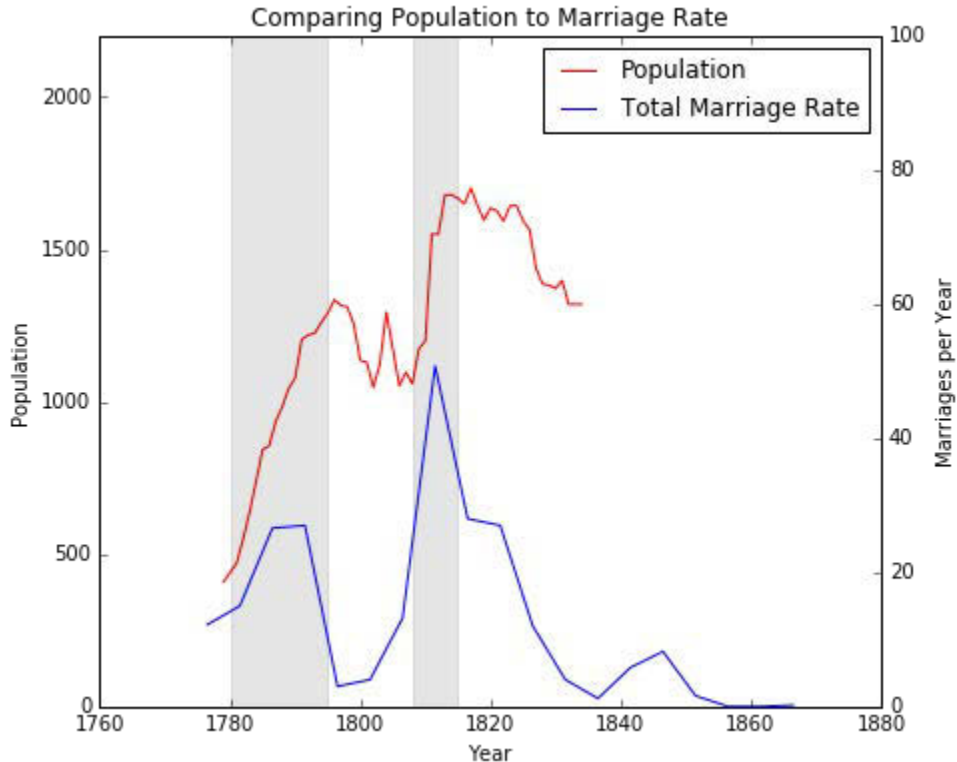
Periods of time with high growth in Indio/a marriage rates also saw high growth in razon-razon marriage rates

From this, we can conclude that:

Marriage rates were affected across the board by events or economics at the missions



Comparing Population to Marriages



During times of population growth, marriage rates also rose.

This indicates that the Mission hoped to indoctrinate new Indios who arrived at the Missions.

The final decline of the mission saw a drop in population and a drop in marriages.

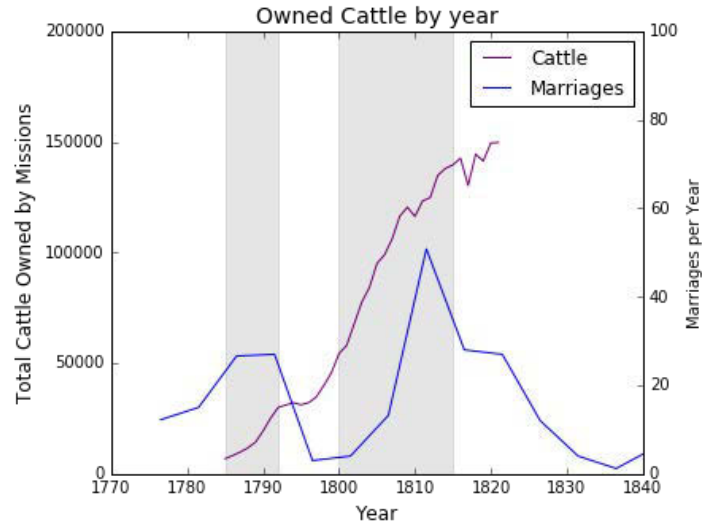
Socio-Political Connections

- Following San Gabriel's revolt in 1785 and San Diego's revolt in 1779, Junipero Serra made efforts to limit Indian leaders' powers within and outside the mission after the 1790s.
- Mission leaders, alcaldes and regidores, held authority among their communities outside of the missions, based on kinship and lineage. Their roles were similar-- making decisions about food production and distribution, while remaining exempt from physical labor (pg.366)
- **“Extended leadership families... suggest that in the face of high death rates, marriage provided a means for surviving members of powerful Indian families to maintain leadership status in the mission” (pg.369)**
 - Indian marriages were often determined by status to stabilize economic and power relationships (Hurtado pg.373)



Economic Connections

- After 1805, increasing harvest yields attracted large numbers of indian laborers.
- According to Hackel, Indians had food, clothes, and shelter as an incentive to join missions. They were not paid in wages.



Cultural Significance

- Marriage renewals were 28% of the 26,000 Indian marriage records in database (Hackel & Reid pg.1021)
- “Indians born in missions or those who came for baptism reached marrying age, more and more marriages at the missions were standard marriages” (Hackel & Reid pg.1022)
- Indians also had “berdaches” (men who dressed and acted like women) which were not believed to be gay, but were often a “second wife” for some indian men.

Decline of the Mission System

- Beginning in 1810, the Mexican independence movement caused border missions to lose economic and political support, (while maintaining the responsibility to sustain soldiers?)
- After Mexican independence was gained in 1821, Indian leaders also contemplated the political vacuum and debated over who had a right to rule, with many led their communities out of the missions.
- In 1834, San Gabriel was secularized.

Conclusion

- The high marriage rates between 1805 and 1820 coincided with a population boom in San Gabriel.
- The decline of Indian marriage rates began when the spanish lost power and reached a minimum when the missions were secularized. After that they never rose back up again.
- Marriage rates traced the sociopolitical integration of Indians into the missions and Spanish culture.
- Peaks in economic growth reflected spikes in marriage rates in San Gabriel.

Jackson, Robert H. (Robert Howard). Indian population decline: the missions of northwestern New Spain, 1687-1840.
Albuquerque : University of New Mexico Press, c1994. <http://hdl.handle.net/ccl.idm.oclc.org/2027/heb.31061.0001.001>.