



# Displacement & Remarriage in San Gabriel Mission (1775-1830)



# Introduction

Given data on indigenous marriages in the San Gabriel Mission from the years of 1775-1830, we sought to better understand the California Mission System using both qualitative and quantitative methods.

We used marriages as a way to understand indigenous peoples' experiences of displacement across different rancherias at the same mission.

In addition, the data may be useful in contextualizing changing perceptions of marriage within the indigenous community

# Overview of Data

The data includes the years that people were married, the surnames of the bride and grooms, and their rancherias of origin on the San Gabriel Mission. Additionally, the name of an individual's previous spouse was included if there was one. All marriages in the dataset were *indio-indio*, so therefore we weren't able to analyze marriages that occurred across social/ethnic/political groups.

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# Research Process

- Rancheria: Indian settlements/towns/villages within mission system
- Most of the data that we had was incomplete, so we had to do plenty of reaching in our research
  - For example, not all of the data entries had their rancheria of origin
    - We found the data of rancherias through the notes section
- Thanks to the help of Todd, we were able to extract the data that was written in the comment section and apply it for our research project
  - Rancheria of Origin and Previous Spouse (if available)
- Wanted to acquire p-values through R-Studio but our research questions/variables weren't suited for this kind of statistical analysis
  - Processed most of our data through Microsoft Excel

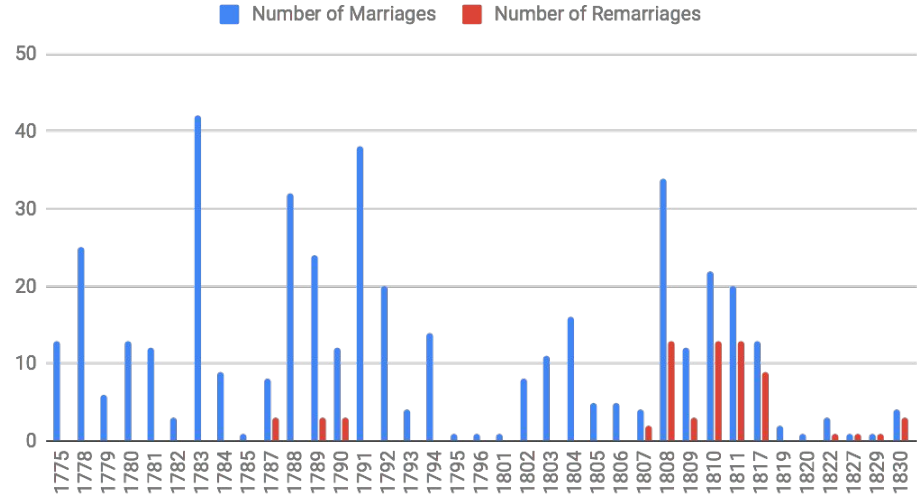
# Research Question

Why were there (relatively) so many re-marriages between the years of 1808-1817? What are external factors that could have contributed to this?



# Number of Marriages vs. Remarriages

## Types of Marriages in the San Gabriel Mission

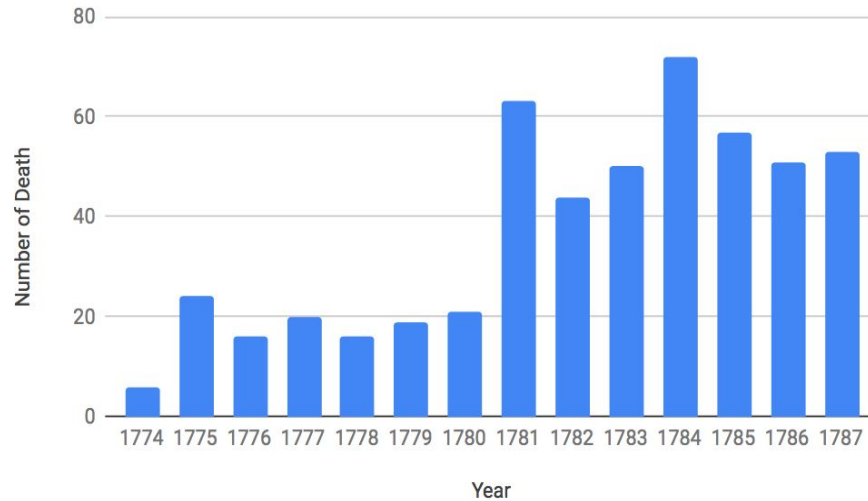


Years	Marriages	ReMarriages	Percent of Remarriages
1787	8	3	0.375
1789	24	3	0.125
1790	12	3	0.25
1806	5	2	0.4
1807	4	2	0.5
1808	34	13	0.3823529412
1809	12	3	0.25
1810	22	13	0.5909090909
1811	20	13	0.65
1817	13	9	0.6923076923
1822	3	1	0.3333333333
1827	1	1	1
1829	1	1	1
1830	4	3	0.75



# Death's Role in Remarriages

Death in the San Gabriel Mission





# Earthquake's Role in Remarriages

San Juan Capistrano

December 1812

**6.2 Magnitude**

**40 Recorded Deaths**

Purisima

December 1812

**7.5 Magnitude**

**1 Recorded Death**

**100 Recorded Damaged Homes**



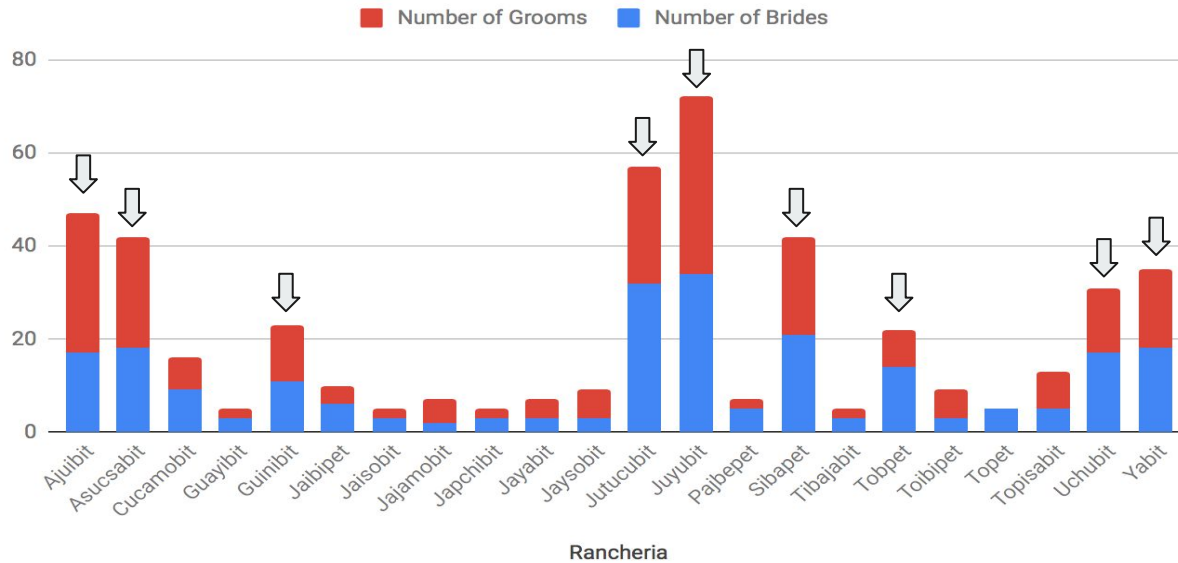
# Research Question

Why was the distribution of the Indian population at the San Gabriel Mission so disproportionate across the rancherias?

Does this irregular population distribution say anything about Indian life across rancherias at the same mission?

# Rancherías of Origin

Number of Brides and Number of Grooms





# Santa Clarita Valley Indians

- Santa Clarita Valley
  - Southern California Indians - displaced and dispersed into San Gabriel Mission

*“Native American communities in the Santa Clarita Valley were matrilineal societies (unlike most other California Indians), meaning when people married outside of their own village, which was common, the man would move to the wife's village” (SCVHistory).*

- Possibility - SG mission records denote rancherias of origin as birthplaces of men who lived elsewhere
- Explaining rancheria population distribution
  - Rancherias with largest population - possibly indicates many men tried to marry into these villages/tribes before mission era
    - Political motives, inter-tribal relations, displacement caused by disease & conquest



# Agriculture & Society

- Mission San Gabriel - produced far more agricultural output than any other CA mission (California Missions Resource Center)
  - Rancherías - life and work revolve around agriculture
- Explaining ranchería population distribution
  - Reasonable to assume the largest rancherías required largest concentration of laborers



# Connections to Class Readings

- Hackel, *Staff of Leadership*
  - *“Furthermore, disease reduced the Indian population, undercut the native economy, and prompted Indians to relocate to the missions. As a result, Indians from different villages, who had had only occasional contact in trade or war, began to live, work, and pray together” (Hackel 352).*
- Hackle, *Relocation and formation of Rancherias*
  - *“Like their first predecessors elsewhere in New Spain, the Franciscans took as their first goal the resettlement of Indians into compact villages, In Alta California, as in Baja California and Sonora, where Indian settlements were dispersed, missionaries combined coercive and incentives to create new, large, Indian communities” (Hackle 352)*

# Hypotheses and Future Inquiries

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When we began analyzing our data, we found certain years had high percentages of remarriages. We hoped that we could find a significant event, such as an outbreak in disease or natural disasters, in order to explain such an increase. In the eyes of the Catholic church, divorces were unacceptable unless there were extreme circumstances. Thus, we felt that the death of a partner would most significantly lead the surviving partner to remarry.

If the resources were available, we would like to have had death records, and reasons for these deaths, prior to the years in which remarriages were high.

In addition, the literature discussing the nature of the various rancherias at the San Gabriel Mission is extremely limited; future inquiries would include exploring inter-tribe dynamics in rancherias, as well as understanding how San Gabriel Mission's role as an agricultural powerhouse affected indigenous life at their respective rancherias.



# Works Cited

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