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Colonial Crossroads

Examining early Californian mission history

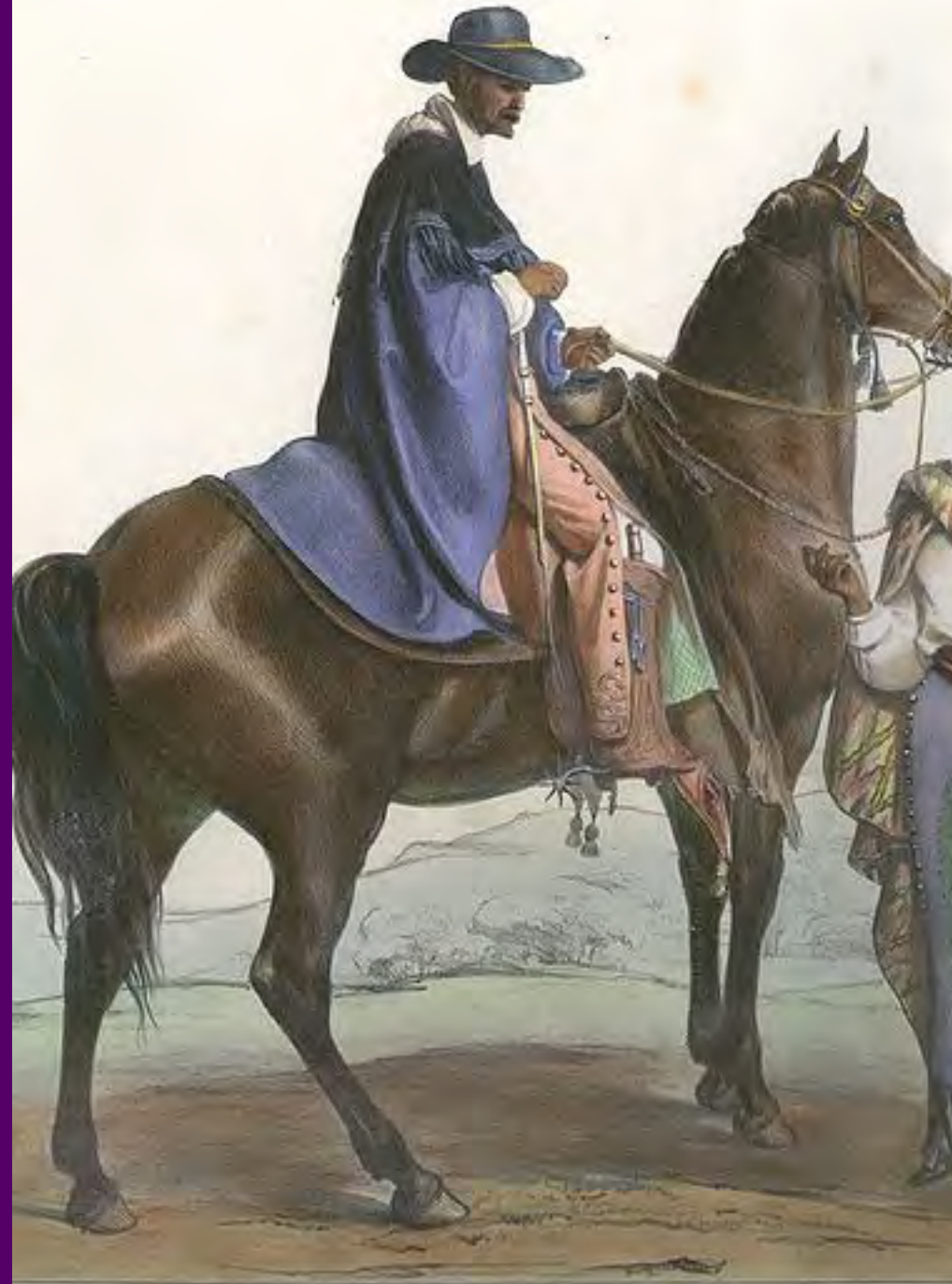




**Baptisms?
Deaths?
Marriages?**

Gente de razón

- Social distinction coined by Spanish colonizers
- Haas --> differentiation represents an "insurmountable divide" between civilization and savagery





Establishing a

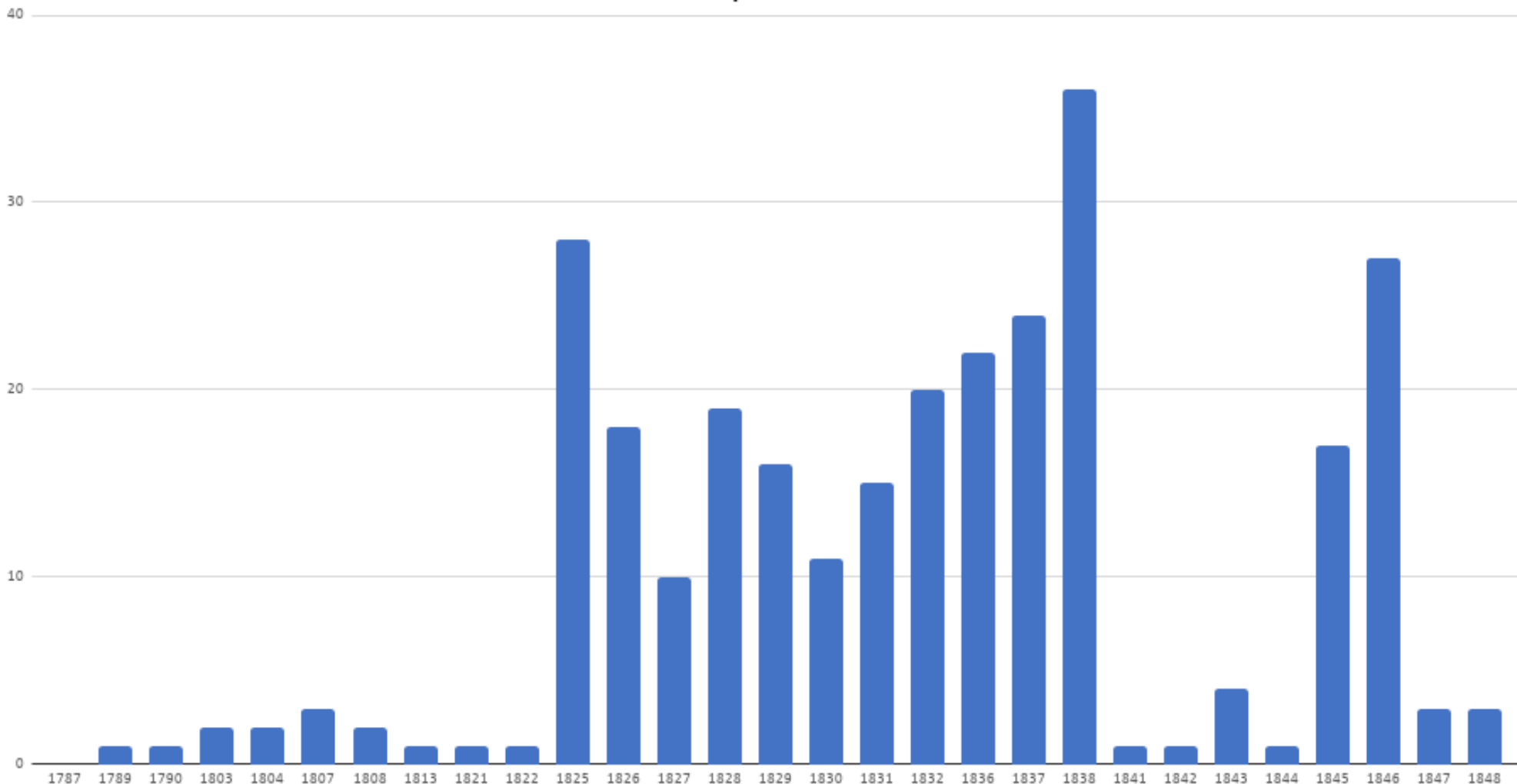
Framework

- Acuña and Panich: colonization as an ongoing, dynamic process.
- Informed by Hackel, Haas, Nunis & Castillo

Research Questions

1. Is there a linear trend in the number of baptisms?
2. Is there a relationship between frequency of deaths and baptisms?
3. What is the trend of gente de razón marriages in relation to Indios marriages?

Baptisms



Total Entries: 290

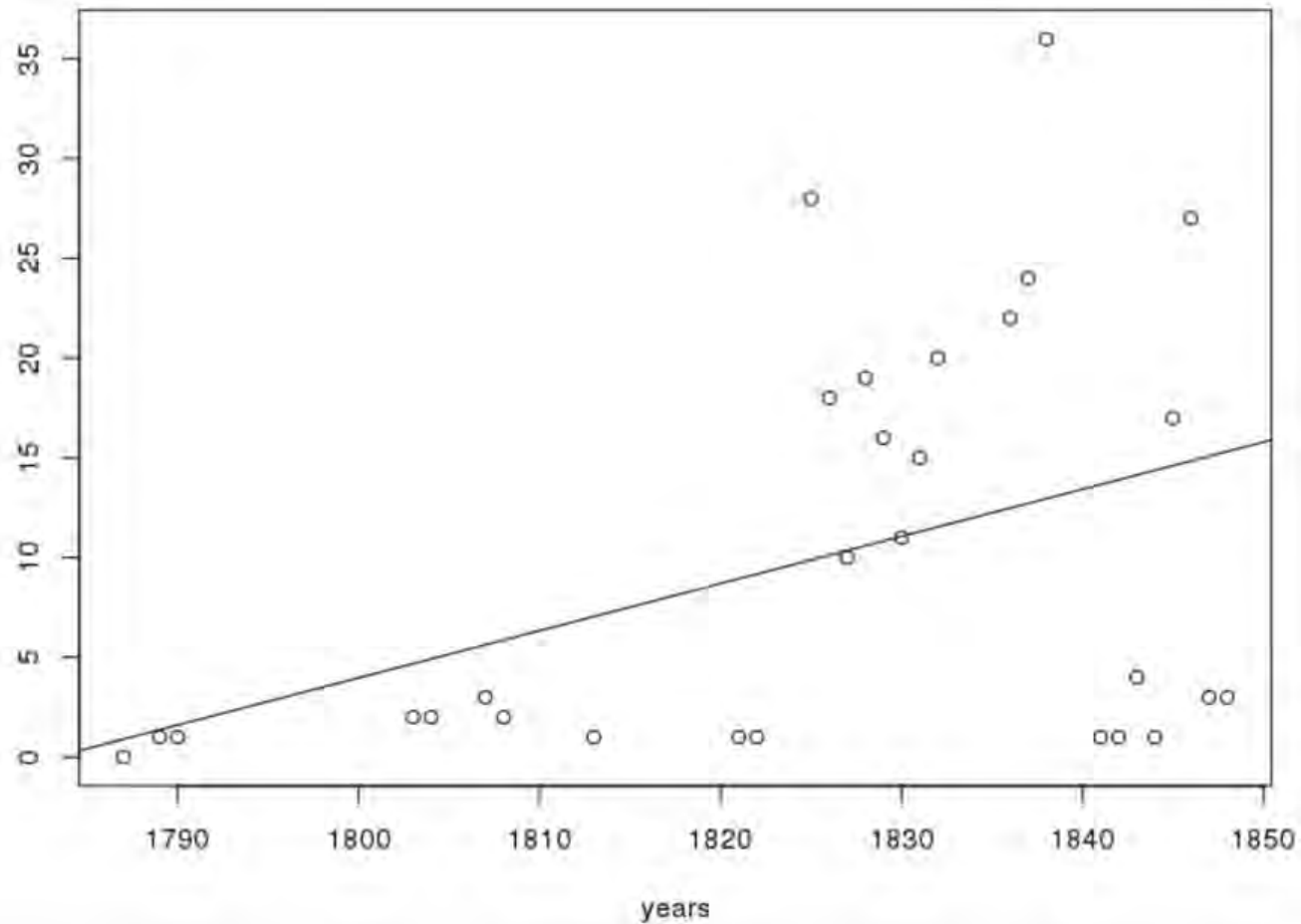
Average: 10.36

High: 36

Low: 0

Median: 3.5

Baptism



R squared: .1676

F Statistic: 5.438

P Value: .02741



Indigenous Leadership & Compadrazgo

- Indigenous leadership became ingrained in the mission system
- Shift from gente de razon to Indigenous godparents



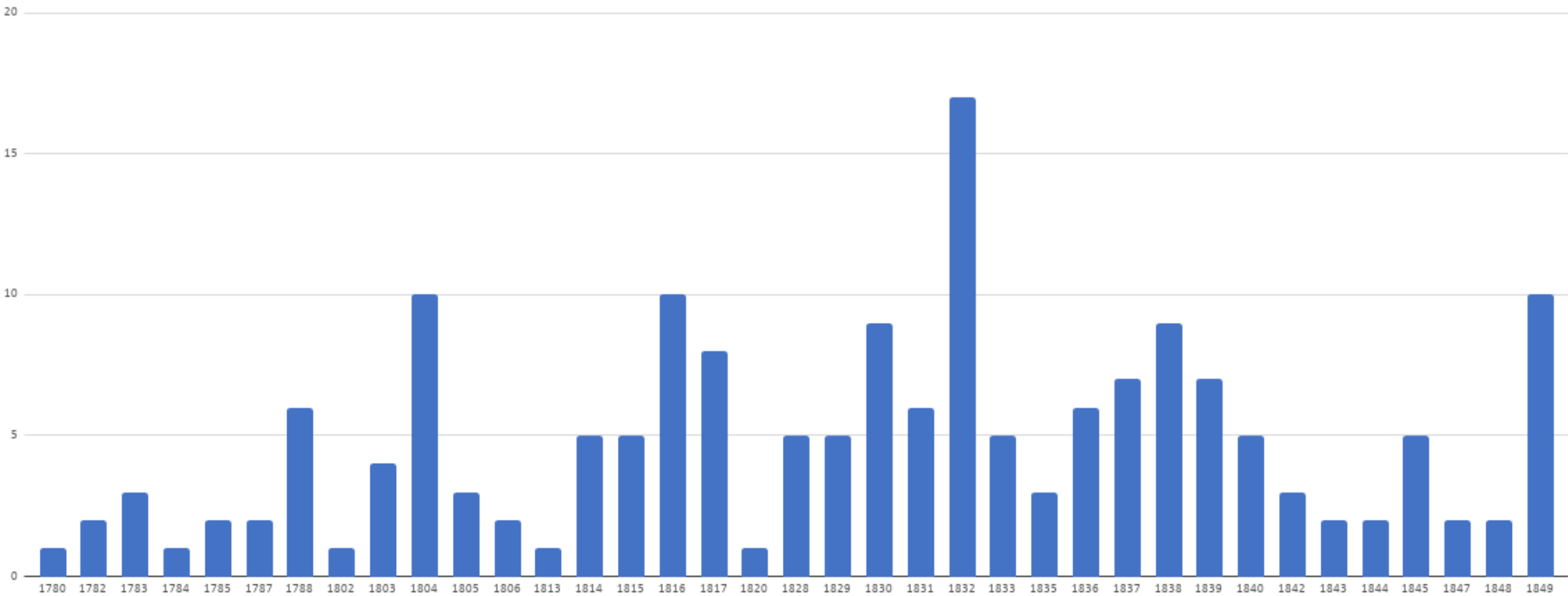
1833

Post Secularization

Despite 1833 secularization, the missions still remained important symbols of Native culture

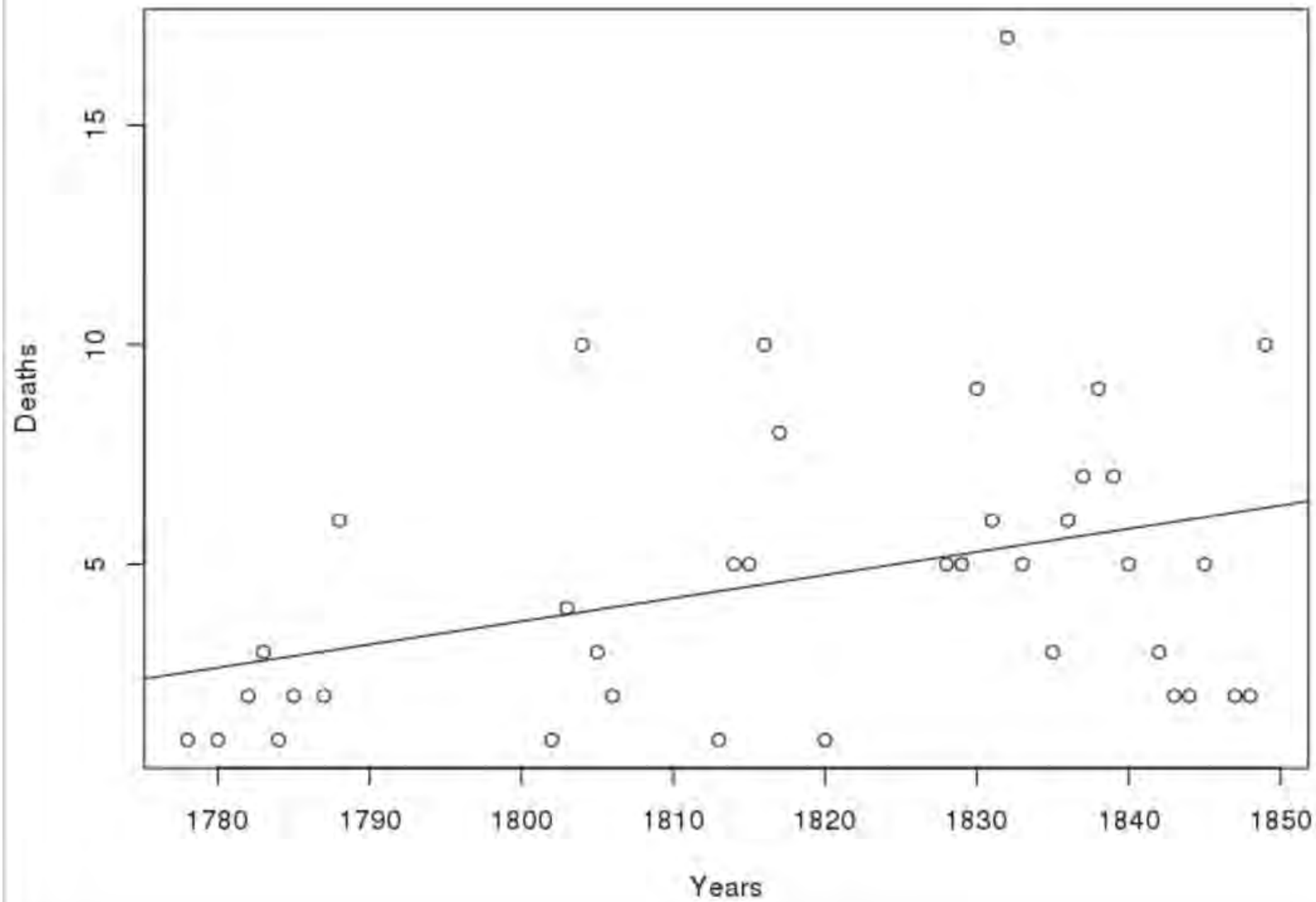
Indigenous people were not truly
“emancipated”

Deaths



total sum: 177
average: 4.66

high: 17
low: 1
median: 4

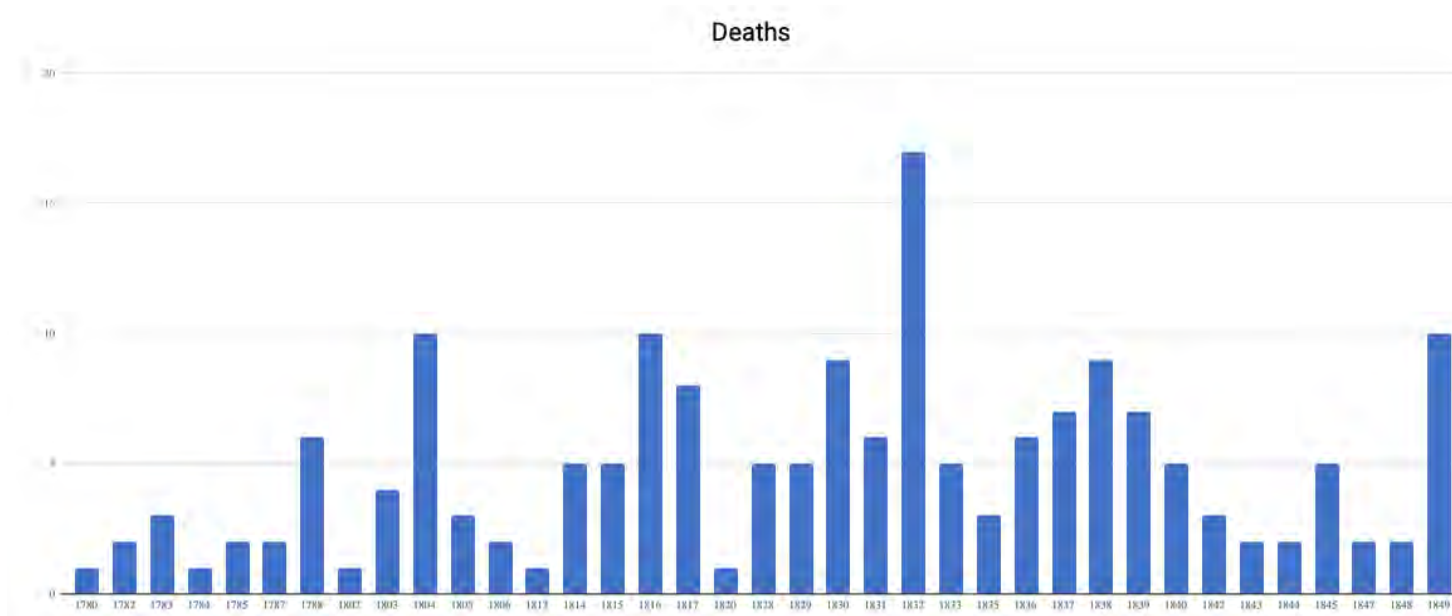


R squared: .1184

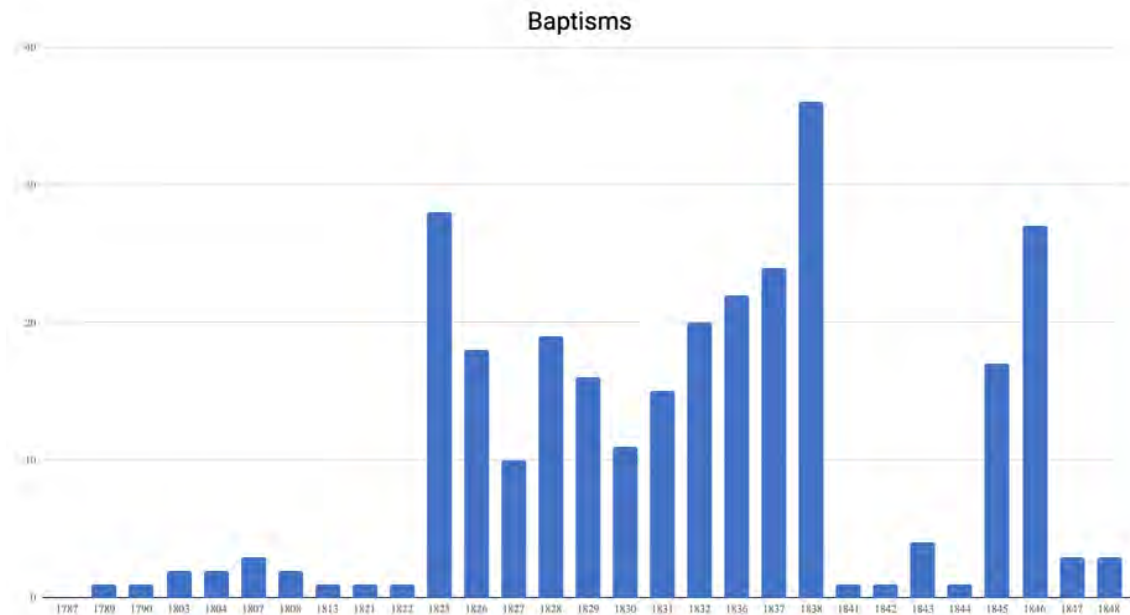
F Statistic: 4.834

P Value: .03442

Deaths



Baptisms



Reason for Deaths

- Disease
- Abuse
- Increase in labor demand

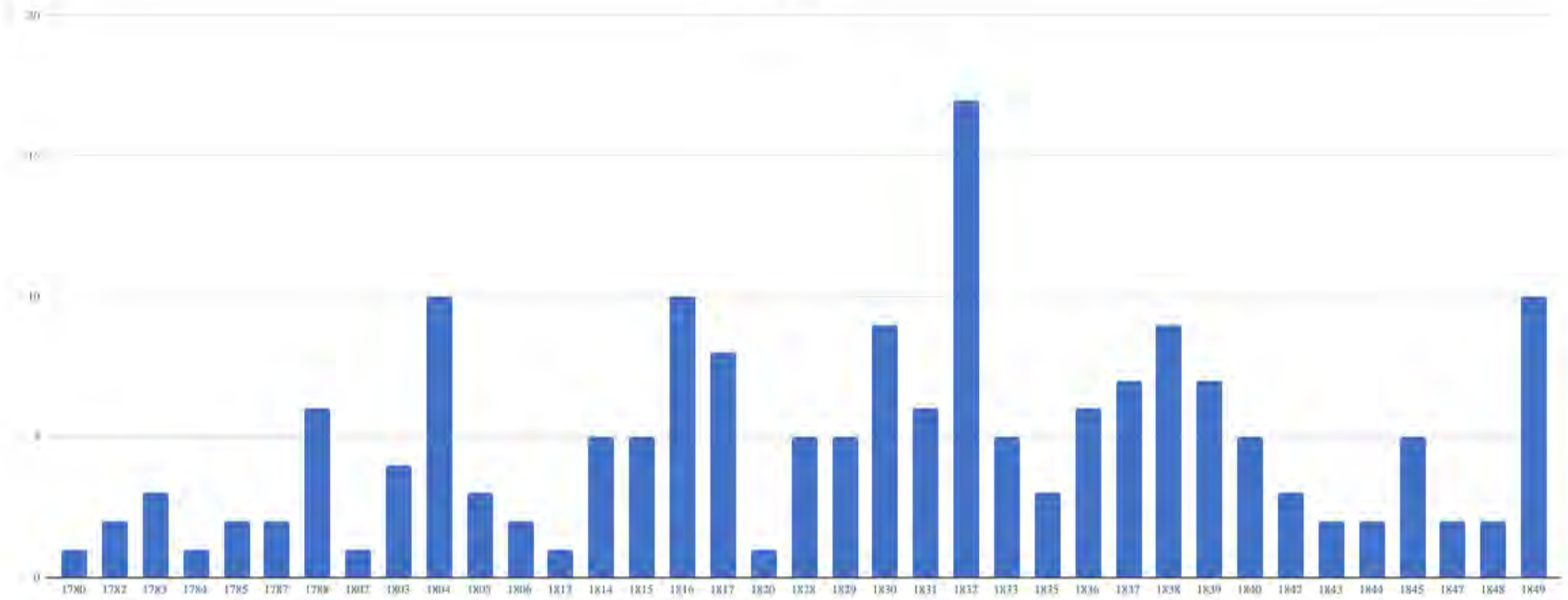




Dates we wish we had data on

- 1771- Boats arrived with cattle
- 1774- Fruitful mission harvest
- 1810- The Civil War in Mexico
- 1825- (December) Disease struck the Santa Cruz mission

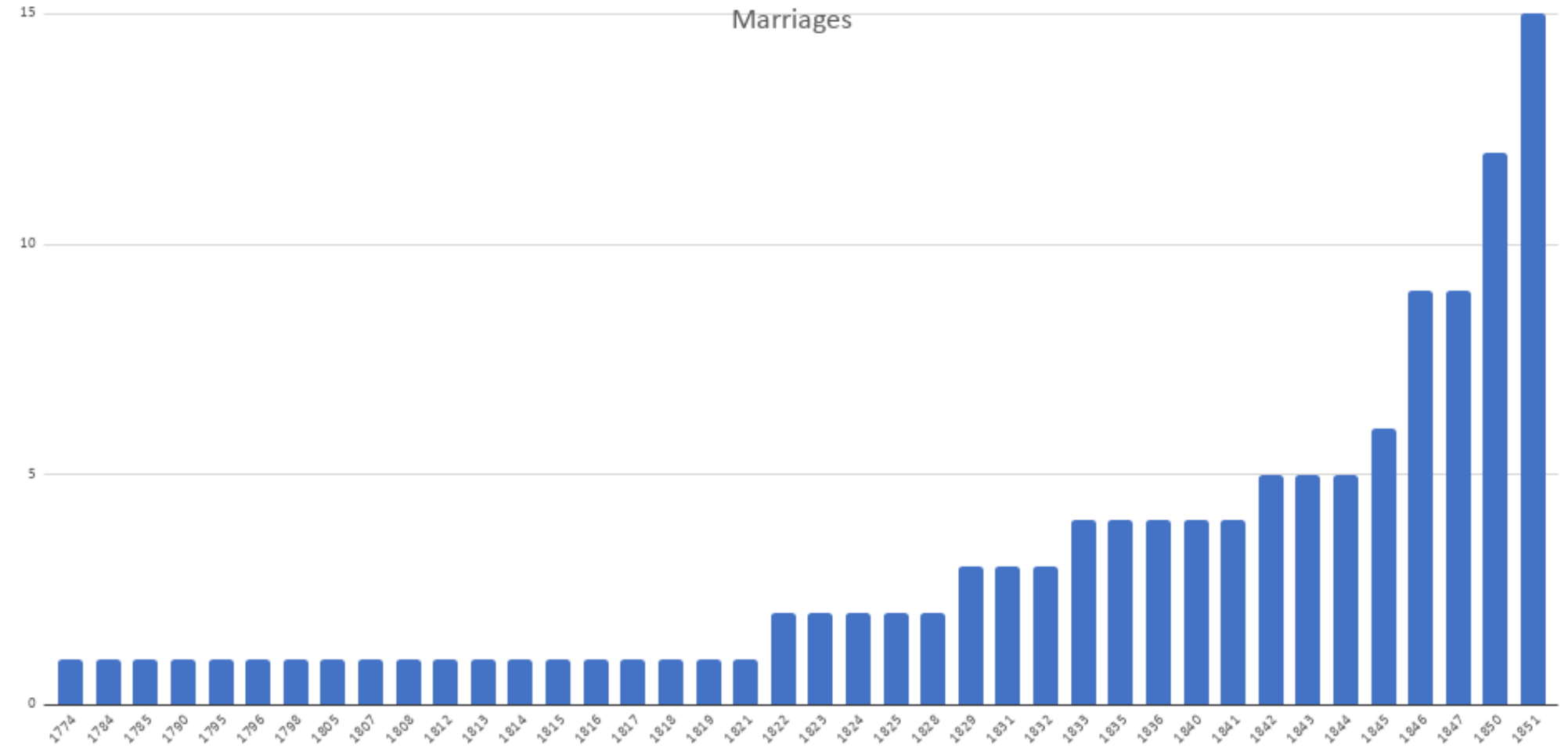
Deaths



Back to the data...

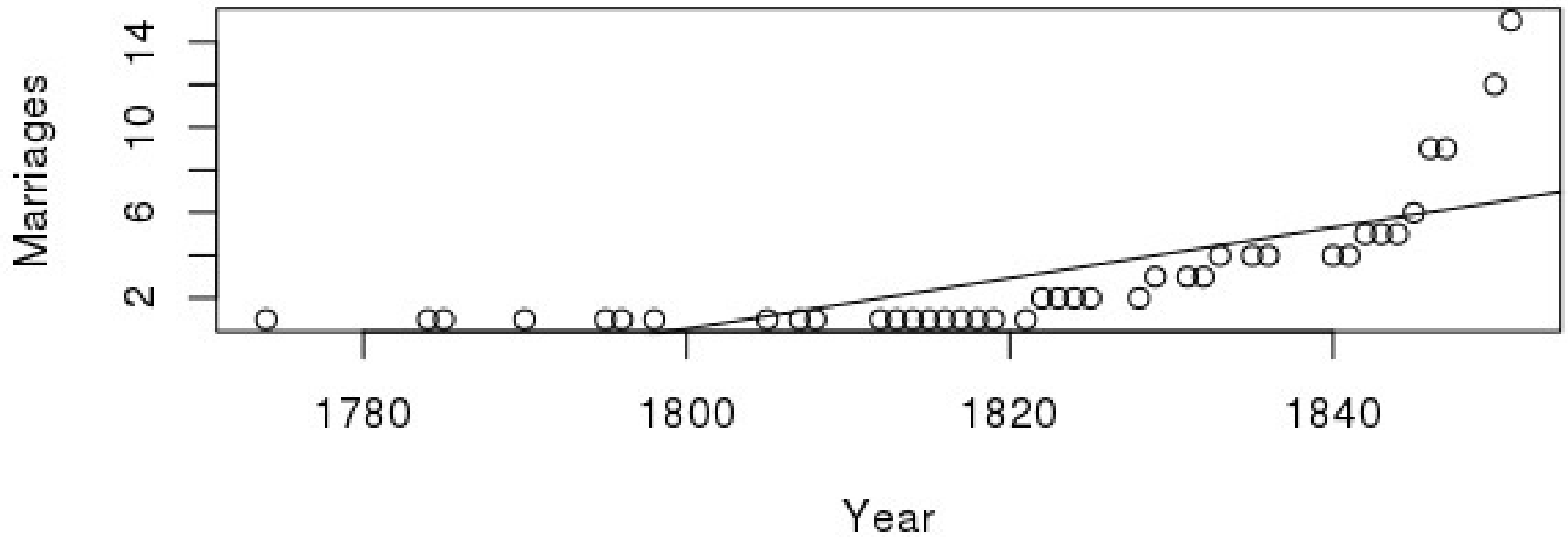
- Our data supports Panich's debunking of the myth that disease wiped out the entire indigenous population.
- If disease did completely wipe out the Native population, we would see much higher spikes in death rates for certain years.

Marriages



total sum: 124
average: 3.18

high: 15
low: 1
median: 1.5



R squared: .5335

F Statistic: 43.45

P Value: -8.818E-08



Limpieza de Sangre

Hypothesis: Indigenous mission residents were reclassified in marriage records as gente de razón.



Economic Motivations

- Hypothesis: Marriages were used to integrate foreign merchants into Californian familial structures, and a way in which the Spanish imposed the Western economic system onto indigenous people.

Marriage as Survivance

Hypothesis: In response to the mission system that tightly controlled indigenous sexual behavior, marriage became a way to ensure indigenous survivance and a means to maintain Native authority.



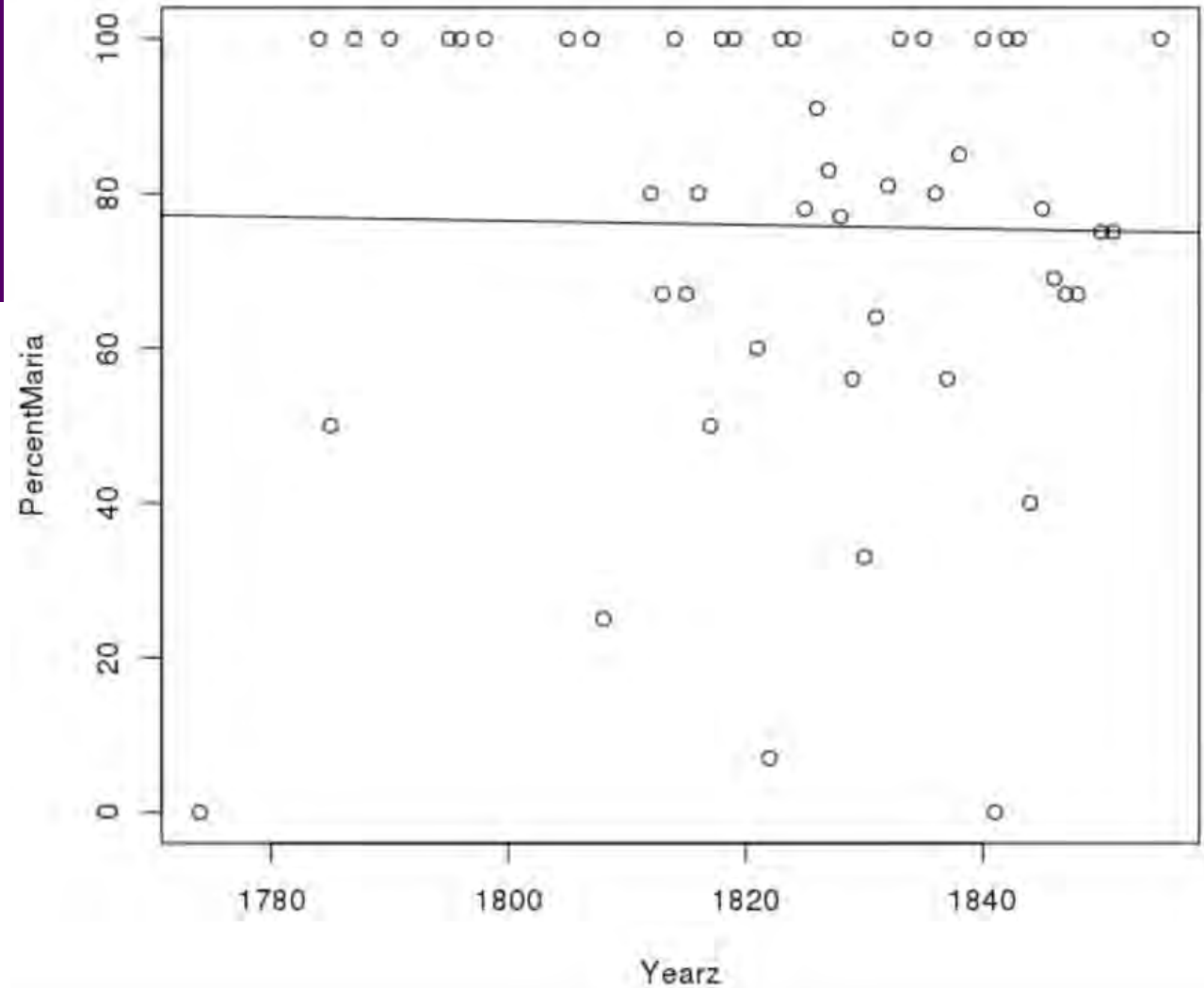


Future Considerations

1. Age across data sets

2. Full maiden names

3. Supplementary data



Thank you.



Works Cited

Hackel, S. W. (1997). The Staff of Leadership: Indian Authority in the Missions of Alta California. The William and Mary Quarterly, 54(2), 347. doi:10.2307/2953277

Perez, E. (2011). "Saludos from your comadre": Compadrazgo as a Community Institution in Alta California, 1769--1860s. California History, 88(4), 47-73. doi:10.2307/23052285

Panich, Lee M. (2010) "Missionization and the Persistence of Native Identity on the Colonial Frontier of Baja California." Ethnohistory, vol. 57, no. 2, pp. 225-62. read.dukeupress.edu, doi:10.1215/00141801-2009-062.