Discovery of Anza Letters Sheds Light on Life Along Trail

From Dr. Greg Bernal-Mendoza Smestad

Imagine visiting a site on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic trail and finding a Spanish coin from 1775, or an artifact connecting you to the past, providing new insights into the people and story of the trail.

However unlikely, such insights have recently been made by the re-discovery of over a dozen previously untranslated letters, composed and signed by Juan Bautista de Anza and addressed to Fernando Javier de Rivera y Moncada, then the military official in charge of California from 1774 to 1777. An analysis of the first three letters has been made available by Anza expedition descendant Phil Valdez Jr. at the on-line magazine, Somos Primos, in its July 2004 issue.

This work was done by Don Garate and José Pantoja with editing provided by Vladimir Guerrero, Ph.D. and Californio descendants Mary Triplett Ayers, Phil Valdez and Greg Bernal-Mendoza Smestad, Ph.D.

Phil Valdez’s manuscript as well as the additional letters can be read in their entirety at http://www.somosprimos.com/sp2004/spjulo4/spjulo4.htm#CALIFORNIA. The Anza Letters can be found at the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley, filed as BANC MSS C-A 368.

Los Californianos members are currently working in conjunction with Tumacacori National Historical Park Chief of Interpretation Don Garate to transcribe and translate these cartas. What follows is both an English translation and an expanded Spanish transliteration of the first carta written at Campsite 55, San Carlos Pass, north of Anza-Borrego State Park.

San Carlos Pass was a major turning point for the expedition. Having survived the desert, the expedition was low on supplies and sought additional help.
My Dear Sir:

On the occasion of sending Your Honor the foregoing notices, it occurred to me to add that of the troop I am conducting to be transferred to the Presidio of Monterey, which I recruited in the provinces under the government of Sonora, I have furnished them with the clothing, arms, and other necessaries granted by the Most Excellent Lord Viceroy, and a little more than three months wages for their payment. However, since they have been in the service for eight months, the clothing they were given has been destroyed and worn out. Because of that, and because the season is so raw, they are in need of reparation. Therefore, I have taken this opportunity to give Your Honor this notice that, if you do not feel it is inconvenient, you might send someone to find a provision of underclothing. That is truly what is needed by all the men, women and children. Of course, they will be able to make due with their exterior clothing and the use of some blankets until they have such [underclothing].

Among the families I am bringing there is included the wife and children of Duarte, a soldier of that presidio. She has asked me since the Royal Mining Camp of Alamos if I could do her the favor of transporting her to the side of her husband, who serves Your Honor. I am sending this notice that relief might be sent (if it can be) in the form of animals (1) and what ever else seems appropriate.

Our Lord keep Your Honor many years. Encampment of the said expedition at San Carlos Pass, December 28, 1775.

Your most certain servant kisses the hand of Your Honor.

Juan Bautista de Anza

To Señor Don Fernando de Rivera y Moncada

Notes: 1. Probably domestic saddle animals, but it could be cattle.
Los Angeles Area Teachers Gather to Study and Hike Anza Trail

Teachers from the old Pueblo of Los Angeles up to the Santa Barbara Presidio will be using the Anza Trail curriculum as they work with third and fourth grade students when they return to their classrooms this fall.

The first group of twenty teachers from southern California has completed a 16-hour training course on the Anza Trail. As part of a Parks as Classrooms grant, National Park Service staff will be training teachers in Arizona and California in how to incorporate the Anza Trail story into their social studies and language arts curriculum.

During the recent workshop, teachers studied the Spanish colonial period in Alta California and the Native American tribes that lived in these areas. While at the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center, they were able to hike along portions of the twenty miles of Anza Trail that run through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. On the second day, teachers also visited trail along the Los Angeles River and near the Los Angeles River Center. Although temperatures hovered around 100°, all of the teachers completed the series of hikes along the trail. Some will be using the same trail segments this fall to introduce their classes to Anza.

After reviewing the entire classroom program, teachers had an opportunity to critique the curriculum. Teachers wanted additional resources on the various plants and animals the expedition would have experienced while crossing the Arizona and California deserts. They also wanted a supplementary lesson plan that would deal with ethnicity, race, and the Spanish caste system. These suggestions will be incorporated into the revised lesson plans.

The Anza Trail curriculum has been in a constant state of evolution ever since it was first developed. Kathy Chalfant of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historical Preservation authored and designed the curriculum as part of a Challenge Cost Share grant. Over the last three years, she has continued to modify it and introduce it to scores of teachers as a docent at the Santa Barbara Presidio.

This spring, Los Californianos, the descendant group that represents many of California's first non-indigenous immigrants, put in hundreds of hours of work on the curriculum helping to research the histories of the thirty-six Anza expedition members discussed as part of the lesson plan. Work by Los Californianos helped create a product that accurately describes those first settlers that made the trek from the Mexican frontier to San Francisco in 1776.

By the end of the year, trail staff will have trained 100 teachers at workshops along the length of the trail in Hayward, Los Angeles, El Centro, Yuma, Tucson, and Nogales. All elementary teachers are welcome to attend the workshops, but the curriculum is specifically designed to meet teaching standards for third and fourth grade classrooms in California and Arizona.

Workshops will be held on Saturdays in September, October, and early November. In addition to receiving a hard copy of the curriculum, teachers receive lunch and a $50 stipend for their participation in the program. Although teachers in those districts will receive a written invitation, anyone interested should contact the trail at (510) 817-1323 to register.

Correction and Notes

The photo on page 9 of the April edition of Noticias should have been attributed to the Borrego Sun.

Bob Brower, grandson of Herbert Bolton, read Ron Ory's article about driving the Anza Trail and wrote to remind readers that the trail does not end in San Francisco but also includes a 200-mile loop in the East Bay. The East Bay loop is now completely signed for drivers.
Arizona Volunteers Plan Major Trail Expedition for October

The sounds of horseshoes, bike tires, and hiking boots will mingle as a hundred equestrians, bicyclists, and hikers come together to celebrate over 70 miles of Anza Trail this October during the Cabalgata de Anza 2004.

Designed to coincide with the anniversary of the original Anza expedition of 1776 and the annual Anza Days celebration at the Tubac Presidio, the Cabalgata - which in Spanish means mounted horse procession - will give scores of trail enthusiasts the chance to explore one of the most accessible and scenic portions of the 1200-mile national trail. This is also an opportunity to experience the Anza Trail first hand in a way that the expedition members did over two centuries ago.

Beginning near the old Guevavi Mission site, just northeast of Nogales, the Cabalgata will have its kick off dinner at Rancho Santa Fe on October 15. From there, the riders and hikers will follow the Santa Cruz River past the Calabasas Mission to end their day at Tumacacori National Historic Park. On the 17th, the group’s arrival at Tubac will coincide with the opening of the Anza Days celebration, followed by a campout at Rex Ranch. The following day, the Cabalgata passes into Pima County with a campout at Canoa Ranch. The 19th will find the group camped at Rancho Sahuarita. Pending permission from the San Xavier District of the Tohono O’odham Nation, the group will continue north along the river, arriving in Tucson's Columbus Park on October 21.

The Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona as well as dozens of volunteers have been coordinating efforts since early spring to create a successful ride. In addition to organizing logistical support to transport camping gear from one site to the next, preparing meals, and insuring access to the trail, they have also had to cover issues such as maintaining adequate liability insurance for those participating in the Cabalgata.

Due to constraints on camping sites and logistics, coordinators are limiting the total number of daily participants to 100. There will be opportunities for those interested in a day hikes to join with the main group. There will also be an evening fund raiser to help the non-profits sponsoring the ride, including The Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA), Friends of the Santa Cruz River, Tubac Historical Society, Tucson Audubon Society, and Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance.

Cabalgata organizer Larry Marshall emphasizes that donations are appreciated. Volunteers, money, and supplies are needed to help house and feed the trekers as they travel north along the Santa Cruz River. Anyone interested in making tax-deductible contributions to ATCA to help sponsor the event should contact Lisa Sharp at (520) 398-8264, (520) 400-6548, or lisasharp@theriver.com.
Santa Clara University students with a passion for history are helping to fill in the gaps with their current research into the Anza expedition and life in Alta California. Using a variety of primary and secondary sources, SCU undergraduates spent the last semester looking at life along the Anza Trail during the 18th century. Topics ranged from cultural taboos to various religious practices to issues of personal hygiene among Spanish settlers and indigenous groups.

Traditionally, those interested in learning more about the Anza Trail have turned to the expedition journals. The Anza Trail is only one of a handful of national trails that has had access to diaries describing the trail route. Herbert Bolton’s work in translating the diaries and the University of Oregon through the Web de Anza in publishing them in Spanish and in English on their web site has given a broad range of people access to these documents.

Although Anza and Father Pedro Font’s diaries give readers a picture of the expedition, they do not always provide details about the intricacies of life among the indigenous people and the Spanish settlers.

There currently exists a great deal of scholarly research describing segments of Spanish and indigenous life at the end of the Spanish colonial period. But this research is often inaccessible to the public. Anthropology Professor Russell Skowronek saw the need for digesting this information and providing it in a way that was accessible to lay readers.

Professor Skowronek serves on the Anza Trail Advisory Council and has been one of its strongest proponents since before the creation of the National Trail in 1990.

While creating a long range interpretive plan, Anza Trail stakeholders emphasized that the National Park Service (NPS) has a role in providing a forum and a repository for information pertaining to the Anza Trail. Dr. Skowronek’s project helps the NPS meet this obligation with background research into the lives of the settlers and American Indian communities in Spanish Alta California.

Students relied on a variety of journals written during historic periods, government records, and anthropological studies. One of the key tools used was Dr. Jack William’s unpublished *Everyday Life in the Presidios, 1763-1835*.

The final product was a series of readable papers running the gamut of life along the frontier. Topics included: *Health and Medicine in 18th Century Alta California; The Military of Frontier California; Hygiene Along the Anza Trail; Food and Cooking; Vice and Virtue; Education in Alta California; Games and Pastimes; Spanish and Ohlone Rituals and Beliefs; and Women’s Experiences Along the Trail.*

These papers will be available to the public within the next month at the NPS Anza Trail web site, www.nps.gov/juba. In future editions of Noticias, abridged versions of these papers will be presented. For readers interested in obtaining a hard copy of any of the research, please contact David Smith at (510) 817-1323 or at david_smith@nps.gov for a free printed copy of any one of the papers.
From the Superintendent

By Meredith Kaplan

Authenticity and accuracy. These are ongoing goals of our interpretive and educational efforts and a special emphasis for David and me this year.

As a matter of course, we rely on organizations like the Los Californianos and individuals like Don Garate at Tumacacori to review our materials and help insure accuracy. They have been helpful answering our Frequently Asked Questions now on our website (www.nps.gov/juba) and reviewing our curriculum materials and interpretive panels. Chumash, Ohlone, and other American Indian representatives are now helping with the development and review of interpretive text.

But as one of our advisory council members noted, “there is not even agreement among professionals” on details of the expedition or of the late 18th century Spanish frontier. The experts we seek out frequently disagree. Often, we are making educated guesses. However, in the past few months we have edged closer to accuracy in some areas.

Our partners and friends have contributed new information on the Anza expeditions. Imagine our excitement to learn of previously unknown letters written by Anza conveying the needs of his settlers while actually on the expedition—underwear, soap, and shoes! This archival find came through Phil Valdez whose reading of the diaries led him to the Rivera y Moncada collection at the Bancroft Library where eight of Anza’s letters to Moncada were just waiting to be read. With these letters we learn marvelous details that help bring the trail story alive—the name of the family that came along at the last minute, the name of the best muleteer, how the loss of cattle and horses affected Anza, the list of animals he left with Moncada before returning to Mexico with “the pack outfits … more or less worn out.” The feature article of Noticias provides a look at one of these letters.

Such a find is tantalizing. Could there be more letters out there? Where would they be? There is much more to be learned of the Anza expeditions and late 18th Century New Spain. Our staff of two lacks the time to conduct such research, but those of you with a passion for this trail might just add to our knowledge by doing a little sleuthing as Phil did.

One example is Greg Smestad. Greg, who was also involved in the letter find, now is incorporating authentic versions of the music that Anza might have heard in his audio CD and guidebook (a Challenge Cost Share project). Not satisfied with just any version of music mentioned in the diaries, such as the Alabado and Te Deum, he worked with Calicanto and the New World Baroque Orchestra to locate and transcribe the appropriate musical examples, often from original manuscripts, and to record the specific version of the music that Anza would have heard. With the involvement of several Indian tribes, Greg is also taping the music and language of some of the people that Anza encountered.

On another front, Dr. Alan K. Brown has found an earlier version of Font’s extended diary than the 1777 version we know from Bolton. This earlier version appears in the 1998 republication by Father José Luis Soto Pérez of Palou’s Recopilación de Noticias de la Nueva California from a manuscript in the Franciscan Order archive in Rome. The Font diary is included in archival material appended to Palou’s Noticias in the two-volume Perez work. This diary contains material left out of the later text. On the other hand, the later text that we are familiar with includes many of Font’s personal thoughts as well as his feelings about Anza - the sort of opinions we find interesting.

The descriptive material in the Soto Pérez version left out of the diary we know adds especially interesting material on the landscapes and Indians encountered. For instance, in the earlier version Font notes on March 25, 1776, ten Indians came out to meet them. Yet, in the later text, he says “there came out to meet us a great many Indians.”

On March 29 he describes the stream they called Los Dolores (in San Francisco) as “a year-round stream of extremely fine water, so adequate that the one at Mission San Gabriel is no finer….”, giving us more information on both streams left out of the diary version we know.

Dr. Brown is preparing a unified translation of the two Font diaries, most probably for publication. He has been generous in sharing his work with us.

Bit by bit, with the help of our friends and supporters, we are painting a better picture of the Anza expeditions and the late 18th century Spanish frontier. As new information becomes available, we are reminded that much about this period is still in question. Knowledgeable people often disagree. We do our best to be accurate and authentic, but must realize that we may need to change our ideas as new information comes to light.

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Noticias de Anza
Colorado Hosts Anza World Conference

The 225th anniversary of Anza’s crossing of Poncha Pass and his battle with Comanche leader Cuerno Verde in southern Colorado will serve as the backdrop for this year’s 8th Annual World Anza Conference in Salida, August 26-29.

Although Anza is most well known for having led settlers to San Francisco from Mexico in 1776, he also served as a presidio commander and as governor in New Mexico. It was during the later period that he established a lasting peace through diplomacy after a final battle with Cuerno Verde in Colorado.

Participants at this year’s conference will hear recent research by Ron Kessler, Joe Myers, Wilfred Martinez, Ignacio Pesquera, Jack Williams, and Louise Williams. They will also be entertained at Saturday’s dinner by a living history presentation from Don Garate and a field trip to the Anza route in Colorado.

Tour Arizona For Fun is coordinating the event for the non-profit Anza Society. For $316, tour operators will pick up participants in Albuquerque or Colorado Springs and transport them to the conference site. The fee will cover conference admission, all meals and snacks, the field trip, and a conference package, including Ron Kessler’s book Anza’s 1779 Comanche Campaign. The cost for those just attending Friday’s conference and luncheon only is $50.

For more information about the conference, contact Tour Arizona For Fun at http://www.touraz4fun.com or call at (602) 993-1162.

Trail Embarks on Mapping Project to be Completed by Fall

Whether visitors are planning on driving, hiking, or biking, maps are crucial tools in being able to explore the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Even during the expedition, Anza was dependent on Father Font’s mapping skills to help him track their route from Horcasitas to San Francisco. For historians, Font’s map offers a picture of Spanish knowledge of Alta California in 1776. But today’s traveler needs something with a bit more detail than a few missions and a presidio or two.

As a result, the Anza Trail is working to expand the maps available to trail visitors on two fronts. First, the trail has hired Ryno Mapping as a consultant to create a computer database of all trail related historical sites and resources. As part of the contract, Ryno will create a series of county maps along the trail identifying the historical route, the driving trail, and existing recreational segments. In creating a Geographical Information System (GIS) database, Ryno will be allowing trail staff to create trail maps in the future for regional areas, for new trail segments, and for the web.

On the second front, long time trail partners at the Center for Applied Technology in Education (CATE) at the University of Oregon are continuing their work on creating a series of interactive maps for the web. The maps allow users on the web to add and subtract various layers that depict the historic Anza route as well as modern road and waterways. The program has specific trail information tied to important historical sites along the map, such as the various campsites, missions, and presidios.

To date, CATE has been able to construct four of these detailed maps for the San Francisco Area, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, Riverside County, and the Yuma area. As part of their current Challenge Cost Share project, they will also create additional maps for Santa Cruz and Pima Counties, as well as Monterey. The Center is scheduled to complete the mapping program by September. Trail users can explore the existing maps now at http://anza.uoregon.edu/atlas/relief/default.htm.

Ryno Mapping will complete their project early this fall at which point readers will see a gradual incorporation of these new maps into park publications and web pages. Map products will ideally offer visitors the detail they need to explore remote segments of the trail while still being relatively easy read and understand.
Along the Trail...

Roger Zachary, an avid birder and biology and ecology teacher at Atascadero High School, offered a spring evening nature walk along the Salinas River portion of the Anza Trail.

The May 19 hike was sponsored by the local Amigos de Anza, the friends of the Anza Trail. The segment of the trail near the Wranglerette Arena is a 1.3 mile undeveloped loop in a mixed riparian setting of cottonwoods, willows, and wild shrubs and grasses.

Roger helped participants recognize birds by sight and by their songs and calls. Future hikes will be offered along the same trail segment. Contact Myra Douglas at (805) 466-8061 for additional information.

The exhibit, Inventing Race: Casta Painting in 18th Century Mexico, is at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles through August 8. The exhibit deals with the elaborate caste system in place during the Spanish colonial period and its effect of those living in Mexico and Alta California. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon-9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission ranges from $5-$9. Contact (323) 857-6000 for more information.

Curator Andy Galvan invites comments on the first draft of the Mission Dolores web site, which is being put together with the assistance of students from San Francisco State University. The site is at http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~shallx/. Galvan may be reached at Chochenyo@aol.com with comments.

On Saturday, August 7, Mission Dolores and Heyday Books will commemorate the role of the native Ohlone people in the building of the San Francisco Mission. During the History Open House, Ohlone descendants demonstrate native crafts while docents explain native influence on mission architecture. In the mission museum, images of the recently discovered murals will be projected. Following lunch, authors Malcolm Margolin and Randall Milliken will discuss the complexities of traditional Ohlone life and culture. For more information, contact Katie Wadell at (510) 549-3564 ext. 316. Tickets for the event will run from $3-5 with proceeds benefiting educational programs at Mission Dolores.

Anza expedition descendants, equestrians, and government officials were on hand to celebrate each of the original families from the 1776 Anza expedition lay flowers as the expedition roll call is made. This year's event brought together over 100 people.

The Los Californianos commemoration was one component of a weekend of celebrations at the San Francisco Presidio. The Presidio Trust brought together a number of different historical societies, American Indian representatives, and park affiliates to play host to hundreds of area students. Children visited an archeological site, talked with tribal members, and filled in their personal passports as they traveled around the...

(Continued on next page)
Three five-year agreements have been renewed in the last three months: Atascadero Mutual Water Company for 4 miles of trail along the Salinas River; San Benito County for Stagecoach Road; and the Peralta Adobe in San José. Over the past five years, these partners have shown good faith in recognizing the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and in caring for the recreational trail and sites.

Santa Clara County has formalized an agreement with that will allow us to mark many miles of recreational trail within the county.

Stanford University resumed its archeological investigation of El Polin Springs at the Presidio of San Francisco. This summer’s excavations uncovered the remains of an adobe building where the Briones family may have lived.

The study is part of a five-year program to uncover how this part of the San Francisco Presidio was used during the Spanish colonial and Mexican periods. Led by Dr. Barbara Voss, the dig is being jointly sponsored by the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service.

**In Memoriam Andy W. Amann, Jr.**

Andy Amann, one of the Anza Trail’s biggest supporters and strongest advocates, died July 10 following a battle with cancer. He was 63.

Andy was an active member of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA) in Pima County. While there, he helped Pima County incorporate the Anza Trail into their master trail program.

In recent years, Andy was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, to serve on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Advisory Board. In that role, Andy represented the interests and concerns of ATCA and Arizona trail users. He offered pointed commentary and insight into the future of the Anza Trail and the role volunteers and the Advisory Board could play in helping the trail.

Away from the trail, Andy was an investor who resided in Tucson. He is survived by his wife, Diana Brady Vidal. Donations can be made in his name to the American Cancer Society.
Tubac, Arizona
October 16-17, 10 AM to 4 PM. Anza Days. Celebrate the annual festival of Anza’s passage through the community of Tubac at the Tubac Presidio State Historical Park. This year’s event will be especially festive with the arrival of trail hikers and riders following the expedition route from Nogales to Tucson. The event site will have folklorico dancers, food, music, and activities for children. For more information, call (520) 398-2704.

Santa Cruz and Pima Counties, Arizona
October 15-21. Cabalgata de Anza 2004. Be one of the hundred equestrians, bicyclists, and hikers as they travel up the Anza Trail through Santa Cruz and Pima Counties in southern Arizona. Along the way, camp out along the Anza Trail and discover a slower way of life as you travel the historic route. Those interested in joining the expedition or helping out should contact Lisa Sharp at (520) 398-8264, (520) 400-6548, or lisasharp@theriver.com.

San Francisco, California
Saturday, August 7. Doors open at 9:00 AM. Program runs from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Old Mission Dolores. A Day at Chutchui: A history open house, sponsored by Heyday Books and the Old Mission Dolores. Join authors Malcom Margolin and Randall Milliken to discuss traditional Ohlone life and culture. Call (510) 549-3564, ext. 316 for more information, contact katie@heydaybooks.com.

Sunday, September 5. 6 - 7:30 PM. Join Juan Bautista de Anza for a living history campfire as he recalls the long, hard trip from Mexico to the area known today as San Francisco. Sit and talk with Anza as he awaits the arrival of the Spanish supply ship that will outfit the nearly 200 settlers. In English and Spanish. Dress warmly. Meets at Crissy Field outdoor amphitheater near the Warming Hut and West Bluff picnic area. All ages. Free. Registration required call (415) 561-7752.

Monterey County, California
November 12-14. Mission San Antonio de Padua. The Anza Trail Advisory Council will meet at the mission site for a three-day conference. This will be their final meeting before the group disbands. The public is encouraged to attend and offer feedback. Contact Meredith Kaplan at (510) 817-1438 for more information.

Salida, Colorado
August 26-29. Annual Anza World Conference. Join others interested in Anza and the Spanish colonial period at this year’s conference in Salida, Colorado. The conference will include field trips to sites associated with Anza while he was governor of New Mexico. Call (602) 993-1162 or go to www.touraz4fun.com for more information.

Austin, Texas
October 21-24. The 17th Annual National Trails Symposium. Join the American Hiking Society during a four-day conference to discuss this year’s theme, The Emerging Role of Trails in American Lifestyles. For more information, contact the American Trails office at (530) 547-2060 or visit the convention site at www.AmericanTrails.org.
Mountain Lake marks the final campsite used by Anza and his soldiers before their arrival at the Golden Gate. Today, the city park at the edge of the San Francisco Presidio is ringed by the Anza Trail. Each day, hundreds of hikers and bikers enjoy groves of eucalyptus and Monterey cypress - a scene quite different from the treeless, windblown marshy lake surrounded by flowers that welcomed Anza on March 28, 1776.