The pure Spanish horses transported to New Spain demonstrated their steady mind and hardiness long before they reached the beaches of eastern Mexico. Horses travelled to the Americas suspended from rafters below deck, supported by huge slings around their bellies to prevent them from breaking their legs. Those that survived this arduous voyage multiplied and thrived in the New World.

Father Kino’s Mission Horses. As early as 1700, Father Eusebio Kino began leaving bands of 20 to 30 of his Spanish “mission horses” at each small settlement that he founded or visited throughout the Pimeria Alta (present-day Arizona and Sonora, Mexico). Using Spanish horses he obtained from missions to the south, Kino’s breeding ranch at Mission Nuestra Señora de los Dolores in Sonora produced a horse that could carry a rider over 60 miles of rough terrain in a single day. Kino’s horses quickly adapted to the temperature extremes and punishing terrain and could survive by feeding on the sparse vegetation of the arid Sonoran Desert.

Direct descendants of Kino’s mission horses were widespread by 1775, and Sonoran-born Juan Bautista de Anza likely grew up riding them. They would have been the same type of sturdy mount he would rely upon for his expeditions to Alta California. Records indicate that his soldiers, friars, and settlers rode on horses supplied from the Tubac area (140 Spanish horses in 1774, and 500 in 1775).

Until the 1850s, the pure Colonial Spanish horse that dominated the West remained in large numbers, largely unchanged. Tragically, by the 1950s, after a century of systematic slaughter of Indian ponies and range horses by the U.S. Government on public lands, by ranchers on private lands, and by deliberate cross-breeding with European stock, only 1,500 true
Mission Horse

Continued -

Colonial Spanish horses could be found.

A Remarkable Discovery. In 1987 – 300 years after Kino founded his horse ranch – an isolated herd of 120 Colonial Spanish “mission-type” horses was discovered 50 miles west of Tubac, Ariz., on an isolated ranch. The Wilbur-Cruce family owned a territorial ranch that in 1885, purchased 25 mares and a stallion from Juan Sepulveda, a horse trader from Sonora. Importantly, the Wilbur-Cruce ranch horses were kept as a closed herd.

Equine geneticist Dr. D. Phillip Sponenberg found Iberian DNA markers among the Wilbur-Cruce horses. “The Cruce horses are one of a handful of strains of horses derived from Spanish Colonial days that persist as purely (or as nearly as can be determined) Spanish to the present day,” he concluded. “They are the only domesticated ‘rancher’ strain of horses that persists in the Southwest.”

Dr. Sponenberg then examined the horses and reported, “The horses are remarkably uniform, and of a very pronounced Spanish phenotype. In some instances this is an extremely Spanish type, such as is rare in other Spanish strains persisting in North America”. Following confirmation that the herd was indeed Spanish, the herd was divided among five private ranches for conservation.

The Critically Endangered Kino Mission Horse Today. Despite volunteers’ best efforts to expand their numbers, the Wilbur-Cruce mission horse remains “critically endangered”. A 2011 American Livestock
Riding the rails
With Ed and Bern
Hale Sargent, Anza Trail

“I do it to get out of the house,” Bern says. Barreling up the California coast, hundreds of miles from home, Bern Verbit has well exceeded this goal. Through the Trails and Rails program, Bern is one of a cadre of nearly 30 dedicated volunteers who interpret the Anza Trail on board Amtrak’s Coast Starlight in California.

On a Sunday in June I joined Bern and his partner that day, Ed Leska, for their seven hour program between Santa Barbara and San Jose.

“They’re in school and don’t know it,” Ed says as his audience settles into the lounge car. Ed and Bern hook up portable speakers on either end of the car and take turns on the microphone, offering information on the cultural and natural landscape passing by. As it follows the coast, the train route evokes the Anza expedition, including one of the trail’s most inaccessible spans through Vandenberg Air Force Base.

“You have to take this train,” Ed says. “You’ll see everything that makes California - agriculture, cattle, wine. Plus you learn something new.”

Some guests pause to enjoy the view, then continue on their way. Some perk up occasionally from their conversations. Some, like Josephine Kavanagh and Beatrice O’Malley, linger for hours. “We think it’s fantastic,” Beatrice tells me. Originally from Australia, the pair is traveling the U.S. by rail. “It’s lovely, and it’s great that they’re volunteers. Everything we asked them, they knew.”

Indeed, Ed and Bern are laden with binders, photos, articles - even an iPad loaded with video clips - that guide their interpretive program. Bern has volunteered for seven years, both on this route and the shorter Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo stretch. Ed has been volunteering since 1998, when the South Coast Railroad Museum in Goleta, Calif., pioneered the program. The museum continues to manage the program today through a partnership with the Anza Trail.

Around 8PM, the Coast Starlight pulls into San Jose. Amtrak will provide Ed and Bern with accommodations for the evening, and they will be back at the station at 10AM to repeat the program on their return trip.

It’s tiring, but Bern sounds like he could continue all night as he thanks the people for their attention. As the lounge car offers its applause, a smile comes over Bern’s face. He had said his motivation was to get out of the house, but the applause elicits a confession: “That’s why I do it!”

For more information about the Anza Trail program on the Amtrak Coast Starlight, contact the South Coast Railroad Museum, 805-964-3540.

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Mission Horse Continued -
Breed Conservancy census of Wilbur-Cruce horses lists approximately 92 remaining.

Today, breed stewards, new horse-owners and volunteers are urgently needed to ensure that the bloodlines of these horses endure for future generations to enjoy.

They are a living treasure.

For more information on the Wilbur-Cruce “Mission” Horse, contact Deb Wolfe at 408-504-4438 or visit www.SpanishBarb.com. Read more about Colonial Spanish horses at the American Livestock Breed Conservancy website: www.ALBC-usa.org
Joe Myers, Anza Society

The annual Anza Society conference traces its origins to Arizpe, Mexico, where the late Don Garate and companion Ron Kessler began discussions for an Anza World Conference, a forum where persons interested in Spanish colonial history could get together and talk, with a special focus on the life and times of Juan Bautista de Anza.

Their plans led to an annual event that has traveled the world, including our most recent 17th annual conference, held March 2012 in southern Arizona.

The conferences have evolved into a traditional pattern: a reception on Thursday night, historic talks all day Friday followed by a banquet and invited speaker, tours to historic sites on Saturday, and then a local walking tour on Sunday morning after the annual board meeting.

This year’s conference included ten talks, including new research on the route of the Anza expedition, commerce in Sonora and Arizona in the 1700s, the Pima uprising of 1751, and the life of María Ignacia Manuela Piñuelas, the Anza expedition member who died in childbirth very near the site of our conference location.

Our banquet speaker, James Turner of the Arizona Historical Society, gave an enlightening talk on the history of the region and tied it into the movement of presidios in the mid-late 1700s.

On Saturday, March 10, staff of the Tumacácori National Historical Park hosted a visit to the ruins of two missions (Calabazas and Guevavi). For lunch, we visited the Hacienda Corona de Guevavi, ranch land that was once owned by the Anzas (father and son). For the next two hours the society had a guided tour of the Tubac presidio where Anza was commander, and then another tour at nearby Tumacácori mission before being entertained by a local choir, singing their interpretation of Spanish colonial songs in the restored church. A special treat was a presentation at the mission by Grant Hildon about Anza’s role in the 1767 expulsion of the Jesuits. The walking tour on Sunday was in Tubac.

Plan to attend next year’s 18th Annual International Conference in Monterey, Calif. And join up; we are a small fun-loving society, and we broaden our knowledge of Spanish Colonial History with each conference. Stella Cardoza is already working on a 2014 conference in Banamichi (in Sonora, Mexico). Visit www.anzasociety.org.
**Book Review**

**Herbert Eugene Bolton: Historian of the American Borderlands**  
by Albert L. Hurtado, Reviewed by Gale Randall

If you are curious about the life of the 20th century historian who brought us the five-volume *Anza’s California Expeditions*, then you might be interested in reading *Herbert Eugene Bolton: Historian of the American Borderlands* by Albert L. Hurtado (University of California Press, 2012. 388 pages; $39.95).

*Bolton* is a terrific read, following the historian from his birth on a Wisconsin farm in 1870 to his career as a historian at the University of Texas, Stanford, and finally UC Berkeley, where he built up the history department and directed what would become the world-famous Bancroft Library.

Bolton first became fascinated by the Spaniards’ role in shaping American history while teaching medieval and European history at Texas, subsequently mining the Mexican archives for lost 16th-18th century manuscripts of Spanish explorers and missionaries.

In addition to his Anza works, Bolton produced definitive tomes on Kino, Escalante, Font, Palou and Coronado, greatly expanding our knowledge of a forgotten period in U.S. history. He was a “go and see” historian and, on school breaks with his graduate students, followed and mapped the expeditions he would later write about. Bolton was a larger-than-life personality, and his History of the Americas course at UC Berkeley was immensely popular, drawing up to 1,000 students twice a week for nearly a quarter century.

The culmination of 25 years of research, Hurtado’s biography of Bolton is eminently readable. Bolton was my maternal grandfather, and the author of this biography consulted my family for the project.

Hurtado served as Travis Chair in Modern American History at the University of Oklahoma. He now lives near Sacramento and is president of the Western History Association.

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**Blogging the Aquatic Habitats of the Anza Expedition**  
*Follow the research of Christopher Richard on his blog Flow Back in Time as he explores the natural history of the Anza expedition:*

The journals of the two Anza expeditions to California are a treasure trove of writings about natural history at the time of transition from Native American to European land management.

Because of the expeditions’ desperate need to move from water source to water source and because they were charged with evaluating the terrain for agricultural potential, particular emphasis was given to recording aquatic features and habitats. Much of the information in the journals was lost or misinterpreted in the English translations. The purposes of my project is to fully grasp the specificity of the Spanish-language descriptions of the aquatic habitats and to compare the condition of those habitats as Anza found them and how they are today.

*Follow my investigations at www.creeksnoop.net.*
Will Sparks
Mission Painter

Julianne Burton-Carvajal,
El Camino Real de California Initiative,
Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

Mission San Francisco de Asis - Dolores by Will Sparks, c. 1937. Anza helped select the site for Mission Dolores in 1776.
In 1887, en route to California where he hoped to find work as a news reporter and illustrator, 25-year-old Will Sparks stopped at Mission San Xavier del Bac south of Tucson. Whether or not he realized it at the time, that late-baroque structure looming so unexpectedly above the desert landscape would redirect his career as an artist. For the next 50 years, his preferred subject would be architectural remnants of the Franciscan missionary presence in California and across the Southwest.

As he sketched and painted Spanish mission sites at Tumacácori, Guevavi, and Tucson on that first and subsequent visits, could Sparks have known that he was retracing the itinerary of the second Juan Bautista de Anza, soldier, statesman, and trailblazer? Would anyone have informed the young Missourian that, more than a century earlier, the decaying presidio at Tubac had been the point of departure for the founding colonists of San Francisco – the city where his own career as “mission artist” was about to unfold?

Prompted by the nation’s centennial celebration and Philadelphia Exposition of 1876, Westerners began searching for a colonial legacy comparable to that of their eastern cousins. Two decades later, the 50th anniversaries of American annexation of California and the New Mexico Territory fueled movements to repair crumbling vestiges of the Spanish era. “Mission style” became the vogue – celebrating hand-made over industrial products while retrospectively coating the brash conquest saga with alluring layers of romance. Responding to the vogue for “nocturnes,” Sparks often bathed his mission scenes in warm post-sunset tones or ethereal moonlight blues – evoking a spiritual aura while reinforcing the unburdening notion that the sun had justly set on the Spanish empire.

Following a tradition pioneered in California by Bavarian Edward Vischer, Englishman Edwin Deakin and Danish-born Christian Jorgensen, among others, Sparks created two complete series depicting California’s 21 mission churches and various associated chapels “mellowed as well as ravaged by time.” The 32 paintings in his first suite, completed in 1916, were sold singly. Three decades later, another gallery owner encouraged him to create a second mission series, which he began in 1934.

On March 28, 1937 Sparks put the finishing touches on the 37th painting in that second series. Dipping a fine-tipped brush in his customary vermillion, he signed his name on his palette and expressed the wish that the set of 37 canvases remain forever intact. He was in his 75th year when he died two days later at St. Mary’s Hospital in San Francisco.

To date, collectors and gallery owners have respected that dying wish by keeping the second mission series intact for 75 years. Produced at the conclusion of a long career, it recapitulates the artist’s entire trajectory. The range of canvas sizes and techniques suggests an individualized approach to each structure and setting, while the inclusion of mission churches from New Mexico as well as Arizona makes this series uniquely comprehensive. Those who seek the story behind the series learn that one of California’s most compelling and successful mission painters found his initial inspiration in the remote, austere region that trailblazer Juan Bautista de Anza called home.

Author’s note: Anza saw only the earliest generation of mission buildings; Sparks painted the permanent churches, sometimes the sixth or seventh erected on the same site, often before restoration. Paintings reproduced courtesy of Trotter Galleries in Carmel and Pacific Grove. This essay is adapted from a presentation given to the Anza Society at Green Valley, Arizona in March 2012.
Trailing the Anza Expedition 235 years later

Michael Charnofsky and Beverly Ortiz, East Bay Regional Park District

The profound impacts of the 1776 Anza Expedition continue to be felt in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2011, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), in collaboration with the National Park Service, installed fourteen interpretive panels in parks close to where the expedition members travelled. Focusing on the Native peoples and ecological landscape that the expedition members encountered, the panels are easily accessible to the travelling public. They can also be viewed online: http://www.ebparks.org/anzahistoric.

From March 31-April 5, 2012, the same dates the expedition travelled through the area, EBRPD Naturalist Beverly Ortiz coordinated an opportunity for the public to visit some of the new panels. On April 1 and 2, Bev and three other EBRPD naturalists also presented interpretive programs at four park sites housing the new panels.

At Dry Creek Regional Park, Ruth Orta and her daughter Ramona Garibay, both Jalquin Ohlone, joined Bev in sharing Ohlone cultural traditions past to present, and discussing the impacts of the expedition on local Native peoples. They shared the on-going tradition of Ohlone-style basketry, and some of the same Native plant foods presented to expedition members. At Mission Peak Regional Preserve, Michael Charnofsky discussed historical ecology and how the landscape of 1776 influenced the expedition’s route. At Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline, Anthony Fisher read excerpts from the expedition diaries as he hiked near the original trail. And at Big Break Regional Shoreline, Edward Willis and the public made miniature tule boats, close to where the expedition saw Julpun Bay Miwoks fishing from full-size tule boats.

Arizona Partners Win Awards

Hale Sargent, Anza Trail

Congratulations to these Anza Trail partners and friends on their recent recognition! In March, the Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix District, won a BLM State Director Strategic Award. The Phoenix District was recognized for several trail restoration events, an Anza Days event, and the 10th anniversary celebration of the Sonoran Desert National Monument. The award honors projects and practices that demonstrate community interaction, engagement of youth, and implementation of shared goals with partners.

In April, Friends of the Santa Cruz River honored the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA) as Volunteer of the Year.

In May, Tony Sedgwick of the Santa Fe Ranch won the National Wetlands Award for Landowner Stewardship. Sedgwick was recognized for the restoration of Las Lagunas de Anza, the first historic campsite along the Anza Trail in the U.S.

And in June, Don Kucera, ATCA State V.P. of Interpretation, was selected for the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society’s Victor R. Stoner Award for promoting historic awareness and preservation, and bringing Southwestern anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, or history to the public over an extended period.
Web de Anza Upgrade and Update Project
Lynne Anderson, Project Director

Designed and developed in the 1990s, Web de Anza (http://anza.uoregon.edu) is the world's only website providing Spanish and English transcriptions of all known journals from Juan Bautista de Anza's two expeditions to Alta California, as well as maps, images, and other multimedia resources.

With initial funding from the Anza Trail Foundation, the creators of Web de Anza recently launched a multi-year collaborative program of redesign and improvement, with the twin goals of enriching and expanding this invaluable historical resource, and better meeting the needs of today's students, scholars, and trail enthusiasts. Project Director Dr. Lynne Anderson is holding public brainstorming sessions to ensure that Web de Anza reflects the interests and desires of the broader Anza community. Planning sessions have been held in Phoenix, Marana, Ariz., and Santa Clara, Calif.

The goal for these sessions is to generate ideas for new documents, new content, new features, new presentation formats, and new multimedia resources. If you have ideas to share, please email Lynne Anderson at lynneandrs@gmail.com. To keep up to date with all things related to Anza, and learn more about opportunities to have input into the Web de Anza Upgrade and Update Project, join the Anza listserv by emailing Judith Blair at jablair@uoregon.edu.

Amigos de Anza Ride in 2012 Horse Faire
Anne Wheeler, Amigos de Anza

Thousands from around the Bay Area gathered on Saturday, April 7, at Heather Farms in Walnut Creek, Calif., to celebrate the second annual Horse Faire. This year's theme was Wild West history, and the Amigos de Anza historical riders and color guard provided a perfect opening and backdrop for the event.

Pantaleon Vasquez rode as Anza with Diana Bruscha beside him in authentic Spanish riding attire. Panta and Diana rode their horses 45 minutes each way from Castle Rock Arabians to Heather Farms and back. The Heather Farms parking lot was full of exhibitors and vendors. Children enjoyed a petting zoo, face painting, horse painting, gold panning, and ample opportunity to groom and pet full-sized horses.

Gunfighters of the Old West provided historical reenactment, including the “arrest” of Walnut Creek Mayor Bob Simmons, while Horse Faire workers in historical attire roamed the fair grounds. The Amigos de Anza Arabian Drill team performed a quadrille with experienced team riders Rachel Hannigan, Lizzie and Katie Rodgers, and Kana Sumiyoshi. New riders for the Amigos -- Sierra Goodfriend, Mikayla Hudson, Emily McDowell, Kelly Perriman, Megan Self, Megan Southal and Mia Waota -- went before a large crowd for their debut drill performance.

Noticias de Anza: Sharing Anza Trail News & History

Noticias de Anza is a free quarterly publication of the National Park Service. Unless otherwise noted, all articles and images are in the public domain and may be used by any interested party.

Submission Deadlines
March 1 for April issue
June 1 for July issue
September 1 for October issue
December 1 for January issue

Articles and photographs from the public are encouraged. E-mail submissions to: Hale_Sargent@nps.gov.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates, protects, marks, and interprets the route traveled by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775 and 1776 to bring settlers to the edge of the Spanish frontier, and establish a mission and presidio in present-day San Francisco. The trail route extends 1,200 miles in the United States and 600 miles in Mexico.
The Anza Expedition camped at a site Anza called Agua Escondida (hidden water) on February 22, 1776. The historic campsite was located in the Las Virgenes Valley in the present day city of Calabasas, Calif. The expedition and campsite are commemorated with a scenic recreation trail as well as a local park bearing Anza’s name.

TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS AND ROUTE:
The 1.4-mile long Anza Trail connects the West Trailhead at Las Virgenes Road to the East Trailhead at the end of Calabasas Road. For a 4-mile round trip hike, branch off and follow the signs for the Anza Loop Trail. The West Trailhead is located on the east side of Las Virgenes Road next to the onramp to southbound Highway 101. From the West Trailhead, the trail ascends through grasslands and oak trees to a small hill that offers views of the Calabasas Grade between the San Fernando

and Conejo Valleys. An interpretive sign at this location includes Pedro Font’s diary pages describing the Anza party’s travels through the area. The trail then descends to cross and follow a small drainage with sycamore trees and other riparian vegetation before reaching the East Trailhead, located at the west end of Calabasas Road. Connecting trails include the New Millennium Trail and the Bark Park Trail. The property is managed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

TRAIL CONDITIONS/HAZARDS:
This natural surface trail follows a graded dirt road. Trail signs at intersections indicate the names of connecting trails and distances. Expect sun exposure; remember water, hat and sunscreen, and watch for rattlesnakes. There are no restrooms or water at the trailheads.

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS:
Juan Bautista de Anza Park is located at the intersection of Las Virgenes Road and Lost Hills Road, about 2 miles south of Highway 101. The park has trails linking to the adjacent Malibu Creek State Park. The Leonis Adobe Museum, located at 23537 Calabasas Road, allows visitors to experience California ranch life in the late 1800s. The Sepulveda Adobe is located at the corner of Las Virgenes Road and Mulholland Highway in Malibu Creek State Park.

Like to feature your favorite segment of the Anza Trail? Send your ideas to steven_ross@nps.gov.
Subscribe to the Anza Trail e-News for a monthly email with additional events and expanded information. Email hale_sargent@nps.gov to subscribe.

July

San Juan Bautista July Hikes with Ranger Diane Barr, 8AM
July 1, 7, 13 & 21; 831-623-4881, diane_barr@partner.nps.gov

7/4 Amigos de Anza in Clayton, CA, July 4th Parade, 10AM

7/14 Peralta Hacienda Lecture: Afro-Latino Presence in Early California, 6PM
2488 Coolidge Ave., Oakland, 510-532-9142, www.peraltahacienda.org

7/28 San Jose Family Fandango, Highlighting 1770-1870, 5PM
Santa Teresa Co. Park Bernal Ranch, 372 Manila Dr., San Jose, 408-846-5632

7/28 Rancho Nipomo Dana Adobe Heritage Days Fandango, 10AM

7/30 Hugo O’Conor and the Founding of Tucson Exhibit Opening, 10AM
Tucson Presidio, 133 W. Washington, 520-837-8119, tucsonpresidiotrust.org

August

California Mission Ride: Meet a team of seven riders as they visit all the California missions, www.thecaliforniamissionride.org

8/1–8/5 Old Spanish Days in Santa Barbara, www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org

8/16 Lecture: Griffith Park and Spanish California, 6:30PM
Los Feliz Library, 1874 Hillhurst Ave, Los Feliz, CA, friendsofgriffithpark.org

8/20 Tucson Birthday Celebration, 6:30PM - 8:30PM
Tucson Presidio, 133 W. Washington, 520-837-8119, tucsonpresidiotrust.org

8/25 Anza Ranger Walk: Martinez Adobe, 12:30PM
John Muir NHS, 4202 Alhambra Ave., Martinez, CA, 415-623-2344

September

9/15 Mission Days: Military Mission Life, 11AM – 2PM
La Purisima Mission State Historic Park, 2295 Purisima Rd, Lompoc, CA
805-733-3713, www.lapurisimamission.org