



Paper, Pens, & Prose: Discovering Early Manuscripts

COMING TO CALIFORNIA

Juan Bautista de Anza Establishes a Land Route



Grade 4 California History

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

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I. Introduction

The use of diaries as a primary source for the study of history not only makes the past seem real to students but reveals the value of such records for all who wish to learn from the past.

II. Objective

- ◆ Students will read excerpts from Anza's diary and other documents to analyze the impact and uses of journals and learn about the conditions Anza and his company faced on their journey.

III. History-Social Science Standards Addressed

- 4.2 Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among the people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods, in terms of:
- 2 the early land and sea routes to, and European settlements in, California . . . noting the physical barriers of mountains [and] deserts. . . .
 - 3 the Spanish exploration and colonization of California, including the relationships among soldiers, missionaries, and Indians. . . .

IV. Background

By the late 18th century, Spain controlled Mexico and was pushing north into Alta California. A few missions and presidios had been established from San Diego to Monterey, but supplying and communicating with them remained difficult. Many ships had been wrecked or had difficulties unloading cargo and passengers because of stormy seas and the lack of many natural harbors. Only the creation of a land route would ensure regular support and contact and allow colonists to populate settlements that could resist the pressure of hostile Indians and the Russians arriving from the north. Juan Bautista de Anza was the explorer who created this vital trail through the Sierras and on to the northern California outposts in 1774.

V. Materials Needed

- A class set of copies of the diary entries (**Documents 1–4**)
- Atlases or physical and political maps of California and northern Mexico
- String

VI. Preparation

As part of a Language Arts lesson, have the students create diary entries for characters in the stories they have read during the year. Select and copy one or more of these to review the principles of diary analysis using familiar material.

VII. Lesson Activities

1. Pass out copies of a fictional student diary entry. Have it read aloud, then ask these questions:
 - a. What kind of person do you think would have written this diary entry?—male or female? age? activities? etc.
 - b. For whom do you think this diary was written, that is, who do you think will read it?
 - c. What, if anything, do you think will happen as a result of the events described in the diary?
 - d. Do you think keeping a diary is important? Why or why not?
2. Pass out copies of Juan de Anza's Friday, March 18 [1774] diary entry, translated from Spanish to English (**Document 1**). Do not indicate who wrote it or when. Read and review the excerpt, which will be manageable for the students with your assistance. As a class or small group activity, have the students answer the above questions and add these questions and activities:

- a. How can you tell that this was written a long time ago?
- [Students will probably mention the emptiness of the land described as well as “old” words like “whence.” Discuss the meanings of these words; then tell them who wrote the diary and when and what his purpose was—see Background, above.]
- b. The entry ends by giving the distance traveled from the starting point in Tubac, Arizona, which they had left on January 8, 1774. What was the average distance in miles covered per day?
- [They will have to look up the meaning of “league”—roughly three miles—and calculate the number of days since departure (70).]
- c. If that (slightly over ten miles per day) is the usual distance, what do you think the expedition consisted of and how do you think they were traveling? On foot? On horseback? A few people? Many people?
- [You may want to give them a distance clue—e.g., “One mile is as far as from here to the mall.”]
- d. Use the atlas or map to find Tubac in southern Arizona. The expedition was heading for San Gabriel, where there was a mission. Use a string to show what route the expedition might have taken.
- [Accept any logical route (one which avoids mountain tops and the like).]
- e. Some days the expedition traveled more than ten miles; some days they covered much less distance. Looking at the route you marked, what might have slowed them down or made it easier to travel?
- f. On March 18, the expedition was in the San Jacinto Valley (which Anza called San Jose) near the town of Hemet. Did your route pass through there?
- g. How do you think the expedition carried its supplies? What kind of food do you think they were carrying? How could it be kept fresh?
- After the students have answered, pass out the first page of the diary (**Documents 2 and 3**), which you have in English and Spanish. Use whichever fits your class, or, better yet, compare them if your class can do so.
- h. Did your answers to the questions above come close to the facts? Did you guess that the expedition would take cattle along to eat? What might the tobacco have been used for other than to smoke?
- [Given to the Indians to try to keep peace]

3. Pass out a copy of the other first page of the diary (**Document 4**) and ask the students to compare it to **Document 3**. Ask these questions:
 - a. You will notice that these two pages have different handwriting. Why do you think that is?
[One is a copy.]
 - b. Which one do you think was written by a scribe? Why did you choose that one?
[The second copy was written by a scribe, the first by Anza. The scribe's copy is neater.]
 - c. Why would a scribe be important on such an expedition if the leader could write?
[Although Anza's writing was readable, that was not true for all explorers. Father Garcés, who went along with Anza, for example, constantly complained about his own handwriting and spelling. Also, many copies of the information were needed to preserve them in case of destruction, to send back to superiors, etc. As expedition leader, Anza did not have time to make such copies.]
4. Finally, use the questions from **Lesson Activity 2** above as they apply to the Anza diary for an oral or written activity and add:

How do you think history would have been different if there had been no written diary and this information passed along orally?

VIII. Extension Activity

1. The complete translation of Anza's diaries is available in Herbert Eugene Bolton's book *Anza's California Expeditions*, Vol. 2, which is available in some libraries. There is a very significant entry for Wednesday, March 23, at San Gabriel Mission, which focuses on the missionary purpose of such expeditions. Although it is much more difficult reading than the March 18 entry, you may want to use it to discuss this important aspect of Spanish exploration.

IX. Vocabulary

<i>beeves</i>	plural for beef
<i>fray</i>	short for fraile or friar
<i>heathen</i>	(as used by Anza) an Indian who had not adopted Christianity
<i>league</i>	a distance usually calculated at about three miles
<i>muleteer</i>	a driver of mules
<i>verdure</i>	green vegetation
<i>whence</i>	the place from which (someone came)

Document 1

JUAN DE ANZA DIARY ENTRY
(Translated from Spanish)

Friday, March 18.—Although morning dawned with very thick clouds, we thought because it had snowed and rained so hard during the night that we should free ourselves of these elements today. With this in mind, as soon as day dawned I sent a party of six men provided with axes, to clear out, if it was necessary, the road which we must follow down the canyon which we have close by. At eight o'clock in the morning, raising our train, we all set forth on the road, which we found favorable, for only for a league was it necessary to cut here and there a tree which impeded. After this the canyon, which we followed to the north and north-northwest, kept getting wider and wider, until we reached a broad and most beautiful valley, six leagues distant from the place whence we had set out.

Through this beautiful valley, to which we gave the name of San Jose, runs a good-sized river, on whose banks are large, shady groves. Likewise in the mountains where the river forms there are seen pines, oaks and various other trees. All its plain is full of flowers, fertile pastures, and other vegetation, useful for the raising of cattle, of which species as many as one might wish could be raised. And in the same way one could raise good crops, which I judge could be produced with great advantage, for although this is the cold season, from the verdure and the shadiness of the leaves there is no sign of any frost here, either now or earlier. In this place where we are today we saw some heathen women, but they did not wish to come near us, although they were coaxed in the same way that has been practiced at other times.—From Tubac to the valley of San Jose, 239 leagues.

—Herbert Eugene Bolton, *Anza's California Expeditions*

Document 2

FROM TUBAC TO CABORCA

Persons Comprised in and Going on This Expedition:

The commander, Don Juan Baptista de Anza 1

The father preachers de propaganda fide of the College of the Holy Cross
of Queretaro Fray Juan Diaz 1

Fray Francisco Garcés 1

Twenty volunteer soldiers from the presidio named, including a
corporal 20

A soldier sent from Mexico by his Excellency the Viceroy because he
knows the California roads. 1

A native of the Peninsula who, on the 26th of last December, came out from
it to the towns of Pimeria Alta and the presidio of El Altar 1

An interpreter of the Pima language, because it is thought that from it the
interior tongues are derived 1

A native of the Presidio in my charge to serve as carpenter 1

Five muleteers and two of my servants 734

There are carried thirty-five loads of provisions, munitions of war, tobacco, equipage, and other things necessary for an unknown country.

Item, sixty-five beeves on foot.

Item, one hundred and forty mounts, counting those which it is planned to get later in the pueblo of Caborca.

Document 3

FIRST PAGE OF ANZA'S DIARY OF THE JOURNEY TO SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA

Día de la Nueva y Operaciones, q' es de Infantería Cap^{ta} Cavallaria y del
 N^o 1.º de la Nueva y Operaciones de Nueva España y practico en volúmenes de Nueva Cami-
 na de los Indios. La California se componen por los Rios San y Colorado la
 cual se divide en partes por Comis^{on} del Gov^{no} de Nueva España como aserá en el Plan de
 D^o y R^o de la Nueva y Operaciones del Gov^{no} y de los Indios.

Individuos q' se comprenden y van a la Nueva y Operaciones.

Comand ^{te} de la Nueva y Operaciones de Nueva España	11
Indios de la Nueva y Operaciones y del Colegio de la Cruz de San Juan	1/2
Indio Juan Diaz	1/2
Indio Juan de la Cruz	1/2
Indio Sold ^o de voluntarios de Nueva España. Indio. Indio en Casa	20
Indio de Nueva España de San de S. L. por servicios de los Caminos de California de Nueva España de Diego y Antonio	1/2
Indio de Nueva España de la misma California q' el día veinte y seis de Diciembre de los Indios. por el valor de los Rios San y Colorado, y de otros de los Indios de la Nueva y Operaciones y de San de la Nueva	1/2
Indio de Nueva España de la Nueva y Operaciones por tener conegion con ella las mas de los Indios. de los Indios q' van a	1/2
Indio de Nueva España de la Nueva y Operaciones con el D ^o de la Nueva y Operaciones	1/2
Indio de Nueva España y de los Indios de la Nueva y Operaciones	1/2
Total	34

Item Encomienda y otros cargos de Nueva España de Nueva España. Hombres
 y otros Indios para Caminos de Nueva España no se consideran
 de Nueva España y otros Indios de Nueva España.

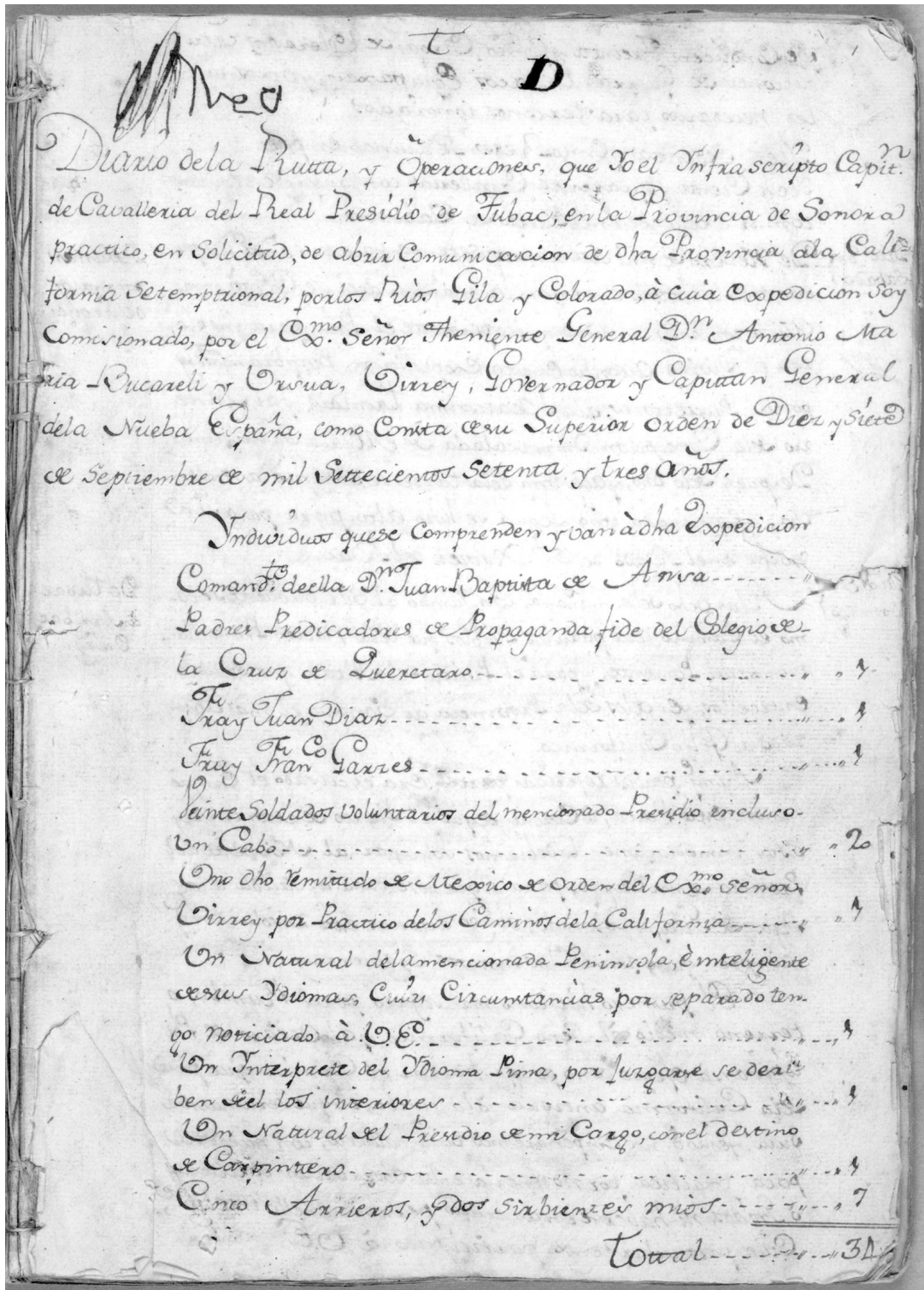
Item Indios y otros Indios de Nueva España de Nueva España. Indios de Nueva España
 de Nueva España.

Día 31 De Enero de 1774. Indio. Después de todo lo que se ha hecho en Nueva España
 se como una Nueva con toda la volúmenes q' se publica al Indio para in-
 vocar el Divino Auxilio en los Caminos de Nueva España y de los Indios para
 Inocencio de la Nueva y Operaciones. Indio. y al Indio de la Nueva y Operaciones en
 Nueva España de Nueva España.
 Practicado lo que se comenzo la Nueva de los Indios y Caminada una Nueva
 rumbo al Norte se hizo de los Indios de Nueva España para pasar la noche en
 el Indio de Nueva España.

Día 21 Abril 31 de Nueva España con rumbo de los Indios de Nueva España
 sobre el Camino de Nueva España para los Indios de Nueva España y de los Indios
 de Nueva España en los Indios. Indio. Indio de Nueva España y de los Indios
 de Nueva España de Nueva España. Indio. Indio de Nueva España y de los Indios

Document 4

FIRST PAGE OF ANZA'S DIARY OF THE JOURNEY TO SAN GABRIEL, CALIFORNIA



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