Introduction

From 1769 to 1849, more than twenty thousand individuals were baptized at seven missions in what is now known as the San Francisco Bay Area. A record was kept of each baptism for missions priests. These records include personal data such as age, birthplace, date of birth, and religious affiliation. Each record also bears a unique identification number for every individual.

This data were used to represent each individual geographically, allowing for mission outreach, such as Mission San Jose (below), to be defined spatially.

Spatial analysis was performed to find out more about these people, and what life might have been like for them during their time.

Individual Longevity

Indians were grouped by baptismal mission into seven mission outreaches. The later in life an individual was baptized, the longer their survival rate was, no matter where they lived. Mission outreaches were also found to overlap. When this information was combined with median year of baptism, a northerly shifting sphere of influence was evident.

Generally, more women were baptized than men, however, men lived significantly longer. Tribal born populations lived significantly longer than mission born populations.