

CARTOGRAPHER'S NOTES

Map of San Francisco by Artist / Cartographer Blaise Domino

The great abundance and diversity of wildlife and natural resources of San Francisco and the bay area are reflected in its equally rich cultural history. For this reason, creating a visual history is particularly challenging.

MAP OF SAN FRANCISCO chronicles the earliest migrants, the Ohlone, through European rediscovery by Sir Francis Drake 1579, and culminates with California Statehood in 1850.

Since this map represents an earlier time, the viewer may note the unusual shoreline, which reflects the natural coast prior to landfill. Also, conspicuously absent is the Golden Gate Bridge, which has been replaced on this map by the original fifty-foot cliff; the site of El Castillo de San Joaquin (today Fort Point). The bridge is also missing from the Sunset Scene, as viewed from the East Bay. Yerba Buena Island is in the correct location in both the Sunset Scene and the larger S.F. Map proper, as is Lake Merced.

While historical personalities and events are important, so is ecology. Therefore, I have depicted many indigenous examples of wildlife and plants.

The artist hopes that the following will enhance your appreciation of MAP OF SAN FRANCISCO.

Starting in the lower right corner with wetlands and the Ohlone village on Lake Merced, one can move chronologically across the bottom of the map, and up the right side.

THE OHLONE & MIWOK (Costanoan): The first inhabitants arrived from the north five to ten thousand years ago. They were hunter/gatherers who lived in harmony with nature by moving with the seasons harvesting acorns, berries, seafood, and hunting wild game. It is thought that the variety and abundant availability of food contributed to a non-aggressive people with little history of war.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE: On his first trip around the world, in the "Golden Hind," Drake landed at present day Drake's Bay June 17, 1579 and claimed New Albion (New England) for Queen Elizabeth of England. The "white banks and cliffs" were apparently reminiscent of the White Cliffs of Dover.

CAPT. GASPAR de PORTOLÁ: The purpose of this first land expedition in March 1769, was to find and claim land suitable to colonize for King Charles III of Spain. In November, Mexican born, Sgt. José Ortega was the first to view the bay.

CAPT. FERNANDO XAVIER de RIVERA y MONCADA: After surveying the "Port of San Francisco" he placed a cross near Point Lobos in December 1774.

LT. JUAN MANUEL de AYALA: In "San Carlos," on August 5, 1775, Lt. Ayala was the first European to sail through the Golden Gate Straits.

LT. COL. JUAN BAUTISTA de ANZA: The Mission and Presidio of San Francisco were settled by an expedition of settlers and soldiers led by Anza in March, 1776. The Presidio (fort) was dedicated by Lt. José Joaquín de Moraga in September. Although Father Junípero Serra was the most revered Franciscan monk, Father Francisco Palóu held the first mass at Mission Dolores which was named after Saint Francis of Assisi. The bay was christened "San Francisco" and the site was named "Yerba Buena" (good herb) after the wild mint growing there.

THE SHIPS THAT VISITED SAN FRANCISCO

Ships are no less participants in history than the people that they host.

BOSSOLE: France, J.F.G. comte de la Pérouse visited both San Francisco and Maui, Hawai'i in 1786.

H.M.S. DISCOVERY: England, Capt. George Vancouver at San Francisco 1792. This was the sister ship to "Resolution" in which Capt. James Cook was killed in Hawai'i 1779.

PREDPRIATIE: Russia, Comdr. Otto von Kotzebue on a scientific expedition October 8, 1824.

H.M.S. BLOSSOM: England, Capt. F.W. Beechey watercolorist, travelogue writer and explorer November 6, 1827.

BROOKLYN: America, Elder Samuel Brannan brought 238 Mormons July 31, 1846.

U.S.S. PORTSMOUTH: America, Capt. John B. Montgomery raised the U.S. Flag over Yerba Buena at Portsmouth Sq. July 9, 1846.

THE EVENTS LEADING TO STATEHOOD

1846: On May 23rd, war between Mexico & the U.S. was declared. The war ended less than a year later. John Frémont and the Bear Flag Group attacked El Castillo de San Joaquin, he also, named the entrance to the bay "Chrysopylae" or "Golden Gate." Native name; "Yalupa" (sunset place).

1847: On January 30th, Lt. Washington Allen Bartlett renamed "Yerba Buena," to "San Francisco." The first newspaper, "California Star" was published January 9th.

1848: On March 15th, Gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada foothills along the American River. California was officially ceded to the U.S. in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. On February 7th, the first Chinese arrived. The first public school opened April 3rd and the post office opened November 9th.

1849: Abandoned ships littered the cove as the "49ers" headed for the hills in search of gold. On July 28th, the first clipper ship "Memmon" arrived from New York in 120 days.

1850: September 19th, California was admitted to the Union as the 31st State.

SAN FRANCISCO AS ECOSYSTEM

In earlier times, San Francisco with coastal estuaries, tidal pools, mudflats, salt marshes and sand dunes, played host to an abundant variety of migratory and permanent wildlife.

The indigenous plants and animals depicted on the map can still be found today though in reduced numbers. The larger predators like the Grizzly Bear and the Wolf have long since vanished from the area.

INSET MAPS

PORTUS NOVAE ALBIONIS: This 1589 map, by Flemish geographer, JODIUS HONDIUS, commemorates Drake's encounter with the Miwok and subsequent claim of the land north of S.F. Interestingly, it also, encourages the argument that Drake discovered S.F. Bay and not Drake's Bay.

A NEW MAP of AMERICA SEPTENTRIONALE: Until 1697, California was thought to be an Island, witness this map in 1650 by NICOLAS SANSON, geographer to the King of France. In 1660, this map was revised into English and illustrated by Richard Blome for the King of England.