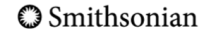


California Native American Survival and Resilience During the Mission Period:  
How Did Native People Resist and Persist in the Face of Extreme Adversity?



## Source H | Estanislao and the 1828 Revolt at Mission San José

### Introduction

Estanislao (Lakisamne Yokuts) was a Mission San José alcalde, a Native official appointed by the missionaries to oversee other Native people within the missions. In 1828, he led a group of hundreds of baptized Native Californians back to Lakisamne territory and declared a revolt against the mission. There, Estanislao formed alliances with other Native Californians in the San Joaquin Valley who helped fortify and defend their community against multiple attacks. According to historians Robert H. Jackson and Edward Castillo in their book *Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization*, Estanislao “counted among his followers fugitives from Santa Cruz, San José, and San Juan Bautista missions, in addition to Cipriano, a renegade alcalde from Santa Clara, with his own followers. Following a series of Mexican military expeditions, however, Estanislao and his followers surrendered and returned to the missions.”<sup>1</sup> Several of Estanislao’s allies continued to resist throughout the region. This primary source is a message issued by Estanislao to Narciso Duran, a missionary at Mission San José.

### Source

“ We are rising in revolt. . . . We have no fear of the soldiers, for even now they are very few, mere boys. . . not even sharp shooters.”<sup>2</sup>

”

### Glossary

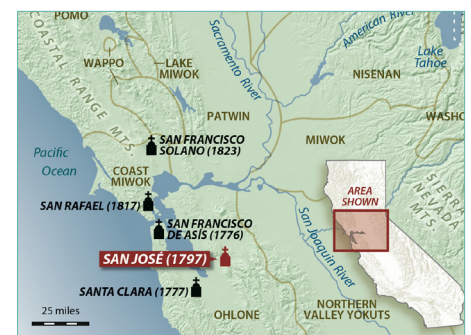
fortify	To make strong; to strengthen and secure
fugitives	People who flee or try to escape
renegade	Having rejected expected behavior

### Learn More



Present-day photo of Mission San José. It was founded on June 11, 1797, by Father Fermín Francisco de Lasuén, the fourteenth out of twenty-one missions established by the Spanish in California.

Sanfranman59



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## Museum Collection Connection

Witness accounts of the military expeditions sent out against Estanislao describe how cannon and guns were used to attack his fortified village, while Estanislao and his allies successfully defended themselves with bows and arrows. The bow and arrows depicted here, created by Chief Pocno (Yokuts), are an example of Yokuts-style weaponry that continued to be used beyond the mission period.



Pre-1860s bow created by Chief Pocno (Yokuts) made of wood and hide. Used for hunting and warfare.

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Pre-1860s set of arrows made of wood, stone, feather/feathers created by Chief Pocno (Yokuts). Used for hunting and warfare.

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## Footnotes

1. Jackson and Castillo, *Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization*, 79.
2. Estanislao, message to Narcisco Duran, in Robert H. Jackson and Edward Castillo, *Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization: The Impact of the Mission System on California Indians* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1996), 79.