

# History Overview

## Kumeyaay

Tipai-Kumeyaay village & groups approx. 300 people

- Located on flat area at the base of Presidio Hill
- Lived in small groups
- Each group had a specific territory, 10-30 square miles
- Each group had political and economic control of that area

### Agriculture & Trade

- Tipai-Kumeyaay managed the land to provide food for the surrounding families:
  - Plant and land management techniques in the foothills, the canyons and hillsides, the river bottoms, and the marshes
  - Used slash and burn agriculture techniques, controlled burning served two purposes: 1) allows the chaparral to re-seed and produce more food 2) controls what would be spontaneous and life-threatening fires
- Traded food to people in other regions/ecological zones- access to hunting, fishing, and gathering areas

### Housing, Tools, Clothing

- 1713 Before Spanish contact in 1769, lived in tules (pronounced toolees), woven grass-like homes
- 1714 Extended families lived together in one tule
- 1715 Villages or groups consisted of populations of approximately 300 people
- 1716 Tools and implements made of sandstone, stone, wood, bone, and soapstone from the Channel Islands
- 1717 Temperate climate: minimal clothing except during periods of cold weather
- 1718 Used rabbit skin or willow bark robes for clothing and bedding

## Spain

The first Kumeyaay contact with European explorers: September 28, 1542

- 1729 1542- Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed into San Diego Bay (did not stay)
- 1730 1602- Sebastian Vizcaíno entered the bay and renamed the spot San Diego de Alcalá

Spanish Crown ordered establishment of settlements in Northern California to provide a buffer to Russian and English ships in 1768

- 1749 Father Junípero Serra leads the Sacred Expedition of 1769+from Mexico
- 1750 Presidio Hill selected as strategic location for the Spanish to establish control over the land and its people
- 1751 July 16,1769- Father Serra dedicated the mission and the Presidio to San Diego de Alcalá
- 1752 Constructed garrison, became the first European settlement in California
- 1753 First structures made of wood and brush huts, later, stronger wooden and adobe structures
- 1754 1774- Mission moved 6 miles inland near the Diegueño village of Nipaguay and Presidio official military outpost

Changes to area:

Spanish practices of land management and use of resources dominate the region

European animal husbandry depleted native grasses and drove game into less accessible inland valleys

Intensive agricultural and livestock husbandry changed the landscape surrounding Presidio Hill

Impact Tipai-Kumeyaay land management practice

## Mexico

War for Mexican independence- the Spanish relinquished the Presidio to Mexico

1833- new Mexican leaders divided the former mission lands as well as lands held by the Kumeyaay into large ranchos

Land structure promotes grazing lands for cattle, now in demand by American\$ east coast population

Also create social and economic \$trolling class+of rancho owners

San Diego developed into one of California's highest revenue ports

San Diego became prime location for hide trade (described in Richard Henry Dana's \$Two Years before the Mast+)

Central town developed at the base of Presidio Hill, known today as Old Town

Old Town granted \$ueblo Status+in 1834

Old Town was center of social and political life

Mexican American War

During the Mexican-American War, Commodore Robert Stockton used Presidio Hill as a garrison until 1849

1850- California became a state and began defining its boundaries and laws

Battles for retaining land rights, Mexican Californios and Native Americans

Native Americans under the Department of the Interior moved to reservations

By 1851· 22,000 Native Americans had died:

1862-1863· smallpox epidemic

1864-1865· drought

## **United States**

San Diego flourishes:

Gold rush in northern California brought San Diego new wealth

Entrepreneurs came to San Diego with many schemes for development

1871· Center of town moved to present downtown location called ~~New Town~~

Presidio Hill remained abandoned until 1920

Presidio Hill becomes a Park:

- 1920· preservation meant the beautification of nature
- 1907· George Marston, a merchant and prominent San Diegan, began to take an interest in Presidio Hill
- Marston commissioned John Nolen to develop urban plan for Presidio Hill

Nolen was a city planner and landscape architect from Cambridge, Mass.

Landscaping reflected early 20<sup>th</sup> century American values:

Tied to European standards of landscape design and reflected the 20<sup>th</sup> century perception of beautification, pastoral landscape

Today, Presidio Hill remains a tribute to George Marston's dream to create a park for all people to enjoy.