

# San Nicolas Mission

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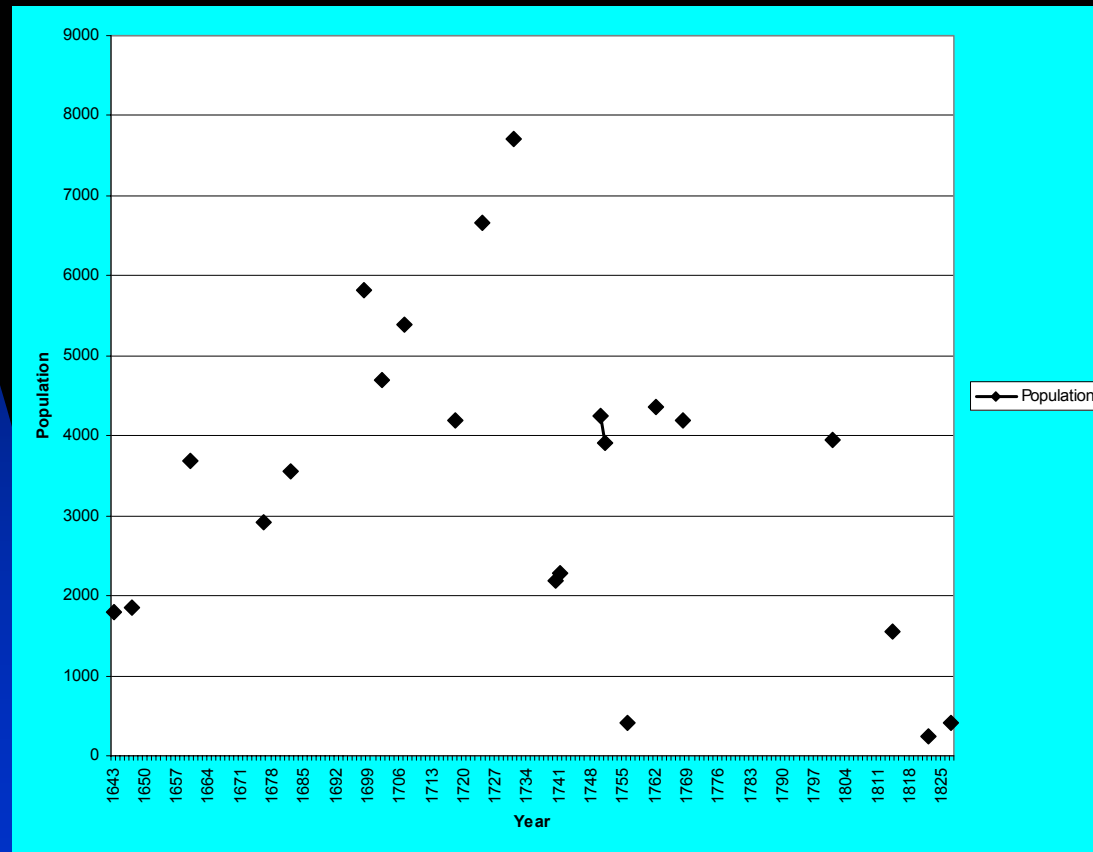
Robert H. Jackson

**Jesuit missionary Roque Gonzales established San Nicolas mission near the Piratini River in what today is Rio Grande do Sul, in Brazil. Attacks by Bandeirantes forced the relocation of San Nicolas to a site west of the Uruguay River, in what today is Misiones, Argentina.**

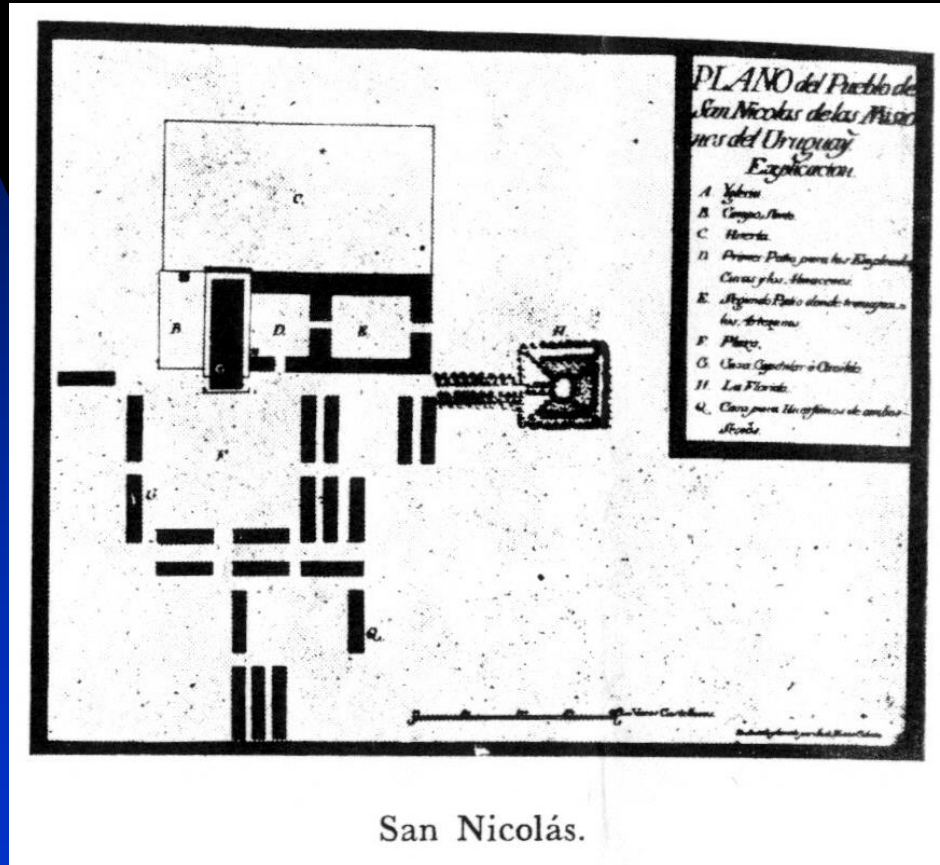
**In 1680, the Portuguese established Colonia do Sacramento, across the Rio de la Plata estuary from Buenos Aires. In response to the Portuguese expansion, the Jesuits relocated and established missions in the Banda Oriente in what today is Rio Grande do Sul.**

**In 1687, Jesuit missionary Miguel de Ampuero re-established San Nicolas near the east bank of the Uruguay River, close to its original site. Over the next eighty years the Jesuits directed the construction of an extensive building complex, and farms and ranches. The mission population grew, and totaled some 7,700 in 1731.**

# Population of San Nicolas, 1643-1827.



# 1784 Diagram of Mission.



# Ruins of Church built between 1747 and 1750.



Robert H. Jackson

# Ruins of Church.



# Ruins of church.



# Ruins of church.



# Floor tile from the church.



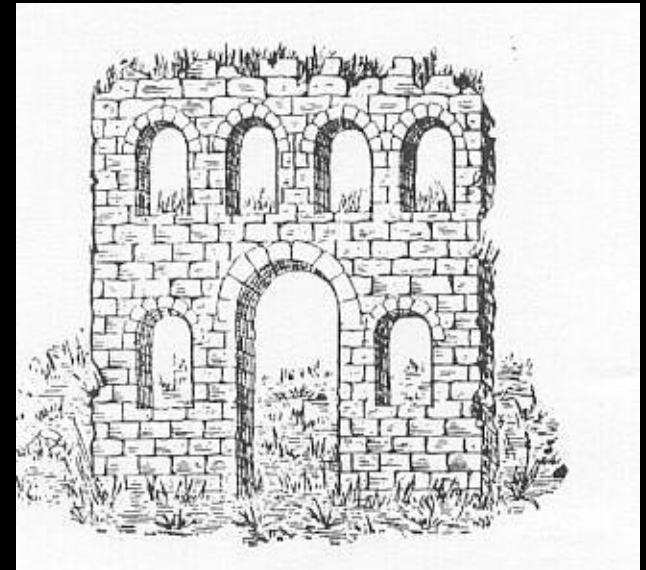
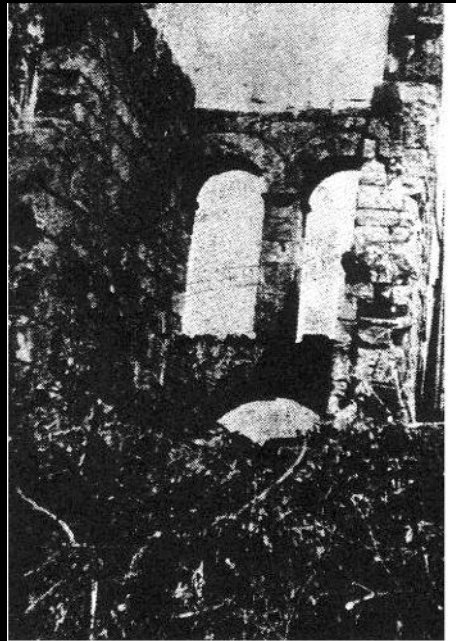
# Floor tile from the church.



# Ruins of church.



# Ruins of Cabildo Building in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



# Cabildo Ruins.



# Cabildo Ruins.



# Cabildo Ruins.



# Cabildo Ruins.



# Cabildo Ruins.

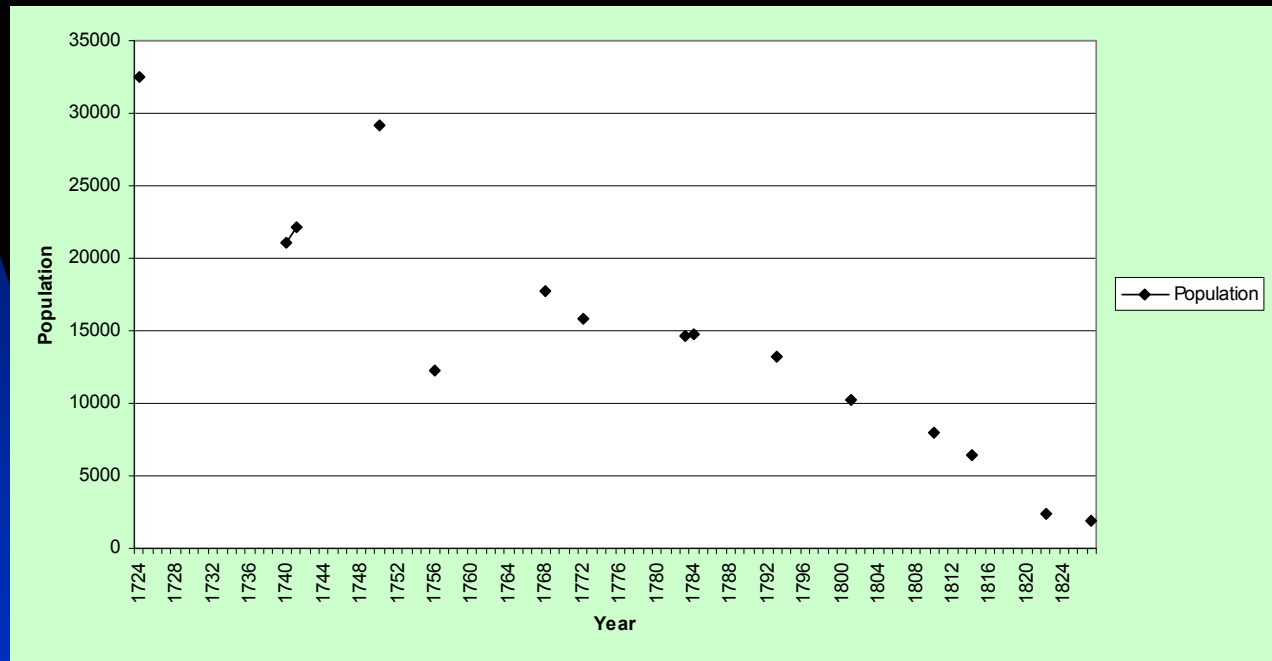


# Cabildo Ruins.



**The Treaty of Madrid of 1750 transferred the territory of the Guarani missions east of the Uruguay mission to Portugal. The Guarani neophytes revolted and engaged Spanish-Portuguese troops in the so-called Guarani War. The war disrupted the seven Trans-Uruguay missions, as manifested by population loss and declines in the number of livestock.**

# Population of the Trans-Uruguay Missions, 1724-1827.



# Numbers of Livestock in the Trans-Uruguay Missions in 1768

Livestock	S Lorenzo	S Borja	S Luis	S Juan	S Nicolas	S Miguel	S Angel
Cattle	4,557	11,926	7,016	2,535	19,353	18,728	3,003
Oxen	264		1,193	1,475	2,257	1,560	1,000
Sheep	1,056	13,425	2,012	731	2,351	1,691	440
Horses	140	707	359	237	600	1,451	313
Mares	311	753	465		436	1,048	186
Mules	181	124	161	108	206	164	200
Mares for Mules		339					
Burros	6	42	15		89		3

**In 1801, colonial Portuguese militia seized the territory of the seven Trans-Uruguay missions. Regional conflict in the following decades left the missions with only a small part of the former populations and despoiled. The mission buildings became overrun and pillaged for building materials. Only ruins remain.**