

Escolastica Maria and Juana Maria

Juana Maria, a neophyte of Mission Santa Barbara, was born about 1750 and was baptized on February 8, 1787 at Mission Santa Barbara. She was 17 years old at the time. Ignacio Moraga and Joseph Arguello stood as sponsors.

Escolastica Maria, Juana's mother, was baptized at Mission Santa Barbara on January 20, 1788 at age 40. Escolastica married Andres Joseph, Juana Maria's step-father, at Mission Santa Barbara on February 3, 1788. Escolastica and Juana were from a Rancheria de Syuxtun near the end of State Street.

"Andres Joseph was listed from Aguasna," according to John Johnson. "This is the rancheria of Wasna, later the name of a land grant (Huasna) in San Luis Obispo County. The marriage connection between Escolastica Maria and Andres Joseph is one of the farthest long-distance marital relationships that I encountered in the mission records for the Chumash region."

In June 1787 Juana Maria married Hilario Jimenez, a mestizo from Tepic, Nayarit. Juana Maria and Hilario Jimenez had several children, of whom Maria Antonia Jimenez married into the Cordero family. Juana Maria died in 1805 and was buried at Mission Santa Barbara.

Escolastica Maria in the news!

Actually, Escolastica Maria's mitochondrial DNA (DNA inherited only from one's mother) has contributed to scientific theories about the migration patterns of Native Americans. In a brief article in the journal, *Nature*, researchers have found a match between the DNA of a 10,000 year old "caveman" found in a cave, of course, on Prince of Wales Island in Alaska and the DNA of a descendant of Escolastica Maria in the Santa Barbara area. The DNA link supports the theory of a migration from Asia to North and South America, particularly along the coastal regions. For more information see, "Caveman DNA Hints at Map of Migration" by Rex Dalton in *Nature* volume 436, July 14, 2005.

Local Anthropologist John Johnson at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has also written an academic article on the topic. See "Genetics, Linguistics, and Prehistoric Migrations: An Analysis of California Indian Mitochondrial DNA Lineages" by John Johnson and Joseph Lorenz. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology*, vol. 26, no. 1 (2006):31-62.

Escolastica Maria in the news, again!

Escolastica Maria's DNA is in the news again! A short article in the Los Angeles Times discusses John Johnson's research on the mitochondrial DNA link between a 10,000 year old "caveman" and Escolastica Maria. Information from this website was included in the article. Click [here](#) to read the article.