

**LITTLE CHAPTERS
ABOUT SAN
JUAN CAPISTRANO**

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Little Chapters about San Juan Capistrano by John O'Sullivan

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JOHN O'SULLIVAN

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Little Chapters
About



San Juan Capistrano

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Twentieth Edition

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To the memory of
Fray Vicente Fuster
Fray Josef Barona
and
Fray Vicente Pascual de Olive
whose unmarked graves lie somewhere
within the ruins of the Mission,
these little chapters
are reverently
dedicated



Foreward

This booklet contains information about the Mission San Juan Capistrano. It is not intended as a comprehensive history of the Mission, but merely a handbook for those, who wish to know something of its story, and especially those who visit the place.

ST. J. O'S.

San Juan Capistrano, Cal.,
June 19, 1912.



CHAPTER I

The Place.

THIS Mission of San Juan Capistrano, with the little town bearing the same name, is situated in Orange County, California, fifty-six miles south of Los Angeles, on the Santa Fe Railway. It stands about a mile above the confluence of two streams which flow through narrow valleys skirted by lomas, as the rather high and rounded hills are called by the people here, for Spanish is still the prevailing language of the place.

The stream from the north, which runs on the west side of the Mission, is the Trabuco, and that from the northeast, which comes down the

Mision Vieja Cañon and crosses the Camino Real about a mile south of the Mission, is known as the San Juan. Consequently the Mission stands between these two streams, so that its gardens, vineyards and orchards had a plentiful supply of water from both of them, partly by means of zanjias, or open ditches, and partly by underground waterways, fragments of which may still be seen leading from the separate streams. The distance to the Pacific Ocean is about two and a half miles, and the opening formed by the valley at the Ocean is called La Boca de la Playa. A few miles up the coast, there is a high cliff overlooking a narrow sandy beach. This spot was formerly called El Embarcadero Viejo, but from the circumstance of Richard H. Dana's experience there, as described in his "Two Years Before the Mast," when hides from the Mission were thrown over the cliffs to be brought out in small boats to the ships, the place has come to be known as "Dana's Point."

This region was formerly inhabited by Indians who called themselves Acagchemem, and the place Acagcheme. Father Junípero Serra calls the place Quanis-savit, but this probably refers to the original location of the Mission, six miles up the Mision Vieja Cañon. When an Indian became formally associated with the Mission, which took place at his baptism, he came to be