



Courtesy of San Bernardino County Museum

The Lugo family was rich with Mexican land grants, which Juan Antonio protected from raiders and outlaws.

away from this place, and then there will be no more of this."

1863, Saahatapa: The epidemic

But he didn't take them away; a smallpox epidemic swept Southern California in 1862 and Cahuilla people began dying by the hundreds from this white man's disease.

The smallpox so destroyed the Cahuilla people they never recovered their previous population or power.

The Cahuilla people believe that the smallpox spread from infected U.S. Army blankets in a deliberate act of biological warfare. Historians have documented such practices among British and Colonial troops in the 1700s. Indian historians say the practice continued in the 1800s.

Juan Antonio died of smallpox in 1863. After death his corpse and others lay without dignity for days until a nearby rancher dug a mass grave.

Near the grave, a young doe rises for the evening and begins grazing.

"I'm glad that things are coming out, what happened years ago," Alvino Siva says.

neers who would build San Bernardino County. But first, the newcomers would face their biggest threat.

The Luiseño and Cupeño people of northern San Diego County were so enraged over attempts to tax them that Antonio Garra, a Cupeño, began gathering rebels to destroy all new settlements, including Los Angeles.

The Mormons quickly built a fort in San Bernardino. Fearful rumors spread that Juan Antonio would join the revolt.

"He decided against it," Alvino Siva says. "He told the man, 'It's too late' ... There were way too many Europeans here now."

Juan Antonio captured the rebel. The Americans executed Garra in what is now Old Town San Diego.

1852, Temecula: The treaty

The Americans then seemingly rewarded Juan Antonio for his loyalty. They signed a treaty that promised area Native Americans land from the San Gorgonio Pass south to Warner Ranch in northern San Diego County.

Juan Antonio had "thought that by playing along with them, that we might be treated just like anyone else," Alvino Siva says. "But it didn't work out that way."

Juan Antonio moved to a village called Saahatapa in San Timoteo Canyon.

And as he waited there, the U.S. gov-

ernment failed to ratify the treaty.

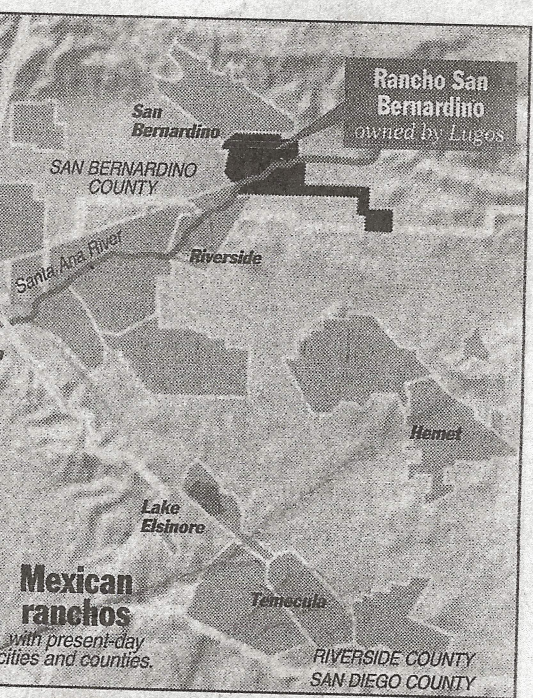
1861, San Bernardino: 'No more of this'

As settlers moved into the treaty lands, friction between the Cahuilla people and the newcomers increased. Roaming cattle destroyed Cahuilla plant foods.

A San Bernardino newspaper reported that Juan Antonio told a judge: "My people are buried all around, killed by white men. I shall take my people

After the missions

The mission system fell apart in 1834, and soon Spanish governors, and the Mexican leaders who followed them, began granting huge chunks of California land, called *ranchos* to powerful citizens. Rancho boundaries often were vague, which led to another takeover when Americans arrived in force during the Gold Rush. The Americans often claimed land, sued and won, or sued in prolonged battles that depleted rancho finances and forced land sales.



Mexican ranchos with present-day cities and counties.