

JOSE DIES OF OLD AGE,

He Was Chief of the Famous Old Mission Tribe of Indians.

Many of His Brethren Attend His Funeral at Mission San Jose.

OAKLAND OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO CALL,
908 Broadway, Jan. 13.

The most interesting Indian of the old tribe that inhabited this county in the time of the early missions, was buried at Mission San Jose Monday afternoon.

Jose Antonio was chief of the tribe, and according to the Indian records he was 71 years of age when he died, although it is believed he was considerably older. The chief's death was due to old age and gangrene, and his funeral was attended by a large number of his tribesmen.

For half a century Antonio has been an interesting figure at the Indian settlement between Sunol and Pleasanton. In that neighborhood hundred of campers spend the summer months, and to all of them the old chief was an unending source of interest and amusement. He told stirring tales of the time when the missions were flourishing before the day of the American, and he was never civilized to the point where he would acknowledge that the country was the better for their coming. He was as much an Indian at his death as at his birth.

Old Antonjo married about three times during his life, and some of his comrades declare that he had four wives. Judging by the many little Indians who bear his name in the canyon, the latter number is probably correct. For the past twenty years he has been an object of veneration and respect to his tribesmen, and to within a few months he was the presiding officer of the tribe and his opinions were regarded as law.

Not long ago he recounted the experiences of the Indian for the past sixty years. He told how when the "Angelus" used to be heard from the belfry of the Mission the Indians were good and performed their evening duty by the church. He deeply regretted the law that robbed the missions of their paternal value and made them mere religious institutions. He recalled the institution of the pueblos, which system, however, was never given a thorough test before the occupation by the Americans succeeded it.

Judging from old Antonio's many reminiscences and the accuracy with which he referred to the details of ante-pioneer life in Alameda County, he must have been not less than 80 years of age.