

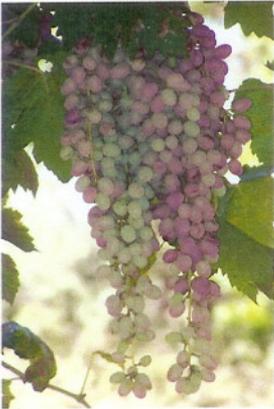
Ranching

Recreating a working ranch from the colonial California period will conserve the most romantic period of the American West. Horses and cattle have played a dynamic and vital role in the economic development of California. The first Spanish explorers brought horses, cattle and other livestock to the new world. They introduced ranching and many of the traditional techniques that had evolved from the Iberian culture, customs, and the breeding of livestock.



Agriculture

One cannot overstate the immense influence of the colonial period's contribution to the agricultural industry in California. The movement and redeployment of domesticated plants and animals between the Old and New World was one of the most important consequences of the colonizing of California and the west. Even wine production began with the introduction of vines from Spain. The introduction of many adaptive plant species from Spain, as well as the cultivation of crops native to California and the indigenous peoples framed the work that began at the missions and spread to a new industry.



Maritime

European sea exploration began in earnest in the 15th century. In 1602 history records the travels of three ships which sailed along the California coast past Point Reyes, Drake's Bay, Monterey Bay and Morro Bay. The trade from California to the Eastern seaboard, as well as to Europe began at the Monterey Bay Customs House. The early explorers with improved ship design and instruments utilized natural seaports in California to inaugurate major trade routes and expand the commerce of the state. The rich maritime history provides a link to the enormous role that California plays in world commerce today.



Missions



The colonization of the "New West" primarily relied on the evangelism of the courageous Spanish (Catholic) missionaries. The influence of these agents of the church was not limited to religion. Many of the original Jesuit priests who helped to establish and work the missions were men of letters, science, builders, farmers and stockman. Their knowledge of animal husbandry and agriculture helped to create self-sustaining pueblos and set the stage for further expansion of the agricultural and ranching industries in California. Locating the Living History Museum adjacent to the La Purisima Mission and state park

affords an ideal opportunity for a cultural and historical partnership with HDC.