

## Meaning Of The Name 'San Joaquin'

In 1808, Spanish Army [Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga](#) ventured in to the central valley from the coastal mission at San Jose to find more potential sites for new Spanish Missions. According to written history, Moraga was the first non-native explorer to enter what is now the San Joaquin Valley.

During his trek, he named a small creek after Saint Joachim, who was the father of Mary, the Virgin mother of Jesus Christ. "Saint Joachim" translates, in Spanish, to "San Joaquin". It was later discovered that the creek fed in to a larger river, which then took on the same name. Thus, the San Joaquin River was named.

Being the major tributary through the valley, the name of the river soon propagated to the entire central Valley, becoming known as the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1850, California named the county that bordered the river as "San Joaquin County".

Thus, the name came from a Spanish Explorer, who named a small creek after Saint Joachim, the father of Mary