

**LAND STUDIES, the Coast Miwok and their Land  
Thursday Group, Community Church of Mill Valley  
January 2023**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Introduction</b>   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Northern California Nevada Conference: RESOLUTION</b>                  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>THE BOOK TO READ</b>   | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>THE CLOSEST MIWOK VILLAGE TO THE CHURCH WAS WHERE?</b>                 | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Some questions came up:</b>  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>WHAT DID THE PRE-COLONIAL LAND LOOK LIKE?</b>                          | <b>14</b> |
| <b>PHOTOS</b>   | <b>17</b> |
| <b>THE GENOCIDE</b>   | <b>18</b> |
| <b>QUESTION: Any present day local Miwoks to contact?</b>                 | <b>19</b> |
| <b>MUSIC!</b>   | <b>21</b> |
| <b>ART - BASKETS</b>  | <b>22</b> |
| <b>LAND RETURN AND INDIGENOUS PRACTICES</b>                               | <b>23</b> |
| <b>INDIGENOUS VOICES HEARD</b>  | <b>24</b> |
| <b>What the Church history document 2006 has to say about the Miwoks.</b> | <b>25</b> |
| <b>Mill Valley Historical Society Special Event</b>                       | <b>26</b> |
| <b>NATIVE AMERICAN PLACE NAMES</b>  | <b>26</b> |

Page numbers may be approximate

## Introduction

Our Community Church of Mill Valley “Thursday Group” has spent the last several months studying the Coast Miwok (the native people of Marin), and the land they have inhabited for thousands of years.

Initially prompted by questions about Land Acknowledgments, we set out to learn from books, articles, and videos. Lots of internet and library searches. The primary resources we found are listed here, with a few comments.

Document compiled by Anni Jensen, with support from Harriet Kostic, Sharon Malone, Betsy Bikle, Faith Hornbacher, Carol Manahan, and Susan Huxtable.

## Northern California Nevada Conference: RESOLUTION

**“Taking Action towards Making Amends for A Colonizing Past,” a resolution from the 2020 Northern California Nevada Conference, UCC. CCMV is a member of the NCNC and the UCC.**

[https://ncncucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NCNC-Amends-Resolution\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ncncucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NCNC-Amends-Resolution_FINAL.pdf)

A densely written document but in short it encourages members of UCC churches to learn about the indigenous people who lived (and live) in their area. To get to know the events that led them to be displaced. Consider healing actions that can be taken.



[Miwok Abalone Necklace, Oakland Museum of California](#), from Wikimedia Commons.

- <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/11/14/do-we-have-the-history-of-native-americans-backward-indigenous-continent>

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Articles and samples

Sample 1: From The Dance Palace, a Community Center in Point Reyes Station



Sample two: the statement finalized for the Marin Creeks symposium.

"College of Marin *and the projects in Marin are on the ancestral lands of the*

*Coast Miwok. We pay respects to elders past and present, who are still here and part of our community. We recognize that regenerative land management is not new, but is a continuation of practices from Native cultures and from our own ancestors. It is our responsibility to steward the land with care, as the elders did before us, and we welcome suggestions for improving stewardship through greater collaboration in the future."*

From Betsy

- Video:

1. "Land Acknowledgement is Only the Start -Public Panel":

Arranged by the Museum of the American Indians

2. Native American panelists regarding Land Acknowledgement: Theresa Harlaan, Kim Shuck, Sara Moncada & Dean Hoaglin - \*\*\*

[https://youtu.be/WTA6](https://youtu.be/WTA6ewZNqs4ff)

[ewZNqs4ff](https://youtu.be/WTA6ewZNqs4ff)

Articles:

1. "On Native Land" by Stephanie Perdeu \*\*\*

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/features/native-land>

"acknowledgments can do a lot of good—if they're rooted in solid process and relationships." Our discussions started with this article

2. Robin Kimmerer The Rights of the Land \*\*\*

<https://orionmagazine.org/article/the-rights-of-the-land/>

## THE BOOK TO READ

*Chief Marin: Leader, Rebel and Legend*, by Betty Goerke, Heyday Books, 2007. Marin County is named after a Coast Miwok chief who achieved notoriety for defying Spanish authority over his people. Anthropologist and archaeologist Betty Goerke has pieced together a portrait of the life of this Native American leader, using mission records, ethnographies, explorers' and missionaries' diaries and correspondence, and other material. You can find a copy at the library!



Cover Illustration, *Chief Marin: Leader, Rebel and Legend*, by Betty Goerke, Heyday Books, 2007. <https://www.heydaybooks.com/catalog/chief-marin/>

- For a quickie introduction to Marin Mill Valley Coast Miwoks:  
Article by Betty Goerke about Chief Marin from 2008, page 13-15  
[https://www.millvalleylibrary.org/DocumentCenter/View/1612/MVHS\\_REVIEW\\_2008-PDF](https://www.millvalleylibrary.org/DocumentCenter/View/1612/MVHS_REVIEW_2008-PDF)

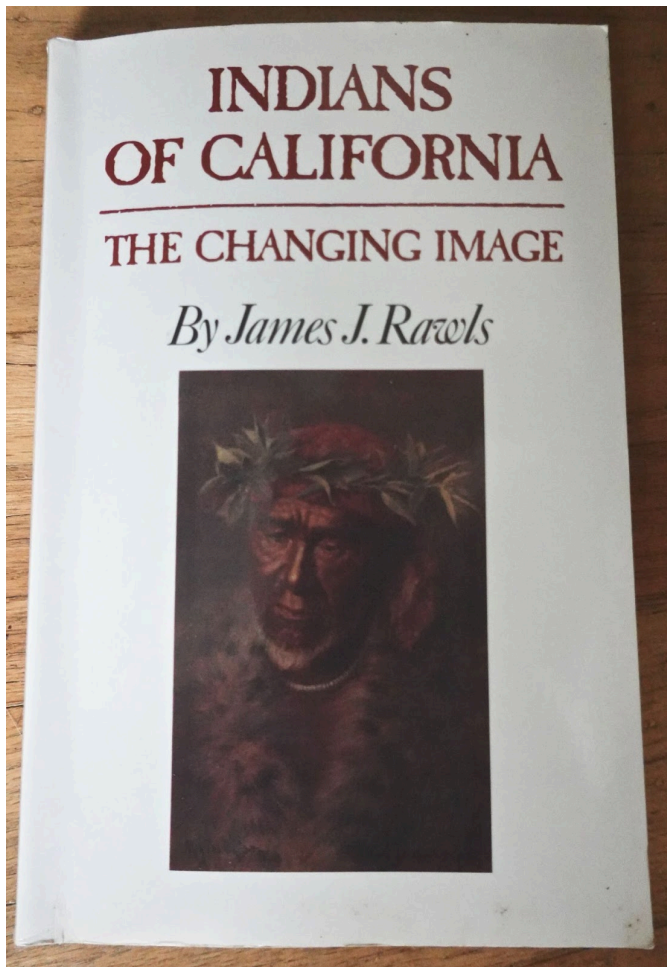
- Also highly recommended by Harriett: Betty Goerke, "Discovering Native People at Point Reyes". 2012 copyright, pub. Museum of the

American Indian, Box 864, Novato, CA 94948, project coordinator,  
Phyllis Faber....excellent if still in print

- Added by Anni January 11 2023  
“Indians of California” by James J Rawls 1984 University of  
Oklahoma Press

“A stunning book (to me) and compliments ‘Chief Marin’ very well. It gets into the thinking of Europeans encountering the California Indians. And presents them in their own words. Explains a lot..... sometimes dense, but easy to skim for the important information..

The Mill Valley Library has it or can get it. 4 copies.



- Coast Miwok on Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coast\\_Miwok](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coast_Miwok). Harrett recommends, lot of information

The HUIMEN is the group of Coast Miwoks that would have lived in present Mill Valley

[ETHNOHISTORY AND ETHNOGEOGRAPHY OF THE COAST MIWOK AND THEIR NEIGHBORS, 1783-1840 by Randall Milliken](#) .

A long academic article about the Coast Miwok people, from the National Park Service eLibrary.

Only about the Mission period.



Map shows [Coast Miwok tribelets](#). Asterisks indicate modern non Miwok names Noahedits, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.



## THE CLOSEST MIWOK VILLAGE TO THE CHURCH WAS WHERE?

Some questions came up:

1. Were there ever Coast Miwoks living at the Church location?

Answer: NO

Indigenous villages around the Bay (not just Miwok) were situated at the coast line where a creek entered a marsh. Fresh water from the creek, lots of birds and shellfish from the marsh, fish from the bay. They would hunt and gather in the canyon/creek area and sometimes go there for short term camping for e.g. acorn. This kind of location provided optimal food security.

2. So where was the closest village?

Not that far away.

1.1 miles away (by modern roads) where the combined Old Mill/ Corte Madera del Presidio creek (now called Arroyo) combines with Warner creek at [Locust Avenue between Sycamore and Walnut](#). Its name was Anamas

On the following map the church location is marked with a red square, the Anamas area with a red circle.



### 3. What will I see there?

A plaque to Chief Marin. **There is no other visual indicator of the Anamas village and shell mound.** The village was abandoned a long time ago (see genocide section), and the very large shell mound was picked at for a long time for garden soil and finally totally removed in the early 19hundreds.

### 4. I thought you said that a village would be right at the coast. Is that not too far away?

No, the marshland was much more extensive in those days. All the way up to la Goma. The village was right at the edge between marsh and land. It was even considered the main port for the Southern Marin Miwoks.

“Imagine the Mill Valley landscape before there were fences and roads, and when the extensive marshes and open water were teeming with ducks and waterbirds. Open water and marshes covered the land east of Camino Alto, including the site of the present Mill Valley Middle School, the Redwoods Retirement Community, the bike path, as well as the Post Office and land north to Shell Road. The trail to Strawberry and Tiburon followed current Lomita Avenue to avoid the marsh area at the northern end of Enchanted Knolls where Blithedale is today. The land between the eastern end of Sycamore to Miller Avenue was also wetlands, as were the entrances to Tamalpais and Tennessee”

[https://www.millvalleylibrary.org/DocumentCenter/View/1612/MVHS\\_REVIEW\\_2008-PDF](https://www.millvalleylibrary.org/DocumentCenter/View/1612/MVHS_REVIEW_2008-PDF) page 13-14

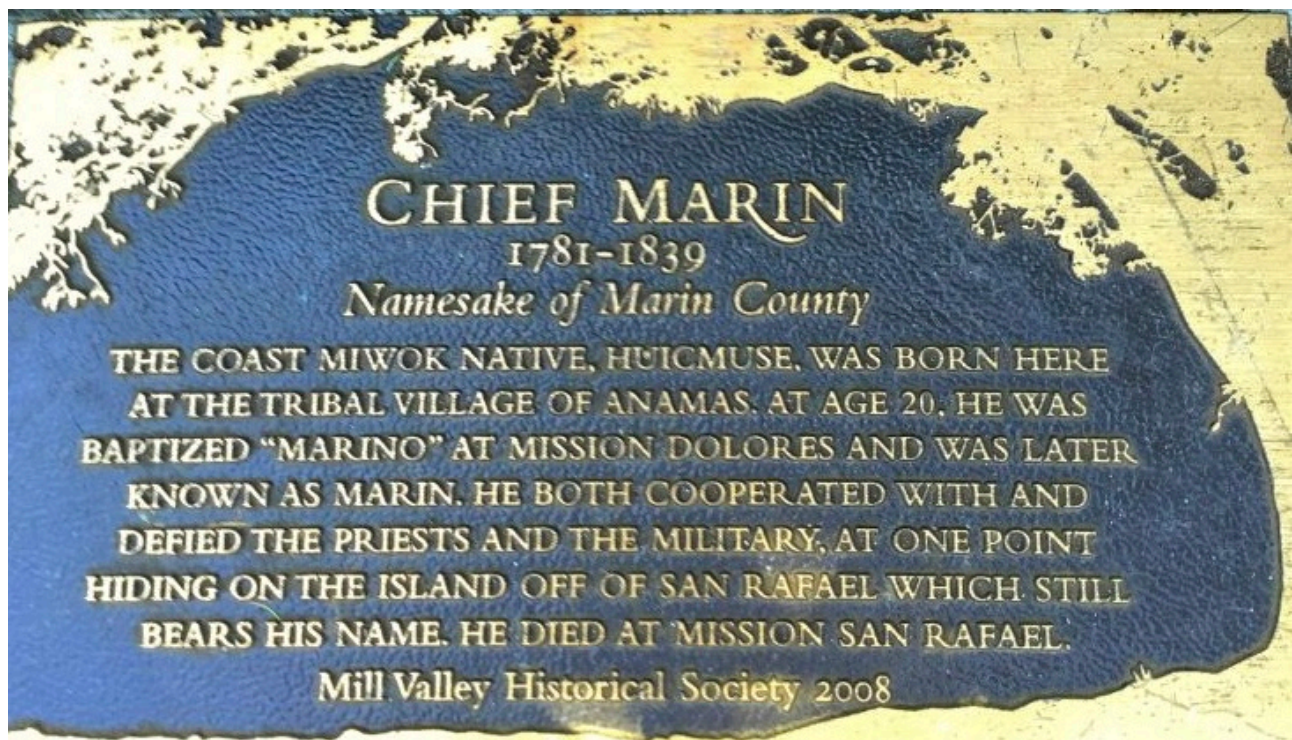
Read more about Anamas in Chapter 2 from “Chief Marin” page 10-14

“Marino’s Village: Archeological Evidence

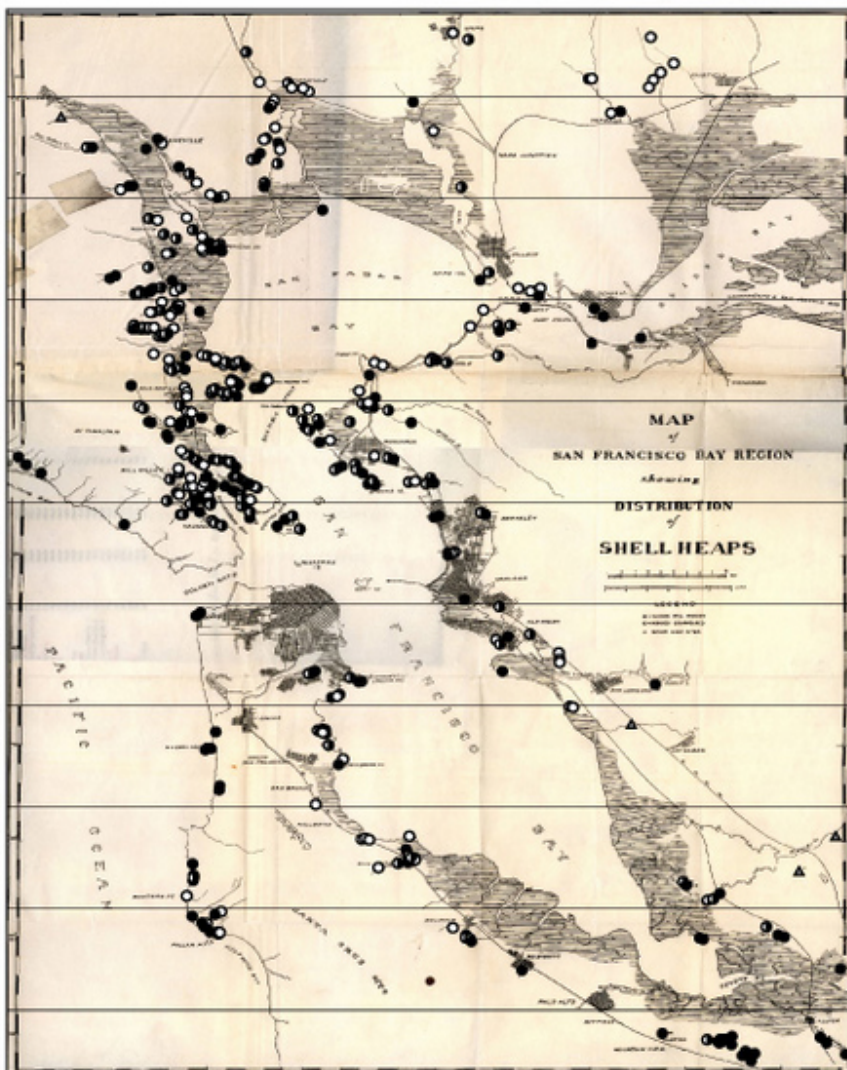
[VIGNETTE > Anamás Midden](#), by Chuck Oldenburg, October 13, 2016 *“From the vignette: The midden on Sycamore between Locust and Amicita was the site of a village called Anamás. Professional archeologists*

from UC Berkeley excavated it between 1907 and 1910. It was 450 ft. long, 200 ft. wide and 20 ft. high. The soil had been blackened over the centuries, the result of many fires. Waste products, such as shells and the bones of fish and game accumulated within the soil.

In 1781, a Coast Miwok named “Huicmuse” was born at Anamás. 20 years later, he left Anamás and went to Mission Dolores in San Francisco. He was baptized as “Marino” a saint’s name. Over time his name was shortened to “Marin”. In 1850, General Vallejo named the county after “Marin”.



## Shellmounds in San Francisco Bay Area, 1909



During the first years of the twentieth century, University of California archaeologist N.C. Nelson mapped shellmounds still present around the shores of San Francisco Bay. Nelson published his map in 1909, showing over four hundred shellmounds ranging in size from a few meters in diameter to tens of meters in diameter.

An act of desperation in the face of rapid change, Nelson's map was hastily made and lacks precision. It is however a stunning reminder of the inhabitedness of San Francisco Bay: Thousands of years of native peoples living in and changing San Francisco Bay.

### Shell Mounds and Camps

- ▲ Camps
- Disappeared, Mounds
- ◐ Partially Present, Mounds
- Fully Present, Mounds

Matthew Booker and Allen Roberts / Spatial History Lab, Stanford University

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11704679/there-were-once-more-than-425-shellmounds-in-the-bay-area-where-did-they-go>

## WHAT DID THE PRE-COLONIAL LAND LOOK LIKE?

1. **Laura Cunningham:** *A State of Change: Lost Landscapes of California*. A biologist artist recreating landscapes.

<https://baynature.org/2022/02/10/how-laura-cunningham-became-a-signature-artist-for-californias-former-landscapes/>

Since the book is out of print (available at the library) and this is her life's work, she is now placing the information on her developing web site

<https://www.californiaecologicalorigin.org/>. She is updating it and including parts that could not fit into the printed format. Here a bear path imagined in East Marin.



2. Old drawings of early California like the images by Louis Chloris, visiting with a Russian expedition in 1822.

A group of Ohlone in a tule boat in the San Francisco Bay. The hills behind them show grassy hills with trees in the canyons. If you look around the people in his drawings from California, this is what you see: grassy hills and wooded canyons. And the marsh.



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ohlone\\_Indians\\_in\\_a\\_Tule\\_Boat\\_in\\_the\\_San\\_Francisco\\_Bay\\_1822.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ohlone_Indians_in_a_Tule_Boat_in_the_San_Francisco_Bay_1822.jpg)

Various other images by Louis Choris:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=Louis\\_Chloris+california&sxsrf=ALiCzsa2gJJTZkhGVu1I\\_F1uLneb2NLfNg:1672083208744&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjn8Stg5j8AhUaIUQIHevYDVgQ\\_AUoA3oECAEQBO&biw=1545&bih=948&dpr=1#imgrc=zUSq8PH--fRuvM](https://www.google.com/search?q=Louis_Chloris+california&sxsrf=ALiCzsa2gJJTZkhGVu1I_F1uLneb2NLfNg:1672083208744&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjn8Stg5j8AhUaIUQIHevYDVgQ_AUoA3oECAEQBO&biw=1545&bih=948&dpr=1#imgrc=zUSq8PH--fRuvM)

3. Relative early landscape painters, like Jack Wisby, Granville Redmond and Theodore Wores.

<https://bolinasmuseum.org/jack-wisby-historical-landscape-paintings-of-marin-county/>

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/23478/lot/22/theodore-wores-1859-1939-mt-tamalpais-from-greenbrae-16-x-24in-overall-21-12-x-29-12in-painted-in-1916/>

Marin painting by



Granville Redmond



## PHOTOS

1. The Mill Valley Library has many digitized photos <http://millvalley.pastperfectonline.com/>. Just click on your subject of choice. Visit the history room during open hours.
2. <https://calisphere.org/collections/27056/>
3. <https://www.marinhistory.org/>
4. <https://www.mvhistory.org/mv-history-vignettes-online/>



## THE GENOCIDE

1. Excellent sermon on the history of genocide in California - recommended by Sharon, appreciated by all.\*\*\*

[https://youtu.be/vhd5kh6OG\\_Q](https://youtu.be/vhd5kh6OG_Q)

2. Indian schools in California:

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11883520/examining-the-painful-legacy-of-native-american-boarding-schools-in-the-u-s>

Three major Indian schools in California. Southern California. Apparently many indigenous people from northern California were sent to Oregon or Nevada. Or even the East Coast.

3. Once declared 'extinct,' the San Francisco Bay Area's Ohlone Tribe now seeks federal recognition through DNA link

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/DNA-links-ohlone-tribe-to-bay-area-17023285.php>

4. [California breaks ground on Native American monument to replace Junipero Serra statue](#), by Adam Beam, Nov 15, 2022, Associated Press. News article.

4. “The Invisible Peak”. Documentary about Mt. Tam 2015

<https://vimeo.com/84477950>

5. The “beavericide” totally changed the landscape at a scale compared to the banning of controlled burning. Yes, there used to be beavers in Marin.

<https://baynature.org/article/beavers-used-to-be-almost-everywhere-in-california/>

## QUESTION: Any present day local Miwoks to contact?

1. On the basis of our internet searches, the closest Miwok activist lives in Sausalito: Lucina Thomas-Vidauri
  - Recent blog activity: <https://www.marinmiwok.com/blog>
  - Together with Joe Sanchez for the Indigenous Peoples Day 2019 radio program below

<https://soundcloud.com/hollowintheland/indigenous-peoples-day-2019>

- Documentary: <https://www.marinmiwok.com/videos-1> Lucina Thomas-Vidauri takes you on a video tour of Olompali and explains her family connections to the place. The sound can be weird. Make sure that you keep your cursor on the video screen (click on it if needed) and that the sound on the video itself is high enough (button right of video screen)

If the sound is working, don't click with the cursor on anything else or you will lose it!

- She is also working on a Miwok statue to show visitors that her people lived/live here.

<https://www.marinij.com/2019/04/07/sausalito-woman-campaigns-for-coast-miwok-statue>

2. The Coast Miwok Council, home website

<http://www.coastmiwokofmarin.org/index.html>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGSTnJmAhqQ>

A Special San Geronimo Valley Planning Group membership meeting where the Marin Coastal Miwok Council made a presentation. Video includes personal family history, songs, stories, and examples of native crafts.

At 23.25 Sky Road Web singa the abalone blessing

3. PODCAST in 3 parts

[Coming Home to the Cove](#). A Story of Family, Memory, and Stolen Land, an Emergence Magazine Production. A podcast in three parts. Coming Home to the Cove tells the story of a multigenerational Coast Miwok family who lived at Point Reyes, and how they were pushed off their land. Family stories, land stories, and political stories. Theresa Harlan's mission is to bring the living history of her family back to the land.

4. The Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria (Miwok and Pomo)

<https://gratonrancheria.com/>

Does not include the Southern Marin Miwoks

5.

<https://www.petaluma360.com/article/entertainment/another-perspective-coast-miwok-elder-wants-his-petaluma-heritage-to-be-re/>

Joe Sanchez stands on Fairgrounds. Hills, where his ancestral village was likely located, are visible in the background. "Our ancestors were here since time immemorial," he says.

# MUSIC!

The Spaniards were very impressed by the music and singing of the Miwoks. We will never quite know what they heard back then, but here are some recordings from the Miwok Music Project. Chants by Sky Road Webb sung by a four part choir

<https://www.soundorchard.org/miwok-music-project.html>

Maybe we can learn to sing one of the songs?

Or get permission to play some of the music in church.

- Sky Road Webb seems to be the best known local singer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTYdwfDt1ME>

Filmed at the O'Hanlon Center

- A brief instrument workshop. Anni intends to make a clapper
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuQ9cj8K1xA&t=2s>

• [Sky Road Webb "Coyote Dream Song" \(Coastal Miwok\)](#)

• [Miwok Song & Instrument Workshop at Kule Loklo](#)

## ART - BASKETS

- Hard to find old Coast Miwok baskets, but lots of Pomo. Why?  
<http://hidden.coplacdigital.org/stock/2018/10/09/artifact-search/>
- Coast Miwok/Kashia Pomo and national treasure, Julia Parker, has been teaching basket weaving in the Indian Studies Program for decades.  
[https://americanindian.si.edu/collections-search/objects/NMAI\\_278806](https://americanindian.si.edu/collections-search/objects/NMAI_278806)  
<https://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/b056e72a-afdd-4392-b7b2-cf5229dcf548/julia-parker-basket-weaver/> Good video with Julia parker
- A Coastal Miwok gift basket | A diamond lattice effect rendered on the exterior with porcelain beads, feather tufts fill the reserves, accented by abalone shell pendants and shell beads at the rim  
<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/20972/lot/5274/?epik=dj0yJnU9UzVHZ3ISeUJrZE9NcXhVUjNSNUtDZWxnbndwTU1pVXE mcD0wJm49ZUctQlpBcEdMbW41dGdLc09ocG1tUSZ0PUFBQUFBR09fSzNB>



## LAND RETURN AND INDIGENOUS PRACTICES

1. [Indigenous Values and Practices Tied to Land](#), Zoom event sponsored by the Environmental Forum of Marin. Explored the beliefs, values, and practices through which indigenous people in Northern California traditionally engaged in the sustainable management of natural resources.
2. **The Sogorea Te' Land Trust** in the East bay and the Shuumii Land tax  
<https://sogoreate-landtrust.org/shuumi-land-tax/>
3. **Land Return—Sogorea Te' Leads The Way**

<https://baynature.org/2022/12/13/how-indigenous-people-got-some-land-back-in-oakland/>

The Ohlone just received 6 acres of land from the City of Oakland

4. <https://talkpoverty.org/2019/10/30/california-land-back-indigenous/>

The northern California city of Eureka **returned more than 200 acres of land** on Duluwat Island to the Wiyot Tribe, the Indigenous inhabitants of the area. The land — which represents the physical and cultural center of the universe for Wiyot peoples — was taken during a massacre of the tribe's women, children, and elders in 1860.

5. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/01/california-redwood-forest-returned-to-indigenous-guardianship-conservation/> Action by the Save the REdwoods

Redwood League: *Ownership of a 215-hectare (532-acre) redwood forest along California's north coast was returned to Sinkyone tribes and has been renamed Tc'ih-Léh-Dûñ.*

## INDIGENOUS VOICES HEARD

1. [Native voices were finally heard at California's biggest native plant conference](#). Los Angeles Times, Nov. 1, 2022. Report from the California Native Plant Society statewide conference in San Jose.
2. Buffy Sainte Marie on PBS American Masters  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/buffy-sainte-marie-carry-it-qtqpmk/#:~:text=Preview%3A%2011%2F22%2F2022.social%20activist%2C%20educator%20and%20artist>.
3. “The Invisible Peak”. Documentary about Mt. Tam 2015  
<https://vimeo.com/84477950>
4. Robin Kimmerer: The Honorable Harvest”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEm7gblax0o>
5. [The Twelve](#), video from Le Ciel Foundation. In November 2017,  
  
Twelve spiritual Elders from wisdom traditions **around the globe** gathered at the United Nations in New York City. The Twelve is a feature length documentary that gives a voice to wisdom traditions through the words of these twelve Elders.
6. Video: <https://youtu.be/C00kiyLW1S8>  
“Beyond Recognition” featuring Corinna Gould



What the Church history document 2006 has to say about the Miwoks.

The finished printed book from 2009 does not mention them at all.

1. “The Spanish-American war of 1898 had been the last “large” conflict in which the United States had been involved.

The early California settlers, however, had been involved in individual conflicts with Native Americans, sometimes violent and even fatal, up until the early 20th century.

As late as 1911, Native Americans were living off the land, as was the case in the then-famous situation of “Ishi” (Krober, 1961).”

2. “The City of Mill Valley lies at the foot of Mount Tamalpais. It is said that when the forerunners of the Coast Miwok, the Native Americans who used to dwell in Mill Valley and much of Marin, arrived here thousands of years ago, they felt the sacred energy of the mountain and stayed. Every since then, Mill Valley and the surrounding areas have drawn spiritual seekers of all sorts, and those who especially connect with sacred energy.”

## Mill Valley Historical Society Special Event

*MOST OF US WENT!*

Sunday, Dec 18, 3pm

Celebrating Lifetime Achievement – Betty Goerke and Chuck Oldenburg. Mill Valley Library and Old Mill Park.



## NATIVE AMERICAN PLACE NAMES

Half of all U.S. states, 25 to be exact, carry Native American names. Today we will be taking a look at the 25 states and the meanings of their names. They will be listed in alphabetical order.

1. Alabama: Named after the Alabama, or Alibamu tribe, a Muskogean-speaking tribe. Sources are split between the meanings 'clearers of the thicket' or 'herb gatherers'.
2. Alaska: Named after the Aleut word "alaxsxaq", which means "the mainland"

3. Arizona: Named after the O'odham word "alī ṣonak", meaning "small spring"
4. Connecticut: Named after the Mohican word "quonehtacut", meaning "place of long tidal river"
5. Hawaii: Is an original word in the Hawaiian language meaning "homeland"
6. Illinois: Named after the Illinois word "illiniwek", meaning "men"
7. Iowa: Named after the Ioway tribe, whose name means "gray snow"
8. Kansas: Named after the Kansa tribe, whose name means "south wind people"
9. Kentucky: Origins are unclear, it may have been named after the Iroquoian word "Kentake", meaning "on the meadow"
10. Massachusetts: Named after the Algonquin word "Massadchu-es-et," meaning "great-hill-small-place,"
11. Michigan: From the Chippewa word "Michigama", meaning "large lake"
12. Minnesota: Named after the Dakota Indian word "Minisota" meaning "white water."
13. Mississippi: Named after the river which was named by the Choctaw, meaning "Great water" or "Father of Waters."
14. Missouri: Named after the Missouri tribe whose name means "those who have dugout canoes"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_California\\_placenames\\_of\\_Native\\_American\\_origin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_California_placenames_of_Native_American_origin)

