

Chronology of the Life and Legacy of
Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, S.J.
(1645-1711)

10 Aug. 1645

Jesuit missionary Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, S.J. (1645 - 1711) is born Eusebio Chini, the only son of Francesco and Margherita Chini, in the village of Segno. Segno is located in the foothills of the southern Alps and 15 miles north of the historic city of Trent in present day Italy.

24 Oct. 1648

The Thirty Years War in Europe ends.

20 Nov. 1665

Joins the Jesuit order as a novice and for the next 12 years prepares for the priesthood. Kino studies and teaches mathematics, astronomy and other natural sciences at the universities of Landsberg, Freiburg, Ingolstadt and Hall am Inn in present day Germany and Austria.

Before joining the Jesuits, Kino suffers from an illness that brings him close to death. He vows he will become a missionary if his patron saint, Francis Xavier, intercedes by sparing his life. St. Francis Xavier (1506–1552) was a co-founder of the Jesuits and was its pioneering missionary to Asia. He ministered for 10 years in India and then worked in the East Indies and Japan and died as he was traveling to China. He was canonized as a saint in 1622.

11 Jun. 1677

Ordained a Roman Catholic priest in Ottingen (Altottingen) in present day Germany. Kino continues his pastoral ministry and teaching.

May 1678 to Jan. 1681

After 8 years of petitioning his Jesuit superiors, Kino is granted permission to become a missionary. Kino sails to Southern Spain with 18 other Jesuit missionaries. Waits two years for passage across the Atlantic to Mexico. In Seville and Cádiz Kino works as a parish priest and teaches mathematics and natural sciences at nearby universities. Further supports himself by making astronomical and nautical instruments.

10 Aug. 1680

Beginning of the Pueblo Revolt. Allied Native peoples expel Spanish settlers from their 80 year old colony in New Mexico. Colony reestablished 20 years later by military force.

Jun. 1681

Arrives in Mexico City and writes one of the first astronomical treatises published in the New World on a large comet visible worldwide. Kino precisely maps the 7 month course of the comet,

28 Oct. 1682

Appointed royal cartographer, surveyor and missionary to the Atondo Expedition - a venture by the Spanish King to colonize Baja California. Last major settlement efforts were privately funded by conquistadors Herán Cortez and Francisco Coronado in mid 1500s.

4 Apr. 1683

Atondo Expedition sails across the Gulf of California and establishes a settlement on the coast of La Paz Bay but abandons it after three months and sails back to the Mexican mainland.

6 Oct. 1683

Atondo Expedition returns to Baja California and establishes a settlement at San Bruno on Gulf coast (near present day Loreto) where Kino ministers to Native people, builds his first mission and explores.

15 Aug. 1684

Takes final Jesuit vow at San Bruno at age 39.

Jan. 1685

Makes overland crossing of Baja California to Pacific Ocean with members of the Atondo Expedition - first Europeans to make overland journey. Kino sees blue abalone shells along the Pacific coast.

8 May 1685

Atondo Expedition stricken by scurvy and lack of supplies abandons Baja California and sails back to Mexico mainland.

Jun. to Aug. 1685

Kino and Captain Guzman sail northward in Gulf of California exploring for new mission sites along the Baja coast. Their ship is anchored for six weeks near Tiburon Island waiting for favorable winds to continue sailing. During the six weeks Kino visits and ministers to the Seri people.

Jan 1686

Returns to Mexico City and advocates for new expedition to Baja California to continue his missionary activities. Spanish officials in Mexico City support Kino's plan.

19 Jun. 1686

Learns that Spanish King will not support new expedition to Baja California. Funds in Mexico must be sent to Spain to pay for accidental sinking of French ship. Kino assigned as missionary to Seri people.

16 Dec. 1686

Appears before the high court of Royal Audiencia in Guadalajara requesting that judges suspend for 5 years the system of repartimiento where Native people are forced to work in Spanish silver mines and ranches. Learns during the hearing that the judges recently received a decree from the Spanish King suspending the system of repartimiento for 20 years.

13 Mar. 1687

Assigned as missionary to the Pima people and establishes his mission headquarters at Dolores. Next day from Dolores Kino begins his regular 70 mile circuit to villages at San Ignacio, Imuris, Remedios. Later in the month Kino travels with 100 Pimas to Tuape to celebrate Easter with Spanish settlers.

Kino introduces horses, cattle and other herd animals and winter wheat and other European cultivars to the Native people that he encounters during his 24 years in the Pimería Alta (present day Northern Sonora and Southern Arizona.) The Jesuit missionary effort in Sonora and Arizona is one of its most successful in the New World despite its close proximity to Spanish settlements in northeastern Sonora.

2 May 1687

Travels over 40 miles from Dolores with Pima leaders to the Spanish mining center of Bacanuche to

have government officials formally acknowledged to settlers the enforcement of the Spanish King's order prohibiting the system of repartimiento.

25 Jul. 1688

At Native village of Mototicachi, 100 miles northeast of Dolores, a Spanish officer orders the killing of all the 50 adult males and imprisons all women and children of the village as slaves. Officer acts on unjustified rumors that village leaders were part of a conspiracy by the Native peoples throughout Northern Mexico to revolt against the Spanish. The officer is sentenced to death but escapes. Although outside his area of responsibility, Kino seeks justice for the wronged Native people of Mototicachi.

2 Apr. 1690

Jesuit missionaries are expelled from their missions in the Sierra Madre mountains during the 2 year Tarahumara Revolt. Two missionaries are killed. The revolt occurs 150 miles southeast of the Dolores.

1691

Draws his map "Teatro de los Trabajos."

Jan. 1691

First visit to present day Arizona. After an invitation by Sobaipuris (Santa Cruz and San Pedro River Pimas), Kino and Father Salvatierra travel to the village of Tumacácori near present day Tumacácori National Historic Park. Kino is invited by leaders of Bac to visit their village south of Tucson.

18 Jul 1691

The Flying Company ("Compañía Volante") established with 30 soldiers as a roving Spanish military unit instead of a unit stationed at a presidio. The Flying Company responds to increasing attacks on the Spanish settlers of Sonora by the Apaches and their Native allies (Suma, Jcome and Janos tribes).

23 Aug. 1692

First Northern Exploration. Visits village of Bac and names the Bac visita (mission station) after his patron saint, Francis Xavier. Kino returns to Dolores by traveling across the desert to present day Benson and continuing south up the San Pedro River. The Northern Explorations along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers to their junctions with the Gila River occur from 1694 to 1699.

26 April 1693

Native and Spanish people living throughout present day northern Sonora and southern Arizona travel to Dolores to celebrate the consecration of Kino's mission church.

11 Dec. 1693

First Altar Desert Exploration. Travels to the eastern coast of the Gulf of California and climbs Nazareno Peak and sees mountains in Baja California across the Gulf waters. Establishes a mission station at Caborca.

23 Feb. 1694

Second Altar Desert Exploration. Travels with Lieutenant Juan Mateo Manje and begins construction of a ship in the desert near Caborca to supply the yet to be restarted missions in Baja California. Kino brings about a peace settlement between two Western Pima leaders. Two other 1694 explorations are made with Manje into the Altar Desert.

21 Oct. 1694

Jesuit Father Francisco Javier Saeta arrives in Caborca as its first resident missionary priest.

Nov. 1694

Second Northern Exploration. Explores Santa Cruz River north of Bac to its junction with the Gila River. Kino is the first European to visit villages in the Tucson Valley and to see the Casa Grande at Casa Grande Ruins National Monument.

2 Apr. 1695

Father Saeta martyred in his mission church at Caborca on Easter morning during the early hours of the Tubutama Uprising. Kino tries to reestablish peace between Spanish and Western Pimas.

9 June 1695

Calls peace conference at El Tupo. Spanish military betrays Pimas and kills 30 unarmed and innocent Pimas who are unable to escape. Uprising continues and nearby missions are destroyed by Western Pimas. Kino and his mission headquarters at Dolores are spared.

30 Aug. 1695

Calls another peace conference at El Tupo and peace settlement is made between the Pimas and Spanish. Peace lasts for the next 55 years until the start in Tubutama of the Pima Uprising of 1751.

16 Nov. 1695 to May 1696

Travels to Mexico City to quash false rumors about the Tubutama Uprising. Before his Jesuit superiors argues against being withdrawn as a missionary and reassigned as a university professor. Before the highest Spanish officials in Mexico, Kino petitions to restart missionary efforts in Baja California and to restore lands to Native People of Mototacachi. During the 2 months before his trip, Kino writes biography of Father Saeta. In biography is a description of Kino's missionary methods that are precursors to today's methods. Also draws map ("Saeta's Death") that accompanies biography.

May 1696

On his return trip from Mexico City, Kino narrowly escapes death when he takes side trip to Baserac to meet his Jesuit superiors after leaving his military escort who are all killed the next day in a Jocomé attack. After arriving in Dolores, Native leaders living throughout the Pimería meet with Kino.

Jul. 1697

Kino's new assignment to restart missions in Baja California revoked after Spanish civilian and military officials petition Kino's superiors to have him remain in Pimería Alta to maintain peace.

6 Oct 1697

Meets with Native leaders at Dolores and travels with them more than 100 miles to Baserac to request more missionaries from Kino's Jesuit superior.

10 Oct 1697

Father Salvatierra restarts Kino's Baja California missionary efforts at Loreto near site of San Bruno without assistance from Spanish King. Jesuits are granted secular governmental authority. Contributions by Kino's missions in Sonora and by donors to the Pious Fund maintain Salvatierra.

Nov. to Dec. 1697

Third Northern Exploration. Explores all of the San Pedro River to its junction with Gila near present day Winkelman and follows Gila to Casa Grande Ruins. Returns by Santa Cruz River. Kino brings about peace settlement between two Sobaípurí leaders near Arivaipa.

25 Feb. 1698

Apaches and their allies attack and destroy the mission at Cocóspera.

30 Mar. 1698

Sobaípurí led by Chief Coro defeat Apaches and their allies who attack village near Quiburi and present day ghost town of Fairbank. Kino continues to make series of visits to Sobaípurí villages in the upper San Pedro and Santa Cruz river valleys.

22 Sep. 1698

Fourth Northern Exploration. Travels to Gila River near Casa Grande and treks southwest over the desert lands of the O'odham (Desert Pima) to the Pinacate volcanic field immediately north of present day Puerto Penasco. From Pinacate Peak Kino believes he sees the head of the Gulf of California.

7 Feb. 1699

First Colorado River Exploration. Travels the desolate Camino del Diablo ("Devil's Highway") and ends the exploration just short of the Gila River's junction with the Colorado River. Manje sees the junction from a mountain peak. Returns by visiting villages on the Gila River and Santa Cruz Rivers. Kino's Colorado River Explorations occur from 1699 to 1701.

20 Mar. 1700

Receives a gift of a wooden cross strung with 20 blue abalone shells delivered at Remedios from the Cocomaricopas living on the Gila River just east of its junction with the Colorado River.

Apr. to May 1700

Halts planned trip to Colorado River at Bac. Begins construction of the first church of Mission San Xavier del Bac. Calls "Blue Shell Conference" and the Native leaders living throughout Pimería Alta meet at Bac and confirm that a land passage to California is possible based on the overland trade of blue abalone shells. On return trip Kino rides 75 miles in less than 24 hours to San Ignacio to save Native man from execution. Back at Dolores, Kino splits herd and sends 700 head of cattle to Bac. His Jesuit superiors grant Kino permission to move his mission headquarters from Dolores to Bac but his replacement at Dolores never arrives.

Sep. 1700

Second Colorado River Exploration. Travels via Camino del Diablo and meets Native peoples living on the Lower Colorado River near present day Yuma. From a mountain peak looks south and sees the Colorado Delta and the head of the Gulf of California.

1701

War of Spanish Succession begins in Europe. Spanish King diverts funds for additional missionaries to pay for war against powers who oppose the unification of France and Spain under the Bourbon kings.

1701

Kino draws his map "Passo por Tierra" showing land passage to California.

Feb. 1701

Third Colorado River Exploration. Unsuccessful attempt to reach Colorado River delta by traveling in the Gran Desierto along waterless Gulf coast. Kino and Salvatierra climb Pinacate Peak and see clearly the head of the Gulf of California.

3 Nov. 1701

Fourth Colorado River Exploration. Travels via Camino del Diablo and crosses Colorado River on a raft to present day state of California. Kino urges that peace be made among the warring Yuma, Quíquima, Cugane, Hogiopa (Cocopah) and Pima tribes. Kino organizes food relief from the Quíquimas to the needy Yumas whose crops had failed.

11 Mar. 1702

Fifth Colorado River Exploration. Travels south of Colorado River delta into northern most Baja California. Sees sun rising over Gulf of California toward the mainland of Mexico - proof that California is not an island and that a land passage exists. Fellow explorer Father Manuel González dies on return trip.

1703 - 1711

Jesuit superiors do not grant Kino permission to make further explorations to the Colorado River. Kino builds churches at missions in present day Sonora. Native people from present day Arizona especially from the village of Bac travel into Sonora to help Kino.

Jan. 1704

Consecrates newly built churches at Cocóspera and Remedios.

2 Apr. 1704

Opens shorter cattle trail to Guaymas - new supply port for Salvatierra's missions in Baja California.

Jan. to Mar. 1705

The lieutenant commander from Fronteras coerces 90 villagers to leave Dolores, angers Native leaders and spreads false rumor among Spanish officials about possible Pima rebellion. Kino prevents violent Spanish military reaction to rumors. The "indiscreet lieutenant" is later dismissed.

21 Jan. 1706

Discovers Tiburon Island is not attached to mainland. Kino advocates for a shorter sea route to Baja California by the Gulf islands near Kino Bay. Restarts construction of ship in the desert near Caborca.

1706

Begins major church construction at missions at Magdalena, Tubutama, Sáric, Pitiquito and Caborca.

22 Oct. 1706

Travels to Pinacate Peak along with a governmental officials who witness that Baja California is connected to the mainland and not an island. Kino's last exploration at age 62.

3 Dec. 1706

Former Kino trail companion Juan Mateo Manje, now General Manje, completes his history of Sonora entitled "Light on the Unknown Lands of North America". Last chapter contains recommendations that

are critical of Jesuit mission policies. Manje incorporates recommendations into a petition signed by other Spanish miners and ranchers that is widely distributed to religious and civil authorities asking that mission lands be reduced and the system of repartimiento (forced Native labor) be reintroduced.

21 Jan. 1708

Jesuit superiors complain to civil authorities about Manje's petition and Manje is arrested and jailed in Parral, Chihuahua until March 11, 1708.

27 April 1708.

Manje rejailed but released after Jesuit intervention.

1710

Completes writing last part of 11 year series of reports to the Spanish King containing Kino's history of his missionary activities and his recommendations for future programs. Collected series of reports are commonly referred to as "Favores Celestiales" (Heavenly Favors) or "Kino's Historical Memoirs."

1710

Draws his map "Nuevo Reyno". Map accurately shows rivers and villages in the present day states of Arizona, New Mexico, Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Sinaloa and Durango. This map was discovered in archives in Paris archives in 1964.

15 Mar. 1711

Travels to present day Magdalena and collapses during the Mass dedicating a chapel to his patron saint, Francis Xavier, and several hours later Kino dies peacefully near midnight at the age of 66.

Mar 1711

Chief Coro dies in Apache attack on his home at Quiburi near present day ghost town of Fairbank.

1767

Jesuits expelled from the New World and Franciscans take over missionary work in the Pimería Alta.

1700 - 1800s

Kino's maps or maps based on his cartography are extensively published in Europe including the publication of Kino's 1701 map "Paso por Tierra" by the English Royal Society in 1731.

1919

Dr. Herbert E. Bolton translates Kino's "Favores Celestiales". Dr. Bolton, head of the Bancroft Library, is the father of the study of Spanish Colonial history in the United States.

1936

Dr. Bolton's 640 paged Kino biography entitled "The Rim of Christendom" is published.

14 Feb. 1965

Kino statue unveiled at an international ceremony in the Hall of Heroes in United States Capitol Rotunda as the State of Arizona's heroic representative to the people of the United States.

21 May 1966

Kino's skeletal remains found in Magdalena by a team of international researchers.

2 May 1971

Newly constructed town plaza and mausoleum in Magdalena dedicated by Mexico's President Luis Echeverría and the town is renamed Magdalena de Kino. Two century old annual fall pilgrimage to Magdalena continues in homage to Padre Kino and his patron saint, Francis Xavier.

1979

Artist Ettore "Ted" DeGrazia publishes "DeGrazia and Padre Kino" that contains DeGrazia's paintings and writings on Kino.

7 Feb. 1998

The Vatican, the government of the Roman Catholic Church, grants permission to open the investigation of the cause for Kino's sainthood.

25 May 1971

The Archdiocese of Hermosillo begins the local diocesan process for the cause for Kino's sainthood. First step is passed and Kino is named "Servant of God" by the Roman Catholic Church because his life exemplifies the practice of the Christian heroic virtues.

1988

Dedication in Tucson of first of three "Padre on Horseback" statues. Other two replicas later dedicated in Magdalena de Kino and Segno, Italy. Major Kino statues previously dedicated are displayed in Washington, D.C., Trent, Tucson, Phoenix, Hermosillo, Nogales and Tijuana.

4 May 2006

The Vatican accepts delivery of 130 pounds of documents for consideration of Kino's cause for sainthood.

2010

The Vatican approves the preparation of the "positio" - the petition for sainthood and supporting historical documents for consideration by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. If the positio is approved by the Congregation's theologians and the Pope, Kino will pass the second step and be named "Venerable". Two miracles through Kino's intercession will then be required to be verified by the Vatican before Kino is named a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

10 Mar 2010

The State of Sonora accepts a 4 volume Kino biography written by Professor Gabriel Gómez Padilla. The writing and publishing of the Kino biography is funded by the Mexican federal government in recognition of Kino's historic and cultural contributions to the nation of Mexico.

2011

State of Sonora requires that all of its governmental documents must contain stamp "Year of Kino" in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of Kino's death. Extensive celebrations are held in United States, Mexico and Italy. Vatican issues postal stamp honoring Kino.