Amole is the Old California Spanish name for the slow roasted bulbs of soap plant, a type of lily. In addition to this delicious food, local tribal peoples ate the tender, young leaves, and used the bulbs for soap and to kill fish. To clean mortar rocks and baskets, they made, and continue to make, small brushes from the bulb and its protective fibers.

In 1775 and 1776, Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, Father Pedro Font, along with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others traveled 1,800 miles from Sonora, Mexico to Monterey, California. Anza then led a smaller group to choose sites for a mission and presidio in San Francisco, and to explore the East Bay. They camped a few miles from here on the Antioch shoreline.

During the journey in the East Bay, Anza and his men passed through the homelands of Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Northern Valley Yokuts peoples from several tribes, whose ancestors had lived in the East Bay for some 13,000 years. Native peoples responded to the newcomers with surprise, fear, and hospitality, including gifts of fish, seed “cakes,” and other foods. In return the Spanish gave them glass beads.

The diaries of Anza and Font are among the very few firsthand accounts of life in this area prior to Spanish colonization.

Font painting by David Rickman, courtesy of the National Park Service. Anza painting, unknown artist, from the New Mexico Governor’s Palace.

Ceremonial and utilitarian objects seen at Mission San Francisco de Asís in 1806. Ceremonial regalia: feathered headdress, likely magpie feathers (upper left); flicker quill band with shell ornamentation (center); clamshell disk bead and abalone pendant necklaces (lower left and center right). Utilitarian objects include coiled gift baskets with shell ornamentation, quail topknots, and red acorn woodpecker feather tufts (upper right); reflexed, sinew-backed bow and obsidian-tipped arrows (bottom).

Amole’s日记，1776年4月1日

他们给了我们许多cacomites（一种小的莲藕），和一串烤好的amole（一种百合），都煮得很熟。我喜欢这种食物，因为这里的食物很丰富，田野里也长满了它。

Font日记，1776年4月1日

...Their Generosity We Have Seen Verified...

In 1977 and 1978, Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, Father Pedro Font, along with 240 settlers, soldiers, and others traveled 1,800 miles from Sonora, Mexico to Monterey, California. Anza then led a smaller group to choose sites for a mission and presidio in San Francisco, and to explore the East Bay. They camped a few miles from here on the Antioch shoreline.

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