



God's Acres Cemetery

Date

early 20th century

Primary Maker

Mission San Juan Capistrano

Medium

Photographic print

Description

This photograph from the early 20th century depicts Mission San Juan Capistrano's God's Acres cemetery. The

earliest source of western cemeteries in California came following 1769 with the creation of our state's missions. Every mission had at least a small graveyard where friars and others associated with the mission would be buried. The Bowers Museum has a large collection of photographs of the missions, and as a result, their graveyards. many of the individual plots are fenced which was a way to keep both people and livestock from disturbing one's eternal rest and to ensure it remained easy to find should nature take the marker itself.