

Los Fundadores

Volume 19 Issue 3

July-September 2007

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Renew your membership for 2007.
Please consider your canceled check your receipt.

Alviso Adobe Genealogy

Rancho Milpitas, meaning "little corn fields" still stands just east of Milpitas, at the corner of Piedmont and Calaveras roads. It is a two story structure, however, only the lower portion of the three rooms is of adobe.

It was also known as Rancho San Miguel, and was originally awarded to Nicolas Berryessa, by Alcalde Pedro Chaboya in 1834. The grant was nullified, as Alcaldes could not legally grant land.



(This was one of many set backs for the Berryessa Family) It was granted to Jose Maria Alviso on September 28, 1835, by Governor Jose Castro. The structure left the family's hands in 1918 when the Narvaez family sold it to the Cuciz family.

Jose Maria Alviso was the son of Francisco Xavier Alviso, and the grandson of Domingo Alviso and Maria Angela Trejo, both of whom came with the de Anza Expedition to Alta California. Jose Maria Alviso married Juana Francisco de Garcia Galindo, daughter of Juan Crisostomo Galindo and Ana Maria Josefa Bernal, at Mission Santa Clara in 1826.

Maria Loreto Alviso married at age thirteen to Luis Maria Peralta, Peralta Adobe, San Jose.

Nicolas Alviso a member of the Soberanes family occupied grazing land neighboring Canada de Natividad, Salinas.

Re: Antepasados Vol V 1982-83

Publication of Los Californianos



H.I. Historic Museum
1509 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, Ca 95050

June 27th

Founding Day Celebration

San Francisco Presidio
11:00 - Los Californianos
Anza Ceremony at flag pole

July 1st

Heritage Calendar, Los Californianos

Submitted by Mike Ford
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Historic Museum Closed

July 22nd
Founding of San Jose
Noon to 5:00 pm at Peralta Adobe Music, displays, food, etc. (Historic correspondence makes this date

relevant; a smaller event will be held in November.)

August 5

Historic Museum/
Genealogy Room

Open 1:00 am-4:00pm

Close September 2

ANOTHER LOOK AT TIBURCIO VASQUEZ

By Helen B. Collins, June 12, 2007

"There is a little bad in every good, and a little good in every bad." How well this cliché fits the life of Tiburcio Vasquez. Tiburcio was born in 1835 in Monterey, California to a well-respected family. His father was Hermenegildo Vasquez and his mother was Maria Guadalupe Cantua daughter of Juan Bautista de la Luz Cantua and Maria Anastacia Jacinto Ruiz-Hernandez. Hermenegildo Vasquez was a soldier in 1809, he was appointed Regidor of the Pueblo of San Jose in 1827¹, and after he retired the Mexican Government gave him a small grant of land in Monterey. Here he raised vegetables or milpas,² and longed for a peaceful life, which eluded him because of his son, Tiburcio.

As a young boy, Tiburcio Vasquez dearly loved his mother, and the citizens of Monterey spoke of him as a gentle boy. He hated fighting and loved music, dancing and pretty señoritas. He never got over his love for music and pretty señoritas. As a young boy, he noticed the political unrest and the unstableness of the Mexican government, but he was busy riding around Monterey and dancing the nights away. His parents told him about his heritage and how he descended from Juan Atanasio Vasquez, a colonist in the party of Juan Bautista DeAnza who founded the Presidio of San Francisco in 1776. Tiburcio was very proud of his heritage and of his home. In time Tiburcio became truly concerned about the developing problems in Monterey. John C. Fremont and his troops were patrolling throughout Alta California, Commodore John D. Sloat had occupied Monterey and General Stephen W. Kearney and his troops were on their way to San Diego and from there they headed north. Eventually the American and the Mexican Governments signed the "Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo" on February 2, 1848. The United States possessed all of California, Nevada, and Utah, as well as, parts of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Wyoming for the price of \$15,000,000

By 1850 when California became the 31st State in the Union, Tiburcio Vasquez had developed a deep hatred for Americans. Large numbers of Gringos arrived during the Gold Rush and some treated the Californios as a conquered people. American sailors flirted with the young señoritas, and they returned the favor. When Tiburcio's sisters became involved, he would become infuriated, jump at the sailors and shout in Spanish, "Haven't you done enough, by taking our pride, our land and now you want our women too." Since the sailors could not understand Spanish, they pushed Tiburcio aside and walked off laughing.

One night in 1852, Tiburcio and his friend Anastacio Garcia attended a dance in Monterey. Anastacio was older and married to Tiburcio's cousin, Guadalupe Gomez. While at the dance a young, beautiful slender Señorita named Antonia Romero began dancing the LA SON. It is customary for the men to try and cast their hats on her head as she danced by them. The beautiful girl allowed a young American sailor to place his hat on her head. This greatly excited Tiburcio, Anastacio and many other Californios. They all made a mad dash for the young sailor. During the brawl Constable Hardmount arrived and tried to stop the fight but somehow the lights went out and when they came back on, the Constable was found dead from knife wounds. Tiburcio and Anastacio were missing so it was assumed that they were the guilty murderers. A vigilance committee was organized, and they began by hanging Jose Higuera who was also at the dance.

Tiburcio and Anastacio hid in caves in the Gabilan Range near San Juan Bautista. While hiding there they decided to live by their guns and show the "Gringos" that their spirit could not be conquered. After two weeks both men returned to Monterey. Tiburcio bid farewell to his mother and told her he was moving to San Juan Bautista to work. Anastacio Garcia said goodbye to his wife and said he would return when it was safe. Meanwhile the Vigilantes posted a reward for Anastacio Garcia for the murder of Constable Hardmount. Soon after, Tiburcio and Anastacio began their life of crime by robbing stagecoaches and travelers on the road between San Juan Bautista and King City. They would only rob Americans while allowing the Spanish-speaking Californios pass unharmed. Since many of the Mexicans disliked Americans, the banditos could usually depend upon them for food and a place to hide.

¹ Regidor—an Alderman

² Milpas—Indian corn field

Tiburcio and Anastacio did not limit their robberies to one area, they traveled extensively throughout Santa Clara, Sonoma, Alameda and Kern Counties robbing and living off the fat of the land. They roamed as far south as Los Angeles, and it was here that Anastacio Garcia was captured and later hanged for the murder of Constable Hardmount. Never the less, Tiburcio went on with his life of crime and by 1857 had another partner named Juan Soto. Juan was a ruthless cut-throat who was wanted by nearly every sheriff in Northern California. Together they rustled some cattle in Los Angeles County, and Tiburcio was caught and sentenced to five years in the State prison. He escaped twice from prison before he completed his sentence. He returned to Monterey with a clean record, but the vigilantes and the sheriff followed him everywhere. Whenever a crime was committed, he was brought in and questioned thoroughly.

Vasquez moved to San Juan Bautista where he found a job as a vaquero on one of the ranches. However none of people trusted him so he decided to go back to a life of crime. If he was accused of everything, he might as well live up to his reputation. In the fall of 1866 several men joined Tiburcio, and his new partner Thomas Redondo, also known as Procopio, a close friend and accomplice. Soon Tiburcio and Procopio were captured and convicted of stealing horses in Sonoma County. The two men were convicted and sent to State prison for five years. Upon their release in 1871, they returned to San Benito County and soon after, they committed several robberies around Gilroy, San Juan and Hollister, which led to the robbery in Tres Pinos.

Two citizens of San Benito and Santa Barbara Counties were interviewed, because their family members came in contact with Tiburcio Vasquez. George Frusetta of San Benito County related the following story: "Tiburcio Vasquez often visited the New Idra quick-silver mines, which are located at the southeastern end of San Benito County. He showed up once a month, when the miners received their paychecks, because he liked to gamble with them. Superintendent J. W. Maxwell, who was then in charge, always welcomed Tiburcio. After all Maxwell had to protect himself from the outlaws. On one of Tiburcio's visits, he and his gang decided to rob the incoming stagecoach, because they felt there was a large shipment of gold on board. Tiburcio and his men arrived in the late afternoon and hid across from the store owned by Andrew Snyder. When the stagecoach arrived, they attempted to hold it up." As far as Frusetta knew, Tiburcio Vasquez did not want to kill anyone. His policy was to take the money and let the people go. However, there was a Portuguese man who did not understand Spanish or English. When he saw what was happening, he began running away. Vasquez called to the man, but he kept running so one of Vasquez's men shot and killed him. Leander Davidson, owner of the hotel and George Redford, a deaf teamster, were also shot. The gang then made off with their loot, but not before running off all the horses in the stable so no one could follow them. John Utzerath, the hotel clerk at the time of the robbery, walked to the McPhail ranch located a few miles east of the store to borrow a horse from John McPhail. Utzerath rode most of the night until he reached Hollister to spread the news of the tragedy. It took two days to get a posse together to go after Vasquez, and by this time, the gang had split up and rode away with their booty. As far as Mr. Frusetta knew, Tiburcio was not a mean man. He saved many lives, which his partners wanted to kill. On one occasion his men were getting ready to kill a man they had robbed when Vasquez intervened, and he ordered them to let him live."

A Mrs. Alta Trowbridge was interviewed, and she told the story about her grandparents. "When Tiburcio Vasquez finished robbing my grandfather, he demanded that grandmother fix him breakfast. After he finished eating, he placed a \$20 gold piece on the table. He then demanded Grandfather's horse, which he took. He promised to bring the horse back, and the next day they found the horse in the barn."

Tiburcio was captured for the last time near Tejon Pass. He was taken to San Jose, was tried and found guilty of killing three people at Tres Pinos. He was sentenced and hung March 19, 1875. The records of the old San Jose Jail had the following inscription opposite the photograph of Tiburcio Vasquez..."Convicted of murder and hung on the 19th day of March 1875. He deserves credit for the manner in which he met death."

Sources: THE PACIFIC HISTORIAN, Summer 1971, Ruben E. Lopez
CRIMES AND CAREER OF TIBURCIO VASQUEZ, Evening Free Press, Hollister, Ca 1927, P.24
SPANISH-MEXICAN FAMILIES OF EARLY CALIFORNIA 1769-1850, By Marie E. Northrop



Thomas Redondo, "Procopio"
Close friend and
accomplice of Tiburcio



Tiburcio Vasquez
1835 - 1875



Abdon Leiva, accomplice, turned
State's Evidence in revenge
against Tiburcio. Tiburcio had
romantic interests in Leiva's wife.



The last resting place for
Tiburcio Vasquez, 1835 - 1875
Santa Clara Catholic Cemetery
May he rest in peace

A Great Database: the Early California Population Project

I would like to spread the word about a great database. It's called the Early California Population Project. This database contains the transcribed historic California mission records from 1769 to 1850 for baptisms, marriages, and death entries. The database website explains that the information appeals to a broad spectrum of researchers in demographics, social history, and ethno-history. For genealogists with Californios-Native American ancestors, it is an unsurpassed resource. The monumental task of data entry from historic handwritten mission parish records was funded by major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the California State Library (LSTA) grant program.

To find the database, use the address www.huntington.org which is the website of the Huntington Museum & Library in San Marino, Ca. 12 miles from downtown Los Angeles. From this homepage, scroll down to the bottom right side and click on the link "Research and Education". Then from this page, scroll down to the bottom half of the page and click on "Early California Population Project (Mission Database)."

Spend some time on this new page which welcomes researchers to read about the database. When ready, click on one of the links in the left margin, such as "Sample Search" or "Go to the Database". When one chooses to go to the database, the next click is on the "Login" button. Although it's completely free access to search the database, one must do a simple login. The searcher enters their name and email. This will bring up the page titled "Early California Population Project database-Basic Search". However, as I learned, one can make-up anything for these two boxes, not using a real name or email. After some time, I would just jot in any combination of numbers and letters. (Except, one must include a real email provider name along with the jottings, such as "yahoo.com.")

At the top of the page, the next required step is to "Select Record Type", for example "Baptismal" which will reset the page so a search can be entered using selected criterion. On the left under "Criterion" a combination of 9 "criteria" from 48 choices can be selected, among them: age, burial date, burial place, marital status, spouse name, previous husband's name, groom's mother's surname, etc.

At first I was overwhelmed by the search structure. The first thing one sees to begin a search is a stack of empty search boxes. The initial intimidation of the "advanced search" was soon heightened by categories like "ego's mother's Spanish name", "ego's native name", "ego's Spanish name", etc. After pondering what "ego" might mean, I tried a personal name. And Bingo! Now I was over my biggest hurdle to understanding what goes in the "ego" space.

The "Value Box" is where the researcher enters a name to be searched. Next to the value box is "Clause", the place where one enters the choice of "and", "or", "not". Further to the left is the "Find" button, which begins the search for one's selected criteria.

One excellent feature of the database is using the truncation symbol, which is this: %
The truncation is useful because the various padres making the entries often did not use a uniform spelling for people's first and last names. Truncation was especially helpful when I wanted to search the names of Europeans in the database: Lodge, Bolcoff, Majors, etc. For example, when searching for the children born to Michael Lodge by Maria Martina Castro, the truncation brought up records in which Michael's surname had been spelled Loch, Loheg, and Lochel. It was equally helpful when searching Spanish surnames which the padres spelled various ways.

After one has gained practice and confidence using the database, other techniques are learned. Some padres' records left out the dates of the event, such as the baptism date. Using the padres entry number for that event (baptism, marriage, etc), one can locate the other events before and after to arrive at a ballpark month and day for the event. Simply select the criterion box for "baptismal mission" where the event most likely occurred and type in the entry number. One may then assume a date for the actual unrecorded date from the entries which are brought up.

The "Mission Identifier Codes" are on the left of the database page under the link "User Guide". The missions listed are for the Baja California chain and the Alta California mission chain. Most of the identifier abbreviations are obvious: SCL (Santa Clara), SCZ (Santa Cruz), SJB (San Juan Bautista). Exceptions are: SC (San Carlos Borromeo), SFD (San Francisco de Asis), SI (Santa Ynes).

Using this database is truly a pleasure considering it's free and the results so instantaneous. Before this database, many of us spent large sums of money ordering months of photocopied mission record entries from the Monterey Diocese office and then spent many hours laboring through the scrawled Spanish entries. This database is a great leap forward for genealogists. Answers to many ancestral questions await you at the Early California Population Project webpage!

By Tim Abney

Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society

Meeting for JULY 17 --- TBA
No general meeting in Aug.

Future speakers: Dr. Michael Griffith-Santa Clara County Archives
Cath Madden Trindle, CG, FGS. Topic on Scotland

research.

For more information, see our web site at SCCHGS.org or email SCCHGS@hotmail.com or call and leave a message at (408) 615-2986.

All general meetings are open to the Public and Free.

Release Source: John Arvizu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John Arvizu Aims to Satisfy the Need for Recognizing the History of Hispanics as They Helped to Build The California Which We Live In Today.

GILROY, California -April 4, 2007- John Arvizu enjoys California history, especially the influence of Latino/Hispanic culture in creating the California life-style which we enjoy today. "Our history parallels the history of many other Latino families, in the Southwest, as they migrated from Mexico and other Latin-American countries" says John Arvizu. He lives in Gilroy with his wife Yvette where they have enjoyed raising their two sons. Dr. Arvizu is an Optometrist practicing with Kaiser Permanente Medical Group. He has authored this publication in conjunction with Lulu (www.lulu.com), the world's fastest-growing provider of print-on-demand books.

Trace the Arvizu/Alvizu/Alviso family as they migrated to California with the expedition of Captain Juan Bautista de Anza. John Arvizu is a descendant of these early explorers and settlers. The 235 settlers and soldiers of the de Anza expedition left Culiacan, Mexico in 1774 and arrived in Yerba Buena to found what is the city of San Francisco and San Jose, California. Corporal Domingo Alviso, as he is known in most of American texts and literature, was a soldier in the King's Army when he was attached to the de Anza expedition. He, along with his wife, Maria Angela Trejo and four children, left Tubac on March 10, 1776.

Corporal Domingo Alviso/Arvizu/Alvizu was born in 1739 in San Miguel de Horcasitas, Sonora, Mexico and is the great uncle of another Domingo Arvizu born in 1834 in Sonora, Mexico. This latter Domingo Arvizu was John's great grandfather and was the progenitor of the large Arvizu family of Southern California.

These men, their families and their descendants became the settlers and the builders of the California which we know today. The legacy of their accomplishments is evident in the work of the Arvizu Brothers Pipe Company which made the irrigation pipe of Kern county and helped to build the agricultural industry of that rich part of our state. The names of the soldiers in the de Anza party such as Bernal, Berryessa, Pacheco, Castro, Moraga, Pico and Alviso/Arvizu have become known to us and helped to bring the early cattle industry to California. This is why I have titled this book **BUILDING CALIFORNIA-200 YEARS OF ARVIZU HISTORY.**

"I hope you enjoy reading through this genealogical study as much as it was rewarding for me to write it" says John Arvizu

John Arvizu, hot_ss@yahoo.com

ABOUT AUTHOR

John Arvizu is a practicing Optometrist for Kaiser Permanente Medical Group with a love of early California history.