

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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The 1850 Census in Monterey

The first federal census of California was taken in the fall of 1850. One J. H. Wickizer was assigned to record the population of the Monterey district which then included the present Monterey and San Benito counties, an area of some 420 square miles. The large ruled ledger sheets on which the records were made are now in the Archives building in Washington, D.C. We obtained a microfilm copy of this census and have had fun tracing our early citizens.

Mr. Wickizer did not have the fine Spencerian hand of his contemporaries, and he obviously did not understand Spanish. Thus we have often looked in amazement on some of his entries. The given name of Angel is written Ankel; Guadalupe is Guardilope; Pablo is Pueblo; and the common first name of Jesus becomes Kasoos. One resident is Jesus Christ! Our local citizen —Pierre Artellan— is recorded as Pedro Artaon. Family names are also of interest. Arbella for Avila; Soveranus for Soberanes; Viego for Vallejo. Who was the 15 year old girl named Unnarius Delatlore?

Another problem Mr. Wickizer faced was the Spanish custom by which a married woman was still called by her maiden name. Mary Smith, wife of James Jones, would be called Dona Mary Smith, or Dona Mary Smith de Jones. Mr. Wickizer listed Dona Filomena Pico, wife of Pierre Pomberre, as Pico Pomberro, age 36, female, born California. Concepcion Boronda, widow of Olivier Deleissegues, was listed by her maiden name, and all her children were also listed as Borondas.

We are grateful to Mr. Wickizer for the work he did accomplish, and overlook the difficulties he had (and we have had) in the fun of tracing the families who were part of our community a century ago.

September 12, 1850, Mr. Wickizer started out to take the census in the city of Monterey, or perhaps we should state that he paused in his hotel, laid his fresh sheet on a table in the tavern room, and recorded the following persons as living under one roof.

Pedro Cappe	56	Hotel Keeper	born France
John Cappe	26	Hotel Keeper	born Mexico
Juan Garcia	27	Bar Keeper	born Mexico
Gos. Habruy	16	Servant	born Mexico
Antonio Augustin	34	Steward	born Spain
Canedo Augustin	32	Cook	born Mexico
Jose Dastugin	46	Cook	born Mexico

Out of the above seven, two stayed in Monterey for some years. John Cappe opened his own restaurant in Abrego's building in 1855, and Antonio Augustin bought the El Dorado Saloon across from the Custom House in 1853.

We wonder if Mr. Wickizer ate all his meals at the establishment of the Cappes? He could have varied his menus at other hotels in Monterey. At the tavern of Augustin Garcia he could have Swiss dishes prepared by J. C. Polasey, age 21, or exotic dishes by Victor Alexander, cook from "Martinico". At the Washington Hotel headed by Albert Triskony (sic) he would have had a wide choice, as the residents there came from Chile, Portugal, Italy, France, Scotland, Prussia and Switzerland.

Monterey has been termed an old Spanish town, but in 1850 it was fast changing into a melting pot. Young Lieutenant Alfred Sully wrote to his father in January that "Monterey is growing more and more American every day, i.e. rowdy, plenty of gambling and drinking shops and all the other refinements of civilized life." Perhaps polyglot would have been a more appropriate term than American.

There were Germans, Portuguese, English, Chilians, Peruvians, Canadians, Mexicans, etc. There was the Bushton family recently arrived from van Dieman's Land (Australia). There was the negro family of James A. Anthony living with a Mexican shoemaker. There was Irish-born John B. Phillips, printer, with an American wife, and two children born in Baja California.

Searching for the older families of Monterey we find that many of them had moved out to their ranchos, — the Hartnells, the Pachecos, the Soberanes, the Estradas, the James Watsons. Others held out in their town houses, — the Coopers, the Amestis, the Munras, the Pintos, the Leeeses, and some of the de la Torres. These families were all outnumbered by the newcomers.

The U. S. garrison, 41 strong, encamped on the Presidio land, was composed mainly of foreign-born enlisted men. The three officers with them were Americans by birth — Edward Ord of Maryland, Harry S. Burton of New York, and John Hamilton born at sea.

Although many of the new names found in the 1850 census drop from local records before the 1860 census, others remain to take their place as permanent residents. Mrs. Bushton lost her husband that November, and soon remarried to become known fondly to Monterey as Grandma Allen. John B. Phillips, the Irish printer, was city recorder of Monterey in 1851, and later justice of the peace and district attorney. Isaac Hitchcock, with the U. S. garrison in 1850, became assistant lighthouse keeper at Point Pinos, and settled as a farmer, to father the family still bearing his name.

The trades listed are revealing of another way of life, that of the individualist working in his own shop: tinsmith, sawyer, shoemaker, gunsmith, blacksmith, saddler, carpenter, tailor, etc. Andrew Randall, the custom collector, called himself a geologist with some degree of accuracy. He had had formal training, and later became the first president of the California Academy of Science. Samuel Head called himself a speculator. He was indeed a very good gambler, and did well while administrator of the wealthy estate of José María Sanchez in 1854. Monterey had two professional musicians, — Antonio Bejar and Dolores Fustillo, both from Mexico.

The few doctors were all residents of Monterey. Leonard Green, age 24, was a physician from New York; Dr. James L. Ord, age 27, was from Maryland; Dr. A. Vallack, age 30, was from England; A. S. Taylor, age 31, was from South Carolina; and the army surgeon Dr. Wm. King, age 32, was born in Pennsylvania. Of these, two stayed in Monterey. Dr. Taylor opened a drugstore on Alvarado street, and Dr. Ord had his office in 1855 in Taylor's drugstore. Later Dr. Ord lived for a while in Santa Barbara, and went on to Mexico as U.S. Consul General.

The 1850 census records some of those who were to start new business houses in Monterey. Milton Little already had a small store, and lived with his wife, son David, age 1, and three relatives. E. L. Williams, 23, and John Morrison, 23, were batching together while clerking in Boston's store. Wm. Curtis, 27, of Kentucky, was living in the hotel managed by T. G. Richards. David Jacks was also a resident of a hotel. Morrison

died in 1854, but the other young men became permanent residents, and active citizens. Milton Little, with the Rev. Samuel Willey, and James McKinley, were named trustees of the first Congregational church that same year. Curtis and his partner Simpson Conover, by 1861, had built the first brick store in town, a little building still standing on Alvarado street. David Jacks, who arrived in Monterey in January, 1850, and had his first job as a clerk for Joseph Boston, was to become the largest landholder of the county.

Completing the roll of the residents of Monterey Mr. Wickizer rode forth to list the rancheros, — "farmers" as he termed them. Again the language barrier confused him. The Francisco Perez Pacheco household was given but one surname, Pacheco, not only the true family members, but the vaqueros, the servants, and the Indians! At the Hartnell rancho, however, Mr. Wickizer had the aid of William Hartnell, master of several languages. There the 32 members of the household are correctly divided into Hartnells, Mexicans, servants, etc. Finally, on October 10th, two days short of a month from his start, Mr. Wickizer listed the last household of residents of Monterey County—that of the six persons living in the home of Lázaro Soto. He had recorded the names, ages, sex, birthplace and trade of 1,872 citizens. The entire population of California in the 1850 census was 117,318 according to the Journal of the Senate at the second session of the legislature.

Before closing his books, Mr. Wickizer went on to list the residents of Santa Cruz County, and then on March 3rd of 1851 ended his work with a few comments:

"There is but a small portion of the Monterey and Santa Cruz Districts susceptible of cultivation and that is owned by a few. Grazing is the principal interest of the country. Ranches of unknown extent, . . . are covered with vast herds of cattle and horses whose number also, is generally unknown to the proprietors.

"The extent of agriculture is the raising of a small patch of beans — here the chief articles of food are beef and beans. No accurate account can be thus obtained of the value of their land or stock. Labor is almost unknown here, no productions of industry. A vast majority of the population can neither read or write.

"The climate is mild and healthful, no prevailing diseases and death by sickness is rare.

"Finally, the only accurate returns required by law that can be made at this time is merely the number of inhabitants which I believe I have given very accurately." —A. K.

CUENTITOS DE LA ABUELA



Doña Josefa Estrada de Abrego

What child has not sat beside a beloved grandmother and listened to an old song or family story about "los dias de antes"? During our searching for the history of pastoral Monterey we have found new friends among the old families who have been willing to share these family tales with us. From time to time we wish to pass on these stories for the pleasure of our readers. For this issue we have chosen two from old and proud families of Monterey. —A. K.

* * *

Alfonso Luis Abrego, now living in San Diego, has written us his memories of the Abrego home, where he lived as a child with his grandmother, Josefa Estrada de Abrego.

"I remember how beautiful the *sala* in my home was, with pictures on the wall, rosewood furniture and the piano that my grandfather had brought around the Horn from Boston for his wife. The dining room was immense, with a rosewood table that would seat fourteen people and beautiful high-backed chairs. I also remember the tea room and the bedroom with a high ceiling and a large fireplace near which my grandma used to sit in her rocking chair and sing to me a little lullaby that I have never forgotten. It went like this:

Lulu lulu tata, ya parió la gata,
Cinco cochinitos y una garapata.
Arriba del cielo había un coyote,
Agarrarte viene con cadenas de oro.
Duérmete, niño. 1

"A I grew older I began to tinker around the gardens with a hoe and rake, among the beautiful roses, the fuchsias and the lemon trees. I especially remember the lovely flowers of the magnolia tree which still stands in the garden, the *bodega* where the surreys and buggies were kept, and the sidewalks made of whalebone. I can recall the *mariaichis* walking along the sidewalks, strumming "Sobre Las Olas!" on their guitars. Many times I helped Señorita Munrás across the muddy streets when she was on her way to church. Father Casanova, who was the pastor at San Carlos, always used to tell me that some day I would have a lot of friends because I was so nice to the little old lady."

* * *



Doña Josefa Boronda de Espinosa

Miss Grace Brune has shared with us a charming little story told to her by her grandmother Josefa Boronda de Espinosa.

In 1844 the first bishop of California made his visit to Monterey. The governor and officers went out to Laguna del Rey to meet him, as he came up by land from Santa Barbara. The people strew palm branches and flowers on the path as he was escorted to town. When the procession came to the church door, the governor took off his beautiful cape and laid it on the threshold, so that the bishop walked over it to enter the church. Then was held a high military mass, at which Carlos Espinosa, soldier of the army, was one of the guard

of honor. He stood on one side of the altar and another soldier stood on the other side.

The soldiers had their weapons as was the custom on such occasions. When the priest raised the sacred Host they put down their arms until after the consecration, and they then again stood with rifles or swords at proper position for a military mass.

Lugarda Castro de Espinosa, mother of Carlos, attended the mass and devoutly concentrated on the priest and the ritual of the service. After the service her friends asked her if she was not proud of her son, "So straight, so elegant," they said. Lugarda told them she did see the soldiers and the governor, but had not realized that it was her own son on one side of the altar as she was attentive to the prayers.

Lugarda was gently teased by the family for some years "Not to see your own son! So elegant! Such a fine soldier!"

1—Like so many songs or rhymes for children, this has a high nonsense content.

"Lulu lulu, tata the cat has just had kittens,
Five little piglets and one wood tick.
Up in the sky there was a coyote,
He's coming to tie you with golden chains.
Go to sleep, little one."

How to Become a Millionaire - 1847

(We continue with the letters of William Garner, Colton's secretary, to the *New York Journal of Commerce*)

Monterey, California, Feb. 1st, 1847.

The company of volunteers in this town, under the command of Lieut. Maddox, was disbanded on the 27th of last month; and several horses and saddles have been returned to their respective and lawful owners. In the Pueblo of Angeles three commissioners have already been named for the investigation of claims for property taken for the service of the United States; and in a few days, three more will be appointed, for the same purpose, in the jurisdiction of Monterey, and thence for that of San Francisco. This step will go a long way towards establishing a permanent peace in this country, and towards reconciling the minds of the natives to the change of government.

Seven persons have been nominated to form a Legislature. They are to hold two sessions this year; the first in the town of Angeles, in March; and the second some time in the autumn, at Monterey. The persons nominated to form this Legislature are: the Ex-Governor of California Juan B. Alvarado, General Vallejo, David Spence, Esq., Thomas O. Larkin, Esq., Don Juan Vandini, Don Santiago Arguello, and E. Grimes, Esq. It is very much doubted if either of the three first mentioned persons will accept of the office to which they have been appointed; neither does this proceeding meet the approbation of the community. Perhaps it would have been better if legislators had been *elected*: and there is some expectation that ultimately such will be the course pursued; at all events it is the method most desired.¹

People are still coming from the South to their homes in the North; and they will appear to be well aware that opposition on their part for the future must not only be unavailing, but attended with certain destruction to themselves. Some thirty or forty Californians have gone to Sonora with General Flores, but there is little doubt that they would have taken a different step had they been certain of a full pardon for having violated their paroles. Several of those who returned here state that it was not originally their intention to come home after the battle in the Angeles, — they generally supposing that they would meet with a harsh reception from the Americans in authority here; but they fell in with Col. Fremont, who treated them with all the kindness and hospitality due to a conquered foe; and promised them that if they would return to their homes and pursue their domestic occupations, they should be treated with all the respect and liberality due to the citizens of the U. States of America.

Since their arrival here their confidence has not been abused. They have all been from first to last well received by Commodore Shubrick, and all those under his command; and the greater part of them, having been advised of the great demand there must be for provisions in the fall, have already put their hands to the plough, in hopes with the bright prospects before them, to reap from the rich soil of this country a more than common reward for their labor.

Feb., 7. — Improvements are daily increasing in this town; the country has been for such a great length of time under the Spanish government, and little or no improvements of note ever having been made, either by the old Spanish or Mexican governments, that every step advanced by the Americans for the benefit of the country at large, or any part of it, excites the most pleasant feelings in the breasts of the Californians.

By what few things have been done in one or two places by the Americans, the natives already begin to form a distant idea of what California in a very few years must become, by remaining in the possession of a nation that has the will, the power, and the means to make it what it deserves to be.

1—Bancroft, *History of California*, vol. V, page 433, says Commodore Stockton made the appointments Jan. 16, 1847, and that this first legislative council was summoned to convene on March 1 at Los Angeles, but that it never held a meeting. General Kearney as the new governor refused to honor the appointments, so the whole thing fell through. (U.S. Executive Docs. *California Message and Documents*, Washington, 1850, pages 289-291).

Notwithstanding that it is nearly a fortnight since the arrival of Commodore Shubrick, one or two improvements have been put in operation in this beautiful bay, or rather in the town of Monterey, which, though trifling in themselves so far as expense or workmanship are concerned, are nevertheless of such a nature as cannot but demand the attention of all vessels arriving on the coast of California.

A dam has been built on a small ravine near the landing place in this bay and a cistern made, capable of containing twenty thousand or more gallons of excellent water. Shoots (*chutes*) made of two inch red-wood plank conduct the water from the cistern to low-water mark, a distance of one hundred yards, so that at half-flood a launch can come under the end of the outermost shoot and fill her casks with water, without taking them out of their places or any man wetting his feet.

Although this has been a work of great facility and little expense, the Mexicans never thought proper to undertake it whilst they had command, notwithstanding that they saw monthly some vessel obliged to leave Monterey and go to San Francisco for no other purpose but that of procuring water, thereby losing many favorable opportunities of having specie introduced into this town, — an article *at that time* scarcely to be seen.

Building lots in the town are sold by the municipal authorities according to the Mexican law, (i.e.) thirty-one and a half cents per yard of front line, so that a person can buy a one hundred yards of front line for thirty-five dollars and twenty-five cents, and then he takes one hundred yards in depth, which costs him nothing, making a plot of land of a hundred yards square and containing ten thousand square yards. Such a building lot will cost the purchaser about thirty-four (?) dollars, every expense included, even if he does not know how to write his own application.

Feb., 24, — In the name of wonder, what is the meaning of all this fuss and bustle about us here in California; or in what is it going to result? Will this country be annexed to the United States of America, or will it not? Some doubts appear to remain, and the question is undecided. Seven-eighths of the inhabitants of California this day believe with me, that it is as easy for the American flag to come down in the city of Washington, as it is that it should ever come down in California; but then we only believe so because we, like most other people, are apt to believe what we wish to be the case; the more especially as we have good reason to dread the consequences should the Mexicans ever regain their sovereignty here, which almost all in California are ready to say, *and do say*, "God forbid!"

There is another strong reason why the United States is in the present case bound to perform what she has undertaken. She has said, "I must have California!" The words were hardly spoken before we the inhabitants of California heard them, and on hearing them could not refrain from demonstrating our joy, in the hope of being by her freed from the rapacity and caprices of a few individuals who held us in bondage. Should she now abandon us, that joy would be turned into bitter lamentations; because it will not for one moment be supposed by any who are acquainted with the vindictive spirit of our former masters, that they would hesitate or make any scruple about assassinating all those individuals who had expressed the slightest wish to shake off the fetters with which they have been bound for the last twelve years.

Nothing can prevent this disaster but the retention of California by the United States and the prompt establishment of a settled government under her sanction, and a strict execution of law. Such is the daily and hourly wish of all those persons who hold property. Those who have nothing are the only persons from whom any future dissensions may be expected. But as California has afforded to every man who wished to acquire it a means of supporting himself and his family in an independent manner, those who do not do so may be considered, with very few exceptions, as a set of worthless men whose only desire is to support themselves by plundering and cheating the industrious.

As plunder and fraud will not be permitted under the government of the United States with impunity, the result will be one of two things. By a strict execution of

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justice these delinquents will fall under the iron hand of the law, or they will have to become what they never have been, *honest and industrious citizens*.

The Californians are naturally very docile. Generally speaking, they are very apt to act on the impulse of the moment, without any heed to the future; but the reason is, they have never been taught to look forward for their own benefit. They have been brought up under the government and tuition of vicious and corrupt men, and nothing but example will make them see their folly. Precept will not do it, but as soon as one, two or three of the worst malefactors have undergone capital punishment, the whole country will be at peace.

—W. G.

COSAS DE INTERÉS PARA LOS SOCIOS

Mary Greene's talk and picture-showing of the highlights of her tour of Spain and spots of scenic and historical interest was most delightful. The crowd that attended packed the house and enjoyed every minute. This was indeed a compliment to Mrs. Greene and demonstrates the appreciation which the public has for the untiring zeal she showed as curator of the Old Custom House. We welcome Mary back with open arms, even if it may be for only a short stay.

At Mrs. Greene's instigation, the directors took up an impromptu collection at their June meeting to purchase a chair to be placed in the Fray Junipero Serra Museum-Center of Studies in Petra, Mallorca, as a memorial to Laura Bride Powers, the first curator of the Old Custom House. \$25 was garnered, and now comes word that Mrs. George Applegarth, Mrs. Power's daughter, has given a like amount in order that two chairs may be placed in the museum. A letter was read from Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden of Petra acknowledging receipt of the money and thanking us for the gift.

The exhibit of the *Art of the Malaspina Expedition*, so generously loaned by the Museo Naval of Madrid, was a huge success. Almost 1,000 people paid fifty cents each to see this unique historical event, and as a result, the total cost to the association for sponsoring it was only \$31.75. Since the irreplaceable drawings and maps of early California were entrusted to only four California historical organizations, this showing was another feather in our much be-feathered cap. Sincere thanks to all who helped to make it successful, and especially to Mrs. William Kneass, the chairman.

As usual, Monterey's birthday party, the Merienda, was a great social and gustatory success. In addition, Henry Jones, its general chairman, reported that \$775.11 will be the net profit. The Adobe House Tour, an annual feature of the association's summer activities, was also a resounding triumph. Mrs. Mary Frances Singleton, the chairman, and Mrs. Henry Jones, ticket chairman, are effusive in their praise for all who took part in the project. The homes were a delight to the eye and the costumed hosts and hostesses made it even more charming.

Vice-president Claude Faw has been presiding in the absence of President Allen Knight, who at this moment is probably somewhere in the Indian Ocean on his long-awaited world tour. Claude has also represented the association before the Board of Equalization of Monterey County and as a result, the assessed valuation of our Serrano Adobe has been reduced from \$6250 to \$3050. We certainly appreciate your dedicated work, Claude.

Maybe you think we were getting a little far afield, reporting San Benito grizzlies in a Monterey periodical? Well, technically we stand firmly on our rights. In 1871 San Benito was still part of Monterey County; it did not become an independent entity until 1872.

The Tucson (Arizona) Historical Society has written to us requesting information regarding the manner in which Monterey has been able to acquire, preserve and protect its historic buildings. Mrs. O'Donnell has given them the information, together with a plan of the historic route through Monterey.

It is interesting that other areas, too, are beginning to realize that historic adobes have far more than a sentimental value, — they have definite influences on the commercial well-being of a community. Every Western city should strive to retain those few remaining links with a romantic past. THE ADOBES CANNOT BE REPLACED.

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COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

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On September 1, the association numbered 643 members. Among the new enrollees are Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Stevens, Mrs. J. O. Handley, Dr. and Mrs. L. G. Woolley, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Raggett, Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Bebson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Osborne, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Michael, Mrs. Matthew Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. Leet Bissell, Miss Dorothy Peacock, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Delfino, Mrs. Harry Reinhardt, Mrs. Bee Torres, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Weiler, Fremont O. Ballou, Mrs. Rose L. Johnson, Mrs. Nelly Montague, Dr. and Mrs. Fred L. Glascock, Mrs. Harry Reidenour, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Smith, Mrs. F. W. Dorr, Mrs. Jacqueline Talbot, and Dorothy I. Thorne.

We also welcome one junior member, young Allen Delfino.



We regret to announce the deaths of several of our old and valued friends and members: Mrs. Stanley Ponton de Arcy of Forest Hill Manor, who gave the association its Wedgewood tea set; Dr. Walter Lehmann, Dr. Archie Hart and Mrs. J. D. Woods. Miss Hilda van Sicklin, whose generous participation in the projects of the peninsula has been notable over the years, has remembered the association in her will by leaving it \$5,000. We are deeply thankful for this bequest.



From members and interested friends we have received several articles of historic value. From Major and Mrs. F. O. Bowman, a book on *The California Column*, published by the Historical Society of New Mexico in 1908; from Dr. Milton Shutes, an old ink well; from R. G. Hitchcock of Salinas, a chair which was part of the furniture of the Sherwood adobe near Salinas. Barron Callen has contributed several articles of clothing and a lady's small parasol, and Mrs. W. R. Holman donated an old pottery mug with a picture of the Old Custom House on it.