

# NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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## **A GENEALOGICAL SKETCH OF JUAN FRANCISCO DE LA BODEGA Y CUADRA**

**By Eric Beerman**

*ed. note: Among our correspondents is a young man from Sonora, California, now living with his family in Madrid, and doing original research in the archives. He has written a number of articles concerning the early Spanish explorers who were influential in the development of both the eastern coast and the western coast of this nation. Recently he sent us the below sketch concerning Juan Francisco de la Bodega, for whom Bodega Bay is named.*

*Our readers will remember that during the 1770s Spanish explorers surveyed much of the coastline from British Columbia to San Francisco Bay. In March of 1775 four vessels left the port of San Blas, two with supplies for the California missions and presidios, and two with orders to the north coast. One of these vessels was the small schooner SONORA, commanded by the navy Lieutenant Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Cuadra. In the volume CALIFORNIA by Andrew F. Rolle we found a description of the vessel. It was "Only thirty feet long, twelve feet wide, and eight feet deep, with its deck room so limited that there was no opportunity for exercise. Space below decks, invaluable as shelter during storms, was so low that the men had to remain sitting down while in it."*

*When the ship was returning from the trip, great storms forced it to seek shelter along the coast. Bodega found himself safe on October 3rd in a bay about four leagues north of Point Reyes. Today the bay bears his name.*

One of the most important figures in the Spanish colonial period of California history is the eminent navigator — Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Cuadra. Much has been written on his epic voyages to the coast of California; less though is known of his genealogical background. With the bicentennial year of Bodega's stay at Monterey Bay (October 8 to November 1, 1775) coming to a close, this article will concentrate on the illustrious lineage of the Bodega family in Spain and in the Americas.

Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Cuadra was born on May 22, 1743, in Lima, Peru, where his father was on service for the Spanish king. On the following June 3rd, Bodega was baptized at the cathedral of Lima. His godfather was Tomás Carillo and witnesses were Andrés de Orduña and Francisca Banzer de Tapia. The officiating priest was Francisco Xavier de Tapia, assistant rector of the cathedral.

Bodega's father was Tomás de la Bodega y Cuadra y de las Llanas, born in the Spanish Basque valley of Somorrostro, at the village of San Julian de Muzquiz and baptized at the village parochial church on December 14, 1701. At a youthful age, Tomás de la Bodega left Spain to seek his fortune in the New World. By 1761, he had returned to his native village, where he was appointed *alcalde* of Somorrostro.

Juan Francisco's mother, Francisca Mollinedo y Losada, was baptized in the cathedral of Lima on April 27, 1713. The ceremony was officiated by the Franciscan friar, Gerónimo de Mata; her godfather was Antonio de Llanos of the Spanish royal order of Santiago.

On August 22, 1728, Juan Francisco's parents were married at the cathedral of Lima by another Franciscan friar, Manuel Mollinedo, brother of the bride, who would later be the bishop of Cuzco. In addition to the birth of Juan Francisco, there were two other sons of this marriage — Juan Antonio, a priest, and Manuel, who gained considerable fame as a lawyer. Manuel de la Bodega was born in Lima but returned to the *madre patria* for schooling, studying at the famous Spanish university of Alcalá de Henares, alma mater of Miguel Cervantes. On graduating with honors, Manuel continued at the university as a law professor. Later he left the academic life and entered the colonial service. In 1768, he was named *oidor* of the *audencia* of Guatemala, and later as the superintendent of the royal mint. In 1792, Manuel de la Bodega was promoted to the prestigious post of *oidor* of the *audencia* of Mexico and general councilor of the viceroyalty of New Spain. He published legal works in the Americas and in Spain.

Juan Francisco was able to trace his ancestry to his paternal and maternal great-great-grandparents. This information was required in 1775, when he was nominated to the royal order of Santiago.

His paternal grandfather was Juan de la Bodega y Cuadra, baptized at the Bodegas' ancestral village of San Julian de Muzquiz on May 30, 1677. On March 22, 1701, in this same church, he married Agustina de las Llanas y Barbadun, baptized on April 19, 1676. On January 1, 1703, Juan de la Bodega was appointed *regidor* of the valley of Somorrostro, where the family lived until August 14, 1741, when he made his last will and testament.

Juan de la Bodegas's father (paternal great-grandfather of Juan Francisco) was Juan de la Bodega y Salazar, born in San Julian de Muzquiz. On October 29, 1668, he married Isabel de la Cuadra y Medrano, who was buried at the family plot in San Julian de Muzquiz on April 7, 1706. Parents of Juan de la Bodega y Salazar were Pedro de la Bodega and Francisca de Salazar, both of the same village of San Julian, where they married in the early part of the 17th century.



Juan Francisco's paternal great-grandfather, on his grandmother's side, was Tomás de las Llanas of San Julian. Here, he married María de Barbadun on December 14, 1656. He died at the village on December 16, 1695, followed in death by his wife on January 2, 1706. Juan Francisco's other great-great-grandparents (parents of Isabel de la Cuadra y Medrano) were Juan de la Cuadra, baptized at San Julian on December 5, 1607, and Isabel Medrano y Foncerrada of the same village, where they married on April 8, 1638.

On Juan Francisco de la Bodega's maternal side, his mother, Francisca de Mollinedo y Losada, was born in Lima. Her father was Manuel de Mollinedo y Ordeñana, baptized at the parochial church of the Spanish city of Bilbao, near the valley of Somorrostro on November 27, 1666. He left Spain and served in the Americas.

On February 10, 1703, at Chancay, Peruvian port near Lima, Manuel de Mollinedo married Josefa de Losada y Mendoza of this same port city, who was baptized on June 7, 1683. Of this marriage, besides the mother of Juan Francisco de la Bodega, were born Manuel and Agustín (Franciscan friars), Juan Antonio, Juana and Dorotea. Manuel de Mollinedo had been married previously to Josefa Falcon of Chancay. In Lima, on February 19, 1724, Manuel de Mollinedo gave his last will and testament.

Juan Francisco's maternal great-grandfather (father of Manuel de Mollinedo) was Antonio de Mollinedo y Larrauri of Bilbao who married Lorenza Ordeñana of the same city, where they married at the parochial church of Santiago on December 2, 1662, where he was later buried on January 25, 1695. His wife was buried in the same city at the San Antonio Abad church on June 30, 1712. Antonio de Mollinedo's parents were Felipe de Mollinedo and Marina de Larrauri. Lorenza Ordeñana's parents were Pedro de Ordeñana and Teresa de Amezola.

Juan Francisco's maternal great-grandfather (father of Josefa de Losada y Mendoza) was Juan de Losada y Alvarez of the Spanish village of Castro de Oro in Galicia, where he was baptized on November 13, 1647. Later he went to the Americas, where he married Juana de Mendoza y Retes at Chancay on November 30, 1676. Juan de Losada's parents were Pedro de Losada and Juana de Alvarez. Juana de Mendoza's parents were Antonio de Mendoza and Margarita de Retes.

In 1776, Juan Francisco de la Bodega was appointed to the order of Santiago and the Bodega family was given a coat-of-arms. As Bodega was on naval service in California and Mexico, power-of-attorney was given to Juan Francisco's brother, José Antonio, to expedite the paper work in Spain. As a result of the above voyages, Juan Francisco de la Bodega published works and maps of California.





*Special transportation for special pioneer visitor.*



*One of the adobes of Monterey prepared to receive the local group of Native Sons of the Golden West for a banquet, about 1900. The use of ferns, draped vines, and flags supplied color and "style" to the occasion. As was customary before board ceilings were installed, cloth was stretched and fastened beneath the rafters to keep the dust from falling. Kerosene lamps shed light on the festive board.*





*Monterey loved parades, which usually swept along Alvarado from south to north, for events at the Custom House. Today, Bonifacio street cuts from Alvarado through the lot of the adobe to left to Tyler.*



*Monterey greets President McKinley May 11, 1901. Three central figures – Julius Trescony (with derby), the President, and Mayor Robert Johnson. Taken at intersection of Franklin and Alvarado.*

## EUREKA!

Readers may remember that in the June 1975 issue of these Noticias we had an article on Monterey's First Public Library. We had found a small booklet among the Cooper-Molera Papers. This booklet, published in 1854 for the Monterey Library Association listed 871 books, maps, etc. which were the property of the association at the time of publication.

We expressed the hope that some family might still have a numbered volume from that first lending library. But the chances were diminished when we remembered that after a long period of neglect — in a dark room at the old Quartel building — much of the library had been moved to the wonderful three story school built on Pacific Street in 1892.

This school, after about a year of use, burned in July of 1893. The newspaper of the time had a lead article about the fire, and mentioned particularly the "library which was one of the most valuable in the State. Many books were destroyed which can never be replaced, among them the old Spanish archives and the minutes of the First Constitutional convention ever held in California."

Thus the chances of finding a book from the first library were almost nil — but yet, perhaps some one had a book out at the time?

Just a few weeks ago, we were slowly working through the books found in the Cooper adobe when it was given to the National Trust. And! There were two small volumes, Vol I and Vol II, published by Harper in 1836 — "The Desultory Man." Inside the first volume, written in a fine spencerian hand is the following "First Lending Library Case 2 Shelf 6 No. 885." The catalogue number of 885 is repeated on another page.

Thus we have the original catalogue-numbering to 871, and an additional number (two volumes) up to 885 purchased after 1854.

Sometime we still hope to find another book, or map, from the first lending library — one that is among the first 871 in the 1854 publication. Since the main caretaker of the library during the 1860s was Delos Ashley, fine lawyer, and later Treasurer of California — perhaps? who knows? Perhaps he had a volume out when he moved to San Francisco, and perhaps it may still be someplace in California.

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## COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

**ADOBE TOUR:** The theme for the 1976 adobe tour of the Monterey History and Art Association is "The Parade of Presidents," remembering the seven U.S. Presidents who have honored the Monterey Peninsula with their visits. Mrs. Burnett Dougherty is Chairman, and has assembled a wonderful group of our members to act as hostesses, transportation drivers, tea committee, ticket sellers, etc., — all of the many activities which are involved in a tour. This year there will be nineteen historical buildings open during the two days of the tour. Saturday, April 24th, ten until five; and Sunday, April 25th, noon until five are the dates to mark on your calendar. As usual a special tea will be served each afternoon at Casa Serrano. And you may park your car, and be taken from one home to another by our volunteer drivers. Could you ask for more? Tickets may be ordered from the Association office, P.O. Box 805, Monterey.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** Mrs. Dwight Morrow Jr. is our new Chairman of Special Events. She has planned a series of events for the membership. First on her schedule, the tour to San Francisco to view the paintings from the Hermitage collection in Russia was sold out almost at once! Members are reminded that they received from Nancy a questionnaire to ascertain what type of program would be of interest. She has a good response, thus far, but we are certain others may have more suggestions.

**NEW BOARD OFFICER:** Miss Ethel Solliday, Board Member, and former City Librarian, has graciously accepted the position of Secretary to the Board. She replaces Mrs. John Warren Douglas who resigned because of lack of time.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Miss Anita Doud, Mr. Byron Singletary, Mr. Ben Sowell, Jr., Mr. Fred J. Titgen, Mrs. Delphine Loudon, Miss N. Josephine Peard, Mr. Elvin Anderson, Dr. William Crawford.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Hal Hallett, past president is arranging a series of small gatherings at Casa Serrano for new members — so that all may know what we do, who we are, and perhaps find a special activity in which they can participate.

Our membership this year has remained about 2,000, in spite of the annual move away from the Peninsula of many. New members added since our last Noticias are — Mrs. Jeanne Burns, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Davison, Mrs. Amy Geroghty, Mr. Gary E. Hadden, Miss Florence L. Harper, Miss Vicki Ann Heisinger, Mrs. Jane Herbst, Mr. Robert Johnson, Mrs. Margaret G. Kirkland, Mrs. Lucy Jane Owens, Chris Stanley, Mrs. Herbert W. Wagner.

Edward Broome, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Cartwright, Adm. & Mrs. Cecil H. Coggins, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Frederick, Mrs. Lydia Grayson, Mrs. Edwin T. Harding, Mr. Robert E. Hyler, Mrs. B. Robert Jones, Mrs. Lee Keene, Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Leker, Marcus Leo, Tia, Pia, and Elvi Leo, Mr. & Mrs. Frank McKenzie, Mr. & Mrs. Roderick Macleod, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Melby, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Newman, Mr. & Mrs. Stewart T. Peck, Miss Mary Radford, Miss Dorothy M. Reid, Mr. & Mrs. Donald W. Sheldon, Mr. & Mrs. George B. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin J. Steckler, Miss Tina Tomlinson, Mrs. Ruth B. Zirnheld.

THE EDITORS  
MONTEREY HISTORY  
AND ART ASSOCIATION

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