

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **More About the Dutra Tract**

On the old 1849 map of the City of Monterey four houses are shown in the Dutra Tract where the adobe home of Mrs. and Mrs. Mort Henderson is located and about which we have been writing in the last two issues of the Peninsula Diary.

These four houses are shown on the hill between two canyons, of which four the Henderson property is the is the fourth from Fremont street. The first is just behind where Biff's Restaurant now stand, the second is the Boronda adobe (Dr. and Mrs. Wolfson's): the third is between the Henderson and the Boronda adobes.

Cortes street on the old map cuts across Fremont near the church and along the eastern side of the hill. Probably that is why Carmen Garcia Barreto bought the little piece of the lot about 1850 in order to have access to the future road. There was an agreement in the deed that if need arose she would give land for a street. It was this little piece of property that caused all the law suites beginning in 1899.

In several of the deeds in the abstract, reference is made to the fact that the property lies to the south of that of George Allen, or Petra Boronda de Allen—the adobe that is now the home of Dr. and Mrs. Wolfson. This house is probably the oldest remaining residence in California. Manuel Boronda was one of the early soldiers and the first teacher in San Francisco. He was in Monterey in 1814 and was then teaching the boys here. His youngest daughter was Petra, who married George Allen, and the old home passed down through her branch of the family.

Reference is made in the story of the Henderson property to Ysidora Cervantes, a daughter of George Allen, and Petra Boronda de Allen. She married Manuel Cervantes, and according to a cousin of hers, they lived for a while on the Mesa near the present location of the Bonifacio Adobe (home of Mrs. Guy Catlin), but later one of Ysidora's sons built a house for his windowed mother down the hill, not far from the Boronda adobe. It is probable this is the property referred to in 1899 when the Dutras and David Jacks made their two transactions

Now we come to an interesting personality, one that probably has the elements for a good short story, so my

informant tells me, but not enough exact information is known about her life. Maria Carmen Garcia was the owner of the old adobe after 1835, with her husband, Fabian Barreto. She married a Mr. Castell first, then she married Barreto, and was his wife in 1835 when they were living in the Henderson adobe. Barreto died, and she married one Juan Madriaga. Carmen died in 1865 at the age of 72 years. The only living relative she seemed to have was Ysidora Garcia, the wife of a Rosales, to who she gave the property in 1856. This Ysidora was probably a sister, because of the same surname, rather than a daughter.

There was mentioned in the controversy over clearing Mr. Jack's title to the land, that Fabian Barreto had purchased the adobe and land from one Manuel Cota, who was a soldier from Santa Barbara married to Josefa Boronda, a sister of Petra Boronda de Allen. He was killed in an accident in 1826 when working on the roof of a kitchen house that was in process of construction. It is possible that his wife had been given a small piece of the Boronda land to build on, next to her sister's house, and when he was killed the partially finished house was sold to Barreto, or he may have been helping with some other house.

One point is fairly clear, and that is, we are justified in surmising that the house now standing, or at least a part of it, was inhabited as early as 1835, according to Mrs. William Kneass, the curator of the Stevenson House, from whom most of this information has been procured.

On the City of Monterey's assessment rolls of 1851-52, Carmen Barreto was assessed for one lot 50 by 60 varas beyond the church, \$75, two adobe houses, \$700, and furniture, \$25. Fabian Barreto was buried in Monterey September 10, 1841.

Mrs. Emma Ambrosio of Pacific Grove remembers that when she was a little girl there was a stone house on the property in the Dutra tract that was never completed. It evidently was intended to be a very large house, but there was no roof on it.

It was called the Barreto house but no one ever lived there and it seemed shunned. It was torn down when she was about 10 years old. Mrs. Ambrosia lived with her grandmother in the Boronda adobe.