

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### California's First Families

"Los Fundadores," a small booklet of about 50 pages, has just arrived from the Academy of Church History in Fresno. The author is Leon Rowland of Santa Cruz – an historian and writer of California history whose hobby is genealogy. This hobby is made good use of in his latest publication.

Los Fundadores lists the first families of California and also all other persons with family names that were in California 1769 to 1785, excepting those who died at San Diego in 1769. It presents an attempt, according to the foreword, to list the names of the men who came from Mexico to Northern California in the first 15 years of its settlement, most of them to remain.

The records of the seven central California missions, made available to Mr. Rowland by the Bishop of the Monterey-Fresno diocese, afford much of the data. Bolton's Anza, Fray Juan Crespi and Palou's diaries, with Monsignor James Culleton's "Indians and Pioneers of Old Monterey," and Bancroft's "History of California," have also been sources of much valuable information to the author.

Again and again the reader will notice reference to de Anza, Portola and other famous explorers and colonizers. Other references will read: "Soldier of California Company. Godfather at San Carlos Church in February, 1773." Another interesting notation: "Lower California's Indian. Remained at Monterey in 1770 after coming with Portola party. Married Angela, a Carmel neophyte."

Three Alvarados are listed with their history: Bernardo arrived at Monterey with a pack train from San Diego in 1770. Juan Bautista arrived in 1769 with Portola, returned to Monterey from San Diego with pack train in 1770, grandfather of Juan Bautista Alvarado born in Monterey in 1809. The third Jose Francisco Alvarado, son of the above was born in Sinaloa. He was perhaps with his father in the Portola party. His mother was Maria Dolores Castro. He married in 1808, at San Carlos, when he was a sergeant in the Monterey company, Josefa Vallejo, daughter of Ignacio Vicente Vallejo and was the father of Juan Bautista. He died in 1809 and his widow married at San Carlos in 1809 Ramon Estrada,

cadet of the Monterey company, native of Lower California.

There are four Carrillos listed. Guillermo was a soldier in 1769 in Portola party. He remained in Monterey and became a corporal of San Carlos mission guard in 1772. He was a sergeant in Monterey when he died in 1782. His brother, Mariano, was also with Portola in the trek to Monterey. He was 'alferez' and Monterey storekeeper when he died in 1782. The other two Carrillos listed were probably nephews of the first two.

The name Coronel is not so well known in the Northern California today. Juan Antonio Coronel was a muleteer who by poultices cured Father Serra's leg on May 18, 1769, on the way from Mexico to San Diego. He was at Monterey at its founding in 1770. He was a godparent at Carmel in 1773.

Another interesting listing by Mr. Rowland was Bernardo de Heredia, a soldier who came with Rivera. He brought his wife, Nicolasa de Elizalde; both natives of Sinaloa. Their daughter, Maria Josefa de la Lux, was the first white birth at Monterey, February 13, 1775.

The first burial at Carmel Mission is listed as Ignacio Ramirez, one of five sailors with scurvy out ashore at Monterey from El Principe. He died July 28, 1770 at Monterey. He was a mulatto slave who had earned enough money to buy his freedom.

We must not tell our readers any more of the facts contained in this fascinating book. There are such names as Soberanes, Rodriguez, Rosales, Rubio, Sanchez, Serrano, Soto, Durate, Espinosa, Buelna and many others, all familiar to residents of the Peninsula, listed in the Rowland's book in alphabetical order.

Joe Hitchcock, an old-timer and resident of Carmel Valley, contributes this bit to the archives of the country's history. Mrs. E.B. Chew, who recently passed away at the age of 87 years, had been a resident of Jamesburg for 50 years before she became a resident of Pacific Grove. Chews Ridge was named for her husband's family, while Jamesburg and James Hill were names for Mrs. Chew's parents. Many years ago the stage and horses which took guests to Tassajara Hot Springs, were kept at the Chew home and they also had the post office. Mrs. L.S. Cahoon of the country near Jamesburg provided the information to Mr. Hitchcock.