

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

April 9, 1952

July Fourth Baby

Historians who are interested in genealogy will go to almost any extreme to obtain a bit of information or a name or date which may enable them to fill in or complete a family tree. Mrs. Nadie D. Brown [**CORRECT NAME: Madie D. Brown**] is the curator of the State owned historic monument, Lachryma Montis, General Vallejo's home at Sonoma. Her hobby for the past four years has been to collect historic material relating to the Vallejo family.

During a bit of research in California recently Mrs. Brown was able to obtain the correct date of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo's birth, which had previously been recorded as July 7, 1807. Through correspondence with Monsignor James Culleton, Chancellor of the Monterey-Fresno Diocese and in charge of the archives of the San Carlos church, Mrs. Brown received a photostat of the page recording General Vallejo's baptism on July 5 and his birth the evening before in Monterey, in the year 1807. Thus the General was a July 4th baby – sharing that holiday with the founding of Mission San Francisco Solano and the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Still not satisfied with all she had learned about the Vallejo family from sources in California, Mrs. Brown planned a Mexican vacation for last Christmas and journeyed to old Mexico. Before her departure she obtained from the Bancroft Library at the University of California information relative to General Vallejo's father, Don Ignacio Vicente Ferrer Vallejo, who had been born in Mexico. In Mexico her quest led her to the little town of Xalostotitlan, where Don Ignacio had been baptized on August 14, 1748.

The story of Mrs. Brown's experiences and the material she was able to collect, is a fascinating one and worth repeating here in the community in which the son of Don Ignacio was later born.

Arriving in Mexico City Mrs. Brown called on "the competent, gracious cultural attache of the Embassy of the United States," but that gentleman did not know where Xalostotitlan was. Mrs. Brown knew that it was in the State of Jalisco near Guadalajara, but how near no one seemed to know. She relates in her story that the attache is Edmund Robert Murphy, a graduate of the

University of California, and one of Professor Herbert Bolton's boys who is doing a very fine work in the cultural department in Mexico City.

Mr. Murphy introduced Mrs. Brown and her traveling companion, Cecelia Mendia Shegog, a great-great grandniece of General Vallejo, to Senor Silvio Zavalay, Director of the Institute of Nacional de Antropologia y Historia of the Castillo de Chapultepec. He proved to be a noted historian and through his courtesy and interest, the travelers were to meet high ranking Mexican officers of the Military Department Archives.

After a few days stay in Mexico City, Mrs. Brown and her companion traveled to Guadalajara by air. They registered at the Morelas Hotel, a new Spanish-Colonial designed building, built around a central court. Soon after arrival they took a taxi to the residential district where they called on Senora Guadalupe Marron de Pardo. The Senora is the second daughter of Magdalena Frisbee de Marron of Mexico City. The latter is aged about 75 years, is the last surviving child of General John B. Frisbee and his wife, Fanny Vallejo, and is therefore the granddaughter of General Vallejo and a great granddaughter of Don Ignacio Vallejo.

Even Senora Pardo did not know where Xalostotitlan was located but she suggested that the California ladies go to the office of her husband and brother, Juan. They were cordially received by Senor Marron y Frisbee. He spoke very little English so he turned the visitors over to his secretary who became quite interested in their historic quest. She brought forth a map of the state of Jalisco and began pouring over a tangled mass of Indian names until she located Jalostotitlan. They decided that that must be the Xalostotitlan they were searching for.

No tours were conducted to that ancient village, according to Mrs. Brown's story, so, as a special favor to the lady who had come so far to do research work, Ignacio de L. Orendian, the manager of the travel bureau, rented a car with an English speaking guide, for the ladies to make the trip.

(More Tomorrow)