

Individual Report for Jose Miguel Garcia

Individual Summary: **Jose Miguel Garcia**

Sex: Male

Father: Francisco Maria Leon Garcia

Mother: Maria Rafaela Soto



Individual Facts:

Birth: 29 Sep 1820 in Santa Clara, California

Baptism: 01 Oct 1820 in Mission Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California

Christening: 01 Oct 1820 in Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California

Milit-Beg: 1837 in Militiaman at San Francisco

Residence: 1841 in avecindades (residing) en el Pueblo San Jose

Military Service: 1841 ; San Jose age 21 with wife Rafaela Miranda and child Guadalupe born 1839

Census: 1860 in Contra Costa County - Lafayette - Alamo#731

Record Change: 12 Aug 2006

Death: California

Shared Facts: **Maria Rafaela Miranda**

Marriage: 27 Jan 1839

Children: Carmelita Garcia

Genevieve Garcia

Manuela Garcia

Guadalupe Garcia

Maria Garcia

Gabriel Garcia

Francisco Javier Leonardo Garcia

Maria Demetria Sipriana

Maria de Ysidora Garcia

Dolores Garcia

Antonio Garcia

Benito Garcia

Maria C Garcia

Crisaeda Garcia

Notes:

Person Notes: 1860 Census Contra Costa, Lafayette Alamo #731
Farmer, Age 41; Cannot read or write
Rancho La Calera
Maria age 35
Guadalupe is a laborer age 21,
Javier is age 17,
Sipriana is age 14
Ysidora is age 13

1860 Census Township 2, Contra Costa, California (copy avail)

Post Office: Lafayette and Alamo

Value of Real Estate: \$100

Value of Personal Property: \$50.00

Household Members:

Jose M. Garcia age 4, Farmer

Rafella Garcia age 35

Guadalupe Garcia age 21

Gabriel Garcia age 17

Cipriano Garcia age 14

Maria J. Garcia age 13

Delvius Garcia age 10

Garvalio Garcia age 7

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Notes:

Antonio Garcia age 5
Benedito Garcia, age 3
Maria C. Garcia age 2
Christida Garcia age 6 1/2
Jose A. Maurdas Age 22 - Laborer

Repository:

Name: Family History Library

Salt Lake City, Utah 84150 USA

Title: Baptisms 1778-1863: Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California

Author: Catholic Church: Mission Santa Clara de Asís (Santa Clara, California) (Main), Thomas Workman Temple II, d. 1972 (Added)

Publication: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 197-: Salt Lake City. Microfilm

Call Number: 0944282 Item 10

Note:

Page: 944282, Item 10, Entry 6946

Text: Jose Miguel GARCIA, age 2 days, was baptized 1 Oct 1820 in Mission Santa Clara de Asis, parents: Francisco Maria GARCIA baptized in this Mission and his wife Maria Rafaela SOTO born in San Francisco, godparents: Jose Francisco GARCIA widower, and Juana PACHECO single.

Date: 1 Oct 1820

The Friendly Spanish

The Spaniards were very friendly and soon came to see us, and the first cow we had in California a Mr. Miguel Garcia gave to my mother - a gentle Spanish milk cow with long slender horns and yellow and white in color, and gave my mother to understand that it was a present for her, which my mother was very grateful. This was the first cow we owned. My mother, in return, invited him to bring his family to bring his family to have dinner at our house, naming the day. They came on horseback. several couples. I remember the ladies of the party seated in the saddle and the men behind and guiding the horses

A Mr Meranda was a very skilled mechanic. He made spurs and Spanish bridle bits inlaid with gold and silver, Spanish saddles complete, fine hair ropes, macarta and rawhide ropes, riatas, or 8-strand ropes and half cinches to secure the saddles to the horses. I have never seen any finer work in his line than he made.

The question may arise in the minds of some readers whether there was not some danger from Spanish residents or population. I have lived 75 years in California, and I have yet to learn of the first unkind act with great forbearance. Let me name some of the Spanish families I have known and then ask you if you have any knowledge of any unlawful act by any of the families: Pacheco; Galindo; Soto; Silvario; and his brother Walloupi (Guadalupe); Bibrian, Martinez; Garcia; Romero, who presented in 1850 to my mother the first milk cow we had in California; Amador; Bernal brothers; Higuera; Meranda; Peralta, who adopted the motherless child Betsy Duncan when no white woman came forward to care for the infant' provided a good home for her, educated her at the best schools in California at that early date.

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Notes:

West of Alamo, the Spanish families' Garcia, Mesa, Meranda and Chorene had located, grouped together, adjacent to some fine springs of water. I never knew a Spanish family in the early days to have a well, as they preferred running water.

-Recollections - Early Life in the San Ramon Valley as related by Prof. James Dale Smith Headmaster, Livermore College.

James D. Smith recalled the Californio families' welcome when his family arrived in the San Ramon Valley in 1850:

"Quite a settlement of Spaniards were located near some springs east of Alamo, across the San Ramon Creek. They were very friendly and soon came to see us, and the first cow we had in California a Mr. [Jose] Miguel Garcia gave to my mother - a gentle Spanish milk cow with long slender horns and yellow and white in color...

"My mother in return invited him to bring his family to have dinner at our house, naming the day. They came on horseback, several couples. I remember the ladies of the party seated in the saddle and the men seated behind and guiding the horses, and I have no recollection of having seen any Spanish lady riding alone and directing her horse.

"My recollection of the Spanish people is that they were very liberal and accommodating and I recall that more than once Mr. [Jose] Miguel Garcia with a vaquero to assist, drove a fat animal to our home, butchered it and hung the meat in the tree standing near our house, with no charge for it. I recently passed the location of our first home in the San Ramon valley and the tree is yet standing in a corner of a small field south of Danville owned by the Flournoy family, and if I had the price I would buy that location for the memoirs of long ago"

"When the Gringo first came"--Life History of Prof. J. D. Smith," The Livermore Herald 10 July 1925:7.

- The Morning Side of Mount Diablo by Anne Marshall Homan

Family owned one quarter of the Romero Grant, but in 1857 the courts ruled the Romero Grant invalid so most of their rancho property was lost. The Garcias had borrowed money with a loan in 1863 from financiers Simon Wolf and Michael Cohen, but had been unable to repay it. They owed \$508. The sheriff ordered a tax sale in 1866 of their remaining 140-acre property to the highest cash bidder.

- The Morning Side of Mount Diablo by Anne Marshall Homan

Los Medanos was patented for 8,890.26 acres. Lands of the grant ran from the river front to the Mt. Diablo range. The location, on part of which is the present city of Pittsburg, at the junction of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, fronted about two miles upon Suisun bay and about five miles on the San Joaquin river, extending back to the foothills for a distance of four miles. When the Americans began to arrive in 1848 Mesa and Garcia mortgaged and sold parts of their rancho and soon ended minus all.

-History of Contra Costa County by Mae Fisher Purcell

El Sobrante of the Romeros

In January, 1847, the Romeros, accompanied by Francisco and Jose Miguel

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Notes:

Garcia, appeared before the American Alcalde at San Jose and executed a paper whereby the Romeros sold to the Garcias one-half of the land, although ownership was still in question.

El Sobrante (Romeros), a disputed claim, was long occupied by the Romeros and the Garcias, who developed it and built adobe homes. It was not recognized as a grant by the commission.

Part of the Romero Sobrante lies at the western end of the pioneer Green Valley, now called Stone Valley. An adobe house in Stone Valley near Alamo was built by Jose Miguel Garcia about 1850 or earlier was purchased by Albert W. Stone. Several of his children were born in that adobe house which no longer exists. His daughter, Mrs. Flora M. Jones made a beautiful sketch from memory. An old Mission grapevine trailed over the entire front of the long veranda.

-History of Contra Costa County by Mae Fisher Purcell-Ranchos and their People

Mutnick:

Jose Miguel Garcia y Soto (1820 -) & Maria Rafaela Miranda y Sibrian (1823 -)

Jose Guadalupe Garcia (1839 -)

Maria Manuela Del Refugio Garcia (1841 -)

Francisco Javier Leonardo Garcia (1843 -)

Maria Dermetria Siprana Garcia (1845 -)

Maria De Jesus Ysidora Garcia (1848 -)

Pioneer Register and Index:

Militiaman at S.F. '37; at San Jose '41, age 21, wife Rafaela Miranda, child Guadalupe b. '39

G. (Jos? Miguel), militiaman at S.F. '37; at S. Jos? '41, age 21, wife Rafaela Miranda, child. Guadalupe b. '39

The Los Medanos Rancho, a tract of land of approximately ten thousand acres, was originally granted by the Mexican Government in 1835 (or 1839) to Jose Antonio Mesa and Jose Miquel Garcia. "Los Medanos," is derived from the sand hills that sweep down to the river adjoining the eastern boundary of the rancho; the word "Medanos" means sand-drift, or sandhill, or what is commonly known as a "sand spit."

The tract as a whole is a rich agricultural property, and during early years and up to the ownership of L. L. Robinson was devoted to grazing and stock-growing. Robinson during his lifetime divided the property into farming subdivisions containing from three hundred to six hundred acres and leased them to farmers, some of whom are still on the property, having found it both a pleasant and profitable place to live. There has grown up on the rancho, on its water-front, two considerable towns - Antioch, on its eastern boundary, and Pittsburg, about midway. With the rancho's central location at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers, and at a point where the traffic from the interior of the State and country passes to and from the cities around San Francisco Bay, very likely it will not be long until its acreage will pass from agriculture to an industrial manufacturing and distributing center and furnish homes for a large mercantile and industrial population.

-SOURCE: The History of Contra Costa County, California - published by The Elms Publishing Co., Inc., Berkeley, California, 1917

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Notes:

1847: Col. J. D. Stevenson buys the Los Medanos grant of 10,000 acres from Jose Antonio Mesa and Jose Miguel Garcia/

Book Title: History Of Contra Costa County, California - Slocum
The following is a list of land claims connected with Contra Costa county, presented to the Commission, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of Congress of March 3, 1851, entitled, "An Act to ascertain and settle the Private Land Claims in the State of California:" Jonathan D. Stevenson et al., claimants for Medanos, two square leagues, granted November 26, 1839, by Juan B. Alvarado to Jose Antonio Mesa et al.; claim filed February 24, 1853, confirmed by the Commission June 19, 1855, by the District Court October 16, 185C, and appeal dismissed April 2, 1857; containing 8,890.20 acres.

Pittsburg:

In the fall of 1849, Colonel J. D. Stevenson and Dr. W. C. Parker bought the 10,000 acre Rancho Los Medanos from its owners, Jose Antonio Mesa and Jose Miguel Garcia, for 500 pesos.

Alamo:

Two adobes, only a mile and a half apart, were the first structures of any kind in Alamo. Francisco Garcia built one and Miguel Garcia built the other in 1848. Jose Miguel's was on Austin Lane just North of Stone Valley Road, about a mile and a half east of the village.

-Contra Costa County History

Early Settlement. Would it were possible to banish grim death, preserve the ancient settler in his pristine vigor, and retain him with his memory unimpaired; were such things possible, then 'twould be an easy task to pen the recollections of the courageous men who were the harbingers of joy and comfort to what is now a fertile district and a contented people. The history of Township Number Five takes us back nearly half a century. In or about the year 1836, there settled upon the New York Rancho, not far from the place now called Barker's Pass, Jose Miguel and Antonio Mesa, who made application to the Mexican Government for a grant of the place to the extent of two leagues. The boon was granted under the name of Los Medanos. During the same year, application was made for a grant of the Canada de los Vaqueros Rancho by Mirando Higuera and Alviso, who settled upon it; and the Rancho Los Meganos, consisting of three square leagues of land, was granted to Jose Noriega. During the year following, 1837, Noriega sold the Rancho to Dr. John Marsh, who settled upon it in the same year, and occupied it until 1856.

History of CC CA

Until about 1847, and during the first ten years of his residence on his ranch, his only neighbors were those Spanish families who owned the lands, viz: the Mesas on the New York Rancho, Mirando Higuera on the Canada de los Vaqueros, Salvio Pacheco on the Monte del Diablo, and Ygnacio Sibrian on the San Miguel; all then considered to be adjoining Ranches, the haciendas or dwelling places upon each being from twelve to fifteen miles away from his. Of those living further away, from twenty to forty miles distant, were Jose Maria Amador at the San Ramon Rancho, Pacheco and Castro on the Rancho also called San Ramon, Ygnacio Martinez at Pinole, Moraga at the Redwoods, Valencia at the Acalanes, the family of Francisco Castro at San

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Notes:

Pablo, the vaqueros of William Welch on the Welch Rancho, and the widow of Felipe Briones, with her family, on the Briones Rancho.

About the year 1836 Jose' Miguel and Antonio Mesa, two brothers, settled near Kirker's Pass, on the New York Rancho, and were granted two leagues under the name of Los Medanos ; and at the same period Miranda Higuera and Alviso made application for and obtained three square leagues of land, known as the Canada de los Vaqueros. Jose Noriega also, at this e^< "h, had granted to him the Rancho Los Meganos, which, in 1837, he sold to Doctor John Marsh.

-The History of Contra Costa County

Author: Munro-Fraser, J. P

Publisher: San Francisco, W.A. Slocum & co.

RESOURCE/LOCATION:

Pittsburg historical district - Foot of Railroad Ave. at Waterfront

SIGNIFICANCE/IMPORTANCE:

The waterfront area at Railroad Avenue has been considered as a district to provide a record of the historical past associated with fishing, shipping, the railroads and the people who contributed to the development of Pittsburg.

A listing of the historical events associated with this area includes:

(1) Rancho Los Medanos - A Land Grant awarded by Governor Don Bautista

Alvarado in 1835 to Jose Mesa and Jose Garcia.

RESOURCE/LOCATION:

JOSE MIGUEL GARCIA ADOBE - Austin Lane, north of Stone Valley Road, Alamo

SIGNIFICANCE/IMPORTANCE:

Built in 1848, on land purchased in Romero Grant, this adobe later became the home of Albert W. Stone, an early pioneer farmer, Mr. Stone's property of 800 acres adjoined the town of Alamo.

- HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY (1989) prepared by the Contra Costa County Community Development Department

"Stone Valley" - Located about one-half mile from Alamo in an easterly direction - commanded an unobstructed view of Mount Diablo and the Las Trampas Ridge.

Albert and Martha Stone purchased the home from William Comstock who bought it in 1855 from Jose Miguel Garcia and wife Rafaela Miranda Garcia.

"On the lovely homesite, stood an adobe house, (built in 1848) which the Garcia family had occupied. The house consisted of five rooms, with porches front and back.

The spot on which the adobe stood was ideal for a home. There was ample level space for house and garden, from which the ground sloped gently down to the south, east and west, rising on the north, forming a partial protection from north winds. On the east, across their own little valley was the rolling foothills with Mt. Diablo in the background, while from the veranda, extending along the western front, one could glimpse a bit of San Ramon Valley and its western range of hills. On the west slope, not far from the house, towered a great oak tree. The oak still stands (1941) in all its majestic beauty."

Earthquake of 1868 destroyed concrete warehouses in Pacheco: It is

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Notes:

interesting to note that the old adobe stood the shockn well, with only a small crack or two.

Flora May Stone Jones note in Silas and Susanna Stone Family Bible: "On the site of the Stone Adobe a wooden house was built in 1834 by Mariano Castro (South of the creek); Sold to Peralta in 1843. In 1847 Peralto began to cultivate the land. In November, Francisco bought horses. In 1847 built house on the site of the Stone Adobe, house burned the same year. Builtadvobe in 1848. Lawsuit 1849 between Peralta and Garcia about ownership of the land where house was built, Garcia won suit, continued to live there. In 1848 Francisco Garcia built an adobe on the knoll at the present Humburg site. It was bought by John M. Jones in 1851 for \$4000. (Present site of Alamo Safeway Store.) The Jones Ranch still bears its ancient name, The Rancho-Romero.

In 1848 the Garcia brothers, having purchased a tract of land in what was known as the Romero Grant, each built for himeslf a comfortable adobe house. The Jose Miguel Garcia adobe was located on what a few years later became the Albert W. Stone ranch in Stone Valley, Alamo.

-"Remembering Alamo and Other Things Along the Way" Virgie V. Jones