

## Individual Report for Pedro Antonio Amador

**Individual Summary:** Pedro Antonio Amador

Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio



### Individual Facts:

Birth: 1739 in Cocula near Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Milit-Beg: 1769 in Overland Expedition, Velicata to San Diego

Expedition: 1769 in leather jacket - "solidados de cuera"

Residence: 1778 in Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico; Residence: resided in Loreto for a while

Promotion: 1787 in Sergeant

Census: 1790 in San Francisco, sgt, age 51 <1739>, with wife Ramona Noriega and 7 children

Founder: 09 Jun 1797 in Mission San Jose

Military Service: 31 Dec 1798 ; SF Presidio - listed as Sergeant

Burial: 11 Apr 1824 in Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California

Death: 08 May 1825 in San Jose

Christening: Cocula (Jalisco)

Description: Spaniard

### Shared Facts: Maria Ramona Rosalia Noriega

Marriage: 1777

Children: Juan Pablo Amador  
Maria Antonia Amador  
Jose Fructuoso Amador  
Maria Carmen Amador  
Jose Onicifero Amador  
Maria Sinforosa Josefa Amador  
Maria Ygnacia Apolinaria Amador  
Marcos Antonio Amador  
Rosa Maria Amador  
Lazaro Gracia Amador  
Jose Maria Amador

### Shared Facts: Maria de la Luz Ruiz

Marriage: Abt. 1765 in Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico

Children: Maria Ygnacia Amador  
Jose Jacinto Amador  
Maria de la Luz Amador

### Shared Facts: Maria Teresa Pinto

Marriage: 12 Apr 1804 in Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California

Children: Maria Luisa Amador

### Notes:

Person Notes: Calidad: Español  
Born: c.1737 At: Cocula [Jalisco]  
Died: 1824 At: Santa Clara  
Parents: José Amador and María Josefa Carpio  
Wife: (I) María de la Luz Ruiz; (II) María Ramona Noriega  
Children: (I) José Jacinto, María de la Luz, María Ignacia; (II) Juan Pablo, Carmen; (II) Juan Pablo, María Antonia, Fructuoso, María del Carmen

Enlisted at Loreto, 1764 [Service record: TBL, C-A 16: 19].

With Portolá in second party to San Diego, and on to San Francisco under

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Portolá and Rivera [AGNM, Indiferente de Guerra, Legajo 3, 161 B].  
With Rivera on his return to Velicatá, 11 February 1770, but did not return with him to San Diego in July 1770 [AGNM, Indiferente de Guerra, Legajo 3, 161 B].

Acting sergeant in Escolta de la Frontera at Velicatá, 1773. Obtained permit to resign and return to home in Cocula, 1774. After eight months absence, returned to Loreto simply as soldier [Bancroft, History of California, vol. II, p. 584].

At Misión Santo Domingo, 1780.

In Sonora with Rivera conducting settlers to Alta California (missed Yuma massacre), 1781 [AHBCS, Político, 49].

Returned to Loreto, 1782, assigned to Escolta de la Frontera late 1782 and 1783, [AHBCS, Político, exp. 71].

Transferred 25 January 1784 to Presidio of Santa Bárbara [AHBCS, Político, 102];

Promoted to sergeant in 1787 [AGS, Secretaría de Guerra, Hojas de Servicio, leg. 7275, VII, 82; Bancroft, History of California, vol. I, p. 472].

Leader of the five to eight soldiers guarding new Misión de Santa Cruz, 1795-1797 [Bancroft, op. cit., p. 495].

Listed as retired 31 December 1801, 4 December 1815 [TBL, C-A 21: 76-77, 81].

-"Men of the 1769 Overland Expeditions, Velicatá to San Diego" Harry Crosby

1790 San Francisco Census:

Pedro Amador, sergeant, español, from Cocula [Jalisco], 51; wife Ramona Noriega, española, [from Loreto] 30; seven children: [Juan Pablo] 12; [José Fructuoso] 10; [María Antonia] 14; [María del Carmen] 7; [José Sinforoso] 4; [María Sinforosa] 2; [María Ignacia] three months {born 23 July 1790}.

First Corporal Pedro Amaral, soldado de cuera, present at the founding of the Santa Barbara Presidio.

Sergeant Pedro Amador was one of the prominent settlers of California. He was an adventurer and a soldier in the Spanish army, coming to California in 1771 and after serving in San Diego and Santa Barbara was transferred to San Francisco, and died in San Jose April 10, 1824, at the age of 82 years.

-Counties in California

-California, Its History and Romance By John Steven McGroarty

Amador, Pedro, Mexican sergeant of the first expedition in 1769, who died in 1824. See bio. sketch in ii. 384-385; also mention in i. 141, 472, 477, 495, 510-511, 548, 551, 555-556, 566, 574, 680, 693, 710; ii. 126.

-Pioneer Register and Index.

Founding of San Jose Mission June 11, 1797:

Soldiers in service: Sergeant Pedro Amador, Corporal Alejo Miranda, Juan Francisco Flores, Francisco Soto, Bartolomeo Pacheco, Luis Peralta, and Crisanto Peralta.

Dressed in smartest uniforms....raised the cross, hoisted the Spanish flag, and fired six rifle volleys.

Borica sought to avoid an open rupture with the troublesome savages, who

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occupied the territory now known as Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Even when, in 1795, they murdered seven San Franciscan Indians, the governor allowed them to go unpunished. This was unfortunate, because they attributed the inaction of Borica to fear. They grew more aggravating after the affair with Raimundo in June, 1797. Sergeant Amador finally recommended an expedition to punish them and to collect the runaways, so that the Sacalanes might learn from experience that the Spaniards were not afraid. Borica then ordered Amador with twenty soldiers to capture the head men and the deserters, but to avoid bloodshed, if possible.

The expedition set out from Mission San Jose on July 10, 1797, and on July 15 the troops reached the neighborhood of the hostile camp. The Sacalanes would listen to nothing. They had dug pits so that the Spaniards were compelled to dismount and to attack the enemy with sword and lance afoot. In the fight two soldiers were wounded and seven savages were killed. The Cuchillones were next attacked, but retreated after two of their number had been killed. On July 18 Amador returned to Mission San Jose with eighty-three captured Christians and nine gentiles, including five Sacalanes implicated in the massacre of 1795, and three Cuchillones who had attacked Raimundo in the previous month. Seventy-nine of the deserters were returned to San Francisco Mission, but never punished. The captured savages were set to work at the presidio.

-The Missions and Missionaries of California - SAN FRANCISCO OR MISSION DOLORES BY Fr. ZEPHYRIN ENGELHARDT, O. F. M

After some 47 years in the king's service, Amador retired around 1800 as a brevet alferaz [ensign] with a 200 pesos a year pension. During the last decade or so of his life, he failed to receive this money, which proved a hardship as he was nearly blind. He died at the pueblo of San Jose on May 8, 1825, according to his son at the ripe old age of 99 years and one month. "Memorias, Sobre la Historia de California" Jose Maria Amador (1877) Bancroft Library

Amador County Created May 11, 1854. The meaning of this word in Spanish is "lover of inanimate objects." This county most probably derived its name from either Sergeant Pedro Amador or from Jose Maria Amador, his son. Sergeant Pedro Amador was one of the prominent settlers of California. He was an adventurer and a soldier in the Spanish army, coming to California in 1771 and after serving in San Diego and Santa Barbara was transferred to San Francisco, and died in San Jose April 10, 1824, at the age of 82 years. His son, Jose Maria, was born in San Francisco, on December 18, 1794, and was also a soldier and a renowned Indian fighter. He obtained a large grant from the Mexican government, and after the discovery of gold forsook pastoral pursuits and went to the Southern mines, where he greatly increased his fortune. He was living as late as 1883.

California - Counties In California -

<http://www.oldandsold.com/articles17/california-50.shtml>

As the grizzled Sergeant Pedro Amador wryly commented in his service

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record, the only compensation he had received for eighteen year's service in California was fourteen Indian arrows in his body.

Social derivations can be established from the biographies in Hubert Howe Bancroft, Register of Pioneer Inhabitants of California, 1542-1848 (Los Angeles, 1964). I have based much of my information about the soldiery on their service records, located in the Archivo General de las Indias in Seville, Seccion Audiencia de Lima, Legajo 1503 (hereafter AGI: AL 1503).

-Colonial Life in Spanish California During the North American Revolution By Leon G. Campbell

Unfortunately, the picture of the presidial soldiery which most often emerges is that usually given by the mission fathers with whom they were constantly at odds. While wrongdoing and mistreatment of the Indians were not exceptional among the presidials, other data give a more accurate picture of the California military during this period. Most of them were of low birth, born of presidial families along the northern Mexican frontier. For lack of alternatives they entered the presidial companies, being too poor to secure commissions or cadetships. Most had served as soldados de cuera, or leather jacket soldiers in Northern Mexico, so-named for the several thicknesses of deerskin which they wore to protect themselves against Indian arrows. Theirs was dangerous and unrewarding work, especially in areas like California where promotions were likely to be slow and commissions difficult to obtain. As the grizzled Sergeant Pedro Amador wryly commented in his service record, the only compensation he had received for eighteen year's service in California was fourteen Indian arrows in his body.

- "Colonial Life in Spanish California During the North American Revolution"  
- Leon G. Campbell.

Sergeant Pedro Amador, brevetted alferes in retirement, who died at San Jose April 10, 1824. Amador was a native of Cocula, in what is now Jalisco, and was not a Spaniard as has sometimes been stated. He enlisted in April 1764 (or in August 1765 more likely) and rose to be a sergeant in the Loreto company. Certificate of Lieut. Sal, 1791, in Prov.St.Pap., MS., 9; He was in the first expedition to Alta California in 1769, receiving on May 27, 1771, a certificate of faithful and cheerful service from Capt. River y Moncada.

His name appears as that of a sergeant of the garrison at San Diego in 1771, S. Diego, Lib. Mision, MS., 9; but he returned to Loreto, where in December 1773, having to visit his wife at Cocula under circumstances not very clearly explained, but reflecting no discredit on him, he was dismissed from the service, receiving from Gov. Barri a certificate of good conduct with a pass to travel where he pleased, but forfeiting his rank of sergeant and his eight years of service.

In October of the same year he is mentioned as having been in command on the frontier, Palou, Noticias, i. 180, 183. In 1774 after eight months' absence he returned, probably with his wife, and re-enlisted as a private in the Loreto company. Ten years later, in 1784, he returned to California by changing places with a soldier of the Santa Barbara company, in which he was soon made a corporal.

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In 1787 he was transferred to San Francisco as a sergeant, and in 1791 he petitioned successfully that the eight years and four months of his first term of service be added to his record.

At various times between 1791 and 1800 Sergeant Amador was proposed in second or third place for promotion, and one is said to have been offered the place of alferes at Loreto. In all reports he was accredited with courage, application, good conduct, and average capacity. The nature of his military services during this period is indicated by the titles of documents from his pen in my list of original authorities.

He failed to get his promotion in active service, but in 1802 we find him on the list of invalidos as brevet alferes with \$200 a year. For the last 10 or 12 years of his life he was nearly blind, failed to get his pension, and was supported in San Jose by his son. He died April 10, 1824, at the age of 82 years, and was buried by P. Viader next day in the cemetery at Santa Clara.

The old sergeant was one of the most worthy of California's earliest settlers, and it is well that one of her counties bears his name, or rather that of his son. Amador was twice married, first to Maria de la Luz, by whom he had a son and a daughter, the former of whom once in later years came to Monterey as a courier; and next to a widow Maria Ramona Noriega, a woman of some attainments for her circumstances; who could teach her children - of who four were born in Lower California, and seven in California - to read and write. She died in 1801. None of the descendants acquired any special prominence, and but little is known beyond their names.  
-Bancroft

[Re son Jose Maria:] I know nothing of the reasons why his name was given to Amador county beyond Hittell's statement, Resource\* of Cal., 425. that in 1848 he went with a number of Indians to mine in that region. It is more agreeable, if less exact, to be reminded of his father by the name.  
- "History of the Pacific States of North America" By Hubert Howe Bancroft

As it was, the best citizens found themselves under the necessity of using the skins of wild beasts in lieu of cloth. In 1816 Sergeant Pedro [p.350] Amador said: "I came to wear trousers made of deerskin, which, well made and trimmed with silver braid down the side, were worth \$12.00". The same faithful soldier asserted that for eighteen years' service he received nothing, aside from his rations, from either the Spanish or the Mexican government. As he expressed it, "the only pay that I received were the holes made by arrows which I have in my body."

The name of Alameda was probably first used by Sergeant Pedro Amador in 1795 in reference to a grove of alamos (cottonwoods) on the creek.  
- California and Californians, Vol. 1 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 1998. Original data: Hunt, Rockwell D., ed. California and Californians. Vol. I. Chicago, IL, USA: Lewis Publishing, 1932.

In 1797 a party of thirty soldiers crossed the bay from San Francisco in rafts and had a fight with the Cuchillones, who were kindred or allies of the Sacalanes. The latter became exasperated and threatened San Jose. Sgt. Pedro Amador, who went some time after to ascertain the cause of this disturbance, found the Sacakabes disposed to annihilate the neophytes, and

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even the soldiers if they interfered. He was accordingly directed to surrender deserters and dug pits so that the horses could not enter. The soldiers dismounted and attacked them with sword and lance. In this fight, which occurred on the 15th of July, two soldiers were wounded, and seven hostiles killed. The Cuchillones, being also attacked, fled. Amador returned to San Jose with a considerable number of deserters and several gentiles. Some of the captives were sentenced to receive from twenty-five to seventy-five lashes, and to hard labor with shackles on for a couple of months in the presidio.

The Scalanes continued their hostile attitude for a long time, and the presidio had often to deal with condign punishment. In 1880 the sergeant with some armed men attacked them, slaying a chief and destroying all their bows and arrows, besides capturing a number of runaway neophytes. (Amador's report on the affair of 1800 is in Provincial Records, MS., VI, and also in Prov. State Pap., MS., XVI and XVII).

- History of Alameda County - Frank Clinton Merrit

In its early day the whole military force in Upper California did not number more than from two hundred to three hundred men, divided between the four presidios of San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and San Francisco, while there were but two towns or pueblos, Los Angeles and San Jose, the latter of which was established, November 29, 1777. Another was subsequently started in the neighborhood of Santa Cruz, which was named Branciforte, after a Spanish viceroy. It may be conjectured that the garrisons were not maintained in a very effective condition. Such a supposition would follow the disuse of arms and the long absence of an enemy. The cannon of the presidio at San Francisco were gray with mold, and women and children were to be seen snugly located within the military lines. The soldiers of the San Francisco district were divided into three cantonments -one at the presidio, one at Santa Clara mission and one at Mission San Jose.

Following is a list of the soldiers connected with the presidio in the year 1790, which has been copied from the Spanish archives in San Francisco. . Following is a list of the soldiers connected with the presidio in the year 1790, which has been copied from the Spanish archives in San Francisco. Here will be found the names, position, nativity, color, race, age, etc., of the soldiers, as well as those of their wives, when married :

Don Josef Arguello, Commandante, age 39; Don Ramon Laro de la Neda, Alferes de Campo, age 34; Pedro Amador, Sergeant. Spaniard from Guadalajara, age 51, wife, Ramona Noriega, Spanish, age 30, seven children; Nicolas Galindo, mestizo, Durango, 42; Majio Chavoya, City of Mexico, 34, wife, a Bernal; Miguel Pacheco, 30, wife, a Sanchez; Luis Maria Peralta, Spaniard, Sonora, 32, wife, Maria Loretta Alviso, 19; Justa Altamarino, mulatto, Sonora, 45; Ygnacio Limaxes, Sonora, 49, wife, Maria Gertruda Rivas, Spaniard, 38; Ygnacio Soto, 41, wife, Barbara Espinoza; Juan Bernal, mestizo, Sonora, 53, wife; Maxima I. de Soto ; Jph. Maria Martinez, Sonora, 35, wife, Maria Garcia, mulatto, 18; Salvador Iguera, L. C., 38, wife, Alexa Marinda, Sonora, 38; Nicolas Berryessa, mestizo, 25, wife, Maria Gertrudis Peralta, 24; Pedro Peralta, Sonora, 26, wife, Maria Carmen Grisalva, 19; Ygnacio Pacheco, Sonora, 30, wife, Maria Dolores Cantua, mestizo, age 16; Francisco Bernal, Sinaloa, 27, wife, Maria Petrona, Indian, 29; Bartolo Pacheco, Sonora, 25, wife, Maria Francisco Soto, 18; Apolinario Bernal, Sonora, 25 ; Joaquin Bernal, Sonora, 28, wife, Josefa Sanchez, 21; Josef Aceva, Durango, 26; Manuel Boranda, Guadalajara, 40, wife, Gertrudis Higuera, 13; Francisco Valencia, Sonora,

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22, wife, Maria Victoria Higuera, 15; Josef Antonio Sanchez, Guadalajara, 39, wife, Maria Dolora Moxales, 34; Josef Ortez, Guadalajara, 23 ; Josef Aguil, Guadalajara, 22, wife, Concellaria Remixa, 14; Alexandro Avisto, Durango, 23; Juan Josef Higuera, Sonora, 20; Francisco Flores, Guadalajara, 20; Josef Maria Castilla, Guadalajara, 19; Ygnacio Higuera, Sonora, wife, Maria Micaelo Borjorques, 28; Ramon Linare, Sonora, 19; Josef Miguel, Saens, Sonora, 18; Carto Serviente, San Diego, Indian, 60; Augustin Xirviento, L. C., 20; Nicolas Presidairo, Indian, 40; Gabriel Peralta, invalid, Sonora; Manuel Vutron, Indian; Ramon Borjorques, invalid, 98; Francisco Romero, invalid, 52.

A recapitulation shows that the inmates of the presidio consisted altogether of 144 persons, including men, women and children, soldiers and civilians. There were thirty-eight soldiers and three laborers; of these one was a European other than Spanish, seventy-eight Spaniards, five Indians, two mulattoes, and forty-four of other castes. An inventory of the rich men of the presidio, bearing date 1793, was discovered some years since, showing that Pedro Amador was the proprietor of thirteen head of stock and fifty-two sheep; Nicolas Galindo, ten head of stock; Luis Peralta, two head of stock; Manuel Boranda, three head of stock; Juan Bernal, twenty-three head of stock and 246 sheep; Salvador Youere, three head of stock; Aleso Miranda, fifteen head of stock; Pedro Peralta, two head of stock; Francisco Bernal, sixteen head of stock; Bartol Pacheco, seven head of stock; Joaquin Bernal, eight head of stock; Francisco Valencia, two head of stock; Berancia Galindo, six head of stock; Hermenes Sal (who appears to have been a secretary, or something besides a soldier), five head of stock and three mares. The total amount of stock owned by these men was 115 cattle, 298 sheep and seventeen mares-the parent stem apparently from which sprang the hundreds of thousands of head of stock which afterwards roamed over the Californian mountains and valleys.

The native Californians were for the most part a half-caste race between the white Castilian and the native Indian, very few of the natives retaining the pure blood of the old Castile; they were consequently of all shades of color and development-the women especially a handsome and comely people. Their wants were few and easily supplied; they were contented and happy; the women were virtuous and great devotees to their church and religion, while the men in their normal condition, were kind and hospitable, but when excited they became rash, fearless and cruel, with no dread for either knife or pistol. Their generosity was great, everything they had being at the disposal of a friend or even a stranger, while socially they loved pleasure, spending most of their time in music and dancing; indeed such was their passion for the latter that their horses were trained to cavort in time to the tones of the guitar. When not sleeping, eating or dancing the men passed most of their time in the saddle and naturally were very expert equestrians. Horse-racing was with them a daily occurrence, not for the gain which it might bring, but for the amusement to be derived there from; and to throw a dollar upon the ground, ride at full gallop and pick it up, was a feat that almost any of them could perform. Horses and cattle gave them their chief occupation. They could use the riata or lasso with the utmost dexterity; whenever thrown at a bullock, horseman or bear it rarely missed its mark. The riata in the hand of a Californian was a more dangerous weapon than gun or pistol, while, to catch a wild cow with it, throw her and tie her without dismounting was most common and to go through the same performance with a bear was not considered extraordinary. Their only articles of export were hides and tallow, the value of the former being about one dollar and a

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half in cash, or two in goods, and the latter three cents per pound in barter. Young heifers of two years old, for breeding purposes were worth three dollars; a fat steer, delivered to the purchaser, brought fifty cents more, while it was considered neither trespass nor larceny to kill a beeve, use the flesh and hang the hide and tallow on a tree, secure from the coyotes where it could be found by the owner.

-Alameda County History

Past and Present of Alameda County, California - S. J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1914

AMADOR COUNTY - Amador (literally "lover"), but in this case a surname. Amador is the long, narrow county lying between Calaveras and El Dorado, and was probably named in honor of the Amador family, either Don Pedro Amador, or his son, Jose Maria. Pedro Amador is said to have been a "soldier of fortune" in the Spanish army, who came to California in 1771. His son, Jose Maria, was also a soldier and a renowned Indian fighter, and was known to be living as late as 1883.

-Spanish and Indian place names of California: their meaning and their romance By Nellie Van de Grift Sanchez

Amador County-Created May 11, 1854. The meaning of this word in Spanish is "lover of inanimate objects." This county most probably derived its name from either Sergeant Pedro Amador or from Jose' Maria Amador, his son. Sergeant Pedro Amador was one of the prominent settlers of California. He was an adventurer and a soldier in the Spanish army, coming to California in 1771 and after serving in San Diego and Santa Barbara was transferred to San Francisco, and died in San Jos6 April 10, 1824, at the age of 82 years. His son, Jos6 Maria, was born in San Francisco, on December 18, 1794, and was also a soldier and a renowned Indian fighter. He obtained a large grant from the Mexican government, and after the discovery of gold forsook pastoral pursuits and went to the Southern mines, where he greatly increased his fortune. He was living as late as 1883.

-California: its history and romance By John Steven McGroarty

The Spaniards knew little or nothing, in 1794, of the eastern shores of San Francisco bay. They had not, in all probability, been visited since Anza's time. The padres of Santa Clara wanted to go up the eastern bayshore, but were refused a guard for that reason, the undertaking being also considered too venturesome. Sergeant Pedro Amador, one of the first party who came with Governor Portola in 1769, and now the sergeant of the San Francisco company, visited the southern part of the region during the first half of the year, and spoke in his report of the Alameda, the name which the county now bears.5 Alteres Sal and Father Danti, on the 17th of November, 1795, explored the San Benito country, finding a good mission site on the river of the same name. The two were afterward joined by Alferez Raimundo Carrillo at Santa Clara, and together proceeded to re-explore the Alameda region. They came to a place in sight of San Francisco mission and Yerba Buena island, probably quite close to the present Oakland; then went back, discovered some salt marshes, and after erecting a cross on a spot a little to the south of the Alameda, which they named San Francisco Solano, returned to Santa Clara.

Father Lasnen and Sergeant Amador, with troops, repaired, in June, 1797, to the Alameda to found the mission of San Jose". The site selected bore

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the Indian name of Oroysom, where, on the 11th of said month, under an enramada, the usual religious rites were performed, and one pound of gunpowder was burnt in honor of the occasion, which being done the whole party went to Santa Clara. The erection of buildings was begun five days later, and on the 28th the work was so far advanced that the mission-guard was left there to complete them. That same day Father Isidore Barcenilla and Agustin Merino took charge of the establishment.<sup>11</sup> For some time there were apprehensions of Indian hostilities, and rumors of this character prevailed to the end of the century.

The region of San Francisco was occupied by a hostile population, Gentiles and Christians alike giving constant trouble. The 'latter, in conjunction with the Gentiles dwelling in the territory now comprised in the counties of Alameda and Contra Costa, repeatedly threatened Mission San Jose<sup>1</sup>. However, there was no really serious disturbance till March, 1795, when the Sacalanes put to death some neophytes of a party who had been sent among them to bring in fugitives. That overt act was left unchastised, prudence dictating forbearance toward such a warlike tribe. In September of the same year upwards of 200 neophytes deserted from the San Francisco mission, which occurrence was attributed to ill-treatment by the padres. The latter were accordingly remonstrated with by the government, who insisted on the mission Indians receiving better treatment and better food.' The government ordered that no parties of Gentiles should be sent to the Gentile rancherias. But in 1797 it seems that a party of thirty started, whether of their own accord or sent by their ministers, crossed the bay in rafts and had a fight with the Cuclillones, who were kindred or allies of the Sacalanes. The latter became exasperated and threatened San Jose. Sergeant Pedro Amador, who went some time after to ascertain the cause of this disturbance, found the Sacalanes disposed to annihilate the neophytes, and even the soldiers if they interfered. He was accordingly directed to take twenty-five men and fall upon their rancheria. The tribe refused to surrender deserters, and having dug pits so that the horses could not enter, the soldiers dismounted and attacked them with sword and lance. In this fight, which' occurred on the 15th of July, two soldiers were wounded, and seven hostiles killed. The Cuchillones, being also attacked, fled, leaving one of their village dead. Amador returned to San Jose with a considerable number of deserters and several Gentiles. Some of the captives were sentenced to receive from twenty-five to seventy-five lashes, and to hard labor with shackles on for a couple of months in the presidio. The runaway neophytes at the investigation made it appear that they had been forced by hunger, and harsh treatment at the hands of the missionaries, to desert. This allegation was declared to be positively untrue, by the then president. Father Lasuen, who claimed that the real cause of the natives' flight had been an epidemic which had broken out among them.

<sup>10</sup> The Sacalanes continued their hostile attitude for a long time, and the presidio had often to deal condign punishment. In 1800 the sergeant with some armed men attacked them, slaying a chief and destroying all their bows and arrows, besides capturing a number of runaway neophytes. Amador's report on the affair of 1800 is in Provincial Reeordi, MS., VI, and also in Prot. State Pap., MS., XVI and XVII.

-The Bay of San Francisco: the metropolis of the Pacific Coast and ..., Volume 1 By Lewis Publishing Company

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Español: Hoja de Servicios de Pedro Amador (ca.1739-1824), soldado en la Antigua y la Nueva California

Date 2 March 2009

Source Image of copy of document in The Bancroft Library

The Spaniards knew little or nothing, in 1794, of the eastern shores of San Francisco bay. They had not, in all probability, been visited since Anza's time. The padres of Santa Clara wanted to go up the eastern bayshore, but were refused a guard for that reason, the undertaking being also considered too venturesome. Sergeant Pedro Amador, one of the first party who came with Governor Portola in 1769, and now the sergeant of the San Francisco company, visited the southern part of the region during the first half of the year, and spoke in his report of the Alameda, the name which the county now bears.

Father Lasnen and Sergeant Amador, with troops, repaired, in June, 1797, to the Alameda to found the mission of San Jose". The site selected bore the Indian name of Oroysom, where, on the 11th of said month, under an enramada, the usual religious rites were performed, and one pound of gunpowder was burnt in honor of the occasion, which being done the whole party went to Santa Clara. The erection of buildings was begun five days later, and on the 28th the work was so far advanced that the mission-guard was left there to complete them. That same day Father Isidore Barcenilla and Agustin Merino took charge of the establishment.<sup>11</sup> For some time there were apprehensions of Indian hostilities, and rumors of this character prevailed to the end of the century.

-The BAY Of SAN FRANCISCO. The Metropolis of the Pacific Coast and its Suburban Cities. A History. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1892

By 1796, El Camino Real had become a well-traveled highway, which linked the northern extremity at San Francisco with the southern-most mission at San Diego. The road, however, stretched great lengths through areas occupied by hostile Indians whose presence made it necessary to furnish military protection for all but the boldest of travelers. The Franciscans long held the hope of establishing a mission at the end of each day's travel along the road and, with the arrival of the new Governor Borica from Mexico, Fr. Lasuén deemed the time ripe for the advancement of a new mission. Accordingly, he conferred with the governor and the two agreed that five additional missions were needed.

In August, 1796, Borica forwarded a joint request to Viceroy Branciforte in which it was stated that the project would require no more soldiers than California had at the time. Further, a saving of some \$15,000 annually could be realized, because military protection against the Indians would not be needed once they were "reduced" by the Franciscan fathers. The viceroy saw no reason to restrain the planners and gave his permission for them to proceed.

On June 11, 1797, Fr. Lasuén, accompanied by Sgt. Pedro Amador and five soldiers, dedicated Mission San José at a spot 15 miles to the north of the pueblo which bore the same name and which had been founded by Lieut. Moraga almost 20 years before. The Mission was sufficiently removed from the pueblo to relieve the attendant friars of the anxiety which afflicted those fathers whose missions were close by other colonial settlements.

The missionaries who labored in Mission San José were destined to have

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio



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**Notes:**

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problems of another sort. The Indian tribes of the area were either indifferent or openly hostile and by the end of the first year, only 33 neophytes had been gathered into the compound. These were, for the most part, too young to do the badly needed construction work. By 1800, there were 286 Indians at the mission. After this date, the situation improved until 1831, when the Indian population reached 1,877. Thereafter, it dropped rapidly until only 580 remained in 1840.

Located to the east and south of San Francisco Bay, Mission San José stood astride the approach to the San Joaquin Valley where many of the hostile Indian tribes lived. Since it functioned as a sort of a halfway point, it became headquarters for the Indian fighters. Forays against the natives were frequent, the first occurring shortly after the mission was established. The fathers had been aware for some time that a hostile Indian tribe was harboring a great number of runaway neophytes from the mission at San Francisco. Sergeant Amador lead an expedition against the tribe and, after a short battle, returned with over 80 of the runaways and nine additional "pagans" who had been captured in the fight. In 1805, a party of whites was attacked by another group of the hostile natives and four of the party killed. The attack evoked a savage reprisal from the Spanish, who killed 11 Indians and captured 30 more.

-<http://www.californiamissions.com/morehistory/sanjose.html>

Amador, a native of Nueva Galicia (today's Coahuila), came to California with Rivera y Moncada in 1769. He did not remain in the region, however, returning after the original expedition to Baja California and then to Mexico. During this period his first wife, Maria de la Luz died, and Amador remarried. His second wife [Maria Noriega] and their three children left Loreto, where he had been a sergeant, and made their way to San Francisco for a new assignment. The arduous journey north took 2 1/2 or 3 months. Amador's spouse supposedly put her babies in a saddlebag on the back of a mule, two to one side and the third in the other, using a stone in the latter to balance out the load.

Historic Resource Study - El Presidio de San Francisco

A History under Spain and Mexico, 1776-1846 - John Phillip Langelier & Daniel Bernard Rosen

By 1795, a lieutenant, José Argüello, who served on detached duty at Monterey, an alférez (who doubled as commander) and habilitado, one sergeant, four corporals, and 31 soldiers formed the strength of the San Francisco presidial district.

Indeed, early in 1795, the Presidio's immediate complement amounted to only two corporals and six privates, all of the latter being sick, detailed elsewhere, or assigned to semi permanent sentry duty for minor breaches of discipline.

When anyone became ill or injured no replacements existed. A man who had applied for retirement could not be released either, as no one could be found to take his place.

Report of Pedro Amador, San Francisco, January 1, 1795, Archives of California, Provincial State Papers, VII, 361 and Hermenegildo Sal to Diego de Borica, San Francisco, January 1, 1795, *ibid.*, 375-376.

"Historic Resource Study-El Presidio de San Francisco-A History under Spain and Mexico, 1776-1846" John Phillip Langelier & Daniel Bernard Rosen

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio

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**Notes:**

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On November 14, 1792, Sal used his lone cannon for a two-gun salute to the long-awaited H. M. S. Discovery and her captain, George Vancouver.<sup>123</sup> The ship anchored for the night in Yerba Buena Cove. The next morning, Vancouver went ashore escorted by Sergeant Amador and one of the priests from Mission San Francisco. They offered the Englishman anything he needed in the way of supplies, and provided an ox, a sheep, and some vegetables to the crew who probably welcomed the fresh foodstuffs. They also requested the relocation of Discovery to the regular anchorage within sight of the Presidio.

After taking on wood and water, Vancouver complied, although he could have resisted had he wished.

From this new position, Vancouver came ashore once more. On November 17, he visited the post, later setting down a vivid picture of what he saw: We soon arrived at the Presidio, which was not more than a mile from our landing place. Its wall, which fronted the harbor, was visible from the ships; but instead of the city or town, whose lights we had so anxiously looked for on the night of arrival, surrounded by hills on every side, excepting that which fronted the port. The only object of human industry which presented itself, was a square area, whose sides were about two hundred yards in length, enclosed by a mud wall, and resembling a pound for cattle. Above this wall, the thatched roofs of their low small houses, just made their appearance. On entering the Presidio we found one of its sides still unenclosed by the wall, and very indifferently fenced in by a few bushes here and there, fastened to stakes in the ground. The unfinished state of this part, afforded us an opportunity of seeing the strength of the wall, and the manner in which it was constructed. It is

about fourteen feet high, and five feet in breadth, and was first formed by uprights and

horizontal rafters or large timber, between which dried sods and moistened earth were pressed as close and as hard as possible; after which the whole was cased with earth made into a sort of mud plaster, which gave it the appearance of durability, and of being sufficiently strong to protect them, with the assistance of their firearms, against all the force which the natives of the country might be able to collect.

Despite efforts to either replace or repair the fourth wall, presumably the east section which may have been in need of work due to the elements or poor original construction, Vancouver's trained eye could not help but notice the bastion's vulnerability to a European assault. He observed that the symbolic defense work would topple easily under sustained artillery fire.

Since he also learned that the garrison boasted only 35 soldiers, their families, and a few Indian servants, he no doubt realized that the contingent could not repel a superior force since only a brass three-pounder on a rotten carriage protected the main post and another gun supposedly lashed to a log for want of a carriage overlooked the southeast entrance to the harbor.

Inside, Vancouver described the interior of the post: Their [the soldiers'] houses were along the wall, within the square, and their fronts uniformly extended the same distance into the area, which is a clear open space, without buildings or other interruptions. The only entrance into it, is by a large gateway; facing which, and against the centre of the opposite wall or side, is the church; which, though small, was neat in comparison to the rest of the buildings. This projects further into the square than the houses, and is distinguishable from the other edifices, by being white-washed with

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio



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**Notes:**

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lime made from seashells; lime-stone or calcareous earth not having yet been discovered in the neighbourhood. On the left of the church, is the commandant's house, consisting, I believe, of two rooms and a closet only, which are divided by massy walls, similar to that which encloses the square and communicating with each other by very small doors. Between these apartments and the outward wall was an excellent poultry house and yard, which seemed pretty well stocked; and between the roof and the ceilings of the room was a kind of lumber garret: those were all the conveniences the habitation seemed calculated to afford. The rest of the houses, though smaller, were fashioned exactly after the same manner; and in the winter, or rainy seasons, must be at

the best very uncomfortable dwellings. For though the walls are a sufficient security against the inclemency of the weather, yet the windows, which are cut in the front wall, and look into the square, are destitute of glass, or any other defense that does not at the same time exclude the light.

By 1795, a lieutenant, José Argüello, who served on detached duty at Monterey, an alférez (who doubled as commander) and habilitado, one sergeant, four corporals, and 31 soldiers formed the strength of the San Francisco presidial district. With these figures, little wonder that in September 1795, 280 neophyte men and women felt confident enough to run off from Mission Dolores. Their numbers included several who had lived at the place for a long time. Troops could do little to respond, and lacking a sufficient force to pursue these runaways, recapture proved all but impossible.

In 1795, Indians living at Mission Santa Clara also tried to escape, but the escolta, having been increased slightly during the previous year, managed to organize an expedition to go after the deserters. Sergeant Amador headed off with a corporal and seven lancers. After three days of rounding up their men and a horse thief they managed to pick up, the "posse" returned. The captives faced whippings and a month of labor at the Presidio, probably wearing shackles for the duration of their punishment. The ensign was José Pérez Fernández; Pedro Amador, a 53-year-old veteran of 30 years, served as sergeant. Miguel Pacheco, Luis Peralta, Manuel Boronda, and Alejo Miranda performed as corporals over privates José Aceves, Pablo Aceves, Ignacio Alviso, Juan Alviso, Apolinario Bernal, Francisco Bernal, Joaquín Bernal, Juan Bernal,

Francisco Bojórques, José Castillo, Francisco Flores, Isidro Flores, José Rafael Galindo, Venancio Galindo, Juan García, Ignacio Higuera, José Higuera, Juan José Higuera, Salvador Higuera, Ramón Linares, Joaquín Mesa, Bartolo Pacheco,

Pedro Peralta, José Rosales, José Sánchez, I, José Sánchez, II, Francisco Soto, Francisco Valencia, and José Vizcarra. In addition, retired alférez Ramón Lasso, and inválidos Gabriel Peralta (corporal), and Justo Altamirano, Ramón

Bojórques, Ignacio Linares, and Ignacio Soto (privates) were carried on the rolls.

One cannot help but notice the many men who were fathers, sons, or brothers of other

soldiers in the same garrison, not to mention several who were related by marriage. Since the soldados made up the mainstay of the gente de razón in Alta California, this situation was common throughout the Spanish presence in the territory.

Even while the presidial district's population attempted to improve

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio



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**Notes:**

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conditions, the governor sent some of the complement to assist in the establishment of a new mission in the southern portion of today's Alameda County. Sergeant Amador took a corporal and a five-man detail selected as the escolta for the proposed Mission San Jose (in present-day Fremont), on June 9, 1797. The group put up a temporary chapel (enramada) and participated in the usual dedication ceremonies on July 11, Trinity Sunday. Then, the party left. Five days later Amador returned with more men to cut lumber for construction. After two weeks he determined that most of the troops could go back to San Francisco with him while the escolta remained to complete the work.

This withdrawal proved premature. Amador barely had time to reach the Presidio when duty called him back to Mission San Jose. The local Indians threatened to kill the Christian natives living at the new mission. In response, the sergeant led 22 men as a show of strength. Two brief skirmishes ensued in mid-July. It seems that the warriors dug pits to impede the use of horses. This caused Amador's force to dismount and fight on foot. In the hand-to-hand struggle, seven or eight Indians died while two of the Spanish soldiers received wounds. Amador returned from this foray with 83 Christian deserters, who evidently had been at Mission Santa Clara, and nine of the non-Christians who supposedly were implicated in previous troubles. Some of these prisoners went off to perform hard labor in irons. Short rations and floggings completed the punitive measures taken to dampen any future thoughts about independence among the natives. Comparative numbers of troops for the remaining years of the 18th century show a relatively static picture. In 1797 Argüello commanded Alférez Manuel Rodríguez, Sergeant Pedro Amador, four corporals, 31 soldiers, and seven inválidos (Alférez Lasso, two corporals, and four privates). The crown owned some 999 pesos to the company.

More immediate troubles presented themselves in the last year of the 18th century. From the southern part of the district a series of disturbances culminated in arson as some of the settlers at the pueblo of San Jose set fire to the comisionado's residence while he was holding a party inside. Men from the Presidio rode out to restore order in what proved to be the beginning of many challenges to authority throughout the province with the passage of time.<sup>226</sup> About the same time, Indians killed two neophytes and promptly fled into the hills around Mission San Jose. The experienced campaigner Sergeant Amador took to the field. After a brief skirmish he caught some suspects. Lacking an interpreter, Amador could not question his captives. Despite the lack of communication and evidence, he ordered the prisoners flogged with 15 to 20 blows each.<sup>227</sup> This type of action reflected the attitude of the soldiers toward the local Native Americans.<sup>228</sup> Such disdain kept the two peoples separated rather than bringing them together as had been the goal behind Spanish colonization efforts.

-Historic Resource Study - El Presidio de San Francisco - A History under Spain and Mexico, 1776-1846 - John Phillip Langelier and Daniel Bernard Rosen

In June 1797 thirty neophytes were sent across the bay from San Francisco, in a direction not clearly indicated, in search of fugitives, and they were rather roughly treated by a tribe of Cuchillones though none were killed. This affair caused a long correspondence and finally brought positive orders from the viceroy forbidding the friars to send out such parties. In July after many preliminaries Sergeant Amador made an expedition against both the

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio

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**Notes:**

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Cuchillones and the Sacalanes, who had committed the outrage of 1795. He brought in nine of the gentile culprits and eighty-three fugitive Christians. The savages are said to have dug pits which prevented the use of horses, and obliged Amador to fight on foot hand to hand, seven or eight of them being killed.

In May 1800 Pedro Amador made a raid from Santa Clara into the hills. He killed a chief, broke many weapons, and took a few captives and runaways.

In April of this year Captain George Vancouver in the Discovery with the Chatham under Lieutenant Broughton, on a grand exploring voyage round the world, had crossed over from the Sandwich Islands and made observations on the California coast as he sailed northward from just below Cape Mendocino. Now six months later, coming from Nootka, the English navigator sailed down the coast without anchoring, and on November 14th, in the Discovery, entered San Francisco Bay at nightfall and anchored in front of Yerba Buena Cove, having received a salute of two guns as he passed the fort. Next day he was visited in the morning by Sergeant Pedro Amador and Padre Landaeta, and later by Commandant Sal and Father Danti; while on the 15th by advice of the Spaniards, Private Miranda serving as pilot, the Discovery was transferred to the usual anchorage nearer the presidio.

Vancouver's reception at San Francisco was most cordial and satisfactory. Every attention was shown and every possible aid furnished the visitors by Commandant Sal and his wife and the friars at the mission. Couriers were dispatched to Monterey with a message for Cuadra. Facilities were afforded for obtaining wood and water; feasts were given at both presidio and mission, and meat and vegetables were sent on board the vessel. Indeed everything the Spaniards had in this the most poverty-stricken of their establishments was at the disposition of the strangers. On the 20th of November Vancouver and seven of his officers made an excursion on horseback to Santa Clara, being the first foreigners who had ever penetrated so far into the interior. They were escorted by Amador with a squad of five soldiers, and were delighted with much of the intermediate country. After most hospitable treatment by fathers Pefia and Sanchez at Santa Clara, they returned to San Francisco on the 22d. The Chatham had meanwhile arrived, and preparations were hastened for departure. For supplies furnished Don Hermenegildo would take no pay, acting as he said under instructions from Bodega y Cuadra; but he accepted from Vancouver some implements and ornaments besides a hogshead each of wine and rum, all to be distributed to the presidio and two missions. The two vessels sailed away the 26th and anchored next morning at Monterey.

In 1794 the eastern shores of San Francisco Bay were almost a tierra incognita to the Spaniards. It would perhaps be too much to say that those shores had not been visited for nearly twenty years, since the time of Anza; but there is no record of any previous raid against the gentiles in that region, much less of any exploring expedition. In November of this year, four natives were sent across to work with the pagans, but one of the two tule-rafts composing this armada was swept out and wrecked on the Farallones, where two of the navigators were drowned. In the same month the friars wished to go with a small guard up the eastern bay-shore from Santa Clara to conquer the gentiles, taking advantage of their short supply

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio



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**Notes:**

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of food resulting from drought, but the commandant at San Francisco refused, because the country was "almost unknown," the natives perverse, and the adventure too hazardous. Before June Sergeant Pedro Amador visited the southern part of this territory, and in his report used the name of Alameda, still applied to county and creek. November 15, 1795, in accordance with Borica's orders of the 9th, Alferez Sal and Father Danti set out from Monterey. On the 16th they explored the San Benito region, on the stream of the same name, where they found all that was required for a mission; and next day they found another suitable location on the edge of the San Bernardino plain near Las Llagas Creek, or what is now the vicinity of Gilroy. Having arrived at Santa Clara on the 21st, they were joined by Alferez Raimundo Carrillo, and started next day to examine the Alameda previously explored by Amador, whose diary they had. The river of the Alameda was also called by Danti Rio de San Clemente. The explorers continued their journey up to a point which they state to have been opposite or in sight of San Francisco

[Amador's report is not extant, but the governor's acknowledgment of its receipt is dated June 2, 1795. Prov. Rec, MS., v. 54. I suppose he applied the name, or it had been applied before, to a grove on the stream, since it is so applied a little later. Alameda was subsequently used for the southern section as was Contra Costa for the northern, though much less commonly.]

Borica sent orders to the commandant of San Francisco, the 15th of May, to detail Corporal Miranda and five men for the mission of San Jose to be founded at the Alameda. On June 9th the troops under Amador and accompanied by Lasuen started for the spot, where next day a temporary church, or enramada, was erected. The native name of the site was Oroysom, and the name of the mission, San Jose, in honor of the patriarch husband of the virgin Mary, had been included in the orders from Mexico. On June 11th, Trinity Sunday, the regular ceremonies of foundation-blessing the ground, raising the cross, litany of all saints, mass, sermon, te deum, and the burning of one pound of gunpowder-were performed by or under the superintendence of Father Lasuen, the only friar present. The same day all returned to Santa Clara leaving the new mission to solitude and the gentiles. Five days later Amador and his men came back to cut timber and prepare the necessary buildings. By the 28th this work was so far advanced that the guard, as was thought, could complete it. Water was brought to the plaza, and the soldiers, all but Miranda and his five men, retired to the presidio. The same day the ministers, Isidoro Barcenilla and Agustin Merino, arrived and took charge.

In July 1797 there were rumors of impending attack by the savages, and such rumors were prevalent to the end of the decade; but there was no disaster, and I shall have occasion elsewhere to speak further of Indian troubles round San Francisco Bay. The first baptism was administered September 2d by Father Catala. By the end of 1797 there were 33 converts, and in 1800 the number had increased to 286, the baptisms having been 364 and the burials 88. Meanwhile the large stock came to number 367, and there were 1,600 sheep and goats. Crops in 1800 were about 1,500 bushels, chiefly wheat. Total for the three years 3,900 bushels. Padre Barccnilla, a man who, by reason of ill-health as was believed, was extremely irascible and always in a quarrel with somebody, particularly with the corporal, 13 remained at San Jose" till after 1800. Merino was replaced

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio



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**Notes:**

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in 1799 by Jose Antonio Urfa. All three were newcomers, and none remained long in the country. A wooden structure with grass roof served as a church. Miranda was replaced by Luis Peralta in 1798."

See Chapter xxxi. of this volume. July 3, 1797, Corp. Miranda, to commandant, says that on account of the danger, the padres wished to abandon the mission, but he has dissuaded them, i'rov. St. Pap., MS., xvi. 90. Aug. 17, 1797, Amador to Borica. Some gentiles want to come near the mission to live because the Sacalanes threaten to kill them for their friendship to the Christians. Id., xv. 171-4. April 0, 179\*, Arguello to B., Indians making arrows to attack the mission. Reinforcements sent. The corporal has orders not to force Indians to come to the mission. Id., xvii. 97. April 17th, Amador says 20 Indians consented to come and be made Christians. A/, xvii. 101. The making of arrows seems to have been for hunting purposes. I(/., xvii. 100. June, Gov. to Corporal Peralta ordering great caution and prudence, but the Indians must be punished if fair words have no effect. Id., xvii. 100-7.

"Sept. 27, 1797, Barccnilla writes to the commandant that the soldiers will not lend a hand even in cases where ' the most barbarous Indian would not refuse his aid.' Private Higuera does nothing but wag his tongue against such as assist the padres. Corp. Miranda is much changed and will not work even for pay. Miranda explained that the padres were angry because the soldiers would not act as vaqueros. Prov. St. Pap., MS., xvi. 47-8. Details of the trouble in I(/., xvi. 3.VK, 40-7.

".S7. Pap. Mi.\*\*., MS., ii. 122. Soldiers of the guard before 1800, according" t<> .S\ Jose, Lib. dc Minion, MS., Juan Jose Higuera, Salvador Higuera, ol'laii Garcia, Cornelio Rosulcs, Rafael Galindo, Juan Jos6 Linares, Ramon Linares, Francisco Flores, Jostf Maria Castillo, Miguel Salazar, Hilario Miranda, and Hermenegildo Bojorques.

\*\* The governor in a communication to Lasuen on the subject calls the absent missionary Juan Martinez, but there was no such padre in California. I'rov. Rcc, MS., vi. 222-3. Dec. 7, 1798, Borica also writes a letter of warning and advice to the friar. Id., 227-8.

### A NEW PUEBLO

It had long been deemed desirable to promote colonization in California, and the prevalent fears of foreign aggression did much to cause definite action to be taken at this epoch. The completed line of missions as planned was rapidly to civilize the natives, but a larger Spanish population was desirable and new pueblos of gente de razon were to be founded as well as new missions. This subject was doubtless included in a general sense in Borica's original instructions; but the first definite action is seen in a report of the royal tribunal of accounts to the viceroy, dated November 18, 1795. In this document it is recommended as a most important measure for the welfare and protection of the Spanish possessions in California that the governor, with the aid of Engineer C6rdoba and other officers, proceed to select a site and to found a pueblo, or villa, to be called Branciforte in honor of the viceroy. This establishment as a coast defense should be put on a military basis, securely fortified, and settled with soldiers as pobladores. The site must be selected and the lands divided according to existing pueblo regulations and the laws of the Indies. Each officer and soldier is to have a

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio



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**Notes:**

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house-lot, and between those of the officers lots are to be assigned to chieftains of rancherfas who may be induced to live with the Spaniards, thus assuring the loyalty of their subjects. Live-stock and implements may be furnished by the government as hitherto. Instead of an habilitado there is to be a town-treasurer; and Albèrni may command, acting as lieutenant-governor. As the time of the infantry soldiers expires they are not to be reenlisted, but new recruits obtained from New Spain will create an immigration without the heavy cost of bringing in settlers as such.

It is to be supposed that the viceroy approved this plan in its main features at least, and sent corresponding orders to Borica, though no such order appears in the archives. It had been indicated in the plan.

It is to be supposed that the viceroy approved this plan in its main features at least, and sent corresponding orders to Borica, though no such order appears in the archives.<sup>35</sup> It had been indicated in the plan that the new establishment should be on or near San Francisco Bay, and in the spring of 1796, on receipt of the viceroy's instructions, whatever they may have been, the governor began to move in the matter, though in January 1795 he had instructed the commandants to report on suitable sites for new pueblos, and though Sergeant Amador seems to have explored with the same view as early as July of the same year the coast region from San Francisco to Santa Cruz. On May 21st Borica requested Albèrni and Còrdoba with an escort of six men to meet him at Santa Cruz on the 28th. During the next few weeks, the three made some personal explorations not described in detail, and June 16th the governor asked the others to report on the best place for the town, and to give their ideas generally in connection with the plan of foundation. Private letters of similar purport were written on the 17th and 18th.

Albèrni's report was dated at San Francisco July 1st, and that of Còrdoba the 20th, the two being in substance identical. Three sites were considered: the Alameda, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz. The first was pronounced unsuitable for a pueblo, not only because the bed of the creek was so low as to prevent irrigation, but because there was no wood, timber, stone, or pasturage, except at a great distance. San Francisco was declared to be the very worst place in

Jan. 9, 1795, Borica to commandants. Prov. Bee, iv. 126-7. Amador, Beconocimiento de Terreno desde Simla Cruz hasta San Francisco, 1795, MS. Dated July 4th, he describes particularly four fertile spots with more or less advantages for settlements at distances of 8, 12, 15i, and 20 leagues from San Francisco, the last being 5 leagues from Santa Cruz. July 23d, has received the report of July 4th, and orders Amador to improve the road with the aid of commandants at Santa Cruz and Santa Clara (San Francisco ?). Prov. Rec, MS., v. 57-8. May 11, 1796, Salazar in his report to the viceroy mentioned a spot suitable for a pueblo about midway between San Francisco and Santa Cruz where there is an anchorage. San Benito was also a good site, but there were many Indians requiring a mission, as there were not at the former spot. Arch. Sta Barbara, MS., ii. 75-7.

1791-1800

The official list of San Francisco for this decade is confused, though the

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**Individual Summary: Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male  
Father: Juan Jose Amador  
Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio



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**Notes:**

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minor complications are hardly worth recording. Jose Arguello was the lieutenant, brevetted captain in 1798, of the company, and properly its commander throughout the period; but he was absent in Monterey from 1791 to 1796, during which absence Alferes Hermenegildo Sal of the Monterey company was acting comandante until the middle of 1794, and Alferes Jose" Perez Fernandez from that time till the spring of 1796. The same persons acted as habilitados, except that Raimundo Carrillo served in 1796-7.1 It must be noted, however, that Lieutenant-colonel Pedro de Albarni, captain of the Catalan volunteers, by reason of his superior rank in the army, was commandant of the military post from April 1796. The alferes of the presidial company was Ramon Lasso de la Vega until the end of 1791, Jose" Perez Fernandez from 1792 until 1797, and Manuel Rodriguez from 1797 to 1800, although he never served at San Francisco, and the place was practically vacant. The position of sergeant was held throughout the decade by Pedro Amador.

The company was composed of thirty-one privates, besides the sergeant and four corporals. After the middle of 1796 the military force was augmented by detachments of twenty-five Catalan volunteers and seven or eight artillerymen. There were also from three to eight pensioners, making 79 men in all, who with their families constituted a population, not including San José and Branciforte, of 225 within the jurisdiction. With the two pueblos the population was 400, and the christianized natives numbered 2,670. Not less than twenty of the soldiers were usually scattered in the mission and pueblo guards, so that before the infantry reinforcement came the presidio had but a very small force, and when parties had to be sent with dispatches, or against the natives, or for turn over command at Monterey and go to San Francisco.

In June 1797 a new mishap occurred. A large part of the fugitives belonged to the Cuchillones across the bay. Notwithstanding the governor's orders the missionaries sent one Raimundo, a Californian-a name still applied exclusively to the natives of Baja California-with thirty natives to bring back the runaways. They crossed in balsas and fell into a difficulty with the Cuchillones which is not clearly described, though it appears that no life was lost and no fugitive recovered. This affair gave rise to a new correspondence and to earnest protests from the friars, who were inclined to think that the quarrel, if any occurred, had been greatly exaggerated. Now the Sacalanes assumed a threatening attitude toward Mission San Jose, and Sergeant Amador was sent to investigate. He found that the gentiles were threatening to kill the Christians if they continued to work, and the soldiers if they dared to interfere. He accordingly recommended to Borica that an expedition be sent to punish them, to collect fugitives, and to dispel the idea of the Sacalanes that the Spaniards were afraid of them. Borica assented and ordered Amador to take twenty-two men and fall upon the rancheria at dawn, capturing the head men and deserters, but avoiding bloodshed if possible. They set out July 13th, and on the 15th the troops under Amador and "Vallejo reached the hostile camp. The Sacalanes would listen to nothing; they had dugged pits, so that the Spaniards were forced to dismount and attack with sword and lance. In the fight two soldiers were wounded and seven natives killed. The Cuchillones were subsequently attacked and retreated after one had been killed. On the 18th Amador returned to San Jose with eighty-three Christians and nine gentiles, including five Sacalanes implicated in the affair of 1795 and three

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**Individual Summary:      Pedro Antonio Amador**

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Sex: Male

Father: Juan Jose Amador

Mother: Maria Josefa de Carpio

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**Notes:**

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Cuchillones in that of Raimundo. The testimony and confessions of fourteen of the captives were taken the 9th of August, and nine of them having been proved guilty, were subsequently sentenced by Borica to receive from twenty-five to seventy-five lashes and to work in shackles at the presidio from two months to a year. In this examination and in another held the 12th of August with a view to learn why the neophytes had run away, nearly all the witnesses gave as their reasons excessive flogging, hunger, and the death of relatives. Borica subsequently announced that in consequence of his efforts and especially of the kindness of Father Fernandez, the natives were treated better than before ; but Lasuen declared that the charges of cruelty were unfounded, as proved by the large number of conversions. The neophytes fled, not because they were flogged or overworked, but because of the ravages of an epidemic.<sup>84</sup> No further troubles occurred at San Francisco, but the Sacalanes and other gentiles continued their hostile influence at San Jose" mission, several times requiring the presence of Amador, who in April 1800 made another raid, killing a chief, capturing twenty fugitives, and breaking all the bows and arrows of the foe.  
History of California, Volume 18 By Hubert Howe Bancroft