

Individual Report for Jose Manuel Ciriaco Miranda

Individual Summary: Jose Manuel Ciriaco Miranda

Sex: Male

Father: Jose Hilario Feliciano Miranda

Mother: Maria Juana Francisca Cibrian



Individual Facts:

Birth: 17 Jun 1816 in Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California

Baptism: 18 Jun 1816 in Mission Santa Clara, CA

Christening: 18 Jun 1816 in Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California

Land: 1818 in Santa Clara, California

Confirmation: 1841 in San Jose, Santa Clara, California

Land Grants Received: Feb 1844 in Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros, Livermore Valley, 17, 760 acres shared with Francisco Alviso and Antonio Higuera

Death: Aft. 1854 in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California

Fact: 1880 in Whetmore Building on First Street in Livermore; Opened a saddlery

Residence: 1880 in Livermore, Alameda, California, United States

Occupation: Saddle maker

Occupation:

Shared Facts:

 Maria Carmen Alviso

Marriage: 28 Nov 1837 in St. Josephs, San Jose, Santa Clara, California

Children: Maria Santos Miranda
Maria De Los Santos Miranda
Maria Rosa Miranda
Jesus Maria Miranda
Jose Nemecio de Jesus Miranda
Virginia Miranda
Maria Virginia de Los Dolores Miranda
Maria Lucia Evangelista Miranda
Maria Antonia Librada Miranda
Juan Francisco Miranda
Jose Juan Miranda

Notes:

Person Notes: 1860 Census Towhship 2. Contra Costa, California

Age: 38

Birth Year: abt 1822

Gender: Male

Post Office: Lafayette and Alamo

Household Members:

Manuel Miranda, age 38

Carmel Miranda, age 35

Jesus Miranda, age 18

Behenia Miranda, age 12

Lucie Miranda, age 10

Maria A. Miranda, age 8

Francisco Miranda, age 6

Eavan Miranda, age 4

Harran Miranda, age 1 1/2

1880 United States Federal Census Record

Name: Manuel Miranda

Home in 1880: Livermore, Alameda, California

Age: 60

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1820

BirthPlace: California

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Notes:

Relation to head-of-household: Self

Father's birthplace: CA

Mother's birthplace: CA

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Occupation: Saddler

Marital status: Widower

Race: White

Gender: Male

Cannot read/write

1880 Federal Census, Alameda County, California - Murray Township, Residents 3701-4173

Source: FHL Film 1254062 National Archives Film T9-0062 Pages 549A to 596A

Murray Township om 1880 encompassed all of Eastern Alameda County, including the towns of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol.

3764 Miranda, Manuel - Male, married, white Age 35 Born California, Saddler

M. (Manuel), at S. Jos? '41, age 24, [p.250]wife CALviso, child. Marja de los Santos '38, Marja Rosa '41

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Rancho Canada de Los Vaqueros

In 1841 Francisco Alviso, Manuel Miranda and Antonino Higuera, brothers-in-law, settled upon and made application for an extensive desolate section in the southeast corner of the county which was and still is adapted for the most part for cattle growing. It was aptly called La Canada de Los Vaqueros - The Valley of the Cattlemen.

The three young men with their families were John Marsh's nearest neighbors. Francisco Alviso was married to Maria Miranda. His brother-in-law, Manuel Miranda, married his sister, Carmen Alviso, and Antonino Higuera married another sister, Josefa Alviso. The three families came to be commonly known as the Alvisos.

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Alviso was granted Rancho Canada de Los Vaqueros, of approximately 20,000 acres, on February 29, 1844, by Governor Manuel Micheltorena. Ruins of the adobe homes of the families-a twostory structure and another one-story building-about a mile and a half apart, were until recently seen on the Vasco ranch, now the property of Oscar L. Starr. The elements have taken toll and the last remaining walls, noted two or three years ago, crumbled during the last years' storms.

Robert Livermore acquired possession of the Canada de Los Vaqueros Rancho about 1846. He filed claim with the U. S. Commission February 27, 1852, which was confirmed September 4, 1855.

The property was later involved in litigation which lasted for many years. Livermore was born in 1799 in London and arrived in California in 1822. He was baptized, according to the law of the land, married a Spanish widow and thus acquired large holdings in the valley that bears his name. His Los Positos rancho was granted to Don Salvio Pacheco on April 8, 1839. Two days later Livermore -

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and Jose Noriega, grantee of Los Medanos, bought the grant from Don Salvio and later Livermore bought out Noriega and became full owner of the extensive grant, now in Alameda county. When he bought the Canada de 10s Vaqueros from the Alvisos he became one of the richest men in California.

After the missions closed in 1834-1836, the project area was included in the Rancho Los Meganos land granted to Jose Noriega in 1835, which originally included the entire watersheds of Marsh and Kellogg Creeks. In 1838, Noriega sold the rancho to John Marsh, and in 1844 the southern portion of the rancho, including the majority of the Kellogg Creek watershed, was ceded to Francisco Alviso, Antonio Hiquera, and Manuel Miranda as the Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros (Milliken 1986). According to Milliken (1986), Marsh's labor force consisted of Julpun and Volvon Native Americans recently returned from Mission San Jose; Alviso employed Native American vaqueros who lived on the land and herded the cattle. Villa and Dutschke. (1982), pointing out that Marsh and John Sutter exchanged Native American laborers at certain times of the year to plant and harvest crops,. 1 suggested that this relationship could have influenced the movement of Native Americans 1 from the Livermore-Pleasanton area to lone and other Sierran foothill communities. They also state that several Native Americans who live in lone were originally from the Pleasanton-Livermore area, and heritage ties to that area still exist.

Francisco Alviso, Antonio Hiquera, and Manuel Miranda (three brothers-in-law) were awarded Canada de Los Vaqueros (Valley of the Cowboys) on February 29, 1844. Three years before being granted the land, Alviso had already built a large corral and stocked his ranch with livestock. The three grantees probably did not reside full time at Los Vaqueros; they did, however, take an active role in supervising the Californios and Native Americans in their employ. These employees lived in a wooden house on the ranch (Land Case 79:7-19).

Stock raising was the main economic pursuit during the Mexican period. Land was not developed for agricultural purposes more intensive than subsistence-level farming. With a relatively sparse and scattered population and a poor transportation system, commercial

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agriculture was not economically feasible during this period in most locales. Because ranchos were not fenced, cattle and other stock roamed at will and mixed with stock owned by neighboring rancheros. At least once a year a rodeo was held and each rancho herded his own stock back to his land. Los Vaqueros reportedly contained a rodeo site (DeNier 1928).

The first building erected on a rancho was usually of either wattle or palizada construction. Palizadas were easily constructed log buildings chinked with mud and tules that served to a claimant's intention to settle. More adobe structures were prove permanent usually constructed after the land claim was confirmed. On July 7, 1846, following the declaration of war between the United States and Mexico, Commander Sloat claimed California for the United States catalyzing a minor influx of Americans to California. When the first Americans arrived, Mexican livestock grants covered most of the best land, curbing settlement. The prior claim of the Mexican grantees, however, did not stop the influx of immigrants, and many squatters eventually appeared throughout the county following the announcement of the California goldfields in 1848 (Smith and Elliot 1879). Many gold rush immigrants sought land to take up ranching and farming.

Mexican land grants were written giving the boundaries of one claim as that of another; Los Meganos, for example, was described as being bordered by Los Vaqueros to the south. As finalized by the U.S. Land Commission, these grants often contained much less land than that originally described; the land grants became surrounded by public land that could be settled and purchased from the General Land Office.

In 1847, Alviso and Miranda sold their interests in Los Vaqueros to Noriega and Livermore, who also owned the Rancho Los Positas to the south (Land Case 79:41). Livermore and Noriega filed a claim for Los Vaqueros and Los Positas in February 1852. Noriega also hired an attorney to settle his land problems.. The attorney worked out an agreement whereby Livermore received Los Positas while the attorney and Noriega each received a half interest in Los Vaqueros. The attorney sold his half interest

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to William Akenhead, while Noriega sold to Maximo Fernandez. Akenhead lost his property because of an unpaid debt; Juan Sunol purchased it at a sheriff's sale. Both halves were sold in separate transactions on November 14, 1857: Lorenzo Sunol purchased a half interest from Fernandez, and Juan Baptiste Arrambide, Bernardo Altube, Bernard Ohaco, and Charles Garat purchased Juan Sunol's half from its current owner, Ellen Garat. These two owners lived on the rancho in 1860 and are listed on the census.

By about 1860, various held deeded interests 200% of the Los about 1860, parties totaling over Vaqueros rancho, half of these claims being in the hands of Livermore's heirs and Noriega's assignees and the rest held by descendants of the 1844 grantees. Arrambide, Altube, and Ohaco sold their half-interest to a San Franciscan in 1863, who quickly transferred the property to Louis Peres and Pedro Altube, whose relationship to Bernardo Altube is unknown. Peres and Altube also purchased the interests Alviso and of eight of Livermore's heirs. When Altube sold his interest to Peres in 1880, it purported to cover the entire 17,752-acre rancho (Deeds 39:282). During the same period, a wealthy Martinez family, the Blums, bought out Miranda and Higuera's heirs.

Lorenzo Sunol, a native of Spain, probably lived with his two laborers at the "upper adobe" (CCo-450/H) recorded by Hendry and Bowman (1940) and shown as "Sunal" on an 1873 map (California Geological Survey 1873). On the 1860 U.S. Census Agricultural schedule, Lorenzo "Senole" claimed 7,750 acres, of which only 2 acres were improved. Sunol used the land for cattle ranching. Arrambide, Altube, and Ohaco probably lived at the "lower adobe" (CCo-470H); Arrambide and Ohaco were French; Altube was Spanish. Altube's household included his French wife and daughter, Arrambide, three members of the Ohaco family, and four other persons of French, Spanish, and Native American descent. Of their 8,880 acres, only 5 acres were improved. The remaining acreage was used to graze 1,280 head of stock cattle and 50 horses worth \$17,750.

The public land surrounding Los Vaqueros was surveyed in the 1860s and 1870s,

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opening the area to permanent settlement. An individual could obtain a maximum of 320 acres from the federal government, a very small holding in comparison with the thousands of acres that made up neighboring Mexican land grants. It was not until the early 1870s that patentees filed claims to government land in the Los Vaqueros uplands, using a combination of homestead and cash entry patents to obtain small 320-acre ranches (e.g., CA-CCo-562H and -563H). These settlers were predominantly Californios and Mexican immigrants. Many of these families lived on their land through 1880 but disappeared from the area by 1900. Although some of the Californio-Mexican population remained in 1900, recent immigrants from the Azores now resided in the former public land within the project area. parcels original patentees generally not consolidated, The of the had been but the Azorian ranchers owned or leased many noncontiguous 160- to 320-acre parcels to form larger holdings.

Although the U.S. Land Commission confirmed Robert Livermore's and Jose Noriega's claim to Los Vaqueros in 1855, and Livermore and Noriega refiled their former transaction deeding Los Vaqueros to Noriega, considerable confusion regarding the title to Los Vaqueros ensued when Livermore died in 1858. Livermore's wife and eight children claimed LOs Vaqueros based on a deed to them predating the Noriega transfer (Deeds 2:156-157). Similarly, each of grantee Antonio Higuera's four children inherited one-quarter of their father's interest, which was said to be one-third of the entire rancho (Deeds 8:160); the remaining two-thirds were claimed by Alviso and Miranda. Meanwhile, Lorenzo Sunol and Arrambide, Altube, and Ohaco each claimed a half interest and resided on the rancho.

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-Evaluation, Request for Determination of Eligibility, and Effect for the Los Vaqueros Project
<http://www.calwater.ca.gov>

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

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