

Livermore Valley to 1860

ROBERT LIVERMORE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVERMORE VALLEY TO 1860

By

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A. B. 1926

THESIS

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Preface to the Livermore Heritage Guild Edition

Documents during the Mexican Era spelled Las Positas as **Las Pocitas**. I retained this spelling in the quotations from those documents. This is a Mexican-Californio word for shallow ponds for cattle or natural artesian springs/seeps common when the water table was very high in the Tri-Valley, long before modern draining of those swampy areas.

Aside from fixing typing errors, I did not modify the thesis, footnotes, or quotations to be politically correct. The document reflects language and ethnic tensions in the middle 1800's, the writing style of 1927, and follow up information found in the 1960s.

The Herald wrote: "The publishing of this interesting and accurate history of the valley is provided by the Tri-Valley Herald during its centennial year observance. Ms. DeNier produced the original text as a Master of Arts thesis at the UC in 1926-27. Livermore historian Janet Newton, who brought it to the attention of the Herald, **copied it with permission**. It was decided to print [and space-compress] the thesis so the negatives can be turned over **to the Livermore Heritage Guild for publishing** [as] **a book** on the history of the valley." [Unknown if the unsuitable negatives received in 1974]

Janet Newton bound her 1963 article to the thesis copy in our archival collection that she published in the Livermore Herald-News. It confirms that Robert Livermore was indeed born in **October 1799** in **Springfield, Essex**, England (a village near London).

I initially scanned this document from those Herald pages, with their many typographical errors, a horrid mess made of the Bibliography, and missing maps. I made corrections and scanned missing pages from our bound copy of the Thesis. I replaced the disenos (grant maps), photocopied in 1927 for Ms. DeNeir by the Bancroft Library, with their matching color scan version, also by the Bancroft Library. The original thesis placed the footnotes on the page so noted. The Herald version moved all footnotes to a separate appendix. I moved them back to follow each intended chapter. Portraits of land grant owners and their headstones newly illustrate the text. As such, this revised document fully replaces the 1974 partial version found in the Herald.

Harry Briley, Livermore Heritage Guild, 1/3/2023

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INTRODUCTION

The scope of this book is limited to Robert Livermore and the development of Livermore Valley to 1860. This valley is only a very small section of the large state of California and yet by knowing its history, you can better understand the changes and developments of the whole state. It is with this that this thesis claims a space in the History of California.

"No one who has not actually seen Livermore Valley can conceive of its beauty and charm. The low hills on every hand, tawny yellow in summer and emerald green in winter, furnish a delightful contrast to the level valley floor".(1)

This description gives one a very clear picture of the valley. The valley is a gentle sloping plain, irregular in shape and completely surrounded by hills and mountains. Its greatest length is from east to west, a distance of fourteen miles. Its width varies from four to eight miles north and south. It is in the coast range mountains midway between the coast and central belts.

It is situated in the northern portion of Murray Township, Alameda County,. To the north, east, northeast, northwest and southwest of the valley the hills are low, gently rolling, and well adapted for cultivation. South, southeast, and west the country is mountainous and except for a few localities, valuable only for pasturage.

Geologists say that Livermore Valley was several times submerged. The distribution of soils has been effected by these floods.(2) That the valley was submerged at least three times is shown by the presence of three primary soils. These soils encircle the valley in wide belts. The first or outer belt is of black adobe soil, which extends around and includes a portion of the valley. The second extends entirely around the valley floor and is red or yellowish clay. The third belt is a mixture of adobe, (3) gray shale loam, and white clay.

Another evidence that this portion of the country was under water is by the marine fossil remains in the hills east of the valley. Bryant wrote in 1846,

"A carretado (cart-load) of fossil oyster shells were shown me by Mr. Livermore, which had been hauled for the purpose of being manufactured into lime. Some of these shells were eight inches in length, and of corresponding breadth and thickness. They were dug from a hill two or three miles distant, which is composed almost entirely of this fossil. Several bones belonging to the skeleton of a whale, discovered by Mr. Livermore on the summit of one of the highest elevations in the vicinity of his residence, were shown to me. The skeleton when discovered was nearly perfect and entirely exposed, and its elevation above the level of the sea between one and two thousand feet".(4)

This statement we find again for Walter Cotton wrote in 1850.

"There are marine remains on the hills back of Livermore. There is a skeleton of a whale almost entire. They will find him near the rancho of Robert Livermore, on a mountain, which overlooks the valley of the San Joaquin. Marine shells will also be found."(5)

Today, 1927, oil shafts are being sunk where these bones of marine remains are still to be found. Some oil has been found.

The valley was once, so I've been told, a lake with no drainage except through the San Ramon Valley; then after an earthquake the Sunol Valley was made and the water began to drain out that way as well as the San Ramon way. The valley was drained except for the swampy land east of Pleasanton in the northeast corner of the valley. This swamp was called the Tulare or the Laguna. This lake or Laguna was fed from the north by the Alamo, Tassajara, and Positas Creeks. The Laguna Creek, in turn empties into the Alameda River, flowing westward through the Alameda Canyon and emptying into the Bay near Alvarado.

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The rocky and gravelly deposits in the valley are said to extend to a depth of seventy feet. Since there were many artesian wells in the valley it has been said that thirty percent of that seventy feet are water [bearing].

The northeast corner is barren of streams, but some flow from small springs. The largest streams are the Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo Valle, which rise in the southeast mountains. The Arroyo Mocho flows a short distance southwest of the town of Livermore near which it forks into little rivulets and disappears.(6) The Arroyo Valle flows further west and enters the Laguna. This lake or tule swamp was [fully] drained by the Spring Valley Water Company in 1888. The land is now being used as farm land,(sugar beets growing especially well there).

Everyone speaks of the healthfulness of Livermore Valley; if hospitals are an indicator of the healthfulness of a place Livermore Valley is an excellent health resort for there are many hospitals there. As an old Doctor once said,

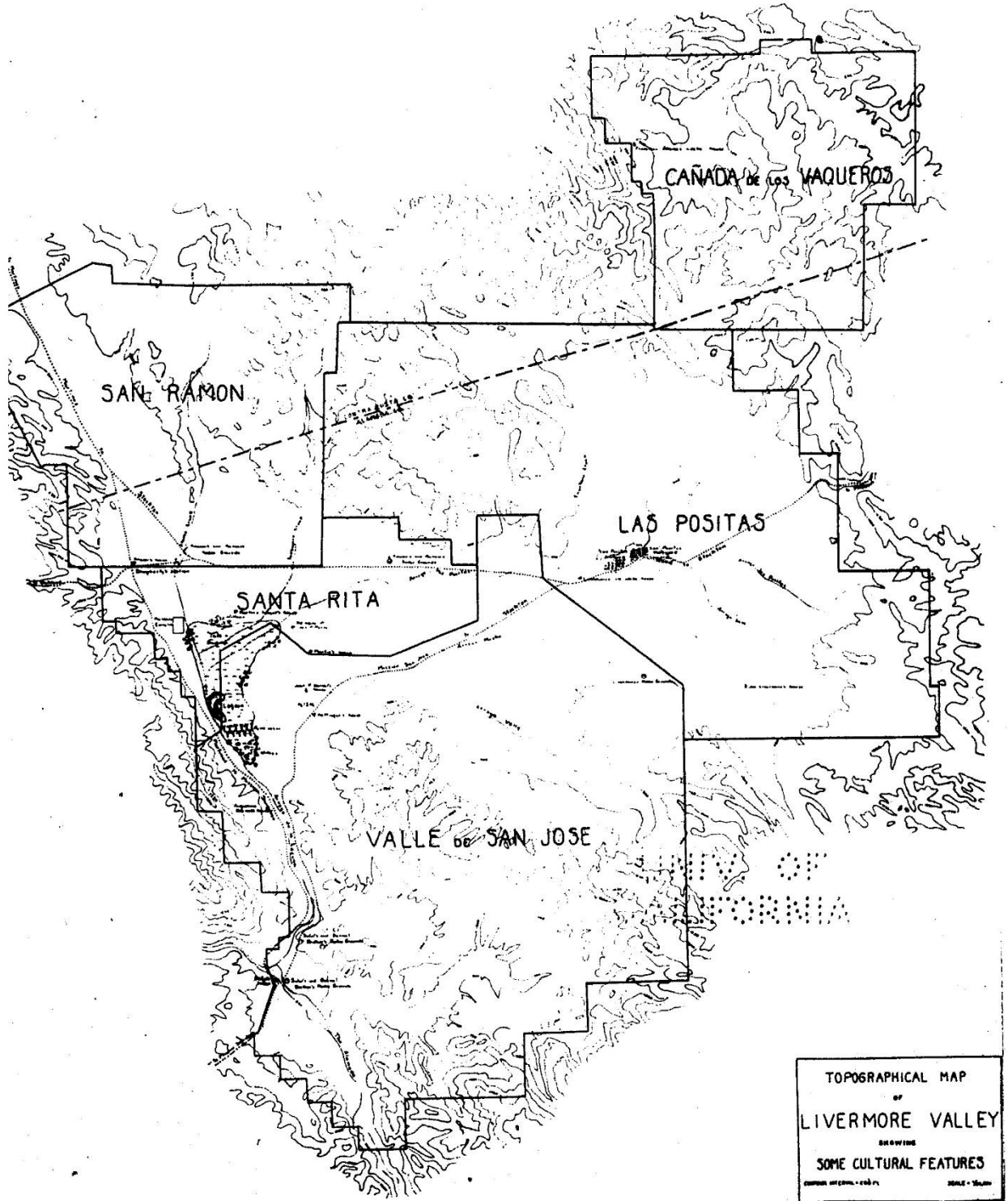
"If you are ever sick go to the Livermore Valley. It has the best climate in the world"

The rainy season begins in November and ends in February; some light showers fall in March, April and May. During May and June ocean fogs, carrying much moisture, come in from the west and it is not unusual to see a late crop of barley mature without a drop of rain having fallen from the time the grain was planted.(7) The southern winds prevail during the winter. Spring is delightful and made beautiful by the many wild flowers that cover the hills and valley. The dry season begins in June and generally lasts until November. During these months, there is uninterrupted clear weather. The heat increases until past noon, between one and two, then declines. The daytime, although often hot, is followed by cool nights. The atmosphere is dry, so 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade is more easily endured than 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the middle states.

Footnotes

1. Lafler, HA, Alameda County, An Ideal Place for your California Home.
2. Wood, MW, History of Alameda County, 456.
3. Richardson, R., Article in the Stethoscope, February, 1927.
4. Bryant, E., What I saw in California, 308.
5. Colton, W., Three Years in California, 385.
6. Halley, W., Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 494.
7. Callaghan, MG, Personal Interview, April 2,1927.

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Map 1 - Topographical of Livermore Valley

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CHAPTER 1

The earliest record of any Europeans visiting the Livermore Valley is the account of the expedition of Fray Juan Crespi and Captain Pedro Fages. They were near the San Joaquin River on an expedition from Monterey to find Point Reyes when they were overtaken by soldiers bringing the letters, which ordered them back to Monterey. Because it was necessary for them to return to Monterey, they looked for a shorter route than that one over which they had come. Fray Juan Crespi wrote,

"But we know that we have wound about a great deal, and on the return we are going to look for a more direct road, to shorten the journey as much as possible. This will serve also to explore the interior of the country."(1)

"From the camp near the San Joaquin River they crossed the range, east of Mt. Diablo, to the Concord Valley (Santa Angela de Fulgino), entering it perhaps at Clayton and continuing west to Walnut Creek. Turning southeast, they proceeded past Danville, through San Ramon Valley. Camp was apparently made near San Ramon. Next day they continued south to Livermore Valley, skirting its western edge, and camped near Pleasanton.

"Next day they descended Arroyo de la Laguna, crossing it near Sunol. Leaving Sunol Valley (Santa Coleta) they crossed Alameda Creek, ascending Mission Pass, reentered the valley of San Francisco Bay, and continued past the head of the bay to a point near Milpitas." (2)

From there they went to Monterey. They passed through the Livermore Valley in the first two days of the month of April 1772.

It is possible that, in the year 1805, Sergeant Peralta (3) and his party of soldiers passed through Livermore Valley on their way to punish the Leuchas (4) Indians. While visiting sick neophytes, Major-domo Higuera and Padre Cuevas, of the Mission San Jose, were attacked by members of this tribe. The Leuchas apparently lived on the banks of the San Joaquin River.(5) Amador called these natives Loechas and said that they lived "fourteen leagues" east of the Mission.(6) To get from the Mission to the San Joaquin Valley the soldiers naturally would choose the shortest route. This route would be through the Livermore Valley, which was only "six leagues" (18 miles) from the Mission. Both the easiest and shortest route to the San Joaquin Valley is through Altamont or the Livermore Pass. For this reason, it is probable that Sergeant Peralta took it.

In August of 1810, Gabriel Moraga conducted an expedition, which was recorded by Fray Jose Viader. This expedition went from Mission San Jose northward (7) to the southern shores of Suisun Bay, thence to the San Joaquin River. This route probably was the same as that of the Crespi-Fages expedition of 1772, which was through Livermore Valley, north through San Ramon and Concord Valleys, and across the range to Suisun Bay. The fact that this route lay through Livermore Valley is shown by this extract from the Viader diary.

"August 15- Left Mission San Jose (8) and went six leagues north to a spring in the Valle de San Jose".

Livermore Valley is named "Valle de San Jose" in some of the old records.(9) In October of the same year Moraga and Viader were again in this region. They crossed the mountains from the Mission San Jose and went to Pescadero (10) on the San Joaquin River by the way of Livermore, Valley. Quoting from Viader's diary,

"October 19- We went not more than six leagues and passed the night in the Valle de San Jose."

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Twelve soldiers who had come from San Francisco joined Sergeant Soto and one hundred Indians from Mission San Jose. Their campaign was directed against the Consumnes, probably Cosumnes (II) Indians. To meet the twelve soldiers on the San Joaquin River, Soto probably took the shortest route, through Livermore Valley.

In 1819, Sergeant Sanchez attacked the Muquelemes to recover horses, which these Indians had taken during their raiding expeditions. To reach the Moqueleme territory the soldiers must have passed through Livermore Valley, the Indian territory is across the San Joaquin Valley, and the soldiers started from Mission San Jose.(12)

Another expedition under Sanchez, this time against the Cosumnes, who lived across the San Joaquin Valley, took place in November 1826. Las Positas later became Livermore's rancho. The following is a translation from the journal kept by Sanchez,

"On the morning of the 20th the troop commenced its march, and, after stopping to dine at Las Positas, reached the river San Joaquin at eleven o' clock at night, where it halted."(13)

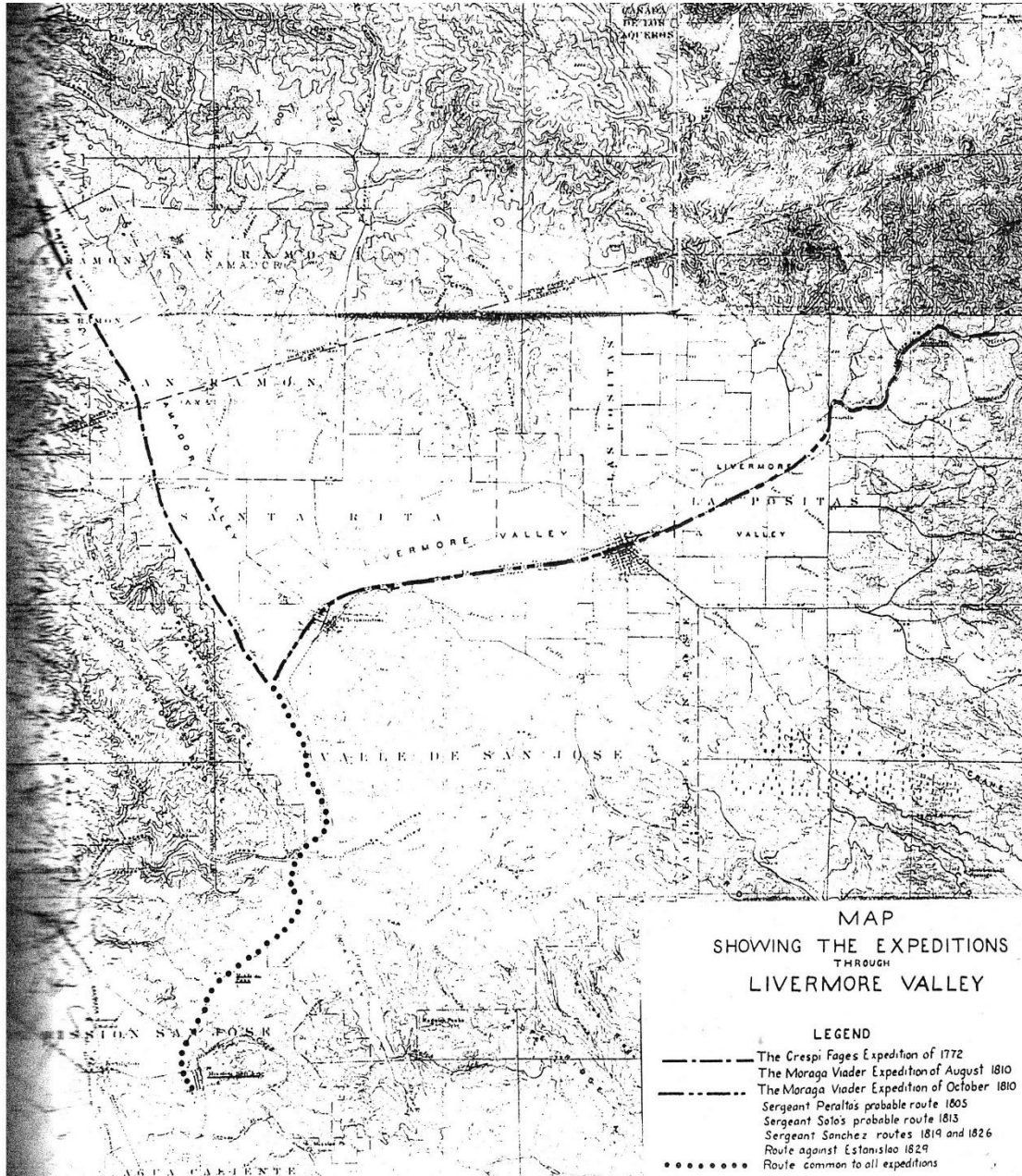
In 1829 began the somewhat famous campaigns against Estanislao, a native chieftain, who was educated at Mission San Jose. He ran away, in 1827 or early in 1828, and took refuge with a band of ex-neophytes and gentiles in the San Joaquin Valley. Soldiers were sent against him because he had assisted the Indians in raiding ranchos. It is probable the soldiers who were sent to pursue him passed through Livermore Valley.

Long before any settlements were made in the Livermore Valley it had been crossed and recrossed by soldiers who were either on expeditions or pursuing Indians. Because the Valley de San Jose was known to be very fertile, the Mission Padres ordered it to be used as a grazing ground for their cattle and sheep.

Footnotes

1. Crespi, Fray Juan, Diary of Fray Juan Crespi in Palou's Historical Memoirs of New California, II, 348, Bolton, HE, editor.
2. Palou, Historical Memoirs of New California, II, 350, Bolton, HE, editor.
3. Bancroft, HH, History of California, II, 34.
4. Archives of California, Provincial State Papers, XIX, 29. MS.
5. Schenck, WE, Historical Aboriginal Groups of California Delta Region, in UC Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology, XXIII, No. 2, 126.
6. Amador, JM, Memorias 14-15. MS.
7. Viader, Fray Jose, Diary of August 1810, in Archives of Mission Santa Barbara, IV, 74-84. MS.
8. Ibid. 74.
9. Expediente No.129. MS. (See Appendix)
10. Viader, Fray Jose, Diary for October 1810, in Archives of Mission Santa Barbara, IV, 85-94. MS.
11. Schenck, WE, Historical Aboriginal Groups, 129
12. Bancroft, HH, History of California, II, 585.
13. Sanchez, Jose, Journal Kept During Enterprise against the Cosumnes; in Beechey, Voyage to the Pacific and Beerings' Strait, II, 27
14. Bancroft, HH, History of California, III, 110.

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Map 2 - Expeditions through Livermore Valley

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CHAPTER II - The Indians of Livermore Valley

The first glimpse we have of the Indians of Livermore Valley is in the Crespi diary. The Crespi-Fages expedition has already been described in the first chapter. As the expedition entered San Ramon Valley, it "...came to three villages with some little grass houses. As soon as the heathen caught sight of us, they ran away, shouting and panic-stricken without knowing what had happened." The next day Crespi and Fages skirted the western edge of Livermore Valley and found

"... numerous villages of very gentle and peaceful heathen, many of fair complexion. It is a very suitable place for a good mission, having good lands, much water, firewood and many heathen".(1)

In the Sevilla Manuscript of the Crespi diary for this same day (April 1) the Indians are described more fully. It says...

"We set out from here following the valley toward the south and in a short distance came to another arroyo and a good village of heathen After going about two leagues we saw another village, but passed on without paying any attention to them, because we were soaked from a light rain which we had suffered for about five leagues. At the end of this distance we came to two other large villages, (near Pleasanton) passing through one of them which was on the right side of the road. We stopped here a little while, surprised to see some seventy heathen, not counting the women, boys, girls, because they were very tall, fair and white. We gave them some beads, and concluded that in some words the language was the same as that spoken at Monterrey."(2)

This is all the information we have concerning the original Indians of Livermore Valley. I could find no other records of Indians except with reference to Mission San Jose. At first, the Indians for Mission San Jose were taken from the territory surrounding the Mission, including Livermore Valley. As these Indians perished from the contact with civilization and its diseases, Indians from the Napa, Suisun and San Joaquin Valleys were taken into the Mission.(3) Accounts emphasize this securing of converts from afar.

For example, the Passassinias "had been to the Mission many times," the Nototemnes "had already become Christians at San Jose," (4) refugee neophytes were sought among the Cosumnes, and horses were early taken by the Muqueiemnes. Thus, the Indians at the Mission San Jose soon became a very mixed group. The Indians did not remain at the Mission, because Governor Alvarado, on November 29, 1836, issued an order for the secularization of Mission San Jose. The neophytes scattered in all directions as soon as the Mission had been secularized. The Indians who returned to Livermore Valley were, however, not of pure blood but were mixed as a result of the life at the Mission.

Mr. Gifford says, "At Pleasanton (in the Livermore-Amador Valley) there were plain Miwok who had once been taken to live with Costanoan and Yokuts at Mission San Jose in Alameda County, and who were not only allied in language and culture but probably to some extent in marriage with the Northern and Central Miwok."(6)

In 1914, when Mr. Gifford visited the Indians at Pleasanton, Plain Miwok was the spoken Indian tongue. These Indians migrated to and from their country and Livermore Valley; for when Mr. Gifford inquired where a particular person was, the reply would invariably be, "He (or she) has gone back to the hills."(7) Or, when he questioned who a certain person was, the response would be, "He (or she) came from the hills."

Most writers describe these Indians as unattractive, having dark complexions, low foreheads, prominent teeth, and small statures.(8) This description certainly does not agree with that given by Crespi in his diary. The differences in appearance may have been due to the change of living conditions at Mission San Jose.

The Indians were not settled permanently in the valley but migrated to and from the San Joaquin Valley floor and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This can be concluded from Mr. Gifford's statement. Migration gave them the opportunity to vary

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their diet if they so wished. The hill streams furnished them with fish. Their chief food was acorns but other seeds were also eaten. Small game and birds furnished them with food.(9)

Their dress was as primitive as their food. The clothing of the men was lacking, and the women wore the "usual two short skirts, one before and (one behind."(10) Their dwellings were about as primitive as their dress. In winter, their habitations were nothing but flimsy shelters constructed of poles fixed in the ground and drawn together at the top. The poles were interwoven with small twigs and the whole structure was covered with tules or tufts of dried grass.(11) In summer any shady place answered the purpose of houses.

The Indians were not warlike. Blood feuds (i.e. revenge) were the most common cause of warfare, (12) although there were raids on the property of the white man. Occasionally, the Indians who had been at the Missions, and had become well informed in regard to the surrounding neighborhood and the different ranches in the vicinity, would desert the Missions, retreat to their old haunts and join the uncivilized Indians. At times, they would come back with some of the wild Indians for the purpose of raiding the ranchos and capturing the domesticated horses. They would come quietly in the night, capture the cattle and horses, and drive them back to the Indian country. In the morning when the rancho had discovered his loss he would borrow some horses from a neighbor, and ten or twelve men would collect to pursue the raiders. They were nearly always successful in overtaking the Indians and recovering their cattle or horses. Often there were fierce fights with the Indians, who were armed with bows and arrows.(14)

It is said that the Scalanes (15) and Golgones (16) Indians had a Rancheria (17) at Las Positas Springs, about a mile east of the site of Livermore's adobe house. Livermore wanted to build his house near Las Positas Springs but the Indians prevented him. Some years later Robert Livermore Junior erected a large two-story frame building on the site of the former Rancheria. When the Pacific Gas and Electric Company was building a new ditch on the Las Positas rancho at Las Positas Springs, a few years ago, skeletons of Indians and Indian arrow flints were found. Often, when plowing is done now on the site of Las Positas Springs (now drained), arrowheads are found.

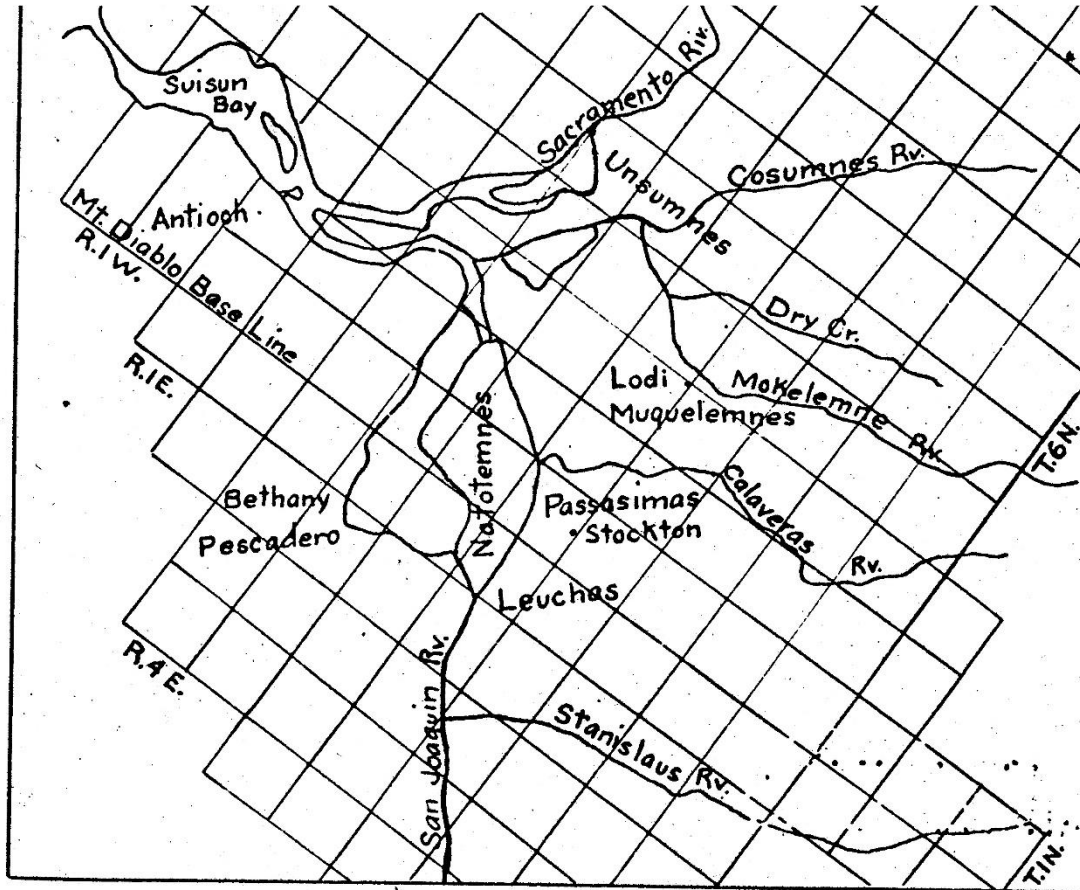
These Indians died probably of the epidemic of smallpox, which swept away so many of the California Indians. The latter settlers only know of the Digger Indians, whom they describe as being dirty, indolent, and who intermarried with the lowest classes of the incoming settlers, creating a class of Peons.

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Footnotes

1. Crespi, Fray Juan, Diary of Fray Juan Crespi in Palou, Historical Memoirs of New California, II, 3848, Bolton, HE, editor.
2. Palou, Fray Francisco Historical Memoirs of New California, 11,350, Bolton, HE, editor.
3. Bancroft, HH, History of California, II, 34
4. Archives of California, Provincial State Papers, XIX, 29.Ms.
5. Schenck, WE, Historical Aboriginal Groups of the California Delta Region, in the UC Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology, XXIII, No. 2, 126.
6. Amador, JM, Memorias 14-15, MS.
7. Viader, Fray Jose, Diary of August, 1810, in the Archives of Mission Santa Barbara, IV, 74-84. MS.
8. Ibid. 74.
9. Expediente No. 129. MS. (See Appendix for translation of this expediente.)
10. Viader, Fray Jose, Diary for October 1810, in Archives of Mission Santa Barbara, IV, 85-94.Ms.
11. Schenck, WE, Historical Aboriginal Groups, 129
12. Bancroft, HH History of California, II, 585
13. Sanchez, Jose, Journal Kept During the Enterprise against the Cosumnes; in Beechey, F.W., Voyage to the Pacific and Beerings' Strait, II, 27
14. Bancroft, HH, History of California, 111,110.
15. Callaghan, MG, Personal Interview, March 4,1927.
16. The name Golgones was perhaps given to these Indians because they lived near "Sierra de Las Golgones" which mountain we now know as Mt. Diablo. In the Transcript: Land Commission Case# 60 (USA vs: Pacheco, JD) one of the witnesses refers definitely to Sierra de las Golgones and says it is the same mountain as Mt. Diablo. Professor George Davidson, who for many years was in charge of the San Francisco headquarters of the US Coast and Geodetic Survey, made a report in December 1858, of a surveying expedition to the top of Mt. Diablo. He says in the concluding paragraph, "*The only name by which this mountain is known to the Old Californians that have resided here for thirty or forty years is Sierra de las Golgones*". (De Mofras calls it Sierra de los Bolbones). This information was found by PC Whitney of Berkeley in charge of San Francisco headquarters of the US Coast and Geodetic Survey of Pacific.
17. **Rancheria** = "*a number of huts constructed of a rib-work or frame of small poles Or saplings in a conical shape, covered with straw, grass or tule. The huts are sometimes fifteen feet in diameter at their bases, and the number of them grouped together vary according to the number of them grouped together vary according to the number of them grouped together vary according to the number of the tribe which inhabits them*". - Bryant, E., What I saw In California. 271

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MAP

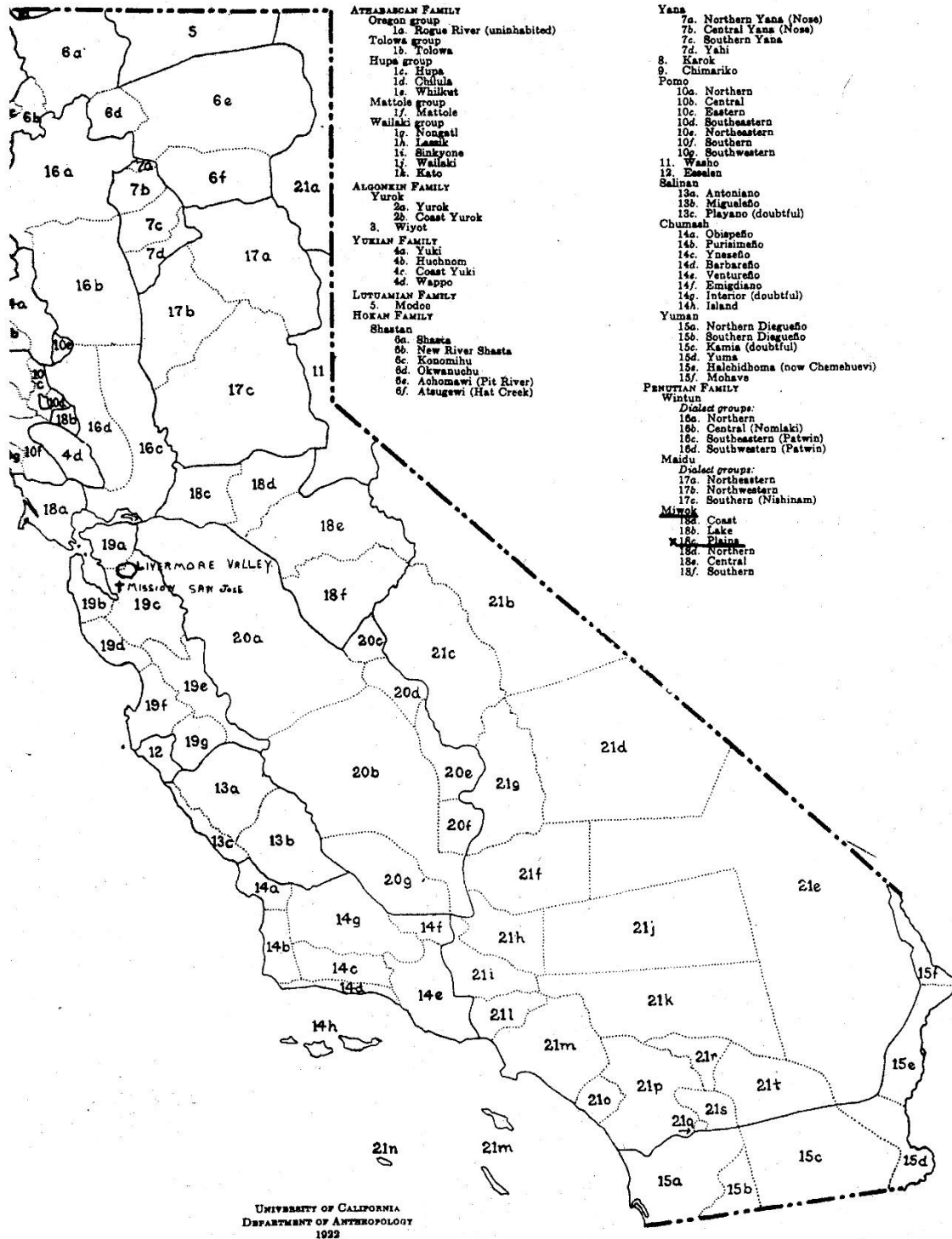
SHOWING LOCATION, ACCORDING TO STREAMS,
OF INDIAN GROUPS MENTIONED.

(From Fig. I of Schenck,
W.E., Historical Aboriginal Groups of the
California Delta Region.)

Map 3 - Location, by Streams, of Indian Groups (Schenck, 1926)

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NATIVE TRIBES, GROUPS, DIALECTS, AND FAMILIES OF CALIFORNIA IN 1770



Map 4 - Native Tribes, Groups, Dialects, Families in 1770 (UC 1922)

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CHAPTER III - The First Settlers

Crespi, in his diary, described the Livermore Valley as a fine place for Europeans to dwell in.

"We entered a beautiful valley of considerable width and good level land, well covered with grass, with good arroyos well grown with alders, cottonwood, laurels, roses, and other trees not known to us ... This valley appears to me to be a charming site for a settlement, with all the advantages that are required."(1)

Later expeditions through the valley speak of the good water and the numerous streams. These natural conditions made it an ideal place for elk, deer, and antelope. Grizzly bears were common in the hills surrounding the valley Quail were abundant.

Bryant, writing in 1846 said, "Wild horse- and herds of elk were numerous. Beef is so abundant and ' so fine a quality that game is but little hunted, and not much prized. Hence, the elk, deer, and even antelope are comparatively very tame, and rarely run from the traveler, unless he rides very near them."(2)

This account is much later than the previous one, yet it gives one an idea of the conditions of the country and the sort of paradise that the first settlers found when they came to the valley.

In 1819, Jose Maria Amador,(3) a Mexican soldier, who was with Sergeant Jose Sanchez, crossed the valley on a military expedition pursuing the Indians Amador decided that this valley was the place he had been seeking to make his home. He became the first settler in Livermore Valley when in 1826 he built an adobe house and a corral in the west end of the valley. He had at that time six hundred (4) cattle and eighty horses. As soon as he was discharged from the army, he became major-domo for the Mission San Jose. He lived on his rancho, which was known as San Ramon.(5) He improved the land by cultivating vegetables for his own use, but his principal occupation was that of cattle-raising. Later, Amador planted an orchard, and raised, among other things,(6) wheat, onions, corn, and beans for household use. In 1829, he petitioned the Mexican government for the land (8) he was occupying. The government did not grant it until 1834. In 1833, he moved his family onto the rancho.

Amador and his family lived alone in the wonderful valley, until 1833-4(7), when Robert Livermore and Jose Noriega built an adobe house in what is Sunol Valley and began to raise stock. Livermore had at that time four hundred head of cattle, three hundred sheep, and one hundred horses. They cultivated the soil to raise a few fresh vegetables for their own use.

Livermore (10) was born [near] London, England. He ran away to sea when only sixteen coming to the USA. We next hear of him when he is fighting under Lord Cochrane at Callao, Peru (1820) a battle in Hispanic American Wars of Independence. Not being satisfied with these thrilling adventures he embarked on a coast trading vessel which he deserted when he reached Monterey, Upper California. It is said that he was the first Englishman to land at that port. The date of his arrival in California is uncertain. Soon after he arrived, he worked in San Jose where he met Don Jose Noriega. Livermore learned the Spanish language and liked the people so much that he decided to stay. As we have seen, he settled in Sunol Valley.

Noriega (11) was a Spaniard of San Jose who later became Livermore's partner in the ownership of the Las Positas land grant. Even though he was a partner in the grant, Noriega continued to remain in San Jose. He resided in the rancho two or three months of the year.(12)

Wood says, "It is presumable that in his wanderings after his cattle or game he (Livermore) became familiar with the locality, and from the summit of one of the adjacent Tomas' first cast his longing and loving eyes upon the fair vale which bears his name today."(13)

Livermore Valley to 1860

Livermore moved to that "fair vale" in 1835 and from that year dates the first step in the permanent settlement and development of the valley. He devoted himself to the raising of horned cattle, horses and sheep, but planted a small garden, orchard and vineyard.(14) Amador was already established in the valley, as we have seen, so that Livermore had a neighbor. Livermore had only been in the valley a year when Mission San Jose was secularized. The Neophytes now scattered in all directions. Many joined the savages of the mountains and began depredations on the frontier ranchos. Livermore, for the first few years, was greatly harassed by these Indians, who stole his horses, slaughtered his cattle, and made it unsafe, at times, for him to remain in his "Wilderness" home. Once Livermore and his hired man had to take refuge in the house (15) which the savages surrounded at night. The Indians ran off next day with his tame horses.

Shortly after this occurrence, the government sent a company of soldiers from Mission San Jose. Livermore accompanied the soldiers in pursuit of the Indians. On another occasion when Livermore, because of his courage, was selected to capture and punish the marauders.

"The Indians were pursued across the Stanislaus River above Knights Ferry. A thick fog came up, so the pursuers camped near what is now called Chinese Camp. During the night, the Indians surrounded the camp and made an attack. Livermore's followers became panic-stricken and fled, leaving their arms and horses. Livermore, finding himself abandoned by his companions and that to fight single-handed was useless, made his way through the ambushade with musket in hand and footed it to Dr. Marshes' Rancho, with his musket on his shoulder, cursing his companions for their cowardice, he being the only one of the company that brought back a single musket or arm of any description".(16)

Not only did the frontier rancheros complain about Indian depredations but the police judges of San Jose [also] sent a complaint to the government. On August 21, 1836, several police judges of San Jose, Jose Manuel Pinto, Sebastian Peralta, Jose Mesa, and Jose Felix, complained bitterly of the increasing horse stealing committed by the runaway Mission Indians (probably of the Mission Santa Clara, and later of Mission San Jose).

The horses were driven off and sold to gentiles [Indians] and white adventurers. The culprit most frequently named by these police judges was Estanislao of Mission San Jose. He raised a band of renegade and gentile Indians, with these; he overran the settlements and drove off the livestock. The complaint demanded that the government should be asked to punish the guilty parties,

"otherwise the rest of the evil-doers will never be terrified, and the interests of the citizens will never be secure."(17)

These depredations continued throughout 1838, 1839 and 1840.

J. Bidwell said that in 1841. *"on this journey of ours up the San Joaquin Valley, we encountered a band of tame horses, nearly 100 in number, and took them from the Indians who were driving them into the mountains. Such raids by the Indians into the settlements were of frequent occurrence." (18)*

But not all Indians were renegades and not all committed acts of depredation. Civilized Indians, from the Mission, were scattered about the country, and many were found on the different ranchos in Livermore Valley. Amador, Sunol, and Livermore used Indians on their ranchos. These Indians were of peaceful disposition, and were employed as vaqueros, and helped the rancheros at the planting and harvest times.

Livermore took delight in hunting. In 1836, he, George Frazer, and Benjamin Williams (19) went to the Tassajara Canyon to kill elk and deer for their hides and tallow. Livermore's share of the profits in that undertaking amounted to six hundred dollars.

In 1836 and 1837, Livermore, with Pacheco's consent, cultivated a portion of Rancho Santa Rita.(20) By 1837, Livermore was really established in the valley. In that year, Mr. Edwards, the financial agent for the Willamette Cattle Company of Oregon, visited Livermore. Edwards was driving cattle from Mission San Jose to Oregon.

Livermore Valley to 1860

In his diary Edwards wrote, "*June 22, last night I rode to Livermore's 16 miles after sunset and returned by sunrise this morning*".

His men were camped to the north of Mission San Jose at this time. "*Friday [June] 23, moved early, ate breakfast at Livermore's*".

"*July 21st. Sun about two hours high in the afternoon, set out for Herbo Bueno to procure a supply of powder, slept at Livermore's about 20 miles from Pueblo de Santa Clara.*"

The gunpowder had become soaked and partly lost while Edwards was crossing a stream, so it necessitated a trip to San Francisco for a fresh supply.

"*July 24, contracted with Mr. Forbes for two horses, on which I was riding and the other left at Livermore's, the sale for cattle in good terms, reached Livermore's with Mr. F. and learned the horse left there was stolen.*" (21)

This theft must have been committed by the Cosumne Indians, for in that same year (1837) those Indians raided Amador's rancho and carried (22) away one hundred head of cattle. Amador called on Livermore for help and they, with several of their employees, pursued the Indians in an attempt to recover the cattle. Both Livermore and Amador were wounded.

Livermore had been living on the Las Positas Rancho (23) although he had no legal title to it. This rancho had been petitioned for by Guillermo Gulnac in 1834.(24) This petition had been sent to the various officials and was still being circulated when in January, 1837, Gulnac transferred his rights in the property (25) to Livermore and Noriega and then the petition followed its usual course, finally being granted to the two foregoing parties on April 10, 1837.(26) The Rancho consisted of "two square leagues." (27)

In 1838, Livermore married Josefa Higuera, a widow with one daughter, whom he had met at Rancho Agua Caliente, her father's rancho, a few years before. He moved his family to the present Sunol Valley and made trips from there to his rancho Las Positas. His cattle had now increased to two or three thousand head and his horses numbered one or two thousand.(28)

On the Rancho of JM Amador and JD Pacheco (whose cattle and horses were mixed) there were six thousand head of cattle and between one and two thousand horses.(29) In 1839, Livermore temporarily moved his family to the Amador Rancho, because it was the only safe place in Livermore Valley.(30) He made daily trips of eighteen miles to look after his interests on Las Positas. This same year. Livermore and Noriega, with Amador's help, built an adobe house about a mile and a half from the present town of Livermore near Las Positas Creek, (31) on Las Positas Rancho, which was a domain large enough to be a European principality.

Sometime afterward Livermore moved his family to the Rancho Las Positas permanently. Whenever the Indians committed acts of depreciation and it was unsafe for his family in their wilderness home, Livermore took them to Amador's Rancho for protection because it was now rarely molested.

Livermore Valley to 1860

Footnotes

1. Crespi, Fray Juan, Diary in Palou, II, 349-350.
2. Bryant, E., What I Saw in California, 302-3.
3. Amador's life is given in detail in the Appendix.
4. USA vs: Amador, JM, Transcript: Land Commission, case No. 128. MS.
5. See Topographical Map with Cultural Features for the location of his Grant, also his house.
6. USA vs: Amador, JM, op. cit. MS
7. For method of obtaining a grant, see Historical background of the Land Question of California in appendix.
8. See map taken from Expediente No. 80.
9. Livermore, WC, Letter to R. Livermore, November 21, 1851. MS.
10. See Appendix for Livermore's early life.
11. See Appendix for sketch of Noriega's life.
12. USA vs: Pacheco, JD, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 60. MS.
13. Wood, MW History of Alameda County, 460.
14. Castro, Guillermo, Deposition in US Land Commission Case# 77.
15. Neal, JA Statement of JA Neal, MS.(See Appendix).
16. Munyan, E., Letter of, June 26. 1884 to Valentine Alviso. ME.
17. Archives of California. Departmental State Papers, IV.299-301
18. Bidwell, J., Early California Reminiscences, in John Bidwell, Addresses and Reminiscences, etc., Royce, CC
19. Neal, JA Statement. MS
20. USA vs. Pacheco, JD, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 60. MS.
21. Edwards. PL, Diary of PL Edwards. MS
22. Bancroft, HH California Pastoral, 772.
23. See Topographical Map with Cultural Features for Rancho, also map from Expediente 129.
24. Expediente 129 (For translation of expediente see Appendix). MS.
25. Expediente 129.
26. In the History of California, IV. 715, historian Bancroft states, "*In 1839, he (Livermore) was apparently granted the rancho on April 8, but two days later it was granted to Salvio Pacheco, probably as a formality, Livermore not being a citizen*". Other historians make similar statements based on this one of Bancroft's.
 - a. Wood MW, History of Alameda County, 459.
 - b. Baker, JE Past and Present of Alameda County, I, 37.
 - c. Halley, W., Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 39.
 - d. But in the original documents, the grant was made to Jose Noriega and "Roberto Livermore". (See Appendix, Expediente 129).
27. **square league** = 4,440 acres.
28. Davis. WH Sixty Years in California, 32.
29. Ibid. 31.
30. Neal. JA Statement, MS.
31. Wood, MW History of Alameda County, 461.

Livermore Valley to 1860

CHAPTER IV - The Ranchos of Livermore Valley

On the day (April 10, 1839) that Governor Alvarado granted Rancho Las Positas del Valle de San Jose to Jose Noriega and Roberto Livermore, two other grants were also made in the Livermore Valley.

- Rancho Santa Rita was granted to Jose Dolores Pacheco.
- Rancho Valle de San Jose was granted to Antonio Maria Pico, Antonio Sunol, Augustin Bernal, and Juan P. Bernal.

The system of ranchos of which these ranchos in Livermore Valley were typical, was introduced into California by the Spaniards.(1) They were private landholdings, and ranged in size from one to eleven square leagues. On most of the ranchos, the main industry was that of cattle raising though some farming was done to supply the household needs. These ranchos were usually quite a distance from one another so that each individual rancho became the social and economic unit and even to some extent the religious unit of the people on the rancho. Each rancho was a frontier settlement complete by itself, leading its own life.

The first settler in the valley, as we have seen, was JM Amador. He occupied San Ramon Rancho first by the permission of the Mission San Jose.(2) This rancho was "five leagues" from the Mission. He settled on the rancho long before it was granted to him as seen by the fact that in 1826 he built an adobe house(3) on the land. At that time he built a corral and took his one hundred head of cattle and eighty horses with him.(4) In 1835 Governor Figueroa granted the rancho to Amador. Thus Amador's was the earliest grant made in the valley.

It consisted of "four square leagues, bounded on the south by the mission lands of San Jose and the Alameda Spring, on the north by the arroyo or Creek of San Ramon, on the east and west by the mountains, or Sierras.L"(5)

He improved the land, raised cattle and horses, and built himself another house. He made this rancho the family home and took pride in improving it. When the people flocked into California during the gold rush, his house was always open for any of the travelers. The portion of the valley where he lived soon became known as Amador Valley.

As we shall see, the discovery of gold caused an inrush of settlers to California. The newcomers paid little or no attention to the claims of the rancheros and settled on the land irrespective of boundaries. Disputed claims came before the new government. In Livermore Valley, all the rancho owners had their titles to their grants from the Mexican government but this did not prevent squatters from settling on their lands. It was difficult to determine the exact extent and boundaries of the original grants, for in the expediente (6) referring to them the number of leagues are mentioned as "—leagues, more or less." Moreover, no official surveys had been made.

The land problem became so great, not only in Livermore Valley but in all California, that the US government had to settle it. In 1849 (7) and again in 1850, (8) following investigations ordered by the government, reports were sent to Washington, D.C. on the subject of California land titles.

On March 3, 1851, Congress passed an Act entitled, "**An Act to Ascertain and Settle the Private Land Claims in the State of California**".(9) The act provided for a commission which was composed of three members. Every person claiming lands in California by virtue of any right or title derived from the Spanish or Mexican governments was required to present the claim to the commission within two years, together with such documentary evidence and testimony of witnesses, as the claimant relied upon in support of his claim. All lands unclaimed within two years were to be considered a part of the public domain.(10)

In order that his land title might be valid, Amador filed on March 23, 1852 a petition with the Land Commission. After reading the petition and hearing the seven witnesses, the commission confirmed the claim. Then on January 14, 1856, the validity of the claim was recognized by the US District Court, Northern Division (11) of California.

Livermore Valley to 1860

(This case was appealed to the District Court by the USA). In January, 1857, the appeal was dismissed from the court.(12)

The "four square leagues" of the grant were held to be Amador's legal property. This grant contained sixteen thousand, five hundred and sixteen and a fraction acres.

In the original expediente, it appears that on the July 11, 1834 Guillermo Gulnac(13) petitioned Governor Jose Figueroa for the tract of land Las Positas. It contained "two squares leagues".

It was bounded as follows:

- "on the North by the Lomas de Las Cuevas (now known as Brushy Peak)
- and the East by the Sierra de Buenos Ayres, (Corral Hollow)
- on the South by the dividing line of the establishment of San Jose,
- on the west by the Rancho of Don Jose Dolores Pacheco."(14)

The padre of Mission San Jose reported as follows: "*The land 'Las Positas' is not arable; it is suited for pasturage. It does not pertain to the property of any individual, pueblo or mission, and if it has been heretofore occupied by the Mission San Jose the said mission did not need it, for it became disoccupied and is now vacant.*" (15)

The governor referred it to the Ayuntamiento of the Pueblo de San Jose and to the Rev. Father Muster of the Mission San Jose. Favorable reports were received from those persons so the governor by a further order dated August 8, 1834, ordered the petition to be passed to the Alcalde of the capital. At this stage of the proceeding, Gulnac transferred the land (16) to Robert Livermore and Jose Noriega in January 1837.

These persons presented a petition to the Prefect of the first district setting forth the transfer by Gulnac to themselves and of all his rights to the land. Livermore and Noriega wanted to have the land in their own right and to occupy the rancho with their large stock of cattle (some of which were purchased by Gulnac). On March 23, 1839, the Prefect directed the petition to the governor—"there appearing to be no obstacles to granting the favor asked for".(17) Governor Alvarado referred the petition to the administrator of the mission, who made a favorable report, and on April 10, 1839, the decree of concession was made to Robert Livermore (18) and Jose Noriega.

On May 22, 1840, the territorial assembly passed its resolution of approval.

During the time that these law proceedings were being carried on, Livermore and Noriega occupied the grant with their cattle and, as we have seen, as soon as the grant was made to them, in 1839,(19) Livermore erected an adobe house near Las Positas creek. This building stood until 1877 when it was torn down.

In order that their claim to the rancho would be a legal one, Noriega and Livermore filed their claim with the Land Commission on February 27, 1852. It was confirmed by the commission February 14, 1854. The USA made an appeal to the District Court, but this court confirmed the commission's decision April 18, 1859.

Jose Dolores Pacheco was a Mexican citizen, and has served the nation as a soldier for many years, so he was entitled to choose a location in the vacant domain. He wished to occupy the Santa Rita rancho. On June 19, 1834, he applied for the grant to Governor Figueroa, but the circumstances at the time caused his request to be postponed.(20)

Livermore Valley to 1860

The boundaries of this rancho were as follows,

- "beginning at a certain spring or ojo de agua near the house of Jose M. Amador
- thence to a northerly and northeasterly direction along the foot of the Sierra, or range of hills called the Sierra de San Jose, to a place called Palos Secos or dead trees
- thence to a certain dry creek or ravine to the foot of a small lake—thence in a direction of the Sierra de los Golgores to the foot of said Sierra
- thence along the foot of said Sierra to the head of the valley called Canada de los Vaqueros
- thence in a straight line to the beginning."(21)

This grant contained "two square leagues".

On November 30, 1835, he renewed the petition and Governor Juan B. Alvarado granted the rancho to him by decree and April 10, 1839, the title of concession was given. The Departmental Assembly of California on May 19, 1840, confirmed the grant.

Pacheco occupied the rancho with his cattle for many years. In 1843, he had a house built on the land and it was occupied by a major-domo (22) (Francisco Alviso). Pacheco's and Amador's cattle roamed over the land until 1841, when he divided his cattle from Amador's and occupied the land exclusively. Amador withdrew to the land granted to him.

The claim for this rancho was filed by Pacheco with the Land Commission on February 21, 1852. This commission rejected the claim on April 25, 1854, because the conditions of the grant required the "grantee to build a house on the premises within one year and that the same should be inhabited." The house was put upon the land by his manager and built two or three years after the grant was made. "After the date of the grant, it was never occupied by the grantee and he is not proved ever to have cultivated or made any improvement on the land."(24) However, the District Court on August 13, 1855, saw fit to confirm the grant after much investigation. Pacheco made the appeal to this court.

This case was referred to the US Supreme Court.(26) Appeal made by the US District Court for the Northern District of California.

"There is no controversy in relation to the validity of the grant, but only as respects the quantity confirmed by the District Court, that being "two square leagues". The claimant, Pacheco, insists that he is entitled to a survey and patent from the USA corresponding to the out-boundaries embraced in his diseno, and the description given of the rancho in the governor's grant...(27)

The claimants came before us, presenting an equity; their title not being completed, because the land has never been surveyed, and severed from the public domain. From all the acts, taken together, it is manifest that the decree of the District Court restricting the quantity to two square leagues, must be confirmed if so much land is found within the out-boundaries of the tract of country set forth in the grant and diseno. otherwise, the less quantity."(28)

The grant contained 8,885.67 acres. This was found later in the survey of the land.(29)

Rancho Valle de San Jose was granted on April 10, 1839, by Governor Juan B. Alvarado to Antonio Maria Pico, Antonio Sunol, Augustin Bernal, and Juan Bernal. The grant has natural boundaries and was very large. It consisted of fifty-one thousand and five hundred and seventy-two acres, or "eleven square leagues". Pico sold his interest in the grant to Antonio Sunol soon after the grant was made.(30) Directly after the grant was made, that is within a few months, the grantees put a thousand head of cattle on the land.

The claim for the rancho was filed on May 18, 1852, under the name of Antonio Sunol et al. The Land Commission confirmed the grant on February 21, 1854. The USA appealed to the District Court. This court confirmed Antonio Sunol et al. in their ownership of the rancho on January 14, for the validity of the claim was proved.(31)

Livermore Valley to 1860

In 1836 while Amador was cultivating his rancho and caring for his cattle the rest of Livermore Valley was still under the jurisdiction of Mission San Jose, but the Las Positas and the Valle de San Jose Ranchos were being petitioned for. In this year Manuel Miranda, Antonio Higuera, Antonio Alviso and Francisco Alviso settled upon(32) and later made application for the Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros. This rancho consisted of "four square leagues" and was bounded

- "on the north by the Julpenas, occupied by Don John Marsh;
- on the east, the Canada de Buenos Ayres, Antonio M. Pico's land;
- on the south Las Positas of Don Roberto Livermore;
- and on the west by land of Don Dolores Pacheco."(33)

The expediente containing the original petition is dated 1844. When it was referred to the first judge of the Pueblo de San Jose, his report was,

"The tract of land called 'Canada de los Vaqueros' can be granted to the petitioners under the conditions to be subject to the extent resulting after the lands of Marsh, Pico, and Livermore are measured, and in the meantime a provisional permission may be issued to them to occupy land without detriment to the adjoining land owners, who are to be apprised of this concession. However, the Supreme Judgement of Your Excellency will decide what is fit."(34)

On February 29, 1844, the grant was made to Manuel Miranda, Antonio Higuera, Antonio Alviso, and Francisco Alviso by Governore Manuel Micheltoarena. The grant included hills and valley. The valley through which the Arroyo de los Vaqueros runs is of considerable extent, the other valleys are small and divided by high hills.(35) In 1843 Alviso built a large corral on the property, and in 1844, the year the grant was made to him, he built another smaller corral.(36)

Antonio Higuera on September 14, 1846, transferred his right in the grant to Francisco Alviso, and Manuel Miranda did the same on October 12, 1846.(37) The owners sold(38) the rancho to Roberto Livermore and Jose Noriega on April 24, 1847. The contract of sale was originally a "verbal one but about three or four months, more or less, afterwards it was reduced to writing."(39)

Livermore presented a claim for the rancho to the land commission on February 27, 1852. The commission confirmed it on September 4, 1855. The case was appealed by the USA to the District Court and on December 28, 1857, the court confirmed Livermore and Noriega in their ownership of the rancho and the case was dismissed.

From the foregoing discussion, one sees that all of these rancho owners presented their claims to the Land Commission for their verification and that they were later confirmed by the District Court. Two of the ranchos, Valle de San Jose and Santa Rita, were also taken to the US Supreme Court. Thus through long and tedious legal procedure the owners of the ranchos were at last able to secure valid land titles to their lands.

Livermore Valley to 1860

Footnotes

1. For the method of obtaining grants, see the: Historical Background of the Land Question of California in the Appendix of this paper.
2. USA vs: Amador, JM Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128. MS.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Expediente No. 80, traced copy of original in: USA vs: Amador, JM Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128. MS.
6. **Expediente** = collection of papers and documents belonging to a particular business matter.
7. The report of 1849 was made by Captain HW Halleck, "Report on the Laws and Regulations Relative to the Grants or Sales of Public Land in California." (31st Congress, 1st Session, House Executive Documents, Serial No. 573, Documents, Serial No. 589, Document No. 18.)
8. Ibid.
9. Statutes, 379.
10. Donaldson, Thomas, The Public Domain 379.
11. Hoffman's Land Cases, 76. U.S. vs: Amador Case# 14.437 in Federal Cases Book 24,779.
12. Hoffman, Ogden, Report on Land Cases, Appendix, I, 18.
13. Expediente 129 (See Appendix). MS.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Expedients 129, MS.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Falkner, W.B., Directory of Murray Township, Alameda County, 23.
20. USA vs: Pacheco, JD, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 60. MS.
21. USA vs: Pacheco, JD, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 60. MS.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. USA vs: Pacheco, JD, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 60. MS.
25. Hoffman, Ogden, Report on Land Cases, Appendix, 1,9.
26. Howard, 495.
27. Ibid, 496.
28. Howard. 495.
29. Hoffman, Ogden, Report on Land Cases, Appendix 1,9.
30. USA vs: Sunol, A., et al., Transcript: Land Commission case No. 231, MS.
31. Howard, 261. Sunol et al, vs: USA, US Supreme Court Report.
32. Smith and Elliot, Illustrations of Contra Costa County, 11.
33. Expediente No. 431. (original in Surveyor General's Office, San Francisco, CA). MS.
34. Ibid.
35. USA vs: Livermore, R., Transcript: Land Commission Case# 79. MS.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. See Appendix for Deed to Livermore and Noriega.
39. USA vs: Livermore, R., Op. cit.

Livermore Valley to 1860

CHAPTER V - A Decade of Cattle Raising

Although Mexican governors had given all the land of Livermore Valley to rancheros, the valley was not settled immediately. The settlers who lived in the Valley were Jose Amador, Robert Livermore and Francisco Alviso. Large herds of cattle were put on the Bernal grant but the owners resided in San Jose. Amador was some five miles from Livermore and was his nearest neighbor. Even at this date (1839) the Indians were troublesome, for when the Bernals and Sunol were putting their cattle on their rancho and building their adobe house [in 1848] (in order that they might fill the specifications of the grant) the Indians came to take their cattle and fights resulted. Sunol and Juan and Augustin Bernal each built a house on the land given them and every year each of them cultivated a portion of the land. The stock originally put on the land greatly increased.

Sunol(1) was born in Spain but came to California in 1818 after service in the French navy department. He settled in the Pueblo of San Jose where he made his home for the rest of his life. Many governmental positions were held by him. He went to his rancho Valle de San Jose each year at the rodeo season to look after his cattle.

The Bernal brothers(2) were native Californians. Augustine was born in 1785 and Juan in 1810. Their father was a soldier and Augustin followed in his footsteps. It is probable that Juan was also a soldier.

John Bidwell, a Missourian, made a journey to California in 1841. In his diary for November, 1841 is found this extract,

"W. 10th - I went to R. Livermore's which is about twenty miles from Marsh's, nearly west; he has a Spanish wife and is surrounded by five or six Spanish families."(3)

This visit to Livermore's is further described in the following extract:

"On November 10, after the others had left, I started off, travelling south, and came to what is now called Livermore Valley, then known as Livermore's ranch, belonging to Robert Livermore, a native of England. He had left a vessel when a mere boy, and had married and lived like the native Californians, and, like them, was very expert with the lasso, Livermore's was the frontier ranch, and more exposed than any other to the ravages of the Horse-thief Indians of the Sierra Nevada. That valley was full of wild cattle,—thousands of them,—and they were more dangerous to me on foot, as I was, than grizzly bears. By dodging into the gulches and behind trees I made my way to a Mexican ranch at the extreme west end of the valley, where I staid all night. This was one of the noted ranches, and belonged to a Californian called Don Jose Maria Amador.

The rancheros marked and branded their stock differently so as to distinguish them. But it was not possible to keep them separate. One would often steal cattle from the other. Livermore in this way lost cattle by his neighbor Amador. In fact, it was almost a daily occurrence — a race to see which could get and kill the most of the other's cattle. Cattle in those days were often killed for hides alone. One day a man saw Amador kill a fine steer belonging to Livermore. When he reached Livermore's - ten or fifteen miles away — and told him what Amador had done, he found Livermore skinning a steer of Amador's."(4)

Bidwell found *"competition between Livermore and his neighbor was sharp".(5)*

This taking of cattle may have been the reason for Baker's statement, *"Amador and Livermore became hostile and once had a fight from the effects of which Livermore, who was a small man, came near dying." (6)*

Bidwell found nine thousand head of cattle on R. Livermore's and the adjoining ranchos.(7) He also found six thousand sheep on Livermore's rancho.(8)

Livermore Valley to 1860

Later in 1841, Bidwell and his party journeyed to Sutter's Fort on the Sacramento River, here they found that,

"Robert Livermore had charge of the stock, cattle and horses, of which Sutter had about two thousand head. This same Livermore had a farm in Livermore Valley."(9)

There were dealings, exchange of cattle, laborers, etc. between Amador and Livermore, in the valley; and merchandise was sent to these men by Sunol and the Bernal, in San Jose. Since the men in the valley were away from civilization those in town acted as agents for them. The first records which we have of dealings between these pioneer men and other, whom we may call "Lords of the North", are in 1840, when Antonio Sunol and Robert Livermore sold a large number of cattle to John Sutter. In a letter of October 7, 1840 Sutter(10) wrote to Sunol that Dr. Marsh had sent him (Sutter) two cows and a calf, which Robert Livermore found to be marked as the property of Juan Bernal, Sunol's brother-in-law. Sutter refused to take them, but wished Sunol to buy from Bernal. Sutter said that he would credit Sunol with nine dollars more. This letter showed dealings between Sutter and Sunol, and Sutter and Livermore. Both Sunol and Livermore seem to be Sutter's purchasing agents at this period.

The next year more cattle were sold to Sutter. When the sale of cattle was concluded Sutter sent a party including Livermore. Merritt and Walker, to drive his newly acquired livestock across the country.(11)

In a letter of August 16, 1841, Sutter wrote to Jose(12) Noriega and told him that he regretted that he could not send certain Indians, as those from San Rafael and Yerba Buena had not come and consequently he had very few workmen, though he needed many. On the next trip, he would send the Indians required. These must have been peaceful Indians, which as laborers were hired and went about to the different ranchos whenever labor supply was needed. These Indians may have been used on Las Positas Rancho, though the letter does not give us any information to that effect.

In a letter of August 28, 1844, to John Marsh, Sutter said,

"I send my launch to your Embarcadero for a cargo of dried meat, which Mr. Robert Livermore has promised me. I wrote him a few days since, advising him of the time the launch would be at your place, it is possible the letter has not reached him, in that event will you have the goodness to forward to him the accompanying letter by your Vaquero? In order that he may send the meat as soon as possible."(13)

Another occasion which served these pioneers as a means of further association was the annual rodeo (14) season. These rodeos were held at marking and slaughtering times, and at other periods often enough to keep the animals subdued, and accustomed to the premises of the owner. At stated times, say two or three times a week at first, the cattle on a particular rancho were driven in by the Vaqueros, from all parts thereof, to a spot known as the rodeo ground. The rodeo ground was circular in shape, the vaqueros left the cattle together in that form and kept them there for a few hours, when they were allowed to disperse. They were collected again, once a week perhaps, and then less often, until after considerable training being always driven to the same place, they came to know it. Whenever the herd was wanted, twenty-five or thirty vaqueros would ride out into the hills and valleys and call the cattle, shouting and screaming to them, the animals would immediately run to the accustomed spot; presently the whole vast herd belonging to the rancho would find its way there.

When a rodeo took place, six or eight light cabestros, or tame cattle, were brought together in a stand, or parada, about one hundred yards or more from the rodeo, in charge of a vaquero. At times, cattle strayed from one rancho to another and got into the wrong herd. Whenever a rodeo was to be held, the neighbors of the rancho were given notice and attended at the time and place designated. When the owners of adjoining ranchos came to the rodeo ground to select their cattle, they brought their own cabestros, and their own vaqueros, who went in and picked out the cattle belonging to their special ranchos. and took them to their own paradas. Two or three hundred cattle belonging to a neighboring ranch would sometimes be taken from a rodeo. As the cattle were all branded and each rancho had earmarks, this was not difficult.

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"The work of separating the cattle, while a necessity, was really more of an amusement than a labor, and I have frequently participated in it for sport. On such occasions many persons from the different ranchos came, as at a cattle fair in the country in our day, to exchange greetings and to talk over affairs." (15)

In the Valley, the cattle of Amador and Pacheco roamed over the Ranchos San Ramon and Santa Rita until 1841, when they divided the cattle and each man occupied his own tract of land.

"Before their cattle were separated, they had their rodeos together at the rodeo grounds between the Tassajara and Livermore's at the point of the Tular; and also near the house of Amador, on the ground of Amador.(16)

We used to bring the cattle from wherever it could be found, from the Canada San Ramon and all those hills around there. There was never any corral on either side of the Tassajara,(17)

The cattle for Pacheco and Amador were branded together until they divided their herds, then a corral was built for Pacheco "near the high road and near the point of the Tulare opposite it where the rodeo grounds were, near the road from the Palos Secos to Amador's house and just before coming into the plain."(18)

Not only were the cattle of Amador and Pacheco mixed but *"the cattle of Amador, Pacheco, and the Bernals and Sunol was always mixed and they always made rodeos together."* (19) These men were all in the eastern end of the Valley. It can easily be seen how their cattle would be mixed.

Pacheco retained the same rodeo grounds even after he and Amador separated their cattle. In 1847-48 in a report we find the same grounds named.(20)

In the same year the rodeo grounds of Sunol and the Bernals were located as follows, *"one was at the Vallecitos, and the other near the Sunol house at a place where there are some live oaks."*(21)

Livermore's rodeo grounds were about a mile east of the present town of Livermore.(22) He had another in the hills of Canada de los Vaqueros Rancho.(23)

Amador found that the small adobe house did not meet the needs of his growing family, so in 1842 he built a new house.(24)

Pacheco was not occupying his Rancho Santa Rita, but in 1843 he had a house built on the land and it was occupied by his major-domo Francisco Alviso.(25) In 1843, in another part of the valley on the Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros, Francisco Alviso built a large corral.(26)

Of these early settlers mentioned, Sunol and Livermore were foreigners. But the native Californians had come to regard them as their own people, for they lived among the natives, spoke the Spanish language, became naturalized Mexican citizens and had married Mexican or Californian wives.

In 1844, Robert Livermore became a naturalized Mexican citizen. In this same year, he planted a vineyard, as well as pear, apple and olive orchards, on the flat near his house. He also raised wheat. By means of a ditch, water was brought from Las Positas Springs for the purpose of irrigation. By this time his cattle had increased and were spread over the entire country, from Amador's to the San Joaquin River.(27)

The cattle were raised only for their hides and tallow, and the meat, being non-salable, was left on the ground where the animals were killed,

"at the killing season, cattle were driven from the rodeo ground to a particular spot on the rancho near a brook or forest. It was usual to slaughter from fifty to one hundred at a time, generally steers three years old and upward; the cows being kept for breeding purposes. The fattest would be selected for slaughter, and about two days would be occupied in killing fifty cattle, trying out the tallow, stretching the hides and curing the small portion of meat that was preserved. The occasion was called the matanza.(28)

Livermore Valley to 1860

The cattle were slaughtered in the summer season. The killing commenced about the first of July and continued until the first of October. The tallow was tried in large pots, and was then run into bags made of hides, each containing twenty to forty arrobas.(29)

A receipt dated in San Jose, August 24, 1843 reads as follows,

"Received of Mr. Robert Livermore two bags of tallow weighing forty-three arrobas and eighteen hides amounting to one hundred dollars, and four reales.(30) this amount being for a try pot (31) to be sent from Yerba Buena by the first opportunity." (32)

It is said that the hills surrounding the Valley on all sides were the haunts of many bears and that Livermore is reported to have captured in a certain winter (1844?) a sufficient number to realize the sum of six hundred dollars from the sale of their oil.(33)

In 1844, Francisco Alviso built another small corral on the Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros. In the same year, that rancho was granted to Manuel Miranda, Antonio Higuera, Antonio Alviso, and Francisco Alviso by Governor Manuel Micheltoarena.

Also in this same year, the Indians built there several grass houses or huts. There were eight or ten Indians who were to have been employed by Alviso but the revolution against [Governor] Micheltoarena broke out at this time and did nothing. They were intimidated because of the revolution.(34) The owners of this rancho had about three or four hundred head of cattle and some horses which were mixed with the stock of Robert Livermore and Jose Noriega. These cattle ranged together on the grant and the adjoining premises.(35) The owners did not live on the rancho at this time but lived on the Rancho San Ramon, which belonged to Jose Amador and was about "six leagues" from the Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros. Alviso went every few days to look after the cattle.(36)

When the revolution against Micheltoarena broke out in December 1844, Antonio Pico, as Alcalde, ordered the rancheros to repair to San Jose and arm themselves for the defense of the country and they gallantly came, though some complained of having to leave their families."(37) The owners of the Canada de los Vaqueros repaired to San Jose in obedience to the above order and did not return to the rancho.

Antonio Higuera on September 14, 1846, transferred his right to the grant to Francisco Alviso, and Manuel Miranda did the same on October 12, 1846.(36)

In 1846 the "Bear Flag Revolt" occurred, when the foreigners arose under the leadership of Fremont. In that year, Fremont appeared at Monterey and asked permission of Governor Castro to proceed to Oregon via the San Joaquin Valley. Permission was granted but was almost immediately revoked, and he was ordered to leave the country with his party. He did not leave as ordered but proceeded on his journey.(39) He passed by the Mission San Jose, camping one night at the Laguna in the Livermore Valley between Sunol and Pleasanton.(40) Fremont and his party later came back, passing through the valley again. They took nearly all of Amador's best tame horses and paid nothing for them. Amador was allowed to keep only one mustang. Because of this, Amador, to the day of his death, denounced Fremont as a "great scoundrel."(41)

The soldiers then camped near Livermore's house.

"Livermore being absent, Mrs. Livermore ordered the vaqueros to kill a steer for them and had some tortillas made, upon which they regaled themselves as they claimed they were very hungry. The next day after this cordial welcome, they manifested their gratitude by driving off eighteen head of gentle horses, leaving only one, half broken at that."(42)

In 1846, the USA declared war on Mexico, Livermore acted as a messenger in this conquest when he brought the news of Castro's defeat and Sloat's occupation of Monterey.(43) A peace was agreed upon in Alta California on January 13, 1847. With the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo between the USA and Mexico on February 2, 1848, the transfer of the old Spanish province, California, to the USA was formally acknowledged.(44)

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Before Fremont's expedition through Livermore Valley, "the only foreign resident within the limits of Alameda County was the English whaler Livermore, who was settled upon the Las Positas Rancho."(45) But after Fremont's expedition, settlers came in.

In 1846, Leo Norris and Joel Harlan(46) purchased small pieces of land from Amador in the vicinity of the present village of Dublin. Francisco Alviso and his brother sold the Canada de los Vaqueros to Roberto Livermore and Jose Noriega on April 24, 1847. The contract of sale was originally a "verbal one but about three or four months, more or less, afterwards it was reduced to writing."(47) Only two hundred and fifty dollars was paid for this rancho.(48) This rancho contained "four square leagues" or seventeen thousand, seven hundred and sixty acres of land. Livermore's possessions then consisted of twenty-six thousand, six hundred and forty acres, but his stock ran over the entire country, irrespective of ranch boundaries.(49)

In 1849 a widow named Wilson who had several grown sons, moved to the rancho of Juan P Bernal, and made a contract with the proprietor whereby one of them should act as his major-domo.(56) They settled in the vicinity of the present town of Pleasanton

In September 1846, Edwin Bryant visited Livermore at his rancho. The following (51) is a quotation from his book "*What I saw in California*".

"Leaving Dr. Marsh's about three O' clock, P.M., we travelled fifteen miles, over a rolling and well-watered country, covered generally with wild oats, and arrived at the residence of Mr. Robert Livermore just before dark. We were most kindly received, and entertained by Mr. Livermore, and his interesting family.

After our mules and baggage had been cared for, we were introduced to the principal room in the house, which consisted of a number of small adobe buildings, erected apparently at different times, and connected together. Here we found chairs, and for the first time in California, saw a sideboard set with glass tumblers, and chinaware. A decanter of aguardiente (wine), a bowl of loaf sugar, and a pitcher of cold water from the spring, were set before us; and being duly honored, had a most reviving influence upon our spirits as well as our corporeal energies. Suspended from the walls of the room were numerous coarse engravings, highly colored with green, blue, and crimson paints, representing the Virgin Mary, and many of the saints. These engravings are held in great veneration by the devout Catholics of this country. In the corners of the room were two comfortable-looking beds, with clean white sheets and pillowcases, a sight with which my eyes have not been greeted for many months.

"The table was soon set out, and covered with a linen cloth of snowy whiteness, upon which were placed dishes of stewed bean, seasoned with chili colorado (red peppers), frijoles (beans), and a plentiful supply of tortillas (a kind of bread), with an excellent cup of tea, to the merits of which we did ample justice. Never were men blessed with better appetites than we are at the present time.

"Mr. Livermore has been a resident of California nearly thirty years, and having married into one of the wealthy families of the country, is the proprietor of some of the best lands for tillage and grazing. An arroyo or small rivulet fed by springs, runs through his rancho, in such a course that, if expedient, he could, without much expense, irrigate one or two thousand acres. Irrigation in this part of California, however, seems to be entirely unnecessary for the production of wheat or any of the small grains. To produce maize, potatoes, and garden vegetables irrigation is indispensable.

Mr. Livermore has on his rancho about 3,500 head of cattle. His horses, during the rite disturbances, have nearly all been driven off or stolen by the Indians. I saw in his corral flock of sheep numbering several hundred. They are of good size, and the mutton is said to be of excellent quality, but the wool is coarse. It is, however, well adapted to the only manufacture of wool that is carried on in the country. -coarse blankets and serapes. But little attention is paid to hogs here, although the breeds are as fine as I have ever seen elsewhere. Beef being so abundant, and of a quality so superior, pork is not prized by the native Californians.

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"The Senora Livermore is the first Hispano-American lady I have seen since arriving in the country. She was dressed in a white cambric robe, loosely banded round the waist, and without ornament of any kind, except several rings on her small, delicate fingers. Her complexion is that of a dark brunette, but lighter and more clear than the skin of most California women. The dark lustrous eyes, the long black and glossy hair, the natural ease, grace and vivacity of manners and conversation, characteristic of Spanish ladies, were fully displayed by her from the moment of our introduction. The children, especially two or three little señoritas, were very beautiful, and manifested a remarkable degree of sprightliness and intelligence. One of them presented me with a small basket wrought from a species of tough grass, and ornamented with the plumage of birds of a variety of brilliant colors. It was a beautiful specimen of Indian ingenuity.

"Retiring to bed about ten o'clock. I enjoyed, the first time for four months, the luxury of clean sheets, with a mattress and a soft pillow. My enjoyment, however, was not unmixed with regret, for I noticed that several members of the family, to accommodate us with lodgings in the house, slept in the piazza outside. To have objected to sleeping in the house, however, would have been considered discourteous and offensive.

September 18. "Early this morning a bullock was brought up and slaughtered in front of the house. The process of slaughtering a beef is as follows: A vaquero, mounted on a trained horse, and provided with a lasso, proceeds to the place where the herd is grazing. Selecting an animal, he soon secures it by throwing the noose of the lasso over the horns, and fastening the other end around the pommel of the saddle. During the first struggles of the animal for liberty, which usually are very violent, the vaquero sits firmly in his seat, and keeps his horse in such a position that the fury and strength of the beast are wasted without producing any other result than his own exhaustion. The animal, soon ascertaining that he cannot release himself from the rope, submits to be pulled along to the place of execution. Arriving here, the vaquero winds the lasso around the legs of the doomed beast and throws him to the ground, where he lies perfectly helpless and motionless. Dismounting from his horse, he then takes from his leggings the butcher knife that he always carries with him, and sticks the animal in the throat. He soon bleeds to death, when, in an incredibly short space of time for such a performance, the carcass is flayed and quartered and the meat is either roasting before the fire or simmering in the stew pan. The lassoing and slaughter of a bullock is one of the most exciting sports of the Californians; and the daring horsemanship and dexterous use of the lariat usually displayed on these occasions are worthy of admiration. I could not but notice the Golgotha-like aspect of the grounds surrounding the house. The bones of cattle were thickly strewn in all directions, showing a terrible slaughter of the four-footed tribe and a prodigious consumption of flesh.(53)

"Leaving Mr. Livermore's about nine o'clock, A.M., we travelled three or four miles over a level plain, upon which immense herds of cattle were grazing. When we approached they fled from us with as much alarm as herds of deer or elk. From this plain we entered a hilly country, covered to the summits of the elevations with wild oats and tufts or -bunches of a species of grass, which remains green through the whole season. Cattle were scattered through these hills, and more sumptuous grazing they could not desire. Small streams of water, fed by springs, flow through the hollows and ravines, which, as well as the hillsides, are timbered with the evergreen oak and a variety of smaller trees.

About two o'clock, P.M. we crossed an arroyo which runs through a narrow gorge of the hills, and struck an artificial excavated and embanked so as to afford a passage for wheeled vehicles along the steep hillside. A little farther on we crossed a very rudely constructed bridge. These are the first signs of roadmaking I have seen in the country. Emerging from the hills, the southern area of the Bay of San Francisco came in view, separated from us by a broad and fertile plain some ten or twelve miles in width, sloping gradually down to the shore of the bay, and watered by several small creeks and estuaries... We soon entered through a narrow street the Mission of San Jose, or St. Joseph."

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Footnotes

1. Sunol's life is given in detail in the appendix, so only a brief sketch will be given here.
2. See appendix for further details of the lives of Augustin and Juan P. Bernal.
3. Bidwell, J., A Journey to California 1841, in John Bidwell, Addresses, Reminiscences, etc., compiled by Royce, CC..25.
4. Bidwell, J., Life in California before the Discovery of Gold, in John Bidwell, Addresses, Reminiscences, etc., compiled by Royce, CC, 42.
5. Bidwell, J., Early California Reminiscences, compiled by Royce. 79.
6. Baker, JE Past and Present of Alameda County, 1.35.
7. Bidwell, John, A Journey to California in 1841, in John Bidwell, Addresses, Reminiscences, etc., compiled by Royce, CC..32.
8. Ibid. 31.
9. Bidwell, J., Early California Reminiscences, in Royce, 79.
10. Sutter-Sunol Correspondence, MS.
11. Bancroft, HH, California, IV, 134.
12. Sutter-Sunol Correspondence, MS.
13. MS. in Bolton Collection Cited by Ulsh. EJ John Marsh, 136. M.S. Thesis MS.
14. **Rodeo** = a gathering together of cattle on a ranch.
15. Davis, WH Glimpses of the Past, 27. MS.
16. USA vs: Pacheco, JD, Transcript of Record of Land Commission Case# 60. MS.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. USA vs: Pacheco, JD, Transcript of Record of Land Commission Case# 60 MS.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Smith, JD, Rodeos as I knew Them in 1850 in Contra Costa County, later in Alameda County, MS.(loaned to me by Mr. M. R. Henry, Business Manager of the Livermore Herald Newspaper.)
23. De Martini, Mrs. V., Personal Interview, March 4, 1927.(De Martini is daughter of Robert Livermore Jr. who married Teresa Bernal in Pleasanton in 1861.)
24. USA vs: Amador, JM Transcript: Land Commission case No. 128. MS.
25. USA vs: Pacheco, JD Transcript: Land Commission case No. 60. MS.
26. USA vs: Livermore, R. Transcript: Land Commission Case# 79. MS.
27. Bartlett, WP, The Livermore Valley, its resources, soil, crop statistics, capabilities, climatic influences, attractions to settlers, etc., 9.
28. Davis, WH Glimpses of the Past, 28. MS.
29. **Arroba** = twenty-five pounds.
30. **Reale** = a silver coin worth five cents.
31. **Try-pot** = large iron pot in which the tallow was rendered.
32. Alviso Documents, 60. NSMS.
33. Thompson and West. Official and Historical Atlas Map of Alameda County. 25.
34. USA vs: Livermore, R., Transcript: Land Commission Case# 79. MS.
35. USA vs: Livermore, R., Transcript: Land Commission case No. 79. MS.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. Ibid.
39. Halley, W., Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 55.
40. Oakland Tribune (Special Edition) 1888,5.
41. Baker, JE, Past and Present of Alameda County. CA, 1,48-9.
42. Neal, JA, Statement of JA Neal, MS.
43. Bancroft, HH, California. V. 246.
44. Chapman, E.E. A History of California, Spanish Period, 484-5.
45. Oakland Tribune (Special Edition), 1888.
46. Halley, W., Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 505
47. USA vs: Livermore, R., Transcript: Land Commission Case# 79. MS.
48. Ibid.
49. Bartlett, WP, The Livermore Valley, 9.

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50. Wood, MW, History of Alameda County,. 478.
51. Bryant. E., 306-309.
52. Quoted in the Introduction.
53. Quoted in the Introduction.

Livermore Valley to 1860

CHAPTER VI - The Gold Trails: Their Effects on Livermore Valley

On January 19, 1849, gold was discovered at Coloma on the American River. There was a rush of gold seekers from all parts of the world to the California gold mines. Rancheros and vaqueros and everyone who could possibly get away rushed to the diggings. Amador could not resist the gold fever and went to the mines, but he soon returned. Most of the farmers went back to their ranchos because a great demand for farm products sprung up, and cattle were wanted at the mines.

At first, travel to the mines was almost entirely by land, and the "Livermore Pass" became one of the principal routes. The Coast Range was crossed at the Mission Pass and the road led through Sunol Valley. Livermore Valley, the Livermore Pass, into the San Joaquin Valley, and thence to Sutter's Fort, later Sacramento. Thus, all land travel for several years was past Livermore's house and "travelers both to and from the mines made it a point to stop at his house, as his hospitality was proverbial and he was probably better known to the Argonauts than any other private citizen, with the exception of John Sutter, in California.(1)

Neal said, "Many of the early immigrants will remember his kindness of heart and hospitality to all, for he was continually assisting those in need. His orders to his vaqueros were to be on the lookout for coming immigrants and as soon as discovered to go up to them and ascertain their needs. Untold numbers of beeves were slaughtered and the meat given away free of charge."(2)

Not only did Livermore fill the larders of these immigrants but [also] he undoubtedly gave them practical information concerning the country. People en route to the gold mines were not the only travelers who used the natural highway through Livermore Valley. Miss Fremont and her mother used to travel from Mariposa to San Francisco in their carriage. In 1849 Miss Fremont said,

"We preferred the longer route (to San Francisco) through the San Joaquin Plains by way of Livermore's Pass and into San Francisco by the Oakland Ferry".(3)

Some gold seekers, finding mining unprofitable, but realizing the advantages to be derived from farming, began to settle in the valleys on the most desirable land. One of the provisions of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo guaranteed that property in the ceded Mexican territory held by Mexican grants would be "inviolably respected by the USA."(4) The "squatters" claimed these large Mexican grants to be an unAmerican institution. Disputed claims came before the new government, causing much confusion. The US government ordered investigations in 1849 and 1850. Then in 1851 by an Act of Congress, the "US Land Commission for settlement of Land Claims in California" was created. See Chapter IV.

In 1850, Livermore Valley received some new settlers. Augustin Bernal moved to his grant in the valley, and erected an adobe house (5) about a mile west of the present town of Pleasanton (which in early days was called Alisal). About the same time, Michael Murray (after whom the township, in which Livermore Valley is located, is named) located near the place where Dublin now stands and planted an orchard. Thomas Fallon came with Murray and near Amador. In March 1850, Nathaniel G. Patterson (6) (one of the Patterson brothers after whom Patterson Pass is named) came to Livermore's place.

He saw the great amount of travel through the Valley, between San Francisco and the mines, and so conceived the idea of opening a hotel. He rented Livermore's adobe house for the purpose and started the first house of entertainment in the valley. This same year, Joshua A. Neal came into the Valley and became major-domo on Livermore's rancho. Jose Sunol came to reside on his father's possessions that year. He was the first of his family to live on this rancho.

In 1851 and 1852, the number of settlers in Livermore Valley increased rapidly. In the spring of 1851, Livermore built a large frame house (7), the first wooden building to be erected in the valley. The lumber for the building was brought around Cape Horn from the Atlantic States. The carpenter work (8) on the building was done by John Strickland

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and John Tierney, who were paid seven hundred dollars for their labor. In August 1851, J.W. Kottinger, a native of Austria, came and erected a frame building and began stock-raising on the Bernal grant, at Alisal, then noted (9) as a rendezvous for Mexican bandits, robbers and outlaws of every description. Shortly afterward, Alphonso Ladd (10) built a two-story frame dwelling in Sunol Valley. He resided near Sunol for six years, when he moved to the present site of the town of Livermore. Strickland lived five miles from Alisal, on the El Valle Creek.(11)

In May of 1851, Livermore received a letter (12) from WC Jones, P.W. Tompkins, C.B. Strode (lawyers) which told of the establishment of the US Land Commission. These men informed him concerning the laws and wanted to be his lawyers.

Pacheco was the first of the rancheros in the Livermore Valley to file a claim with the US Land Commission for his rancho. As we have seen, he filed his claim for Santa Rita Rancho on February 21, 1852. On February 27, 1852, Livermore and Noriega filed their claim Las Positas Rancho with the Land Commission. On the same date, Livermore filed his claim for the Canada de los Vaqueros Rancho (he being sole owner, having purchased Noriega's share of the property). Amador next filed his claim 23, 1852 for the Rancho San Ramon. Then the Valle de San Jose was filed May 18, 1852 under Antonio Sunol et al.

American capital came into the Valley [when] Amador sold his Rancho San Ramon to J.W. Dou [for] thirty-two thousand dollars. In September, Juan P. Bernal, a brother of Augustin, settled in the Valley near Alisal, building his adobe house on the opposite side of the creek from Kottinger's.

On September [15], Livermore deeded to his wife, Josefa Higuera Livermore, and his nine children (one daughter being the child of his wife by a former marriage):

- an undivided one-half interest of Rancho de las Positas and Posa de Vaqueros,
- together with cattle (three thousand head of horned cattle, three thousand head of tame cows, fifteen head of yoking cattle, and forty tame horses)
- also all personal property.(13)

In 1853, Thomas Hart came into the district and was employed by Robert Livermore for some time. Later, Hart opened a hotel (14) on the stage road. His nearest neighbors were the Bernals at Alisal. His place was known as the "Half-Way House" (15), equidistant from Oakland, San Jose and Stockton. He continued there from 1853 to 1860 when he moved to what is now the town of Livermore. R.W. Defrees built and opened a hotel on the main road about one mile west of the residence of Robert Livermore in 1853.

Judge JH Taylor, a pioneer of Livermore, wrote,

"I had heard many statements about the Valley (in 1853) occasioned by the fact that Robert Livermore abandoned two leagues of his four-league grant, because it was not worth the amount of taxes for which it was assessed, amounting to twenty-five cents per acre. The low value put upon the land by Robert Livermore was a subject of frequent comment at that time."(16)

William Norris, who purchased the northerly portion of the Rancho San Ramon from Don JM Amador, was a witness in a case tried in the US District Court in Oakland in 1872-3. He said that in 1853 he came over to the Livermore Hacienda to buy some grape cuttings. (Livermore was at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County protesting against the assessment of several acres in Livermore Valley. This was the assessment, which caused so much comment in the country.) The major-domo would not give Norris the grape cuttings until "the old man" returned, so Norris remained all night.

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In the morning, they went on the hill behind the house and Livermore pointed out the boundary line between Pacheco and himself. He pointed his hand in a southerly direction to the place where the town of Livermore now stands and said. *"I got rid of every d— acre of that gravel, and I have held on to all the land in the Rincon."* which was in a northerly direction. Those same gravel acres are today [in 1927] selling for four hundred dollars an acre.(17)

These early settlers had many trials. Everything they required was very high priced and had to come from distant places. It is true that Amador did manufacture (18) harnesses, saddles, wagons, soap, blankets and some other necessary articles with the help of Indians and Mexicans. Many things had to come from great distances (as the lumber for Livermore's new house).

Murray Township was formed, with the same boundaries as at present, on January 6, 1853 by the Court of Session of Alameda County. This county had been formed a short time previous from portions of Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties. On the same day. this court appointed Robert Livermore as County Supervisor of this Township.(19)

In 1854, Samuel and J. West Martin bought the Santa Rita Rancho. They purchased it at the administrator's sale for ten thousand dollars.(20) They got it at a great bargain, for it is said there were cattle enough sold from it to provide the purchasing money.

Wood says, *"Richard T. Pope, engaged in stock raising. Grover, Glascock, Ben Williams, John Griffith, J. West Martin and others all settled near Pleasanton and were the first to embark in farming upon a considerable scale."*

In 1854, three rancho claims of Livermore Valley were acted upon by the Land Commission. On February 14, 1854, the claims of ownership of Livermore and Noriega were confirmed. On February 21, 1854, the claims to Valle De San Jose Rancho were confirmed.

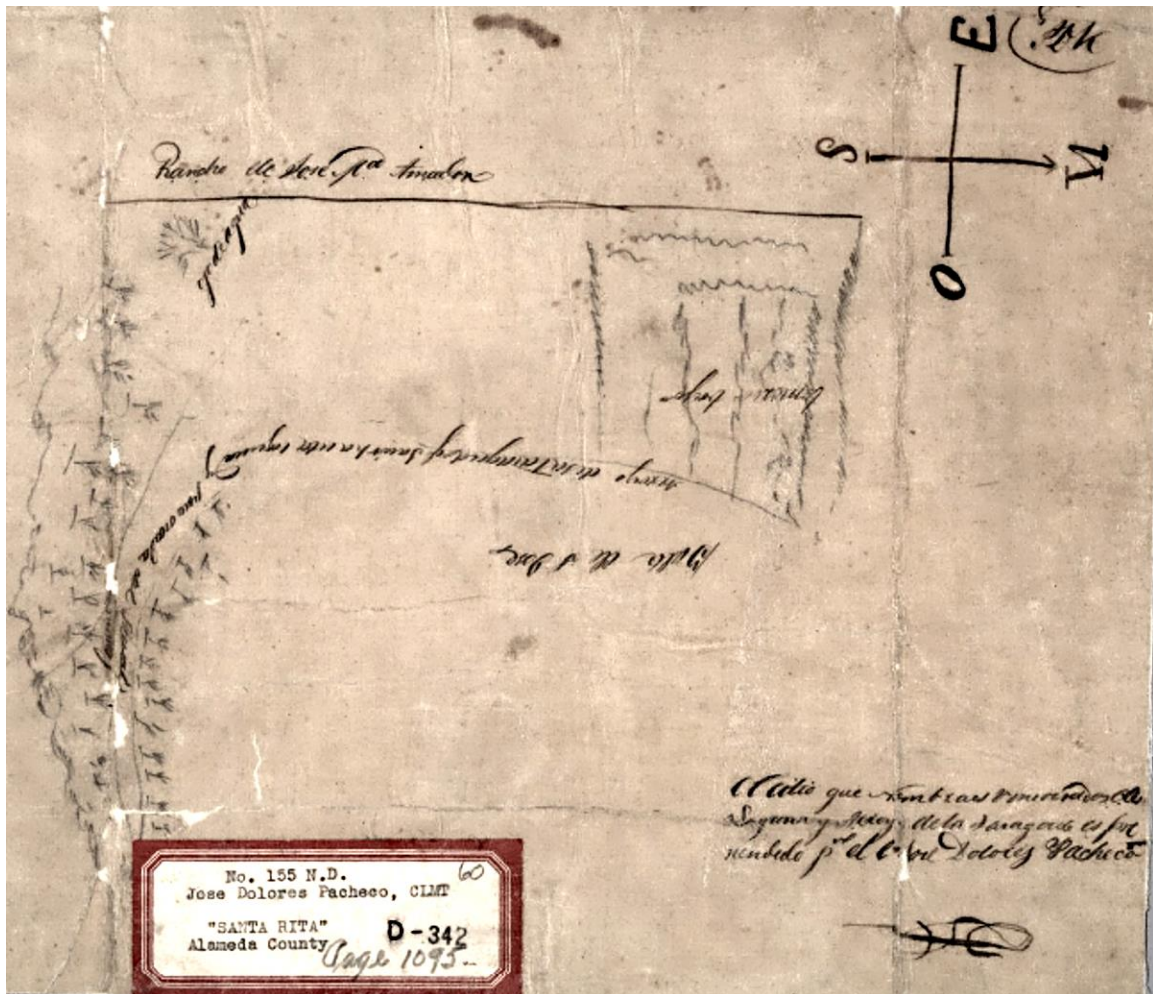
In 1855, Hiram Bailey, a carpenter, came to Livermore's and erected a dwelling-house (22) near a spring in the eastern part of the valley, for Joseph Livermore, a son of Robert Livermore. Bailey worked as a carpenter and herded cattle until 1861 when he began farming. In 1855, Kottinger moved from his rancho (23) to Alisal. When he saw that it was to be a trading center, started a store. The squatters settled on El Valle de San Jose Rancho and in one of the disputes in 1855, a brother of Jose Sunol was killed.

The Land Commission confirmed the Santa Rita Rancho to Pacheco on August 13, 1855. In September of this same year, the Commission confirmed the Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros to Livermore. Land was worth only about two dollars and fifty cents an acre in 1855(24). Herding sheep and cattle was still the principal occupation. It has been estimated that there were more than fifty thousand head of cattle and horses in the valley, besides immense flocks of sheep in the hills.

Livermore Valley to 1860

This [color replacement scan] is of the diseno which accompanied the petition of Jose Dolores Pacheco for the Rancho Santa Rita, 1834. MS. (Note: compass directions of the map are wrong. The North is where "E" is; the South where the "O" is; the East where the "N" is; and the West where the "S" is). from Expediente No. 128

[This small Rancho is essentially the site of Pleasanton and funnels into the wooded Sunol glen on the lower left. The Amador Rancho forms the north border.]



Map 5 - Rancho Santa. Rita - Jose Dolores Pacheco (Bancroft Lib.)

Color scan: Land case map D-342 (UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library)

Livermore Valley to 1860

Footnotes

1. Munyan, E., Letter to Valentine Alviso, 1884.MS.
2. Neal, JA, Statement of JA Neal, MS.
3. Martin, I. T. Recollections of Elizabeth Fremont, 117-. 118.
4. Clelland, RG, History of California, the American Period, 411.
5. Wood, MW, History of Alameda County, 478.
6. Ibid., 462.
7. 7.Bartlett, WP, The Livermore Valley, its Resources, etc. 10.
8. Ibid.
9. Bartlett, WP, Op. Cit.
10. Ibid.
11. Wood, MW, History of Alameda County, 463.
12. Alviso Documents, 123. MS.
13. County Records, Deeds. Contra Costa County, II, 156.
14. Halley, W., Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 495
15. Ibid.
16. Livermore Herald, January 25, 1896.(This [issue] is very rare. Loaned to me by Mr. M. R. Henry of the Livermore Herald Office.)
17. Callaghan, MG Letter to writer March 1927, MS.
18. Halley, W., Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 504
19. Wood. MW History of Alameda County, 463.
20. Halley, W. Centennial Year Book, 501.
21. Wood, MW Op. Cit.
22. Bartlett, WP, Livermore Valley, its Resources, etc. 10.
23. Halley, W., Centennial Year Book, 500.
24. Ibid.

Livermore Valley to 1860

CHAPTER VII - The Coming of Wheat

The Valley was developing with the incoming settlers. Change was the word which best covers the period 1856 to 1860. Robert Livermore died on February 14, 1858 at his home on Las Positas Rancho. His death meant the dividing of his vast domains between his wife and nine children. This division of the property caused the first big change in the Valley. He was buried at the Mission San Jose Cemetery. The earthquake of 1868 (?) caused the old Chapel of the Mission to fall. When the present chapel was built, it included part of the graveyard. Livermore's body was placed beneath the altar.(1) It is said that his coffin is draped with a British and an American flag.(2) This shows that he was held in very great esteem not only by his fellow neighbors but also by the church.

Wood wrote, "*For over a quarter of a century he had dwelt within the hill-begirt valley which took his name, beloved and honored by all with whom he came in contact. A sturdy and adventurous Argonaut, he wrested that beautiful vale from the possession of the wily and murderous savage and paved the way of civilization. On the level plains, his countless herds stood to the breast in wild clover and oats. Savages and herds have disappeared. Civilization has come and peopled the wilderness with a magic wand.*"

"*Livermore was a good, brave and enterprising man. Surrounded as he was by a class to whom the word enterprise, or its significance, was almost a stranger, he displayed that quality to a most remarkable degree. Thousands upon thousands were spent by him upon improvements of which another man in his position would never have thought.*"(3)

He was fifty-nine years old at the time of his death. His will was made on February 11, 1858. In the will (4) he bequeathed to his wife

- "*five hundred head of large Cattle consisting of Cows, Calves, and Steers.*"
- *also one third of all the "Personal Property and Real Estate, to wit: of a tract of Land situated in Alameda County, State of California, and known as 'Rancho de Las Positas' containing, 20,846 and 7/10 acres,*
 - *also of a tract of Land situated in Contra Costa County called 'Posa de los Vaqueros' containing two Leagues, also a tract of Land situated in Alameda County of the 'Rancho Agua Caliente' containing four hundred acres;*
 - *also of a tract of Land situated in Santa Clara County near the city of San Jose containing sixty acres, more or less."*

His executors were then directed to sell the remainder of the property "*as to pay all my legal debts.*" *Juan Gonzales, his Godson, was to receive fifty cows. The remaining "two thirds of all my Real Estate and Personal Property after paying all my legal Debts, shall be equally divided between my children."*

In his will, he granted the custody to his children to his wife until they were married or became twenty-one years old. He also appointed his "*wife Josefa Higuera Livermore executrix and Roberto Livermore executor and Jose Livermore administrator of this my Last Will and Testament.*" By this Will, Livermore left his family well provided for.

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REAL ESTATE

The property of the deceased, Robert Livermore, had to be inventoried and appraised before the sale of any of the goods could take place. The following is an inventory (5) taken by Jose Livermore and an appraisal made by JA Neal, Mariana Higuera, and Salem Martin.

"The Rancho de las Positas situated in Alameda County containing twenty thousand and eight hundred acres the said Ranch with its improvements appraised at seventy-five cents per acre, in all \$15,600, one-half of which said Ranch has been conveyed by said [Roberto] Livermore in the year 1852 to:

1. *Josefa [Higuera] Livermore,*
2. *Juan Baptiste Roberto Livermore,*
3. *Daniel Livermore,*
4. *Jose Livermore,*
5. *Teresa Livermore,*
6. *Josephine Livermore,*
7. *Milagras Livermore,*
8. *Clara Livermore,*
9. *Ann Casimera Molino*

which are on Record in Contra Costa County.

"Also the Rancho The Posa Vaqueros situated in Contra Costa County containing eight thousand eight hundred and eighty acres, more or less, appraised at 50 cents per acre, in all \$4,440, which said Ranch was also conveyed as above.

"Also one town lot in the City of San Jose with some improvements thereon which is appraised at the sum of \$250 which said lot was also conveyed as above.

"Also one piece of land, a farm in Santa Clara County containing about four hundred acres, the same being adjoining to the Tularcitas of San Ygucicio (?) Ranch, appraised at the sum of \$1500."(6)

The first big change, as has been shown, in the Livermore Valley was the dividing of Livermore's "broad acres".

Joseph Livermore fenced in one hundred and sixty acres and sowed it to wheat in 1856. This was the first field of that grain ever raised in the valley and was very successful. It was the first step in the development of the industry, which revolutionized the industrial interests of the valley. Although some grain and vegetables [had] been raised at Livermore's and Amador's places and at Alisal (Pleasanton), the men had been engaged in [stock] raising. They supposed the soil would produce nothing but grass. The gravelly surface of the land was found to retain the moisture better than clay soil.

Joseph Livermore's experiment was so successful that the next year Joseph F. Black, and two brothers named Carrick, began raising wheat in the west end of the valley. The former put in four hundred acres on Fallon's ranch, and the two brothers farmed a like area on the Dougherty estate, adjoining. These men also had success, so wheat-raising was now an established fact.

Fences were put up everywhere and the land rented to the newcomers. This was especially true in the west end of the valley at Dougherty's. This place had formerly been Amador's old home, but he had sold it to Dougherty in 1852. It is now the present town of Dublin and is six miles north of Pleasanton, nine miles due west of the town of Livermore, and eight miles east of Hayward. This portion of the country had early been selected for future settlement. Leo Norris and Joel Harlan had purchased land there in 1846.

Now in 1858 Edwin Horan, William Murray, John Martin and family, J.F. Knapp and Robert Graham all moved into this vicinity.(7) Dougherty rented land to these men, who fenced it and raised grain. As this settlement on Dougherty's land grew, the place became known as Dougherty's Station. The first general store was started here by

Livermore Valley to 1860

Robert Graham in 1858. Before that time the people in the west end of the valley purchased their goods at Haywards.(8)

Irishmen from both north and south Ireland settled around Dougherty's Station. It is no wonder the place soon became known as Dublin. These Irishmen were always quarreling among themselves. When the next year a Catholic Church (9) was erected there, the Protestant Irish threatened to use it as a chicken coop.(10)

To make the settlement more complete, John Green built another store there in 1860. (11) This same year Scarlett and Grandless put up a hotel. (12) Stages between Oakland and Stockton, and San Jose and Martinez changed horses at Dougherty's Station.(13) A school, the first one in Livermore Valley had been erected in 1856, three-fourths of a mile south of Dougherty's Station. (14) Thus by 1860, the first town in Livermore Valley was on its way to success.

As wheat raising in the western end became an established fact and fences were everywhere, the stock was crowded to Livermore's rancho, which was still thought to be unfit for agricultural purposes. But Hiram Bailey, who had been in Livermore Valley for several years and married Livermore's step-daughter, sowed one hundred acres to wheat on the Las Positas Grant in 1860.(15) This experiment was successful, as had been Joseph Livermore's in 1856. S.W. Martin, who had in 1854 purchased the Santa Rita, or Pacheco Grant, followed the example of his neighbors and sowed several hundred acres to wheat in 1860. Thus it was a proved fact that wheat could be grown anywhere in the valley. The land which once had been considered almost worthless except for pasture now became valuable.(16)

Although the yield of wheat was enormous, these first farmers labored under two difficulties. One was the disadvantage of being located quite a distance from market. The roads were unimproved and so hauling was one of the heavy items of expense in farming. The second difficulty, which was expensive, was that the gray ground squirrels (17) infested the whole valley. These squirrels destroyed much of the grain crop and so they had to be exterminated.

This transition from a cattle-raising country with a few people to a grain raising country could not but induce people to come into Livermore Valley. The rancho owners welcomed them, as they needed money. The market was overstocked with cattle, and so cattle brought no returns.(18) The incoming settlers purchased or rented land from the rancheros. Rents were cheap as long as it could be easily obtained.(19) Settlers came in large numbers after 1860.

There was, however one drawback to the immediate development and improvement of the valley. This was the uncertainty of land titles. The Land Commission of 1851 has attempted to settle all questions dealing with the Mexican grants. But the boundaries of the Las Positas or Livermore Grant were not definite. The patent issued by the USA (20) February 18, 1859 granted "two leagues, more or less." within certain boundaries. The limits described contained not two "leagues" but upward of eleven "leagues" all of which was claimed by the Livermore heirs. (21) In 1869, the grant was resurveyed by E.H. Dyer and two leagues (8880 acres) were given to the heirs by a decision of the Secretary of the Interior. (22) This decision opened for peaceable preemption a large extent of the country, [since] all land not included in the "two leagues" given to the Livermore heirs was now Public Domain. This decision came in 1871 immediately after the completing of the Central Pacific Railroad through the valley. A large population was the result and every year saw the extent of grain fields widened and witnessed the building of new homes.

During this period, Alisal in the southern part of the valley was being populated. Alisal later became Pleasanton. It is six miles west of the town of Livermore on the rancho, which was originally, known as the Valle de San Jose. The first settler in this vicinity was Augustin Bernal, who moved there in 1850 and built his house at the foot of the mountains about a mile west of the present town. The next settler was John W. Kottinger who had married a daughter of Juan P. Bernal, brother of Augustin. He moved to the vicinity of Alisal in 1851 to raise stock. In 1852, Juan P. Bernal built his adobe home on the opposite side of the creek from Kottinger's. In 1855, Kottinger moved from his ranch to Alisal, there he built the first house and started a store. Duerr

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and Nussbaumer bought Kottinger's goods and rented his house, which they made into the first hotel at Alisal.(23) Charles Garthwait opened a store on the country road just opposite Augustine Bernal in 1859.

In this same year on the Bernal ranchos, there was some trouble with squatters. Some people settled on the lands believing they belonged to the government. These people moved away or purchased the land after (24) they discovered that it was private property. Thus, we see that by 1860 the people of the valley had changed their occupation from cattle raising to raising wheat. The valley was no longer the home of the vaquero, but was the home of the tiller of the soil.

Footnotes

1. Teeter, Daniel, Personal Interview, March 12. 1927.(Mr. Teeter first came to the valley in 1858. In 1860, he began farming on Dougherty's land.) De Martini, Mrs. V., Personal Interview. March 4.1927.
2. Tillson, A. de B. Personal Interview, March 15. 1927.(Mrs. Tillson is the grand-daughter of Robert Livermore Jr.)
3. Wood. MW History of Alameda County,. 465.
4. See Appendix for Will. MS.
5. This inventory was made to the Probate Court of Alameda County and is to be found in Old Probate Case# 43, Register I. Hall of Records. Oakland MS.
6. See Appendix for the inventory and appraisalment of his personal property
7. Wood. MW History of Alameda County,. 464-5
8. Teeter. Daniel. Personal Interview. March 12.1927.
9. Wood. MW History of Alameda County, 405.
10. Teeter. Daniel. Op. Cit.
11. Wood. MW. Op. Cit.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid. 464.
15. Wood, MW History of Alameda County. California 465.
16. Taylor, Judge, JH, Livermore Valley Forty Years Ago, in Livermore Herald. January 25, 1896.
17. Hunter, Ruben. Statement from Interview March 5.1927. Taylor, Judge JH Op. Cit.
18. Teeter, Daniel, Personal Interview March 12.1927.
19. Ibid.
20. USA vs: Noriega, J , and Livermore, R . Case# 135 of the District Court of the Northern District of California.
21. Ibid. (Separate sheet dealing with matter of above case.)
22. Book of Patents A. 545-555. Hall of Records, Oakland. County Records, Alameda County.
23. Halley, W. Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 500-501.
24. Halley, W. Centennial Year Book of Alameda County. 500-501.

Livermore Valley to 1860

CHAPTER VIII - Pastoral Life

In the Livermore Valley, as elsewhere in California, from 1833 to 1850 was the "Golden Age". During this "Age" the "native Californians" were dominant in the population. Their wants were few. The soil was cultivated but little, for the stock furnished the people with food, and enough hides and tallow, which served as their currency. Cattle and horses roamed over the valleys. The rancho owners usually employed a few vaqueros to herd and take care of their stock. These vaqueros were generally Mission or Christianized Indians. With the labor performed for them, the rancheros had time for hunting, bull fights, horse racing, dancing and church days, all of which were occasions for festivity. (These occasions meant much to the rancheros and their families because of the sparsity of the population.)

Walter Colton wrote in 1849, "*There is hardly a shanty among them which does not contain more true contentment, more genuine gladness of heart than you will meet with in the most princely palace. Their hospitality knows no bounds, they are always glad to see you, come when you may; take a pleasure in entertaining you while you remain, and only regret that your business calls you away. If you are sick, there is nothing which sympathy and care can devise which is not done for you.*"(1)

It was not until 1850 that the settlement of the ranchos became general and then the "Golden Age" passed into the "Gringo Age".

Very little attention was given to agricultural pursuits further than that every rancho cultivated a few acres of beans and corn and a small potato patch with a few other vegetables. This was about the extent of farming carried on at the different ranchos. The wheat, corn and potatoes were seldom surrounded by a fence, but "they grew out in the plains, and are guarded from the cattle by the Indians, who are stationed in their huts near the fields." (2)

Some wheat was planted but the methods of planting and harvesting were primitive. The plows were made of crotched logs that scratched only the top of the ground. Of the little grain planted, the yield was abundant. John Bidwell, who came to California in 1841, described a harvest scene in an interesting manner.

"In the fields Indians equipped, some with sickles, some with knives, others with implements made of scrap-iron, or even wood, would be seen gathering grain. This would be piled in heaps in the center of a high adobe corral. Wild horses were then driven in and made wilder by the Indian yells and within an hour would have the straw ground to bits."(3)

Bidwell said he saw two thousand bushels of grain thus threshed in a single hour.

The rancheros, when locating their ranchos also planted small vineyards and orchards. Some of the vines and trees bear fruit to this day. Livermore planted an orchard consisting of pear, olive, peach, apple, and fig trees. This orchard was on the flat, above his house near Las Positas Springs. His vineyard was planted on a hill near his orchard.

The rancho was not kept busy farming, as this was not his principal occupation. Cattle raising was the principal occupation. Bidwell, who was in Livermore Valley in November 1841, said,

"The cattle herds are very large; and the person who has a thousand head is scarcely noticed as regards stock. R. Livermore and the Spaniards adjoining have about 9000 head. There is no regular price for cattle but it is about four dollars per head. A few years ago, cattle could be bought for one dollar per head; times are changed. Hides are worth anywhere on the coast two dollars; tallow six dollars per hundred pounds."(4)

This shows the prevailing idea in regard to cattle.

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The rancheros also had sheep for Bidwell said, "On the farm of Livermore I saw six thousand sheep, they are small, and the wool is rather coarse."(5) Oxen were used for work animals by the Spaniards.(6) In 1841, "Good tame working oxen are worth about \$25."(7) "Mules are large and fine and are worth, before they can be rode, about \$10 per head; after being broke to the saddle, \$15. Jacks are worth from \$100 to \$200."(8)

Horses were never stabled and were broke for saddle only and were almost wholly for herding cattle. In 1841 "The price is various, I have known good horses to sell from \$8 to \$30. Mares are never worked or rode: they are worth from \$3 to \$5".(9) The horses used for herding the stock had to be very fast. They were numerous and cheap.

The owners "placed no restraint upon the vaqueros who rode without a particle of regard for their horses, until they soon became unfit for further use in this way. The vaqueros were continually breaking in young colts three years old and upward to replace those already beyond service".(10)

Large bands of wild horses were found in the San Joaquin Valley.

"Frequently in the summer time, young men, the sons of rancheros, would go in companies of eight, or ten or twelve to the valley on their best and fleetest steeds, to capture a number of these wild horses and bring them to the ranchos. It was a hazardous sport, and required the greatest nerve and best horsemanship. When fifty or sixty of the wild horses were captured, they were taken to the ranchos, corralled at night and herded in the day time, until they became sufficiently subdued to be introduced among the horses of the rancho. This was a great diversion for the young men, and at the same time it added to their stock the best animals of the wild herds."(11)

Livermore imported thoroughbred horses from England and Scotland. The horses from Scotland were of the Clydesdale breed (a work horse).(12) These he probably kept in stables at his rancho. Everyone rode horses.

Bidwell said, "It is a proverb here (and I find a pretty true one), that a Spaniard will not do anything which he cannot do on horseback. He does not work on average of one month in the year; he labors about a week when he sows his wheat, and another when he harvests it. The rest of the time is spent riding about." (13)

"The Californians were early risers. The rancho would frequently receive a cup of coffee or chocolate in bed from the hands of a servant, and on getting up immediately order one of the vaqueros to bring him a certain horse, which he indicated. He then mounted and rode off about the rancho attended by a vaquero coming back to breakfast between eight and nine o'clock.

"This breakfast was a solid meal, consisting of carne asada (meat broiled on a spit), beefsteak with rich gravy or onions, eggs, beans, tortillas, sometimes bread and coffee, the latter often made of peas. After breakfast, the rancho would call for his horse again, usually selecting a different one, not because the first was fatigued but as a matter of fancy or pride, and ride off again around the farm or to visit the neighbors.

"He was gone till twelve or one o'clock, when he returned for dinner, which was similar to breakfast, after which he again departed, returning about dusk in the evening for supper, this being a repetition of the two former meals. Although there was so little variety in their food from one day to another, everything was cooked so well and so neatly and made so inviting, the matron of the house giving her personal attention to everything, that the meals were always relished."(14)

"The rancheros and their households generally retired early, about eight o'clock, unless a vaquero casero (little home party) was on hand, when this lasted till twelve or one."(15)

"The rancheros thus rode during the leisure season, which was between the marking time (first of February to middle of May) and the Matanza or killing time

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(first of July to first of October), and from the end of the Matanza to the spring time again, the more wealthy of them were generally dressed in a good deal of style." (16)

The Californians were trusted by the merchants. William Heath Davis spent sixty years among the Californians, and he says that the merchants sold to the rancheros and other Californians whatever goods they wanted to any reasonable amount and gave them credit from one killing season to another. He never knew of a single incident where a note or other written obligation was required of them. At the time of purchasing, they were furnished with bills of these goods that were charged in the account books; (17) and in all his experience in trading with them, extending over many years, he never knew of a single case of dishonesty. They always kept their business engagements, paid their bills promptly at the proper time in hides and tallow, which were the currency of the country, and sometimes though seldom, in money.

The hospitality of the Spanish race is a known characteristic. Livermore, although not a Spaniard, was known for his hospitality. At his house, the travelers found entertainment, or a fresh horse or food always awaiting them and no charge was ever made.

Many of the early immigrants will remember his kindness of heart and hospitality to all, for he was continually assisting those in need. His orders to his vaqueros were to be on the lookout for coming immigrants and as soon as discovered to go up to them and ascertain their needs. Untold numbers of beeves were slaughtered and the meat given away free of charge.(18)

After the discovery of gold "all land travel for several years was past his house, and travelers both to and from the mines, made it a point to stop at his house, as his hospitality was proverbial."(19)

It is said that when peddlers came to his house, on their way to and from the mines, and asked him to buy their merchandise, he not only purchased the whole load of wares but also the wagon and sent the peddler on his way with a new saddle and plenty of money.(20)

Marriages were most brilliant affairs and were attended by all the friends and relatives of both the bride and bridegroom. W. Colton describes a marriage as follows;

"The bridegroom's first care is to buy or borrow the best horse to be found in the vicinity. He must get also a silver mounted bridle, and a saddle with embroidered housings. This saddle must have, also, at its stern, a bridal pillion with broad aprons flowing down the flanks of the horse. These aprons are also embroidered with silk of different colors, and with gold and silver thread. Around the margin runs a string of little steel plates, alternated with slight pendants of the same metal. These, as the horse moves, jingle like a thousand mimic bells. When the wedding day arrives, the two fine horses, procured for the occasion, are led to the door, saddled, bridled, and pillioned. The bridegroom takes up before him the godmother, and the godfather the bride, and thus they gallop to church. The priest receives them at the altar, where they kneel and partake of the sacrament, and are married. The gentlemen change partners on the way home."(21)

They go to the home of the bride's parents and receive their blessing while kneeling at their feet. The guests arrived, and then there followed from three to seven days of feasting, dancing, and merry making. The dances lasted all night; and during the night the bride changed her entire costume three times.(22) This was expensive, as a dress then was worth from one hundred and fifty to three hundred dollars.

Both men and women (the women in particular) were devout Catholics. The Saint's days were numerous and all of them were observed in addition to Sundays. This not only made the working week much shorter than now, but also gave them many chances to celebrate. The men and women of Livermore Valley rode horseback to church at

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Mission San Jose. They did this for many years. Robert Livermore Jr's wife used to travel to church in this manner.(24)

Davis said, "The men presented a magnificent appearance, especially on the feast days of the Saints, which were celebrated at the Mission. Then they were arrayed in their finest and most costly habiliment, and their horses in their gayest and most expensive trappings."(23)

The children were numerous in these early families. Robert Livermore had nine children. Augustine Bernal had nine children. Many of the other families were larger. From thirteen to twenty children per wedded pair was not uncommon.(25) Educational facilities for these children were meagre.

The children of the wealthier class "had more or less education, their contact with the foreign population was an advantage to them in this respect. There were no established schools outside of the Missions, and what little education the young people obtained, they picked up from the family, learning to read and write among themselves."(26)

Livermore's children, when young, had private tutors. Later the boys went to Benicia, and then to Santa Clara College. At least Robert Jr. received this education.(27) The girls probably were sent to Notre Dame College in San Jose. We know that Livermore spent rather large sums educating his children from this extract taken from a letter written by his niece in 1852,

"When we read in your letter you had spent so much upon your children's education we were quite astonished, as education is got so easily in England at this present time, we consider one quarter that amount sufficient to educate a small family with a good sound and respectable education."(28)

Then, in a letter from Livermore's brother William, 1853,

"It has cost you a great deal for the education of your children. I hope they will be able to write us some day."(29)

There were plenty of servants, so that the wife and mother was not burdened with the care of all her children. Some of these women servants were called "carriers"(30); they carried the young children and babies of the household. The housework, cooking, and washing was done by these servants but the housewife supervised everything. This is what happened in the Livermore household.(31) These women servants were Indians. Most of the vaqueros also were Indians. Although some of the vaqueros were "peons", later almost all of them were of this latter class. The servants on the Livermore Rancho received the highest pay of any in the country.(32) This induced men traveling through the country to stop at the Livermore place and work. Many men who later became prominent in the valley earned their first money in the valley on the Livermore rancho.

The homes were built of adobe, a black clay loam, which was made into sun-dried bricks. These were admirably adapted to primitive building conditions. Rough timbers with the bark removed were used for joists and beams, rushes and chaparral were usually used for a thatched roof. Some houses were white washed inside as well as on the outside, and were beautiful in their simplicity.

The old adobe home of Augustin Bernal about a mile east of Pleasanton on the "old hill road", and the old adobe of Francisco Bernal (son of Juan P. Bernal) on the same road, but to the north, are modelled; [?] only the adobe walls preserve the original Spanish touch. The old adobe of Jose Maria Amador has crumbled away. There is no longer the spacious two-story adobe with its outhouses for servants and its Spanish court. These adobe houses were warm in winter, and cool in summer. The old Livermore adobe has also vanished but Bryant has described it for us,

"We were introduced to the principal room in the house, which consisted of a number of small adobe buildings, erected apparently at different times, and connected together."(33)

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"The houses of the rancheros were usually built upon entirely open ground devoid of trees, generally elevated overlooking a wide stretch of the country round, in order that they might look out to a distance on all sides, and see what was going on and notice if any intruders were about the rancho for the purpose of stealing cattle or horses. The house was placed where there was a spring of running water."(34)

This describes the location of the Livermore home. It was on a hill, out in the open with only a few oak trees about it, and the Las Positas Creek was near the home. Almost all the travelers in California, in the early days complained because there were no fireplaces nor stoves in the homes. Hall said (35) there were none until the Americans came in 1846.

Guinn said, "There were no chimneys in California. The only means of artificial heat was a pan (baser) of coals set on the floor. The people lived out of doors in the open air and invigorating sunshine; and they were healthy and long-lived. Their homes were places to sleep in or shelters from rain."(36)

Colton said; "Even the cooking was done in a detached apartment, seemingly to avoid the straggling rays of its grate."(37)

The furniture was generally plain and when not homemade was mostly imported from Boston.(38) Bryant describes the furniture of the Livermore home.

"Here we found chairs, and for the first time in California, saw a sideboard set with glass tumblers, and chinaware. Suspended from the walls of the room were numerous coarse engravings, highly colored with green, blue, and crimson paints, representing the Virgin Mary and many of the saints. In the corners of the room were two comfortable-looking beds, with clean white sheets and pillowcases. The table was covered with a white linen cloth."(39)

The pride of every housewife was the bed. She was proud of its white counterpane and lace trimmed pillows and we see that Mrs. Livermore was no exception to this rule.

Livermore did not always live in an adobe house, as has been mentioned before; he built a frame building in 1851. The lumber for this house came from the Atlantic States. The entrance to the house was by a decorated arched doorway. Through this doorway, one could see into the large ballroom and to the back hall. There were two kitchens, one on either side of this back hall; one for the family use, and one for the servants. Above the dance hall was a balcony and back of this, the bedrooms were found. Below the balcony on one side was a fireplace, on the other, was the stairs to the balcony and bedrooms. In the courtyard in front of the door was a fountain. At the back of the house were found the eating house of the servants, the outhouses for the servants and the stables for his imported horses.(40)

In the summer of 1857, Robert Livermore began sinking an artesian well near his residence. George Duell,(41) a traveling well borer, had charge of the work, which lasted seven months. It is said to have cost not less than five thousand dollars because of the high prices of materials and labor at that time. The depth of this well was seven hundred and sixty-three feet and the water came within six feet of the surface. This well was still flowing when visited in March 1927.

The food of the Californians consisted mainly of beef and beans well seasoned with chile peppers (chile colorados), and these, the senoras were capable of preparing in many dishes that were extremely appetizing. Their bread was made from maize, ground between stones, and was baked in the form of thin wafers, known as tortillas. But they also ate com, potatoes, cheese, butter, onions, mutton, chickens, eggs, (each family keeping a good supply of fowls) (42) and they drank chocolate, tea, and coffee.

But Davis complained thus, "At the ranchos, very little use was made of milch [milk] cows for milk, butter, or cheese. I frequently drank my tea or coffee, without milk, on a ranch containing from 3600 to 8000 head of cattle. But in the spring when the grass was green, the wives of the rancheros made from the milk, asaderas, a fresh cheese in small flat cakes."(43)

Livermore Valley to 1860

The Livermore family also had grapes, pears, apples, peaches, olives and English walnuts from the Livermore orchard. Livermore made his own aguardiente (wine) from the grapes of his vineyard. This he served to his guests.(44) The families, except at the best houses, remained standing when eating because there were no chairs. Bryant says, "Here (at Livermore's) we found chairs."

Fashions changed very seldom for both sexes. Yet they dressed in a striking and picturesque manner. The men wore wide pantaloons; open at the sides from the knees down. For a cloak, they wore a gaily-colored serape, made from a blanket with a hole cut in the center, through which the head was inserted. The serape hung down to the knees. Their hats were broad sombreros. They had no suspenders but a sash, usually red, was worn instead. Their shoes were of deerskin, or were highly polished boots, from which dangled silver spurs.

The women wore gowns of silk, crepe, or calico, according to their means or the occasion. These dresses had short sleeves, and hung loose about the waist, as no corsets were worn. Their shoes were usually kid [goat leather] or satin. Their sashes were of bright colors. Almost all the women wore earrings and necklaces. Their hair was long and usually held in place by high comb. Mantillas served the purpose of bonnets. The favorite ballroom dress "*was a scarlet petticoat, softened in tone by being covered by a white lawn skirt, with a black velvet waist plentifully decked with spangles which heightened the attractive costume.*" (45)

The ladies were domestic and exceedingly industrious, although the wealthier class had plenty of Indian servants. They were skillful with their needles, making the garments for their families, which were generally numerous. They did a good deal of fancy needlework (embroidery etc. - in which they excelled) all for family use. Their domestic occupations took up most of their time.

The universal mode of traveling with both men and women was on horseback. The women "generally ride with a person behind them who guides the horse."(46) Many women were accomplished horsewomen and rode without any assistance. Livermore was the "equal of any in horsemanship", and he evidently trained all his children (both girls and boys) to ride as all loved to ride.

It was the custom of the old Spanish settlers, when riding over the country on horseback, to exchange their tired horse for a fresh one when they reached a corral. Horses were numerous and cheap and the owners nowhere objected. Later, under the laws of the Americans, when this practice was continued, the people were arrested for "horse-stealing."(47)

There was another method of traveling, that of the carreta or ox cart. Sometimes several families would ride in a single cart, and visit their friends or go to town for shopping or to attend church. These carts were also used to haul tallow to town.

Walter Colton, writing in 1850 describes it as, "*quite primitive and unique. The wheels are cut transversely from the butt-end of a tree and have holes through the center for a huge wood axle. The tongue is a long, heavy beam and the yoke, resting on the neck of the oxen, is lashed to their horns, close down to the root; from these they draw, instead of the chest, as with us; and they draw enormous loads, but the animals are large and powerful. But to return to the cart, on gala days it is swept out, and covered with mats, a deep body is put on which is arched with loop poles, and over these a pair of sheets are extended for a covering. Into this the ladies are tumbled. Three or four yoke of oxen with as many Indian drivers and ten times as many dogs start ahead. The hallooing of the drivers, the barking of the dogs and the loud laughter of the girls make a common chorus.*"(48)

As has been mentioned before the cattle were killed only for their hides and tallow.

Mr. JD Smith said, "*I recall that in 1850, when my parents made a trip to Livermore's ranch where they learned they could get grapes and pears, when they reached the Amador ranch - now the site of the town of Dublin - ackers [acres] of*

Livermore Valley to 1860

ground were covered with the bleaching bones of cattle previously slaughtered for their hides and tallow."(49)

These cattle had been killed at the matanza season. Each year cattle were slaughtered, the number depending upon the number of calves marked and the amount of herbage for the year. After the butchering was over, and the hides and tallow obtained, and the best portions of the meat dried the dogs were allowed to have the remains. Young dogs were not destroyed and "three to four hundred of these curs were to be found on a rancho."(50)

After a matanza, there was always a feast so this was a gala occasion. Rodeos were also gala occasions. JD Smith describes a rodeo in Livermore Valley.

The first one he attended "was in the early fifties at Robert Livermore's -the location was east of the present town of Livermore about a mile. There was probably about two thousand head of cattle, all sizes, old cows and young calves, from the ranges north, south, east, and west. And possibly 150 men, on horseback, from different locations, owners, vaqueros, and visitors."(51)

The different owners separated their cattle from the main herd and took them to their ranchos. After the separation was completed, the branding began. The young stock was branded on the hip. The branding iron was registered with the proper officials, and no one was allowed to use a similar brand. Each rancho had his own rodeo grounds or sometimes two of them used the same one. After the rodeo all the vaqueros, owners and visitors were invited to stay and enjoy not only a feast but a dance.

Other forms of entertainment were, little home parties, balls, music, horseracing, bull fighting, hunting, and picnics. The Valecito Casero (little home party) was

"... usually impromptu, without formality, and was often held for the entertainment of a guest who might be stopping at the house. The people were fond of these gatherings, and almost every family having some musician of its own, music and dancing were indulged in, and a very pleasant time enjoyed."(52)

Then "On the occasion of the marriage of a son or daughter of a rancho a ball and large party was given on the rancho."(53) These balls were great occasions and all enjoyed them.

Livermore was very fond of his wife, Josefa, and her every wish was granted. She delighted in dancing and when she felt a longing to dance, Livermore would say to his men, "Bring on the band so that Cheppa may dance."(54) This "band" may have been only local musicians at times, but when a real ball was given the "band" came from San Francisco.(55) These balls were often called Fandango. They were dances or entertainments where neighbors and others were invited in and engaged themselves any great degree of formality. The waltz was the favorite dance although there were other dances such as the quadrille.

"One of the amusements (56) the Californians brought with them from Spain and Mexico was the custom during the carnival season each year, of breaking upon the heads of the opposite sex, egg-shells filled with fine scraps of pretty colored silver or gold paper, or with cologne waters or some harmless and agreeable substance. It was in the nature of a game or trick played upon one another, the idea being to catch the victim unawares, and gently smash the egg and distribute its contents over the head. A good laugh would ensue at the success of the stratagem."

This was a favorite form of entertainment at the balls given in the Livermore home.(57)

"Horse racing was another of the favorite amusements which they occasionally enjoyed; especially on the Saints' feast days, which were general holidays. The vaqueros were then relieved from duty, wore their best clothes, and were allowed to mount the best horses and to have their sport. These races were usually from two to four hundred yards and participated in by only two horses at a time. Bets were made in cattle and horses, and large numbers of animals were lost and won

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on these occasions; at times one hundred to several hundred were bet on the results of single short races. They generally put up their baquillas (heifers). They had no money to wager, but plenty of cattle. Sometimes horses were also bet, but not often."(58)

Some of the rancheros had their own racetracks and horseracing was a regular Sunday entertainment. Another thrilling entertainment was bull fighting.

"Bullfighting was usually held on one of the Saint's days. The bull was turned into an enclosure, and the horsemen would come in mounted on their best animals, and fight the bull for the entertainment of the spectators, killing him finally. Sometimes a bear and bull fight would take place."(57)

The women attended these bullfights. After the fight, a fandango followed.(58) The old arena at Dublin lasted until the sixties. And the arena in Laddsville (which later became the town of Livermore) was still used until 1870. There was more bull fighting in Dublin, then in Laddsville, after 1866 and probably before then.(59)

"Another amusement they had at the killing season at the matanza spot: When cattle were slaughtered, bears came to the place at night to feast on the meat that was left after the hides and tallow were taken. The bears coming, the rancheros with vaqueros would go there for the purpose of lassoing them. This was one of their greatest sports; highly exciting and dangerous, but the bear always got the worst of it. One would lasso a bear by the neck, and another lasso the same beast by the hind foot, and then pulling in different directions, the poor bear was soon strained and strangled to death. Sometimes half a dozen or more would be taken in a single night in this way." (60)

Hunting was a great sport. There were bears, coyotes, and panthers, deer, elk and antelope in the hills between San Ramon and Tassajara Valleys in 1849.(61) Later the elk and antelope vanished but deer and bears were still hunted.

Picnics were often held. Walter Colton described such a scene in 1850.

"I encountered a company of Californians on horseback bound to a picnic, each with his lady love on the saddle before him. He, as in duty bound, rides behind, throws his feet forward into the stirrups, his left hand holds the reins, his right encircles and sustains her. There she rides safe as a robin in its nest; sprigs of evergreen with wild flowers were in her little hat, and larger clusters in his, both are gayly attired, and smiles of light and love kindle in their dark expressive eyes. Away they gallop over hill and valley, wakening the wild echoes of the wood." (62)

Life changed but little before 1858, then came the changing of the principal industry from cattle raising to wheat raising. The large landowners welcomed the incoming people and gladly rented them lands. The life of the rancho owner became the life of a landlord without much to do but ride about and oversee his lands. After 1860, the life of these people became the settled life of the farmer.

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Footnotes

1. Coltan, Walter. Three Years in California. 222-223
2. Bidwell, J. Journey to California, 1841, in John Bidwell, Addresses, Reminiscences, etc. compiled by Royce, CC 31.
3. Bidwell, J. Life in California before the Discovery of Gold, in John Bidwell, Addresses. Reminiscences, etc. compiled by Royce. CC 46.
4. Bidwell, J. Journey to California, 1841. Op. Cit. 32.
5. Bidwell, J. Journey to California, 1841, in John Bidwell Addresses. Reminiscences, etc. compiled by Royce, CC, 32.
6. Ibid. 32.
7. Ibid. 31.
8. Ibid. 32.
9. Ibid.
10. Davis, WH Glimpses of the Past. 25. MS.
11. Davis, WH Glimpses of the Past, 25. MS
12. Tillson, A., de B. Personal Interview. March 14 15.1927.
13. Bidwell, John, Journey to California, in Royce. 30-31.
14. Davis, WH Sixty years in California, 83-84.
15. Davis, HW, Sixty years in California, 83-84.
16. Example of credit received by a Californian, Bill presented to Augustin Bernal by Taty and Co.(1843-1847) Alviso Documents. 94.MS. "*fine white cotton, blue print, Serape, coarse blue cloth, red print, calico shirting, stockings, cotton thread, Madera handkerchiefs, sewing silk, calico, velveteen, etc., hides, butter, sheep, dried beef, tallow, eggs, hire horses, blatter of butter, etc.*"
17. See note on page 87.
18. Neal, JA, Statement. MS.
19. Munyan, E., Letter to Valentine Alviso, June 20, 1844.
20. Tillson, A. de B., Personal Interview, March 15,1927.
21. Colton, W., Three Years in California, 102-104.
22. Tillson, A. de B., Personal Interview, March 15,1927.
23. Davis, WH, Sixty Years in California, 87.
24. Tillson, A. de B., Personal Interview, March 15,1927.
25. Richman, I B., California Under Spain and Mexico. 339.
26. Davis, WH, Op. Cit., 79.
27. Tillson, A. de B., Personal Interview, March 15,1927.
28. Livermore, M. Letter to R. Livermore, Nov. 30, 1852, MS.
29. Livermore, WC, Letter to R. Livermore, August 15, 1853, MS.
30. Tillson, A. de B. Personal Interview, March 15,1927.
31. Tillson, A. de B., Personal Interview, March 15,1927.
32. Ibid.
33. Bryant, E., What I Saw in California, 307.
34. Davis, WH., Sixty Years in California, 80.
35. Hall, F., History of San Jose and Surroundings, 114.
36. Guinn, JM Oakland and Environs, wl, 116-117.
37. Colton, W., Three Years in California, 344.
38. Davis, WH Sixty Years in California, 77.
39. Bryant, E., What I saw in California, 307.
40. Description given to me by Mrs. A. de B. Tillson, the great grand-daughter of Robert Livermore. She received it from her aunt, and mother, the daughters of Robert Jr. who remembers the old home.
41. Faulkner, W.B., Directory of Murray Township, Alameda County, 26.
42. Davis, WH, Sixty years in California, 78.
43. Davis, WH Glimpses of the Past, 25. MS.
44. Bryant, E., What I Saw in California, 307.
45. Halauiski, F.J., History of Contra Costa County. 8-9.
46. Robinson, A., Life in California, 184.
47. Colton, W., Three Years in California, 234.
a. and Baker, JE Past and Present of Alameda County, I, 35-36.
48. Colton, W., Three Years in California, 42.
49. Smith, JD, Rodeos as I Knew Them in Contra Costa County in 1850. MS.
50. Baker, A. Past and Present of Alameda County, I, 321.

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51. Smith, JD, Rodeos as I knew them in 1850.MS.
52. Davis, WH, Sixty Years in California, 90-1.
53. Davis, WH, Sixty Years in California, 91.
54. Tillson, A. de B., Personal Interview, March 15, 1927.
55. Ibid.
56. Davis, WH, Op. Cit., 287.
57. Tillson, A. deB, Personal interview, April 1, 1927.
58. Davis, WH, Sixty Years in California, 95.
59. Hunter, R, Personal Interview, March 4, 1927. Mr.
Hunter came to Livermore Valley in 1865. He remembers bullfights after that time.
60. Davis, WH, Sixty Years in California. 97.
61. Smith, JD, Memoirs of JD Smith, MS.
62. Colton. W. Three Years in California, 57-58.

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APPENDIX

1834-1840 TRANSLATION OF EXPENDIENTE 129

SOURCE: #Expendiente: Instituted by the citizen, Jose Noriega and Robert Livermore, petitioning for the place named "Las Pocitas del Valle de San Jose." 129.

Traced copy of original found in case 135 of the District Court of the Northern District of California, found in United States District Clerk's Office, San Francisco, MS,

Third Seal, two Reales—Provisionally authorized by the Administration of the Maritime Custom House of the Port of Monterey for the years 1834 and 1835.

s/Figueroa Rafael Gonzales.

1834

To the Superior Political Chief of this Territory:

Guillermo Gulnac, a resident of this place, and married to a Mexican woman, by which marriage he has four children, and naturalized in this Republic, before Your Excellency with all due respect presents himself, reposing; That being possessed of a small number of cattle, and desiring to raise as many horses as will enable him to improve a small Rancho, and not being possessed in property of any lands on which to place his property.

He solicits of Your Excellency the favor, that you be pleased to look when the plan or map which duly accompanies this, which represents by the line from the point NW to SSE and on the side of the West, the "Sitio" named "Las Pocitas del Valle de San Jose", bounded by the mission of the last name, which is in length by the line indicated, two leagues a little more or less; and in width from the line referred to as far as the low hills on equal extent, as shown by the said diseno. On this land are found some willows, and in his opinion it is suitable for pasturage, although it is somewhat scarce of water— which small piece of land, your petitioner solicits to place thereon his family and property, for the purpose of improving the same.

- Wherefor Your Excellency if you should think proper, will order the reports to be made which may be deemed necessary, since Your petitioner has the security of the verbal permission to occupy said land from the Reverend Father Munster of the said Mission.
- Wherefor they earnestly supplicate Your Excellency to be pleased to finish the work of beneficence which has been begun with Your petitioners, granting them from Your bountiful heart the favor which they ask for which they will be eternally grateful.

Monterey. July 11, 1834 *s/Guillermo Gulnac.*

=====

Monterey. July 12, 1834

In conformity with the laws upon the subject, let the Ayuntamiento of the Pueblo de San Jose Guadalupe, report:

- if the petitioner possesses the necessary requisites to entitle him to be heard on his petition:
- if the land petitioned for is comprised within the twenty leagues "limitrofes" and ten "litorales", expressed in the law of the 18th of August 1824:
- if it be arable or suitable only for pasturage:
- if it pertains to the property of any individual, corporation, pueblo, or mission, with all other matters that may be calculated to throw light upon the subject
- when this shall have been done the Exediente will be passed to the Reverend Father Munster of the Mission of San Jose, that he may report that which may occur to him in relation to the matter
- The Senor Don Jose Figueroa Brigadier General, Commander General, Inspector and Superior Political Chief of Alta California, this ordered, decreed and signed, which I attest.

s/Jose Figueroa

s/Augustin V. Zamoranz, sec

=====

Livermore Valley to 1860

In compliance with the foregoing superior decree, I say that:

- the party interested in this petition possesses the requisite of Citizenship as set out in his petition, and of having indeed se mas to the nation
- The land petitioned for is not composed within the twenty leagues "limitrofes" or ten "litorales". expressed by the law of the 24th of August 1824.
- it is not arable, it is suitable for pasturage,
- it does not pertain to the property of any individual, corporation, pueblo, or mission, and if it has heretofore been occupied by the Mission of San Jose, the said Mission did not need it. For which reason, it became disoccupied and is now vacant

This Expendiente is passed to the hands of the Reverend Father Munster of the Mission of San Jose

PUEBLO OF SAN JOSE JUL

=====

To the Supreme Political Chief of this Territory—

As by the Superior decree of Your Excellency. I am required to report that which may occur to he in relation to the petition for a place called "Las Positas", pertaining to this Mission; I say, that although this land might be made useful to this mission, yet it is not very necessary, wherefore if it meets the approbation of Your Excellency, it appears to me. that it would be beneficial to the territory, if the petitioner was granted this land for its cultivation and improvement

Mission of San Jose, July 27, 1834 s/*Fray Jose Maria Jesus Gonzales*

=====

Monterey. August 8, 1834

Let this be passed to the Alcalde of this Capital, before whom Guillermo Gulnac will produce three competent witnesses, who will be interrogated upon the following points — 1st — If the petitioner is a Mexican by birth; if he is married and has children, and if he bears a good character

—2nd—if the lands he petitions for pertain to the property of any individual, Mission, pueblo, or corporation; if it is arable or suitable only for pasturage, and what may be extent of the same

—3rd—if he has wherewith to establish the Rancho, or the possibility of acquiring the same

—when this shall have been done, let the Expediente be returned for the proper resolution -The Senor Don Jose Figueroa, Brigadier General, Commander General, Inspector of the Territory of Alta California, thus ordered, decreed, and signed, which I attest-

s/*Jose Figueroa*

s/*Augustin V. Samoranz. sec.*

=====

1837

The half of my right to this place is ceded to Robert Livermore, and for his security. I sign this on the 28 of January 1837

Pueblo of San Jose Alvarado.

s/*Guillermo Gulnac*

=====

Nicolas Bereys:

I concede my right to Don Jose Noriega

31st January 1837

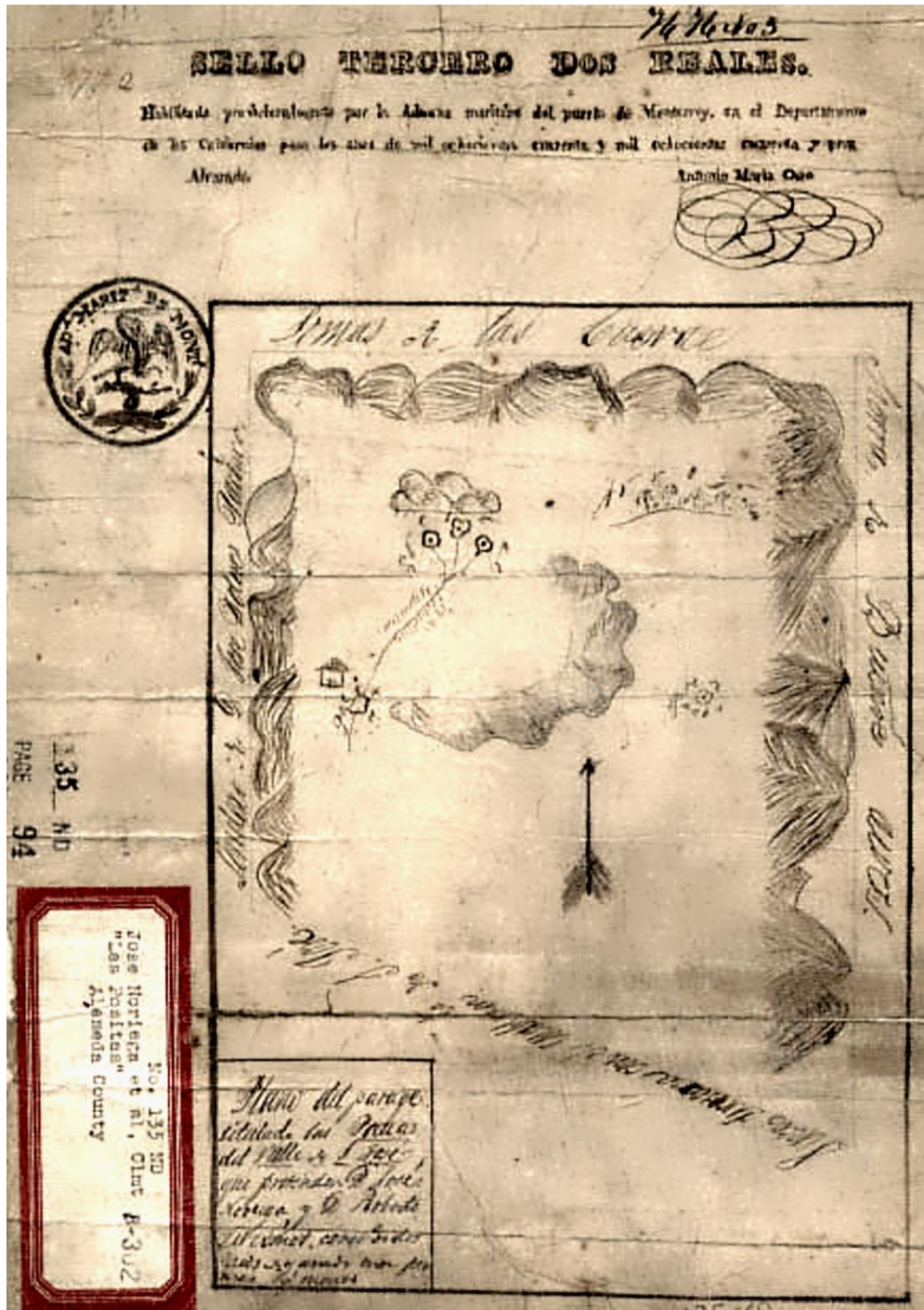
s/*Guillermo Gulnac*

In presence of Judge Juan Mores Jose Benyesa

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Livermore Valley to 1860

This [color replacement scan] is of the diseno which accompanied the petition of Robert Livermore and Jose Noriega for the Rancho Las Pocitas del Valle de San Jose, 1837. MS. from Expediente No.129



Map 6 - Rancho Las Positas del Valle de San Jose (Bancroft Lib.)

Color scan: Land case map B-302 (UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library)

Livermore Valley to 1860

1839

Jose Noriega and Robert Livermore petitioning for the place called Las Pocitas del Valle de San Jose. Senor Perfect of the First District.

Jose Noriega and Robert Livermore, residents within the jurisdiction of San Jose de Guadalupe, married to Mexican women, before Your Excellency, with all due respect, present themselves and say;

- that Don Guillermo Gulnac having made a complete cession of the place named "Las Pocitas del Valle de San Jose",
- and Your Petitioners desiring to occupy said rancho by their stock which at present they have thereon in large numbers, by the purchase, they have made from the said Gulnac.
- and at the same time improve the same in the best possible mode;

and in order that Your Excellency may see that said Don Guillermo does not allege any right in the said land, he has delivered to them the documents he obtained, which documents together with the diseno they herewith present to Your Excellency, in order that you may be pleased to issue to them the title of concession, so that they may occupy the same in their own right, and that no one may molest them

- Wherefore they pray Your Excellency to accede to their petition, in which they will receive grace and favor
- Swearing that which is necessary, excusing the use of common paper in this petition, there being none of the corresponding seal

San Jose Guadalupe March 22, 1839

s/ Jose Noriega
s/ Robert Livermore

=====

Pueblo de San Juan de Castro, March 23, 1839

There appearing to be no obstacle to granting the favor asked for by the petitioners, let this be presented to His Excellency the Governor of the Department for his action thereon

s/ Jose Castro, Monterey

=====

March 26, 1839

—Let this Expediente be returned to the Prefect of the first district, in order that he may cause a report to be made by the Administrator of San Jose,

- if the petitioners herein have occupied the place of Las Posas,
- without having caused any prejudice to the goods of San Jose,
- with all other matters in detail that they may know in relation to the subject.

s/ Alvarado: Pueblo de San Juan de Castro.

=====

March 30, 1839.

Let the administrator of San Jose report, as required by the foregoing decree and let the Expediente be returned to this Prefectura.

s/ Castro:

=====

The parties interested in this petition have been possessed of the lands since the date set forth in their petition:

- the land has been given up by this establishment since the 29 of July 1834, as appears by the report given by the Father Jose de Jesus Gonzales;
- the petitioners have one thousand head of cattle and horses, more or less;
- they have not prejudiced the interests of this establishment, but have aided the same with their persons and interests.

San Jose, April 2nd 1839

s/ Jose de Jesus Vallejo

=====

Pueblo de San Jose de Castro. April 4, 1839.

With the foregoing report let this be passed to His Excellency the Governor.

s/ Jose Castro: Monterey, April 10, 1839

=====

Livermore Valley to 1860

Whereas Don Jose Noriega and Don Roberto Livermore have petitioned for their personal benefit, and that of their families,

- the place known by the name of Positas,
- bounded by the borders of the little hills which are in the willow grove of "la Agua".
- as far as the Sierra of Buenos Ayres,
- and the hills of "las Cuevas",
- the necessary steps having been previously taken and the investigation made as required by the laws and regulations, by virtue of the Mexican Nation.

I have concluded to grant them the place mentioned, declaring to them the property of the same, by these presents, said concession being understood to be in entire conformity with the requirements of the laws, subject to the approbation of the Most Excellent Departmental Junta of the Supreme Government, and under the following condition:

- 1st—They must enclose it without prejudice to the crossings, roads, and public uses; they will enjoy it freely and extensively devoting it to the use of cultivation which may be most convenient, but within one year they shall build a house therein which shall be inhabited.
- 2nd—When the ownership thereof is confirmed to them, they shall solicit the proper Judge to give them Judicial possession by virtue of this title, by which shall be designated the boundaries of the same, on the limits of which will be placed besides the land marks, some fruit trees, or forest trees of some utility
- 3rd—The land of which donation is made is of two leagues a little more or less, as is explained by the map attached to the Expediente. with its respective limits; the Judge may give the judicial possession, will cause the same to be measured in accordance with the ordinance, in order to designate the boundaries, the surplus that may result to remain for the use of the nation
- 4th—If they violate these conditions, they will lose their right to the land and it will be demonstrable by another

In consequence whereof, I order that the present serving then as a little, the same be held as firm and valid, and that entry be made of it- in the Corresponding book, and that the same be delivered to the interested parties for their security and further ends

- Given Monterey on the tenth day of April 1839. *s/Manuel Jimeno.*
s/Juan B. Alvarado.

Registered in the respective book on the second folio, in witness thereof I sign.
s/Manuel Jimeno.

His Excellency, the Governor has ordered that registry of this letter be made in the-prefectura of the First District.
s/Jimeno.

Registered on folio set and marked with the number "11" of the Corresponding book, which remains in the Archives of the Office of the Secretary of the first district.
s/Jose Maria Corarmbas.

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Livermore Valley to 1860

1840

In view of the petition with which this Expediente commences the report of the Senor Prefect of the 1st District, and all that was deemed necessary to be considered, in conformity with what is required by the laws and regulations upon the subject.

- Don Jose Noriega, and Don Roberto Livermore are declared owners in property of the lands known by the name of "Las Pocitas del Valle de San Jose".
 - bounded by the borders of the little hills of the Positas that are in the willow grove de la agua, as far as the Sierra de Buenos Ayres.
 - and the hills of "las Cuevas". said place comprising two leagues, a little more or less, as designated on the map attached to the Expediente.
 - and under the conditions expressed in the title
- Let the corresponding title be issued, and entry be made of the same in the proper book, and let this expediente be reserved for the consideration of the most Excellent Departmental Junta, for the due approbation thereof -
- Thus the Senor Don Juan B. Alvarado. Governor of the Department of the Californias. decreed, ordered and signed, which I attest
s/Alvarado. Monterey. May 19th 1840

Submitted to the Excellent Departmental Junta, and in the Session of today referred to the committee on Agriculture.

s/Jose D. Fernandez

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On the 22nd of the same month it was returned with the accompanying report.

s/Fernandez. Monterey June 10, 1840

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In view of the approbation of the Excellent Departmental Junta on the 19th of May last let a certificate of the same be issued to Don Jose Noriega and Robert Livermore. in confirmation of the lands of Las Pocitas del Valle de San Jose, which they obtained on the 10th of April of the last year

- The Senor Don Juan B. Alvarado constitutional Governor of the Department of the Californias thus decreed and signed, which I attest. *s/Alvarado.*

=====

Excellent Senor: The committee to which was referred the Expediente instituted by the citizens Don Jose Noriega and Don Roberto Livermore. petitioning for the place named "Las Positas del Valle" in view of the opinion of His Excellency the Governor, submit to the deliberation of Your Excellency the following articles-

- Article 1st - The concessions made to citizens Don Jose Noriega and Don Robert Livermore of the place named Las Pocitas del Valle is approved.
- Article 2nd - Let this Expediente be returned to the Departmental Governor, for the necessary ends.

Monterey May 20, 1840. Committee on Agriculture. *s/S.Arguello.*

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Monterey, May 22, 1840

In the session of today, the most Excellent Departmental Junta approved the two articles which conclude the foregoing report

s/Manuel Jimeno;

s/Jose D. Fernandez; Political Government of the Alta California

s/Juan B. Alvarado; Governor of the Department of the Californias.

=====

TRANSLATION OF APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENTAL ASSEMBLY NO. 129.

The concession made by the Governor of the place of Las Pocitas del Valle to the Senors Don Jose Noriega and Don Roberto Livermore is approved.

Livermore Valley to 1860

1847 DEED TO ROBERT LIVERMORE FOR CANADA DE LOS VAQUEROS

"This Indenture made and entered into by and between Francisco Alviso and Isabella Miranda his wife of the first part and Roberto Livermore of the Rancho de las Positas, and Jose Noriega of the second part witnesseth-

That for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars to us in hand paid by the said part of the second part receipt whereof is hereby fully confessed and acknowledged that the bargained sold and conveyed by these presents do bargain, sell, and convey unto the said party of the second part all our rights title and interest in and to a tract of land known as the Canada de los Vaqueros bounded by John Marsh,

Robert Livermore, and Antonio Maria Pico to have and to hold the same with all the rights privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging to him and his heirs and assigns forever and Jose Noriega interlined before signing.

In witness whereof we have herewith set our hands and seals the 24th day of April A.D, 1847.

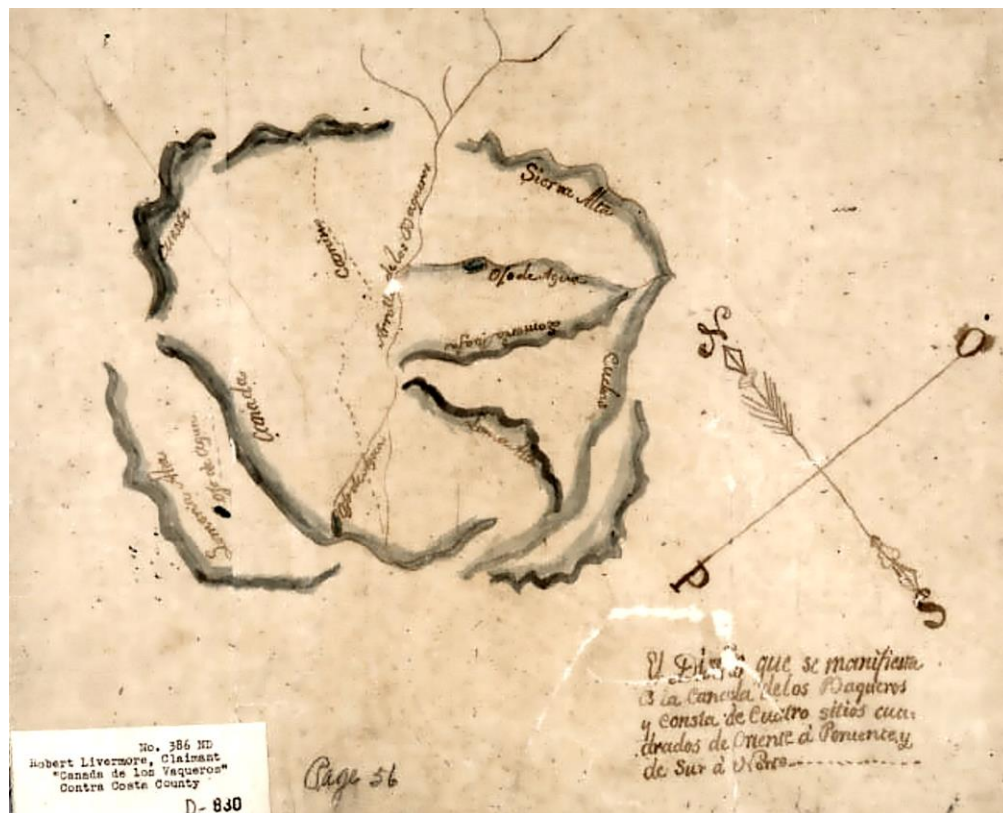
s/Francisco Alviso.
s/Isabella Miranda.

Witness: s/Charles White.

United States vs. Livermore, R., Transcript of Land Commission Case No. 79. MS.

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This [color replacement scan] is of the diseno, which accompanied the petition of Manuel Miranda, Antonio Higuera, Antonio Alviso, and Francisco Alviso, for the Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros, 1836. MS, from Expediente No. 431.



Map 7 - Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros (Bancroft Lib.)

Color scan: Land case map D-830 (UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library)

Livermore Valley to 1860

1854 DECREE OF CONFIRMATION OF THE US LAND COMMISSIONERS.

February 14, 1854 Jose Noriega and Robert Livermore vs The USA

In this case, on hearing the proofs and allegations it is adjudged by the commission that the claim of the said petitioners is valid, and is therefore decreed that the same be confirmed. The land of which confirmations are hereby made of "Las Positas" and are bounded and described as follows, to wit:

- on the North by the Lomas de los Cuevas,
- on the East by the Sierra de Buenos Ayres.
- on the South by the dividing line of the establishment of San Jose, and
- on the West by the Rancho de Don Jose Dolores Pacheco,

containing in all two square leagues, a little more or less. Reference for further description to be had to the map marked C and filed in the case.

Signed: *Alpheus Felch, Thompson Campbell, R. Aug. Thompson,* Commissioners.

=====

Livermore Valley to 1860

1859 OPINION OF THE US DISTRICT COURT OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA IN CASE NO. 135.

SOURCE: Traced copy of original found in case 135 of the District Court of the Northern District of California, found in US District Clerk's Office, San Francisco. MS.

The claimants have exhibited in support of their claim a titulo or grant made by Governor Alvarado April 10, 1839.

The original Expediente is also produced from the archives. From this document it appears that on the 11th of July 1834. Guillermo Gulnac petitioned Governor Figueroa with the caution and strict attention to the laws which seem to have characterized all his proceedings with regard to grants of land referred to the Ayuntamiento of the Pueblo of San Jose and to the Reverend Father Munster of the Mission of San Jose.

Favorable reports having been received from those persons, the Governor by a further order dated August 8, 1834 ordered the petition to be passed to the Alcalde of the Capitol before whom the petition was directed to appear and answer an interrogative as to his qualifications; the condition of the land and his ability to establish a ranch upon it.

At this stage of the proceedings Gulnac appears to have transferred the property to Robert Livermore and Jose Noriega on the 22nd of March 1839. These persons adupped a petition to the Prefect of the 1st district setting forth the transfer by Gulnac to themselves of all his rights to the land and stating their desire to occupy the Rancho with the large stock of cattle purchased by them of Gulnac, and to improve the same in the best possible mode and requesting that the bill of concession may be issued to them so that they may occupy the land in their own right.

- On the 23rd of March 1839, the Prefect directs the petition to be presented to His Excellency the Governor "there appearing to be no obstacle to granting the favor asked for".
- On the 26th of March 1839, the Governor Alvarado directs the petition to be returned to the Prefect that he may procure a report from the administrator of the Mission of San Jose.
- On the 2nd of April 1839, the administrator of the Mission San Jose makes a favorable report and
- on the 10th of April 1839 the decree of concession was made and the Expediente ordered to be returned for the consideration of the most excellent Departmental Junta
- On the 19th of May 1840 the expediente was submitted to the Junta,
- on the 20th it was returned to the Governor with a report signed by the President and Secretary of that body. This document contains the report of the Committee to whom the Expediente was referred, and the resolution of the approval and adopted by the Junta.

The title however or final document had previously issued on the 10th day of April 1839 and the usual draft of it is found in the Expediente. The genuineship of this Expediente is undisputed. It is found among the archives and it is mentioned by its number, the name of the tract and the names of the Grantees in Jimeno's index.

It also appears by a certified extract from the Journals of the assembly that in the record of their proceedings of May 22, 1834 the resolution approving this grant is duly recorded.

The signatures to the title produced by the claimants are duly proved there can be no question but the genuineship of this grant is proved by the clearest as well as the best witness, which could be offered in support of any title issued by the former government of this country.

It is also shown that the land has for a long series of years and even from a date prior to that of the grant been occupied and cultivated.

The claim is therefore undoubtedly valid and the decree of the board confirming it must be affirmed. Feb. 11, 1859.

Livermore Valley to 1860

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE LAND QUESTION OF CALIFORNIA

UNDER SPANISH LAW

When America was discovered and colonization begun by the Spaniards, a papal bull was issued granting the entire area discovered, with the exception of that east of the line of demarcation, to the crown of Castile as a feudal fief. The monarchs of Spain then granted huge tracts of land to individuals, on condition that they establish colonies in accordance with certain regulations, and to companies of individuals who should form settlements. The land came directly from the king or his representatives and was disposed of in accordance with the services rendered, with political and social qualifications, or with the needs of the town.(1)

Colonization was the chief purpose of the granting of lands. Power to grant them was given to those who made contracts to establish settlements, to viceroys, presidents of Audiencias and governors. In order to protect the Indians as well as white people the grants were made on condition that they should not injure a third person: "Within a new discovery the land had to be vacant land which could not be taken with injury to the Indians, and with their free consent".

Lands were occupied legally and illegally, so in 1754 a general law provided for the adjustment of titles to lands, which had been occupied illegally, upon a small payment if the land had been held for 10 years with the knowledge of the public. Two years later, the viceroy and audiencias were empowered to settle all differences in regard to land grants. This was considered to have established the principle of "squatter sovereignty" which was practiced later in California.(3)

In order that the land could not be regranted to other people, a decree of Jose de Galvez (visitor general to New Spain) in 1768 provided that the grants of land were to be recorded in a record book, libro de poblacion (and if grants were near a mission in the books of that institution as well) so that there might be no further conflicts as to ownership.(4)

Because the missions were gaining in power in 1813, a decree was passed by the Spanish cortes to make effective the secularization of missions.(5) Another decree in 1813 was passed by the same body to reduce public lands to private ownership, but this decree, like the one above was unknown in California before 1820, and therefore was inoperative.(6) This last decree for the reduction of crown lands to private ownership provided for tracts of land to be granted to defenders of the country, and citizens who were not proprietors. Soldiers were to receive grants as a reward for patriotism Under no circumstances were the grantees to alienate their property. It was also provided that any grantee, or his successor, who should establish a permanent residence upon the tract, should be exempt from taxation on land and products for eight years.(7)

The granting of land to natives or to Spaniards in California was permitted as early as 1773.(8) Governor Fages, 1784, permitted a few men to occupy lands temporarily. Two years later, he was authorized to grant lands not to exceed three square leagues in extent, which should not encroach upon pueblo or mission lands or Indian rancherias. Each grantee was required to build a storehouse and keep at least two thousand head of livestock on his rancho. At the end of the eighteenth century, 20 or 30 men occupied such grants. Although the Spanish Cortes passed a law for the reduction of public lands to private ownership in 1813, it had no effect upon California. The lands were not reduced to private holdings until after the decree of secularization in 1833.(9) The foregoing regulations were made under the Spanish regime.

Livermore Valley to 1860

UNDER MEXICAN LAW

In 1821, Mexico became independent from Spain and since the majority of land grants in California were made during the period of Mexican control the following laws apply more forcefully. To encourage settlement of the vacant lands, the sovereign general constituent Congress of the USA of Mexico on the 18th of August, 1824, passed a law, article one of which declares:

"That the Mexican Nation offers to foreigners who may come to establish themselves in the territory, security in their persons and property, providing they submit to the laws of the country."

Mexican citizens were to be preferred to foreigners in granting these lands.

The maximum quantity that could be granted was eleven square leagues, consisting of one league of irrigable land, four of non-irrigable or dry farming land, and six of pasture land.(10)

Under this law grants were made in the territory and department of California down to the change of government of July 7, 1846.(11)

Thus under the liberal land law of 1824, any Mexican of good character, or even a foreigner if he were willing to become naturalized and adopt the Catholic faith, might acquire a handsome property in land for the asking. It was easy to secure enough cattle, sheep and horses from the mission to stock it.(12) And then as a square league comprised a little more than 4,458 acres many applicants were satisfied with only a small part of what the law allowed them to acquire. For a few stock cattle, horses and sheep on such a rancho if carefully looked after, soon made the owner wealthy and able to provide himself with all the luxuries at that time afforded.(13)

Then followed the law of 1828 in which colonization rules were decreed. Every person desiring to obtain a grant, whether he was an empresario, head of a family, or a single person would present a petition to the governor, stating his name, age, country, profession, the number, description, religion and other circumstances of the families or persons who wished to colonize; the quantity, and as near as possible, the description of the land asked for. At first, it was usual to require a rude map of plot of the land (called a diseno) to accompany the petition; but this practice fell into disuse, and the later (14) grants generally contained only verbal descriptions.

When the petition was presented, the step was usually a reference, made by the governor on the margin, to the prefect or some other local officer to examine and report whether the land was vacant and could be granted without injury to third persons or to the public, and sometimes also to know whether the petitioner's account of himself was correct. The reply of the prefect or other local officer, called the informe, was written on or attached to the petition and the whole returned to the governor. If the informe was satisfactory the governor then issued the grant in form.(15) In some cases where the governor or himself possessed the necessary information none of the usual form was used and the grant immediately followed the petition.(16)

The next step was to secure the approval of the territorial deputation for which purpose the expediente (17) was sent to that body where it was referred to a committee on public lands or on agriculture.(18) In case the governor failed to secure the approval of the deputation he was authorized to report the matter to the supreme government, at the same time forwarding the expediente. Sanction, however was seldom refused although it appeared that approval often was not forthcoming due to the failure of the governor to present the matter to the territorial deputations.

After the grant was made, the governor was required to give a signed statement, which served as a title, to the grant.(19) The originals of the petition and informe were filed with the secretary of the government in the archives, and with them a copy of the grant. The papers on file in the archives were attached together so as to form one document constituting the evidence of the title, which was called the expediente.(20) There was a decree which provided that,

Livermore Valley to 1860

"The proper record shall be kept, in a book for that purpose, of all the petitions presented and grants made, with the maps of the lands granted, and a circumstantial account shall be forwarded to the supreme government." (21)

These laws and regulations of 1824 and 1828 were somewhat modified by a law of April 6, 1830, which authorized the national government to seize all lands required for national defense, and forbade frontier colonization by foreigners who were citizens of an adjoining nation.(22)

It was in accordance with these laws (of 1824, 1828, 1830) that the majority of land grants in California were made.(23)

If California had remained the home of the native Californians and the comparatively few Spaniards and Mexicans, and foreigners then all would have been peaceful. But this could not be.

UNDER AMERICAN LAW

By the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848, California part of the territory of the USA(25) and was open to American occupation.

Soon after California became part of the USA territory, gold was discovered (1849) and the people rushed to California to find their fortunes. The population increased rapidly and then the question of land became of vital importance. The newcomers paid little attention to the claims of the rancho owners. Squatters were everywhere. Rival claimants threw the old system into the very utmost of confusion. Many titles to the grants had not been perfected; some were fraudulently held. But the most baffling difficulties were to determine the location, extent and boundaries of a grant found to be valid, and these difficulties pertained to nearly all of the grants.

No official surveys had been made either by the Spanish or Mexican governments, and so far as appears, no professional surveyor had ever been in California prior to the cession. The nearest approach to a survey of a grant was for two men on horseback to take a lariat or rope of fifty varas in length (the equivalent of one hundred thirty seven and a half feet), with stakes long enough to be placed in position from horseback. These two men, having been given directions to supposed landmarks, such as distant hill, a peak or a tree, as corners to the grant, would set out on a survey. The initial stake being set by the first horseman the second would set out a full speed to the limit of the lariat where the second stake would be set; and so they would continue until the land was surveyed.(26)

Thus with such confusion it was only a few years before the Mexican rancho owners lost to the Americans practically all of their grants of land. Some of the land was purchased fairly but most of it was seized under false pretenses. But, the rancho owners were not the only ones who suffered. Many settlers had to pay thrice for their land.(27) These agrarian questions became vital to the public interest.

Then followed the report of Halleck in 1849 and Jones in 1850 (spoken of in Chapter IV) and as a result of the investigations of these two men a Land Commission was created (discussed in Chapter IV) which settled the land question in California.

Livermore Valley to 1860

Footnotes

1. McGinty, Ruth M. Spanish and Mexican Ranchos in San Francisco Bay Region, 13. MS.
2. Ibid.
3. McGinty, Ruth M. Spanish and Mexican Ranchos, 15. MS.
4. Priestley, Herbert I., Jose de Galvez. 259.
5. Jones, William Carey, Report on the Subject of Land Titles in California, 56-57 In the 31st Congress, 2nd Session, Senate Executive Documents, Serial No. 589, Document No. 18. Also printed separately under the same title at Washington, 1850. That in the Senate Documents is cited hereafter as "Jones Report".
6. Bancroft, HH Pastoral California. 258.
7. Jones, William Carey, Jones' Report. 55-57.
8. Bancroft, HH Op. Cit. 257.
9. McGinty, Ruth M. Spanish and Mexican Ranchos. 21-11.MS
10. Priestley, Herbert I., Article: "Land Legislation in Mexico"—1227, In the Mexican Year Book for 1922-1924. Clelland, Robert G.(Ed).
11. Donaldson. Thomas. Public Domain. 1129.
12. Eldridge, Zoeth S.(Ed) History of California. II.4-65.
13. Ibid. II. 465
14. Hittell, Theodore H. History of California. II. 751. Jones' Report. 39-40.
15. Jones, William Carey, Jones' Report. 39-40.
16. Morrow, William W. Spanish and Mexican Land Grants. 16.
17. **Expendiente** = collection of papers or documents belonging to particular business matter.
18. Morrow, William W. Op. Cit. 16.
19. Jones, William Carey, Jones' Report. 40.
20. Morrow. W W. Spanish and Mexican Land Grants. 16.
21. Jones, William Carey, Jones' Report. 40.
22. Bancroft, HH California Pastoral.258.
23. All the grants in Livermore Valley were made under these laws.
24. Clelland, Robert G. History of California: American Period.) 411.
25. One of the provisions of which guaranteed that property held in the ceded Mexican territory would be "inviolably respected" by the U.S. Clelland, RG Ibid.41.
26. Morrow, William W. Spanish and Mexican Land Grants, 18. See also-Donaldson.Thomas. Public Domain. 381.
27. Halley, William. Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 84

Livermore Valley to 1860

LETTERS

5/1851 LETTER: WC LIVERMORE TO ROBERT LIVERMORE

My Dear Robert, 2, May 1851 4 Paradise Row Bethnal Green, London

After 35 years uneasiness respecting your fate, it has given me much pleasure and satisfaction to hear of the existence of one whom we all supposed to be no more. We have often talked about you but not knowing how or where to write to you, we were left in ignorance until the present time when a kind friend a sister of Mr. Strickland has called upon us and given the gratifying intelligence of your welfare.

Now for the state of our [Livermore] Family—

- Father [Robert Sr.] died in 1826,
- [Robert, born October 1799 in Springfield, Essex (Northeast of London)]
- Daniel [born November 1800] died April 1847 leaving a widow and three children, 2 sons and one daughter.
- Mother [Mary] died 18 May 1848
- Thomas [born 12/21/1802] is living in the parish, married 26 years to Mary Bailey a person living in Pott St., who I believe you were acquainted with. They have no children.
- Mary has been married 22 years, has had a family of ten of whom four are still living
- Betsy is married and has got four children and has buried two others,
- Sarah remains single
- George left here about 14 years ago and we heard he had enlisted in the Spanish Legion, and have since been informed that he was killed in action
- John is still single
- Susan [Smith] died last June [1850] leaving a husband, two sons and 1 daughter, the eldest son is now in Texas, bearing the name of Daniel Smith, the youngest son is married and has two children and is living in Bethnal Green, the daughter is married and has two children

Mother was left a widow [in 1826] with myself, two younger brothers and one sister and we lived together for 3 years, when upon my marriage, she lived [as] housekeeper with Mr. Mace of Chelmsford until his death, and then returned to my house, and remained with me up to the time of her death which took place at the date before mentioned.

For myself [born 5/29/1804]. I have lived in the old spot from the time you left here, was married in January 1828 and have two sons and 1 daughter, the eldest being 21 and the youngest 17, both with me in the business. My daughter is 19 years of age, we are all in pretty good health at the time of writing this letter - Aunt Cudworth and Sarah Cudworth are still alive.

Now having given you a short account of home affairs since you left; I shall be glad to hear in return, a history of your life since your absence, whether you are getting along in the world or whether you are going down in the world, likewise an account of your family as I suppose you have [not] kept single any more than the rest of us.

I must now finish this letter as I did not gain the intelligence till this evening and the mail goes out tomorrow, so I write these lines in haste, hoping to hear from you by the return mail - I should like a long letter that I may answer and give you more information than I can express in the present one. I remain,

My dear Brother,
Yours affectionately,
s/WC Livermore (Rubric)

My address: William Charles Livermore. 4 Paradise Row, Bethnal Green, London

I have no doubt you will recollect Mrs. Pitt the wife of Mr. Pitt your masters partner. I was with her this day respecting some work.

Livermore Valley to 1860

(Addressed: Mr. Robert Livermore, Care of Mr. John Strickland.)

11/1851 LETTER: WC LIVERMORE TO ROBERT LIVERMORE

My dear Robert: 21, November 1851 4 Paradise Row, Bethnal Green, London

It was with much joy and thankfulness that I received a letter from you yesterday morning, more especially coming from one of whom I have had no tidings for so many years and I am pleased to find you are in such a prosperous state.

I thought that I should never have heard from you again. I should have been glad to have known of your existence before our dear Mother's death as she so often wished to know whether you were dead or alive. I have informed our brother Thomas of your intelligence and placed your letter in his hands, which he read with great pleasure and surprise. I have also informed our sisters, Mary, Betsy and Sarah, and our brother John whom you left twelve months old; they are all very much delighted to hear from you. I called on Aunt Cudworth, and Sarah aunt is 80 years of age, and she spoke to me of your childhood, they expressed great pleasure at hearing from you.

You commence your letter by informing me how much you were delighted at receiving a communication from me through your friend's sister (Miss Strickland). I am indeed indebted to that lady for the trouble she has taken. For had it not been for her perseverance in searching for my abode, I should not have heard from you at all.

You then give us an account of your travels from the time of your leaving home up to your arrival at Monterey, which are certainly very interesting and you cannot complain of want of excitement for what with fighting and smuggling and spending money ashore, and being taken prisoner by way of variety your time was rather actively employed.

The next four years seem to have been passed by you in cultivating a settlement and disputing with the Indians by the usual appeal to arms, as to who was to possess the soil, and you inform us that you did not escape without wounds. You could hardly expect it.

Your letter goes on to the year 1834, when we find our English brother transformed into a Mexican citizen, with a grant of 3 leagues of land. Now I do not understand what you mean, had you given the number of English acres, I should know exactly the size of your Grant. I shall be glad to receive some information on this point. Also a description of the soil and whether the land is plain or wooded and the principal products of the land, and whether you use the produce for consumption or send to any market.

I can imagine that you must have a great extent of pasture to enable you to maintain 4,000 head of cattle, 300 sheep, and 150 horses, as you inform us is the number of your stock. I suppose you are pretty expert with the lasso and can catch your wild horses yourself without employing Indians to do it for you. You also mention a large vineyard and orchard, and 2 dwelling houses so you must be in a very comfortable position.

You inform us that you have married a native of California; by the name, I should suppose she was a Spaniard. I little thought that I had a sister-in-law so far off, and a troop of nephews and nieces in that part of the world. I shall be very glad indeed to keep up a regular correspondence and inform each other of our position.

I inform you in mine of the 2nd of May of the number of my family and of my brothers and sisters also where they were residing so that I need say no more in this letter, but proceed at once to communicate with an equal account of how I am getting on here, with all my capital, but it will be more convenient than my present house as I shall have my workshop under my own eye.

When I view the number of your cattle, I cannot but imagine how insignificant it must appear to you when I tell you that I have only one horse, but I think myself well off to have that.

I told you in my last that our dear Mother lived with me up to the time of her death, and it may be some satisfaction to you to know where she lays. I buried her in the Victoria

Livermore Valley to 1860

Park Cemetery in which I have a family grave. The Cemetery is formed on part of the land of Globe Fields.

If you were to come to England again, you would not know the place. It is built over with streets upon streets, having in this parish alone 13 churches and schools, a large park, and 2 cemeteries.

The ideas of the people are changed, there is no such thing as a Bullock Hunt or going on the first of April to see the lions washed at the Tower [of London] as it used to be when you were here. When I read of your orchard, it reminded me of the orchard that was at the side of Pitt Street, do you recollect Andrew Jameson? And the quality of the pears you used to gather from Wrightons, and the Mulberry tree. I recollect those pranks of yours well.

I must now close this letter, as I have to send it to Detsford for the mail tomorrow. My son will enclose a note to you and my daughter also writes a few lines to your wife which please hand to her and trusting that this may be the beginning of a long correspondence between us, I remain,

my dear brother
Yours very affectionately
s/WC Livermore

Mr. Robert Livermore, Rancho de Positas
(Addressed on back: Mr. Robert Livermore- Favored by Mr. J.Strickland)

Livermore Valley to 1860

11/1852 LETTER: MARIA LIVERMORE TO ROBERT LIVERMORE

My dear Uncle: 30 November 1852 4 Paradise Row Bethnal Green, London

We received your kind letter a few weeks back with the greatest pleasure. I regret we have not been able to answer it before. Father wished me to write this for him as he has been so much pressed with business, he cannot find time as the mail is going out tomorrow.

In consequence of my eldest brother going to Adelaide in South Australia, we missed the last mail. You must guess the hurry and confusion we were in when he only gave us a fortnight's notice of his going, and, we had all his things to prepare, in that short time. He left us on the 29th of September with a family of his acquaintance. He has gone out with the intention of following his own business. And, I hope he will do well. Indeed, I have no fears of that for he is young and well able to work. He is turned 22 years of age.

When we read in your letter you had spent so much upon your children's education, we were quite astonished, as education is got so easily in England at this present time. We consider 1 quarter that amount sufficient to educate a small family with a good sound and respectable education.

You say you are too advanced in life to visit England. I cannot imagine that you being only 53. You mentioned you were born in 1800, which you will find upon reckoning is a mistake as Daniel was born in November 1800 and you were born 11 months before, which would be October 1799. Father went to see Aunt Cudworth she also said you were born in 1799, that will make you 1 year older than you imagine. Aunt Cudworth and her daughter both send their love to you and were much pleased to hear of your welfare.

We had a book put into our hands quite accidentally giving us a full description of you and your family together with all your estates, cattle, lands, horses, and the skeleton of the whale [on a nearby hill], also the deposit of oyster shells and several other striking curiosities connected with your dwelling. It was written by Edwin Bryant, formerly Alcalde of San Francisco, who visited your house for lodgings refreshment.

We had been expecting a letter from you for months before its arrival but we were not aware you had lost them in "sending" them to the post-office. Father sends his kind love to you and all your family hoping you are all well. I must now conclude and write you a longer letter next time. With kind love from all your brothers and sisters, trusting you are in good health. Remember me kindly to your wife and family hoping to hear from you soon, I am

Dear Uncle
Your affectionate Niece
s/Maria Livermore

Livermore Valley to 1860

8/1853 LETTER: WC LIVERMORE TO ROBERT LIVERMORE

My dear Brother:

West Side Bethnal Green 15 August 1853

It is now some time since I heard from you. The last news I received you were all well and it was your desire to know if I could inform you what became of your aunts and uncles, which I cannot answer as well as I should wish, as I never heard a true account of any of their lives or deaths. I have been told they are all dead.

The only one I can remember anything about is Uncle Thomas he came to England and stayed 1 month with us and after the death of George the Third about the year 1821. We have never been able to hear anything of them for the last ten years. Thomas left a large family in Malaga. I believe John died in Gibraltar. Uncle Thomas told father that John lent a large amount of money to the American Government, which if he could get [it back], he would have it divided amongst his brothers and sisters. We have never heard anything more of it. A portion of his wearing apparel and linen were sent to England and divided among relations. Father had a part, amongst which were a great number of leather breeches, as he made the first pair of leather breeches for the King of Spain, by that business I believe he gained a great deal of money.

I am pleased to hear you are sending your children to a school where they may be taught the English language as I think it will be of advantage to them when they grow older. You say you should like to come to England. We shall all be most happy to see you and should like to know whether it is probable you may come next year, as it would be an unknown pleasure for me to see you once again. I called upon Aunt Cudworth after I received your last letter. She is much pleased to hear you are still alive. She is 81 years of age and appears in good health.

You wished the circumstances of your brothers, and sisters. I consider they are all doing pretty well. Fortune has not overloaded them with riches, but they are comfortable and respectable. Betsy is the poorest on account of a bad husband. She is obliged to work very hard to keep a home together but now her children is growing up, she will do better. Sarah has nothing to depend on but her own labor. She is living in a good family and has always had a good situation. Therefore, I think she ought to be doing well. The others are all comfortable.

I am in a comfortable and respectable business myself, but have had a great many losses this summer in taking large houses to build. I thought I had almost lost all I had but I have such a good business in repairing and jobbing, I shall not have anymore to do with building. It has cost you a great deal for the education of your children. I hope they will be able to write us some day. Remember us kindly to them and tell them I should be most happy to see them in England. Give our kind regards to Mrs. Livermore whom I should feel great pleasure in seeing. All your brothers and sisters desire to be remembered to you.

I have heard from my son in Australia, he has joined himself as head steward of the vessel. The crew all ran away to the [gold] diggings after they got to Adelaide. He went out as cabin passenger but got very good friends with the captain and is going to remain on the vessel, but thinks of returning home.

I should think you could cultivate a great deal of your land by machinery as we do in England. What is the value of a good horse in California? They are rather expensive nor here. I have one; and 3 parts, last summer I had 3 horses but now I have not business enough to require them. I have moved into my new home that I built last year, the letters to Paradise Row will always find me but my proper direction now is West Side Bethnal Green.

With kind love from myself and family to you all trusting you are all well. I have not much family now, my son is gone to Australia and my daughter is to be married in a fortnight then I shall only have my youngest son. He also would like to see you. I must now say so more as the post is going off but believe me to remain

Your affectionate brother
s/WC Livermore

Livermore Valley to 1860

5/1854 LETTER: WC LIVERMORE TO ROBERT LIVERMORE

My dear Robert:

16 May 1854

West Side Bethnal Green, London

After a long interval of time, I have again had the pleasure of receiving a letter from you under date of 12 March, containing one from your son. He tells me that it is his first attempt in the English language. I have not received the letters to which you allude as having written, as you may depend upon it I would not have allowed them to remain unanswered.

When my son went to Australia, his intention was to follow his business, but finding this did not answer, for although there were plenty of employment at good wages, he found difficulty in obtaining payment for his labor. He then became steward on board a coaster, between Australia and Melbourne, and after saving some money took a situation in the Custom House at Adelaide and by last advice, he states that having received several offers from Captains to go to China and India. He thinks he shall leave Australia and return to England, after visiting other countries on his way. He appears to think that home is the best place after all. We are looking anxiously for letters from him, as at present we are uncertain in what part of the world he is.

As regards to your age. I shall be 50 years on the 29th of this month [thus born on 5/29/1804] and Thomas is 52 [thus born in 12/21/1802] on the next St. Thomas day, so you will be able to make your calculations and find what is correct.

I am very glad to find that the US Commission have at last confirmed you in your rights and titles, although they levy such heavy taxes and do not afford you protection against the cattle stealers. It must be a great loss to you, having so frequently to suffer from their depredations. You tell me that you are fencing a large tract of land for farming purposes and are planting out another vineyard. I trust you will be successful and reap a good profit from your exertions.

Would it not be as well to trench in your land, say about 6 feet trench 3 feet deep with back thrown up? This would prevent your cattle being taken away. This could be done I expect at about 40 pounds per mile and perhaps with you it would not be so expensive as you have a plentiful supply of manual labor. If scarce, it would pay to get over about a dozen men from America to dig out for you with Foremen and portable house to be moved with the men as the work proceeds. We have numbers of them built here. They can be taken to pieces and packed on board ship and are very light and would answer any purposes (They being used here for dwelling houses, sheds, storehouses, hospitals, churches). Do you brand your cattle? It is a common practice here, and if any should be taken away, you would be able to claim them whenever they might be offered for sale.

I am very much pleased with your son's letter and trust that them and your daughters will progress in their education which I trust will prove a blessing to yourself and them.

I am sorry to say that I have been very unfortunate in my business. In consequence of severe losses, large contracts and bad debts, so much that I have been compelled to sacrifice part of my property to enable me to meet my liabilities and it will be hard work for a few years before I am able to bring myself straight again.

By your former letters I had hoped that you would have visited England. I should have liked to come out to pay you a visit, but the expense would be more than I could afford. If you can make your arrangements to come over for a few months we shall rejoice to see you. My son Edwin is very anxious to go abroad, and has not yet made up his mind to what part of the world he would like to emigrate. He is a carpenter. My daughter was married in September, last.

I forgot to mention that we are all well and trust that this will find you and yours in the possession of health. Remember us all to your family.

Livermore Valley to 1860

2/1855 LETTER: WC LIVERMORE TO ROBERT LIVERMORE

My dear Robert,

11 February 1855

I wrote you last on the 16 May 1854, since which I have been in expectation of receiving letters from you but none has come to hand. I now write again and enclose a copy of my last letter thinking that you may not have received it, although I hope such is not the case, but that [your] reply is now on its way to England.

Since writing to you in May last, I have experienced some changes in my family. You will perceive that I have stated that my son William was in Australia. He has since returned home quite well, had been here about six months and is thinking of starting again in the summer. He appears to have a great wish to visit your country but I cannot tell at present whether he will decide upon doing so.

I have, within the last few months, sustained a severe loss in the death of my only daughter, who was almost suddenly taken off by a disease of the heart (dropsy of the heart) on the 11 of September last, only a few weeks after her brother had returned to England. This has been a great blow to all of us.

Received a few days ago a letter from Miss Strickland, the sister of your friend, inquiring whether I had had any letters from you as she had not received any from her brother since May last, and owing to the prevalence of sickness with you has become quite uneasy and stating that she intended to write out by this mail so most likely both letters will arrive together.

I trust we shall soon receive a letter from you as eight months is a long time to wait for an answer. In case your friend Mr. Strickland should not receive a letter from his sister in this mail, will you communicate to him what I have stated, in order that he may at once write to her to allay her apprehensions, in case he has not already done so.

Owing to the absence of any letter from you, I have nothing to communicate to you. I will conclude with wishing you and your family are in a good state of health and that your family transactions are turning out profitably.

Yours affectionately
s/WC Livermore

Livermore Valley to 1860

2/1857 LETTER: WC LIVERMORE TO ROBERT LIVERMORE

My dear Robert: 20 February 1857 West Side Bethnal Green No. 8, London

I wrote you on the 6th July 1855 acknowledging your letters of 30 April and I have not received any letter from you since.

The war that I alluded to, I am happy to say, has come to an end but we are not yet in a state of peace being unfortunately at enmity with [both] China and Persia [1857]. However, they are not such formidable antagonists as the Russians [in the Crimean War 1853-1956] and we managed to beat them with the aid of our allies. We shall most likely gain the best with our present enemies single-handed.

I mentioned in my last [letter] that trade was in such an unsatisfactory state that it was my intention to emigrate. However, owing to the termination of the great war and other causes, business has very much improved and believe I can do as well here as abroad, more especially as my 2 sons are now in business, the youngest on his own account as a carpenter and the eldest assisting me.

Your sister Sarah has since my last [letter], got married and I believe she has written you on the subject with all particulars. She told me she had [done so] when she was at my house. I have had one or two visits from her with her husband and they appear to be very happy

I had a visit from a friend of yours, Mr. Francis P.O. Byrne, and he promised to call again and talk of matters connected with your part of the world but he did not come.

I shall be glad to hear from you as often as you find time to write, but I am afraid that owing to some defect in the Post Office arrangements, letters have been written on both sides that have not come to hand. However, I have your exact address this time. I hope this will find you.

It is likely that you will be able to take a trip to England, if you do I shall be most happy to make you as comfortable as possible during your stay. Trusting that you and wife and family are all well. I remain,

Yours affectionately
s/WC Livermore

Livermore Valley to 1860

1866 LETTER: MISS M. STRICKLAND TO LIVERMORE FAMILY

Sir or Madam. No.38 Northumberland Street Edinburgh, Scotland December 29, 1866

I trust you will excuse my writing to you, although I have not the pleasure of your acquaintance, when I inform you that I am the only sister of a Mr. John Strickland who resided for many years at San Jose. He was well acquainted with Mr. Robert Livermore also of San Jose and a gentleman in whom my dear brother placed the greatest of confidence. I may add, also, that it was through inquiries made by me at my brother's request that the communications between Mr. Robert Livermore's family in England and himself was restored after an absence of 35 years.

My reason for writing to you now is to obtain if possible some information respecting my dear brother from whom I have not heard for years. I have sent letter after letter to no purpose and waited patiently for replies in vain they were evidently received by someone as none were returned. The San Francisco post office [returned the last letter writing] "not known" upon it.

In the last letters I received from my dear brother, he signified his intentions of returning to England to end his days and therefore, when my letters were not replied to I thought perhaps he had left San Jose on his return home. He has never yet arrived and my last letter was returned. I know not what to think, but fear some misfortune. He never failed replying to any letters of mine he received. If you could give me any information as to when he left San Jose, where he intended going, or if he is living or dead. I sometimes fear the worst. I should feel greatly obliged if he has gone to any other part of the world, where I could write to him.

If he is dead, any particulars respecting the sad event, as to the complaint he died of, and where his remains are deposited, or where a certificate could be obtained — showing that to be the case as in England and of what cost to where to apply for it I should be very thankful. Anything would be better than this sad suspense. My dear brother, if living, is entitled to property that if dead, would be divided among the other members of the family who would be prevented from receiving it unless they could produce proofs of his death. He was also possessed of considerable property himself, that in the event of his demise must have passed with other hands.

I know of no one in whom my brother placed so much confidence as Mr. Livermore or who would give me more information respecting him or his affairs. Mr. Livermore and my brother being firm friends for many years.

"In the changes and chances of this mortal life" should any similar misfortune have befallen either Mr. or Mrs. Livermore to whom this letter is addressed and it fall into the hands of any member of their family (Mr. R. Livermore I understood from my brother had several children), I should feel greatly obliged by a letter from them giving me any information they can as to my dearest brother's fate. I need not say they would be rewarded.

I understood some land of my brother's and Mr. Livermore's adjoined therefore any member of the family would know some particulars respecting him when he sold it, and if not, if he left San Jose and when and to where bound to England or elsewhere.

In short-any information respecting him would be most thankfully received. Wishing that into whose hand this letter may fall, friend or stranger, they will kindly make inquiry for me that I may know if my dear brother is living or dead. I remain truly yours
(Miss) M. Strickland

P. S. My present address is given in this letter (having left England some since) it is No. 38 Northumberland St., Edinburgh, Scotland. I thought it would be best to repeat it.

Possibles: Capt. John Strickland (1814-1888) ran a freight schooner on Napa River, left a wife, 2 daughters, and son, died in Oakland but buried in Napa. John W Strickland (1825-1906) buried in Antioch

Livermore Valley to 1860

1884 LETTER: EMERY MUNYAN TO VALENTINE ALVISO

Friend Valentine Alviso:

Newark,

June 20th 1884

Your asking me for information in regard to my recollections of R. Livermore was duly received but being very busy have neglected answering until now I will give you the most important recollections as brief as possible.

First, he told me he was born in England (Nottingham if my recollection serves me) in 1777 [actually Springfield, Essex in 1799] and early entered the British Navy where he served for several years and was in several engagements but with what nations he did not say.

He left the English service on the coast of South America, entered the US Navy, and served three years. The vessel he served on in the American Navy was the Cayenne and in 1827 he arrived at Monterey harbor, and being tired of seafaring life started for Pueblo de San Jose by the way of San Juan and Gilroy Boy's Rancho and arrived in San Jose a few day previous to the great earthquake of that year.



Valentine Alviso
(Livermore Herald 1896)

He soon after went on a Rancho where he soon acquired the language of the country and became an expert in throwing the lasso and in horsemanship entering into all the sports of the country with the zest of a native of the manor born and became a great favorite with all who became acquainted with him.

Second, he left San Jose about two years after his arrival there and went to the Rancho de Agua Calientes and Higuera's Rancho where he was married. After that, he went to Sunol valley to raise stock on his own account and while thus engaged, he with one Noriega secured the Positas grant upon which he settled. Afterward, he bought out Noriega and became sole proprietor.

During his residence in California, previous to the American occupation of the country, the Indians made frequent incursions on ranches committing depredations and driving off stock. Livermore on account of his courage was selected to lead the pursuit and punish the marauders.

Upon one occasion, the Indians were pursued across the Stanislaus above Knights Ferry and a thick fog coming on the pursuers camped near what is now called Chinese Camp, during the night the Indians surrounded the camp and made an attack. Livermore's followers, panic stricken, fled leaving their arms and horses. Livermore finding himself abandoned by his companions and to fight single-handed useless, made his way through the ambushade with musket in hand. He footed it to Dr. Marshes Rancho with his musket on his shoulder cursing his companions for their cowardice, he being the only one of the company that brought back a single musket or arms of any description.

Third, after discovery of gold at Sutter's Mills, all land travel for several years to the mines was past his house. Travelers both to and from the mines made it a point to stop at his house as his hospitality was proverbial and he was probably better known to the Argonauts than any other private citizen with the exception of John Sutter in California.

I prepared these reminiscences in haste but I can vouch for the correctness of all except the place of his birth. As he often spoke of Nottingham, I have always supposed that to be his birthplace and if there is anything in the above that will assist you in preparing a history of one of our most noted pioneers, I shall be pleased.

Your truly
s/E Munyan

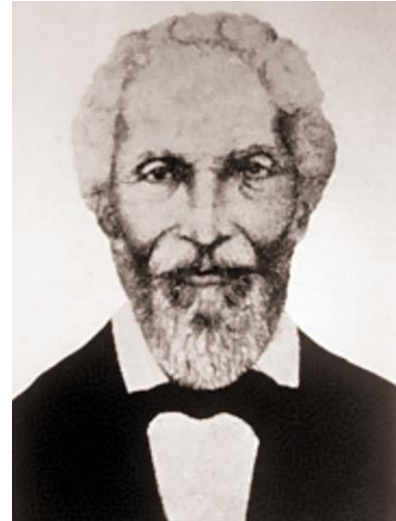
Livermore Valley to 1860

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES

LIFE OF JOSE MARIA AMADOR (d.1883)

Jose Maria Amador was the first settler of Livermore Valley. The date of his birth is uncertain for some authorities say it was 1772 and others 1794; some chose a time between those two dates: but, all agree he was born in San Francisco. He served as a private soldier in the San Francisco Company from about 1810-1827.(1) As a soldier he was often called on to pursue Indians who had escaped from the Missions. In 1819, twenty-five men, under Sergeant Jose Sanchez, marched from San Francisco, by way of San Jose, to the lower San Joaquin Valley to a fort near modern Stockton pursuing Indians. Amador was one of the five soldiers wounded but he lived to tell the tale. Padre Duran names the offending gentiles Mulquelemes, this being perhaps the first writing of that name, or later Moquelunme. (See Chapter II.)

Amador in these travels, as a soldier, searched the country for a place to make his home. In 1826, he evidently found the place he sought, for he built an adobe house and a corral in the west part of Livermore Valley.



Jose Maria Amador
(Online Archive of California)

This section of the valley now bears his name. He soon took his hundred head of cattle and eighty horses upon the rancho. The San Jose Mission Padres granted him permission (4) to occupy the land. Amador was made major-domo of the Mission in 1827,(5) after his discharge from the Mexican army. The Mission sometimes kept its sheep on Amador's rancho. He improved the land and every year brought more cattle on the land.

In 1829, he applied for the grant of land he was occupying which was called San Ramon and was 15 miles from the Mission San Jose. The Mexican government did not grant it until 1834. It consisted of "four square leagues", bounded

- "on the south by the Mission lands of San Jose and the Alameda Spring;
- on the north by the arroyo or creek of San Ramon, and
- on the east and west by the mountains or Sierras." (6)

In his attempts to improve the land, he tried to grow many different crops. In 1831, he began to grow grain; he saw that it would yield an abundant crop, so each year he increased the land devoted to this, although cattle raising still remained his principal occupation. Now that the house was built and the ground cultivated, he moved his family to the rancho in 1833. With his family on the rancho the need for food supplies increased, so from 1833 on we find that among other things he raised wheat, potatoes, onions, corn, and beans(8) for household use.

Frontier life was not free from exciting incidents. Mission San Jose was secularized at this time. The Indians, which had been at the Mission, scattered to their former homes. When food was scarce, the Indians raided the ranchos to get cattle. In 1837, a party of (9) Cosumne Indians raided Amador's rancho and carried away one hundred cattle. Amador called on Livermore for help. They with several of their employees pursued the Indians in an attempt to recover the cattle. Both Livermore and Amador were wounded. Later Amador had four flint arrowheads removed from his body.

As Amador's cattle increased, his employees had to be increased. About 1837-1840, he had one hundred and fifty employees on his rancho, three to four hundred horses, thirteen to fourteen thousand cattle, three to four thousand sheep, and some swine. (10) Amador soon found that the small adobe house did not meet the needs of his growing family, so in 1842 he built a new house.(11) Being dissatisfied with it he tore it down and built a larger one in 1846.(12) .

Livermore Valley to 1860

When John C. Fremont and party passed through this portion of the country, in 1846, they took nearly all of Amador's best tame horses and paid nothing for them. Amador was allowed to keep one mustang, and to the day of his death denounced Fremont as a "great scoundrel".(13)

Amador was not only the first farmer and cattle man in Livermore Valley but he was also the first manufacturer. He made leather goods (harnesses, saddles etc.), wagons, soap, blankets, (14) and many other staple articles in demand at that time. He employed Indians as well as Mexicans at this work. Since he had been Major-domo at the Mission, he knew the capabilities of the natives for this sort of work.

He reared his family on this rancho and took real pride in the improvement of the family home. He was one of the most enterprising of native Californians.

When the people flocked into California during the gold rush, his house was always open for any of the travelers. This portion of the valley where he lived soon became known as Amador Valley. With this rush of people, he caught the gold fever. He went to the mines but returned when he found it unprofitable.

This inrush of people to the California gold mines could not last and soon people began to look for homes. Squatters were everywhere and, as has been mentioned before, the US Land Commission was created in 1851 to settle land disputes. In order that his land title would be valid, Amador filed on March 23, 1852 a petition with this land commission. After reading the petition and hearing seven witnesses, the commission confirmed the claim. Then on January 14, 1856, the validity of the claim was recognized by the US District Court of the Northern District of California.(15) In January 1857 the appeal was dismissed from the court "The four square leagues" were held to be his legal property,

Amador had watched the valley develop from a wild uninhabited uncultivated country to a well-settled area. He had always had an open door to all travelers who spoke well of him. He helped other settlers in the valley by offering his home to them whenever the Indians molested them. Amador, the first settler of Livermore Valley was a real frontiersman, capable, brave, daring, kind and hospitable.

[Gilroy Headstone: 1794-1883, but he claimed to be aged 106 at death. Son of Sgt. Pedro Amador who settled in California in 1771 ... making his 106 age plausible.]

Footnotes

1. Bancroft, H.H, History of California. II. 585
2. Ibid, II. 335.
3. USA vs. Amador, JM, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128. MS
4. USA vs. Amador, JM, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128. MS
5. Bancroft, OP. Cit. II, 585.
6. USA vs. Amador, JM, Expediente No. 80 found with Case# 144 of the District Court
7. USA vs. Amador, JM, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128. MS.
8. USA vs. Amador, JM, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128. MS.
9. **Missing**
10. Baker, Joseph E, Past and Present of Alameda County, 1. 35.
11. USA vs. Amador, JM, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128. MS.
12. USA vs. Amador, JM, Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128. MS.
13. Baker JE, Past and Present of Alameda County, 1. 48-9.
14. Halley, W, Centennial Year Book of Alameda County, 504.
15. Hoffman O., Thompson and West, Official and Historical Atlas, Map of Alameda County, 25. Land Cases. 76. USA vs. Amador, JM, Case No 14.437 in Federal Cases, Book 24, p779.

Livermore Valley to 1860

This [color replacement scan] is of the diseno, which accompanied the petition of Jose Maria Amador for the Rancho San Ramon, 1829. MS. (Note: compass directions of this map are wrong. The North is where the "O" is; the South where the "E" is; the East where "S" is; and the West where the "N" is). from Expediente No. 80.



Map 8 - Rancho San Ramon - Jose Maria Amador (Bancroft Lib.)

Color scan: Land case map D-575 (UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library)

Livermore Valley to 1860

LIFE OF AUGUSTIN BERNAL (1797-1872)

Augustin Bernal was born at Santa Teresa Rancho in Santa Clara in 1785.(1) [1797] For more than twenty years he served as a lieutenant in the Mexican army ** for which he received part of the grant of El Valle de San Jose. His brother, Juan Pablo Bernal, also received part of this rancho as did Antonio Sunol. As patented, the rancho contained forty eight thousand acres and extended from Sunol Valley to Livermore.

Augustin Bernal was twice married, and left a widow and a large family of sons and daughters to mourn his loss.(2) He died in 1872. He was much respected for his honesty, integrity, and genial and generous disposition.

He was very careful of his property and made it secure by dividing it among his children. On June 11, he deeded (3) to his

- [second] wife Juana Higuera Bernal.
- and children Jose,
- Presentacion
- Avalina
- Nicolas Juana
- Augustila
- Augustin Jr.
- Jose Reyes.
- Maria Antonio, and
- Manuel [died 3/25/1874 at age 22]

his property which was bounded as follows:

- "on north by lands claimed by Dolores Pacheco.
- on the north and east by lands of Juan P. Bernal.
- on the south by lands of Antonio Sunol,
- and on west by the coast range of mountains",(4)

containing in all two leagues.



Jose Augustin Bernal **
(Museum on Main)

The result is that the Bernals held their ground on the original grant better than any other of the native families.

[** Mission San Jose Marker: **Augustine** Bernal Died 6/19/1872 Aged 76 Years. Museum on Main: **Agustin**, born at Mission Dolores in 1797, and [Spanish] soldier



Augustine Bernal Marker
(H.Briley)

1819-1827 (8 years). Janet Newton in *Las Positas*: **Augustin** was Lieutenant in [Mexican] Militia in San Jose in 1837. His diseno (land grant map): **Agustin** Bernal. San Jose Public Library: **Jose Augustin** Bernal. Calisphere: He entered Spanish Militia at age 22. Herb Hagemann (related to Juan Pablo Bernal): **Agostin** in *History of Pleasanton* and biography of Juan Pablo Bernal.]

[“We try to use Agustín consistently, as found on Spanish-language documents. According to Irene Soberanes, *The Bernal Family in California* (unpublished in Bancroft Library) listed his birth year as 1797 and baptized at Mission San Francisco on August 28, 1797”. – Ken MacLennan, Curator, Museum on Main, Pleasanton, CA]

Footnotes

1. Wood, MW, History of Alameda County. 1848
2. Ibid.
3. County Records. Alameda County, Book of Deeds, A, 40. MS
4. Ibid.

Livermore Valley to 1860

LIFE OF JUAN PABLO BERNAL (1810-1878)

Juan P Bernal was born at the Presidio of San Francisco on June 25, 1810. His father was one of the thirty-eight soldiers at the Presidio. Living in this environment, he became a soldier no doubt, as did his older brother Augustin.

On 1841, he is listed as a farmer (1) in San Jose. His wife was Rafaela Felix Bernal. They had six children,

- Francisco.
- Luis.
- Juan.
- Guadalupe.
- Teresa (later as Mrs. Robert Livermore Jr.), and
- Refugio.

In 1844, JP Bernal was made Juez de Campo (2) (Country Justice). He and his brother Augustin and Antonio Sunol were granted El Valle de San Jose Rancho in 1839. Juan P. is said to have owned more of the grant than the other two together. He moved to the rancho in 1852 and built an adobe house in what is now Pleasanton. It was located on the grounds where the Pleasanton High school now stands.(4)

He died at his home on Vine Street, San Jose, in 1878 and buried in Santa Clara



Juan Pablo Bernal
(Pacific Historian 1964)

Footnotes

1. Bancroft, HH, History of California. II, 718.
2. Ibid.
3. Teeter, Daniel, Personal Interview, March 12,1927.
4. Ibid.

Livermore Valley to 1860

This [color replacement scan] is of the diseno, which accompanied the petition of Antonio Sunol, Antonio Maria Pico, Augustin Bernal, Juan P. Bernal for the Rancho El Valle de San Jose, 1836. MS. from Expediente No. 231.



Map 9 - Rancho El Valle de San Jose (Bancroft Lib.)

Color scan: Land case map D-236 (UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library)

Livermore Valley to 1860

LIFE OF DON ANTONIO SUNOL (1796-1865)

Don Antonio Sunol gave his name to the southwestern part of the Livermore Valley. Although he did not live in the valley himself, his rancho was there, his cattle were there, and his son lived there. Because he was an influence in the valley, I am including a sketch of his life.

Sunol was born in Barcelona in 1797. [1796] Because he admired Napoleon of France he entered the French navy. He came to California on the *Bordelais*, (1) and deserted on her return from the north in 1818. He landed at Monterey but came to San Jose the same year.

"He settled in San Jose making it his permanent home. In 1823, he kept a shop and apparently, sold liquor for Governor Arguello wrote to the Alcalde that:



Antonio Maria Sunol
(History San Jose)

"A. Sunol had introduced into the pueblo a quantity of rum and honey to sell at retail, concocting therefrom a drink that was causing much alarm."(2)

He won the heart and hand of Maria Dolores Bernal whom he married in 1824. Since he was in business and married he was selected for postmaster (3) in 1826 and remained such until 1829.

About 1828 or 1830, investigations (4) were carried on to expel all Spaniards from Mexican territory. The laws (of 1827-29 were really directed against the Spanish padres for there were many exceptions to the laws. A man who was married to a Mexican wife or had children, or was a soldier, or a professor could remain if he took an oath of allegiance. Sunol's case was investigated but he was allowed to remain.

In 1839-1840, he was appointed *sindico*, or trustee in San Jose, From 1841 to 1844 he was *subpresect* (6) of San Jose. In 1843, he was selected *suplente* (substitute) of the *junta* (?) (council) of San Jose. This same year he was chosen one of California's seven territorial legislators. In 1846, he was appointed on the council of San Jose to aid in managing the pueblo affairs.

Sunol was not interested only in his political offices. He realized the value of land. He applied for the grant called *Los Coches* in Alameda County.(8) It was granted to him in 1837. But this did not satisfy him. When Antonio Maria Pico, Augustin Bernal and Juan P. Bernal petitioned for the grant of "*El Valle de San Jose*" in Livermore Valley he attached his name to the petition. On April 10, 1839, Governor Juan B. Alvarado granted the rancho to the petitioners. The grant had natural boundaries and was very large. It consisted of fifty-one thousand, five hundred and seventy two acres, or "eleven square leagues."

Pico sold his interest in the grant to Sunol soon after the grant was made. (9) Within a few months after the grant was made, the grantees put a thousand head of cattle on the land, built a house and corral on it and cultivated some of the land. (10) When they first went on the land, they put up one house and cultivated the land in the same vicinity for protection against the Indians who were very hostile. Frequent attacks were made upon them by the Indians and it was always necessary to go armed.(11)

Sunol, Juan and Augustin Bernal each built houses on the land and every year each of them cultivated a portion of land. The stock originally put on the rancho by each of the owners greatly increased.

Even though Sunol had this property, he still made San Jose his home. He was interested in his rancho however, and made frequent trips to look after his interests there.

Livermore Valley to 1860

As the stock increased, on his rancho Sunol sold many cattle to Sutter. The Sutter-Sunol dealings began in 1840. It is through the Sutter-Sunol (12) correspondence (1840-1836) that we gain most of our information about the exchange of cattle. The cattle were sold to Sutter on credit and Sunol had a great deal of trouble attempting to collect the debt.

In 1840, Sutter purchased one thousand head of cattle from Sunol and sent a party including Livermore, Merritt, and Walker to drive his newly acquired cattle across the country. (14) In the letter of October 7, 1840, Sutter acknowledges receipt of certain animals sent and credits Sunol for these two hundred and ninety five dollars to be paid in agreed time in beaver skins. (15) Cattle trade was not the only dealings that Sutter and Sunol had for in the letter mentioned above, Sutter wished Sunol to collect a small cargo of corn, beans, peas, etc. for which he will send in launch in three or four days.

In a letter of April 21, 1841 Sutter is glad to hear that Sunol can let him have six thousand feet of lumber and wishes him to "have it ready by the fifteenth of next month" when he will send a large raft down for it. On the next voyage Sutter will have the pleasure of seeing Sunol in person when they can arrange about a sale of horned cattle.(16)

August 16, 1841 Sutter writes to have Sunol send him "some dried meat, cheese, panocha, cocas, shingle-nails, machine for distillery, and French books". This seems to indicate that Sunol was Sutter's purchasing agent.

Sunol pressed Sutter for payment of his debt. Sutter in his letter of October 7, 1842 offers Sunol as

"part payment of the debt from two hundred and fifty to three hundred cattle, which, if he accepts them, the bearer Mr. Livermore will at once procure for him. The balance shall be paid as soon as possible. Whoever the stranger was who said that I have declared that I only wrote letters to you to pass away the time and that I will pay whenever it suits me, is an infamous liar."(17)

This letter had followed one of September 8, 1842 in which Sutter said he regretted to hear that Sunol intended to come to New Helvetia with a large force and take away all his stock.

The payment that Sunol received for his cattle and goods purchased for Sutter was deer-fat and beaver skins. In the same year Sutter wrote a letter thanking Sunol for having dissuaded his (Sunol's) brother-in-laws from complaining to the government (about his debt to them) as that would have been very disagreeable to him, he being on friendly terms with the Governor.(19) Sutter's diary shows that Sunol often made trips to Sacramento.

This note is found, "Wednesday 5th (November 18 45), The Schooner Sacramento, passengers Sears, Foster, and Don Antonio Sunol and his son-in-law, also the Indians who were at work for Sunol. The launch was freighted with dried meat.(20)

Cattle and merchandise were not the only dealings, which Sunol and Sutter had, for on June 14, 1845 Sutter said in a letter to John Marsh, "I send a company of 31 Indians to Don Antonio Sunol's farm, in case they should need something to eat on their way to the Positas, you will assist them a little on Don Antonio's account, if you please, "(21)

In answer to Sutter's letter, Sunol received the following letter (22) from March: Rancho de Palpan June 16th-1845

Mr. Ant. Sunol-

My very dear friend- 31 Indians arrived yesterday in Sacramento procured for your service. They arrived, as usual, dying of hunger, and I gave them the meat of two calves, for which, if you think right, you can put to my account six dollars. Your servant, JM Marsh".

Livermore Valley to 1860

In 1846, Sunol and Antonio Pico purchased the San Rafael Mission for eight thousand dollars. This same year in September, Edwin Bryant visited him and gives this account,

"We visited this afternoon the garden of Senor Don Antonio Sunol. He received us with much politeness, and conducted us through his garden. Apples, pears, peaches, figs, oranges, and grapes with other fruits were all growing and ripening. The grapevines were bowed down to the ground with the luxuriance and weight of the yield; and more delicious fruit I never tasted."(23)

Like all the other people of California when the gold rush began, Sunol could not resist the temptation to go to the gold fields. He was engaged in mining in 1848.

When the U.S. Land Commission was hearing cases Sunol wanted his claim, with that of his partners Augustin Bernal and Juan Bernal, made valid. On May 18, 1852, the claim for the Rancho Valle de San Jose was filed under the name Antonio Sunol et.al. The Land Commission confirmed the grant on February 21, 1854. The USA appealed to the District Court. This court confirmed Antonio Sunol et.al. in their ownership of the rancho on January 14, 1856. The case was then referred to the US Supreme Court to contest the rights of appeal. No objection/was made to the confirmation for the validity of the claim was proved.

It was Don Antonio's eldest son, Jose Narciso who actually established the Sunol family on their part of the Valle de San Jose grant. He was born at San Jose in 1835.

When he was fourteen years old, his father's love for France was shown in a striking way. Most all of the Dons sent their children to Monterey to school but Don Antonio sent his son Jose to the Lycee at Bordeaux [France]. He studied there five years (25) then returned. On his return (1854) (25) he built his home on the Rancho El Valle de San Jose in what is now Sunol Valley. In 1858, he married Maria Rosario Palomares, whose mother was a Pacheco.

Sunol continued to make trips to his rancho although he still resided in San Jose. He died at his residence in San Jose March 18, 1865 leaving a very large estate to be distributed among his heirs.

This southwest part of the Livermore Valley had not developed rapidly, for in 1851 when Ladd came to Sunol Valley only one house, that of young Antonio Sunol, was to be found. But gradually houses were built and settlers came to this fertile valley.

Each year the Bernal's (who were Sunol's brother-inlaws) and Sunol would hold their rodeo together and brand their cattle. The usual place for this rodeo was at Vallecitos.

As settlers came into the valley, the stock of these rancheros could not roam the country at will and fences had to be put up.

[Santa Clara Mission Headstone: Born in Barcelona, Spain 1796 – Died San Jose 1865.]

Livermore Valley to 1860

Footnotes

1. Bancroft, HH California, V, 738
 2. Archives of California, Departmental State Papers. San Jose, IV. 8. MS.
 3. Bancroft, HH, California. III. 51.
 4. **Missing**
 5. Bancroft, HH, California. III. 51
 6. Bancroft, HH California, IV. 685-6.
 7. Legislative Record. IV. 15. MS.
 8. Bancroft, H.H, California. V. 738.
 9. USA vs Sunol Antonio, et.al. Transcript: Land Commission. Case# 231. MS.
 10. Ibid.
 11. Ibid.
 12. Collection of copies and extractions from original letters in possession of Sunol family.
 13. Sutter, J. Diary, 2. MS.
 14. Bancroft, HH, California, IV, 233.
 15. Sutter Sunol Correspondence, MS.
 16. Ibid.
 17. Sutter-Sunol Correspondence, MS.
 18. Ibid.
 19. Ibid. (Letter of October 16, 1843).
 20. Sutter's New Helvetia Diary, 14. MS. in the Bolton Collection, UC, Cited by Ulsh, E.J.,
 21. John Marsh, 138. M.A. Translated from the Spanish by Uish, E.J.,
 22. John Marsh, 139, M.A. Thesis. MS original in Bolton Collection UC.
 23. Bryant, E., What I Saw in California, 316.
 24. USA vs: Sunol et, al. US Supreme Court Report, 20 Howard, 261.
 25. O'Day, EF, San Francisco Water, III, April 1924, No.26.
- The date of his settling in the rancho is given as 1850 by Wood, MW, History of Alameda County, 462. Bartlett, WP, The Livermore Valley, its resources etc., 10.

Livermore Valley to 1860

EARLY LIFE OF ROBERT LIVERMORE (1799-1858)

Robert Livermore was born in Bethnal Green [Springfield, Essex], a suburb of London, England, in October 1759 [1799]. Bethnal Green is not far from the London Docks. As a child, he was often at the docks where he learned of shipping and sea life. He was apprenticed to a mason but was not satisfied so ran away to sea as a cabin boy in 1816 on a merchant ship bound for the USA. Soon after his arrival, he enlisted in the US Navy going on a man-of-war to the Rio de la Plata, Chile and Peru. At the latter place, he left the ship, and joined the allied fleet of Chile and Peru commanded by Lord Cochrane.

"He took part on the 'Esmeralda' (having charge of the powder magazine) in the naval operations at Callao which were in 1820 to 1822. When Admiral Cochrane called for volunteers to man a privateer to cruise the Pacific Coast in search of Spanish merchantmen, Livermore was one of the first to respond. In the course of two years, he returned to Callao where he was discharged. His share of the appraisals amounted to more than ten thousand dollars. Eight thousand of this he buried near Callao and two thousand dollars he took with him to Lima where he remained a short time. Returning to Callao he concluded he would leave the money where he had buried it to take back to England at some future time".(1)

Livermore then embarked on a trading craft (the Colonel Young) which he deserted when it reached Monterey, Upper California. Dates given by authorities vary from 1816 to 1825. The date of his arrival is unimportant except that it shows the difficulty of ascertaining exact facts about California pioneers. He found some of his countrymen and from their description of the country he decided to remain.

He began work on the Rancho La Laguna near San Jose where he learned the Spanish language. He made friends readily because of his sunny disposition. For some reason, he went to San Gabriel Mission where he spent some time with the Mission Padre.(2) After leaving the Mission he went north again to San Jose, Here he became acquainted with Jose Noriega. They became firm friends. He remained there two or three years. He next went into the east of Santa Clara with George Frazer (commonly known among the Spanish residents as George el Carpintero) (3) with whom he had become acquainted soon after his arrival in California.

The earliest written record we have of Livermore in California is in the State Papers. It says "May 11, 1829, Monterey. Roberto Livermore certifies he is English, twenty three years old, attained an office of major-domo for Senor Joaquin de la Torre, and he intends to remain in the country and contemplates marriage".(4) In another record of 1829, he is listed as a resident of San Jose. He said he had deserted from the "Colonel Young" about 1821 and had been baptized at Santa Clara as Juan Bautista Roberto.(5) He is mentioned at San Jose in 1830.(6)

From San Jose, he went to the Rancho of Jose Higuera or the Tularcitos Grant, sometimes called Rancho Agua Caliente. Here he met Josefa Higuera, daughter of Jose, and widow of Fuentes Molina. Livermore was not a tall man but he was square shouldered and upstanding. His hair was brown and his skin white. To the dark-haired and eyed senora, Livermore appeared very handsome. He courted Josefa. It must have been difficult for Livermore's Spanish was faulty and Josefa knew but little English. But love won and in 1838 they were married. (The rest of his life will be found in the various chapters of this thesis).

Footnotes

1. Neal, Joshua A., Statement of Joshua A. Neal who lived with Livermore from December 1851 to his death February 1858. [Text in full appears later.]
2. Neal, J., Statement.
3. Ibid
4. Archives of California. State Papers. Sacramento, XIII.3.
5. Archives of California. Departmental State Papers. XIX.3.
6. Vallejo Documents. XXX, letter 61.

Livermore Valley to 1860

STATEMENT - BY HIRAM BAILEY, A RESIDENT OF LIVERMORE

I knew Robert Livermore in his lifetime. Remember his telling me that he was with Lord Cochcorane at the bombardment of Callao. Cochcorane being in command at the time of the allied fleet of Chile and Peru. The name of Cochcorane's flagship was the Esmeralda.

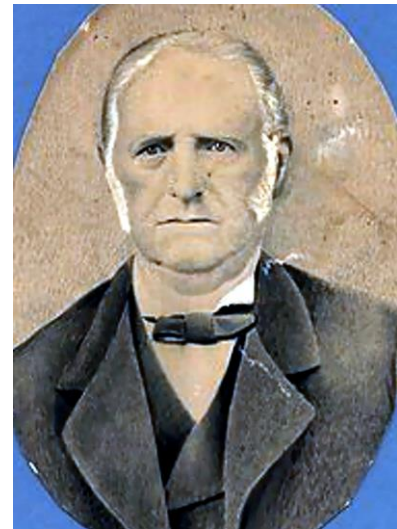
Livermore was in charge of the powder magazine during the action. Afterward embarked on a coaster for the North Pacific Coast of North America arriving at Monterey Upper California in the years 1818 or 1819. Soon after landing removed to San Jose or thereabouts and at once engaged in work for himself and others.

In the Livermore Papers Collection, Bancroft Library. *MS.*

LIFE OF JOSE NORIEGA (1796-1869)

Very little is known of Jose Noriega who was Livermore's partner. He seems to have had some connection with the vessel, which brought in the H. and P. (Hijar and Padres) colony from Mexico in 1834. He was a depositario (trustee) at San Jose in 1835. That same year, he was the grantee of Los Meganos Rancho in Contra Costa County. He was made half owner of Las Positas Rancho in 1837. The next year he sold the Rancho Los Meganos to John Marsh.(1) He was made Alcalde (mayor) of San Jose in 1839.

In 1841, he said he was forty nine years old, his wife Manuela Fernandez, and had one child Manuel.(2) In 1846, he was detained prisoner when visiting New Helvetia (John Sutter's fort on the Sacramento River). After his release he was made a member of the San Jose Council.(3) He lived in San Jose most of the year and made it his home; but two or three months (4) of the year he spent on the Las Positas Rancho with his partner Robert Livermore.



Jose Noriega
(Online Archive of California)

[Born in Spain, Died in San Jose, Buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park with Manuela]

Footnotes

1. County Records, Deeds. Contra Costa County. 11,8.
2. Bancroft, HH, History of California. IV, 754-55.
3. Ibid
4. USA vs. Pacheco. JD Transcript: Land Commission Case# 60. MS.

Livermore Valley to 1860

STATEMENT OF JOSHUA A NEAL (1827-1887)

[Joshua Neal is son-in-law of Agustin Bernal. He married daughter Angela Bernal.]

From December 1851 to the Time of His Death Which Occurred On His Farm in Livermore Valley February 14, 1858.

Robert Livermore was a native of West Bethnel Green, [Springfield, Essex] London, England, where he was born October 1799. At the age of 16, he embarked on board a merchant ship for Baltimore U.S.A. as Cabin boy, and soon after his arrival there he enlisted in U.S. Navy going on a man-of-war from there to the Rio de La Plata, Chile, and Peru. At the latter place, he left the ship and joined the allied fleet of Peru and Chile commanded by Lord Cochcorane. He was on board the flagship Esmeralda at the bombardment of Callao, and had charge during the action of the powder magazine. When Admiral Cochcorane called for volunteers to man a privateer to cruise the Pacific Coast in search of Spanish Merchantmen, Livermore was one of the first to respond and was made Lieutenant. In the course of two years, he returned to Callao where he was discharged. His share of the appraisals amounted to more than \$10,000. Eight thousand of this he buried near Callao and \$2,000 he took with him to Lima where he remained a short time. Returning to Callao he concluded he would leave the money where he had buried it to take back to England at some future time. He then embarked on a Coaster bound north, touching on his way at Acapulco, Mazatlan, Guaynas, and Lower California-arriving at Monterey upper California in the year 1825. (Note: JA Neal says: "I may be mistaken in the date given by me".)



Joshua A Neal
(Museum on Main)

He found some of his countrymen and from the description of the country they gave him, he concluded to remain. From there he made his way in company with a man named George Frazer (commonly known among the Spanish residents as George el Carpintero) to the Rancho la Laguna near San Jose where he engaged in work up to the year 1834.

From there he went down the [coast?] to Los Angeles, where he made the acquaintance of the Priest in charge of the mission of San Gabriel, who requested him to go and live with him, which he did, remaining about one year. Livermore used to say that the good Father had a room [at the Mission] where he kept his Treasury or Strong-box made of a whole Bull hide sewed into a bag for Spanish silver dollars, and a calf's hide sewed in the same manner for Doubloons (or gold coins). On Sundays or feast-days, he [the Priest] would take him [Livermore] into the room allow him to put his hand into a small hole in the bag to take out as many dollars as he could. As the hole was only large enough to admit the hand, it was difficult to grasp for much, never being able to bring out more than two or three dollars at the time, and that with the end of his fingers.

Leaving the Mission he went north to the Rancho la Laguna again, and San Jose remaining about two or three years. Then to the Redwoods east of Santa Clara, sawing lumber there with the old style whipsaw in company with George Frazer. Then he went to San Jose where he remained a few months. From San Jose, he went to the Rancho of Jose Higuera or Tularcitos, as the Grant is called. It was about this time that Fuentes Molina, father of Casimira Bailey, got killed by a fall from a horse at a General Rodeo on the Fisher Rancho or nearby.

In 1836, Livermore went to the Tassajara Canon (in Livermore Valley) in company with George Frazer and Benjamin Williams to kill elk for hide and tallow. His share of the profits in that undertaking amounted to over six hundred dollars.

Livermore Valley to 1860

Soon after he applied for the Las Positas Grant of one league in company with George Frazer and afterward the petition to the government was renewed for two leagues more or less. The petition was signed by Robert Livermore, George Frazer, Jose Noriega and John Gilroy.

Livermore and Noriega bought out the other two applicants. The grant was not made for reasons best known to the Government, but got permission to settle on it. In 1838, he married Josefa Higuera widow of Fuentes Molina. He raised stock on Las Positas, but on account of the depredations committed by the Indians, he kept his family on the Rancho Tularcitos.

At one time, Livermore and his hired man had to take refuge in the house, which the savages kept surrounded one whole day and night, running off the next day all his tame horses. The house being built of adobe with iron bars in the windows and a good rifle as his protector saved, he says, his life. Shortly after this occurrence, the Government sent a company of soldiers from the Mission of San Jose, composed of one sergeant, one corporal, and five Indians (Nasario Galihdo, Sergeant; Jose Romero, Corporal).

Livermore in company pursued the Indians across the San Joaquin River to the Estanislao, where they had an encounter with over three hundred of them. In the encounter, 2 of the soldiers were wounded, and in the cover of night they retreated across the San Joaquin River to the Canada del Hospital in the foothills west of the San Joaquin River, where they encamped and cared for the wounded until a cart or ambulance could be had from the Mission San Jose. Canada del Hospital takes its name from the fact of the wounded being there cared for.

In 1838, Livermore first moved his family to Sunol Valley arid in that year and the next raised upward of 12,000 centals of wheat.

In 1839, he removed his family to the Amador Rancho and while there, he and Jose Noriega purchased from Salvio Pacheco, the Rancho Las Positas, which had been granted to, said Pacheco on April 10, 1839.

The Amador Rancho being the only safe place in Livermore Valley for the family to settle there temporarily making daily trips of 18 miles to the Las Positas to look after his interests. Sometime afterward, he settled with his family on the Rancho permanently.

In 1841, he raised the first wheat in the Livermore Valley, which he sold to the Russian vessels then in San Francisco. While living on the Las Positas he engaged as Foreman to John A. Sutter on the Rancho Sacramento.

In 1846 when Fremont came through with his soldiers, he camped near his house. Livermore being absent, Mrs. Livermore ordered the Vaqueros to kill a steer for them and had some tortillas made upon which they regaled themselves as they claimed they were very hungry. The next day after this cordial welcome, they manifested their gratitude by driving off 18 head of gentle horses, leaving only one, and half broke at that.

In April 1847, he purchased from Francisco Alviso the Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros, now in Contra Costa County, and containing four leagues, and subsequently the half interest in the Las Positas from his old partner, Jose Noriega, thereby making him the sole owner of the two grants at the time of his death.

Many of the early immigrants will remember his kindness of heart and hospitality to all, for he was continually assisting those in need. His orders to his Vaqueros were, to be on the lookout for coming immigrants and as soon as discovered to go up to them and ascertain their needs. Untold number of beeves were slaughtered and the meat given free of any charge.

Livermore Valley to 1860

WILL OF ROBERT LIVERMORE 1858

In the name of God, Amen: I, Robert Livermore, of the County of Alameda and State of California, at the age of fifty-nine years, and being of sound mind and memory, do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament, in manner following, that is to say:

First. I give and bequeath to my wife Josefa Higuera Livermore five hundred head of large cattle consisting of cows, calves, and steers,

- also do I give and bequeath to my said wife one third of all my personal property and real estate to wit: of a tract of land situated in Alameda County State of California and known as "Rancho de Las Positas", containing 20,846 and 7/10 acres,
- also of a tract of land situated in Contra Costa County State of California called, "Posa de Los Vaqueros" containing two Leagues,
- also of a tract of land situated in Alameda County on the "Rancho Aqua Caliente" containing four hundred acres
- also of a tract of land situated in Santa Clara County, State of California near the city of San Jose, containing sixty acres, more or less.

Second, after the said one third of all my real estate and personal property has been divided and delivered to my said wife, then my executors shall sell of the remaining property as to pay all my legal debts.

Third, the remainder of the two thirds of all my real estate and personal property after paying my legal debts, shall be equally divided between my children Jose, Casimera, Teresa, Roberto, Daniel, Josefa, Milagros, Antonio, Carlota, and Tomas.

Fourth. I give and bequeath to my Godson Juan Gonzales fifty cows, which shall be delivered to him by my executors before the division of the two thirds of my property.

And I do hereby dispose of and commit the tuition and custody of my children Casimera, Teresa, Roberto, Daniel, Josefa, Milagros, Antonio, Carlota, and Tomas and every of them, for such time as they or any of them respectively, continue unmarried, and under the age of twenty one years, unto my wife Josefa Higuera Livermore.

And lastly. I do hereby nominate and appoint my wife Josefa Higuera Livermore executrix and Roberto Livermore [Jr.] executor and Jose Livermore administrator of this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eleventh day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight.

Robert Livermore (Seal) (Adolphe Sellman drew will and Livermore signed his mark).

Witnessed by Joshua A. and Wallas S. Neal.

Livermore Valley to 1860

INVENTORY AND APPRAISMENT OF LIVERMORE'S PROPERTY

"One lot of wild Rodeo cattle containing nineteen hundred and nineteen head appraised at \$14 per head \$26,866

"Two hundred and twenty-six head of gentle cattle appraised at the sum of \$16 per head \$8,618.

Some seven hundred head of which said cattle are branded thus (IG) and have been transferred by said Livermore deed to persons named above to whom said land was conveyed and at the same time.

"One lot of gentle horses or saddle horses fifty-three in number which are appraised at thirty dollars per head \$15,900.

"One lot of wild mares and stag horses containing one hundred and eighty head. Appraised at \$10 each \$1,590.

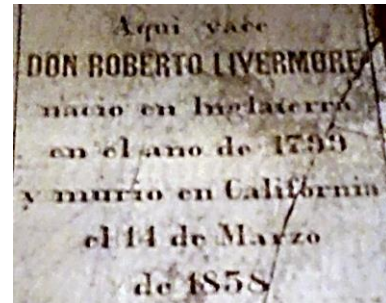
(All of which said horses above set forth except about twenty head are branded as above set forth and are transferred as above set forth).

"Also three yoke of oxen, appraised	\$250.
2 Buggy wagons with harness	\$250.
2 Road Wagons	\$40.
Household furniture	\$500.
Total	\$5,502.

After an inventory and an appraisement was made of the property of Roberto Livermore Jr. as executor ordered the personal property of the estate sold at private sale. The following is the report of the sale (1) to the Probate Court of Alameda County.

"On June 10, 1858. Sold to Martin Contreras
60 head of ten year old steers at \$25 \$1500.00

June 15, 1858. Sold to H. Miller of San Jose	
14 stags at \$20 per head	\$280.00
8 steers at \$25.....	\$200.00
7 two year old steers at \$20	\$140.00
8 yearlings at \$15	\$120.00
1 ox	\$40.00
5 cows and calves at \$35.....	\$175.00
98 head cows and steers at \$30.....	\$2,940.00



Robert Livermore Marker
(H.Briley)

July 10. Sold to John Conaway-
180 calves at \$12 \$2,160.00

Sept. 20.
119 head of sheep at \$5 \$595.00
20 head of sheep at \$4..... \$80.00

July 13. Sold to Antonio Agya
20 old stags at \$20. \$400.00

Sept, 18. Sold to Joshua Neal
13 head grown cattle at \$30. \$390.00
5 stags at \$20..... \$100.00
5 two year old steers at \$35..... \$125.00

Aug. 10 sold to M. O'Brien -1 steer..... \$40.00

Aug. 12 Sold to Carlos Garhte
3 head 2 years old cattle at \$20..... \$60 00
13 steers at \$28..... \$364.00

Sept. 1 yoke oxen sold to J. Conoran.... \$150.00

Livermore Valley to 1860

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- Expediente promovido por:
 - Don Jose Maria Amador en solicitud del Rancho Nombrado **San Ramon**, 1829. No. 80. (The original in office of Surveyor-General in San Francisco, consists of four pages, the upper right hand corners of which are quite charred. Copy of original in Transcript: Land Commission Case# 128, in District Court Office, San Francisco.)
 - Don Roberto Livermore Don Jose Noriega en solicitud del Rancho Nombrado **Las Pocitas del Valle de San Jose**, 1837, No. 129 (The original in office of Surveyor-General in San Francisco, consists of four pages. The whole document is badly charred. A traced copy of original in the Transcript: Land Commission Case# 77, in District Court Office, San Francisco.)
 - Don Manuel Miranda, Don Antonio Higuera, Don Antonio Alviso y Francisco Alviso en solicitud del Rancho Nombrado **Canada de los Vaqueros**, 1836. No. 431. (The original in office of Surveyor-General in San Francisco, consists of ten pages. The document is complete and contains original map. A traced copy of original in Transcript: Land Commission Case# 79, in District Court Office, San Francisco.)

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- Don Jose Dolores Pacheco en solicitud del Rancho Nombrado **Santa Rita**, 1834, No. 128. (The original in office of Surveyor-General in San Francisco, consists of one and a half pages, the upper right hand corners of which are quite charred. The map is almost faded by heat. Copy of original in Transcript: Land Commission Case# 60, in District Court Office, San Francisco.)
- Don Antonio Sunol, Don Antonio Maria Pico, Don Augustin Bernal, y Don Juan Pablo Bernal en solicitud del Rancho Nombrado **El Valle de San Jose**, 1836, No. 231 (The original in office of Surveyor General in San Francisco, consists of three pages. The whole document is badly charred. A traced copy of original in Transcript: Land Commission Case# 231, in District Court Office, San Francisco.)
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 - USA vs. Livermore, R., Transcript: Land Commission Case# 79.
 - USA vs. Noriega, J. et.al. Transcript: Land Commission Case# 77.
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 - USA vs: Sunol, A. et.al., Transcript: Land Commission Case# 231.
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- Livermore, WC Letters to Robert Livermore WC Livermore lived in London, England.) MS. Bancroft Library. [Full content appears in Letters]
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 - November 21, 1851
 - August 15, 1853
 - May 16, 1854
 - February 11, 1855
 - February 20, 1857
- Meese, George O., Letter to writer, March 4, 1927. (Mr. Meese is County Assessor of Contra Costa County. His father was a pioneer of San Ramon Valley.) MS.
- McGinty, R.M., Spanish and Mexican Ranches in the San Francisco Bay Region. M.A. Thesis, Berkeley, 1921. MS in UC Library.
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- New Helvetia Diary. Diary of events from 1845 to 1848 by Swasey, Bidwell, Looker and Sutter. Copied from the original for Bancroft Library, 1881. MS.
- Smith, Emma C., Letter to writer, March 29, 1927. (Miss Smith taught school in Livermore for many years.) MS.
- Smith, JD, Memoirs of Professor JD Smith. (Mrs. Smith owned the college at Livermore for many years. These manuscripts were given to me by Mr. M.R. Henry, Business Manager of Livermore Herald Newspaper.)
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- Personal Reminiscences of John A. Sutter. MS. Bancroft Library.
- Sutter-Sunol Correspondence. Correspondence between John A. Sutter and Antonio Sunol from 1840 to 1860. MS. Bancroft Library.
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- Huson, A. de B., Letters to writer, March 11 and March 26, 1927. MS. (Mrs. Huson is grand daughter of Robert Livermore Jr. and great grand daughter of Robert Livermore)

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 - (Article by MG Callaghan: "Ancient History of Livermore Valley").
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 - (Article by Judge JH Taylor: "Livermore Valley Forty Years Ago").
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 - (Article by R. Richardson on History of Livermore Valley).

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS IN 1927

- Anderson, Chris. March 7. Mr. Anderson resides on a ranch near Livermore, CA. His home is on the site of Livermore's old adobe and old frame house. The old well which Livermore had dug is on this ranch. Mr. Anderson came to live on the place in 1897.
- Bernal, Mr. Dennis. March 4. April 1. Livermore, CA. Mr. Bernal is grandson of Juan P. Bernal.
- Bernal, Mrs. Dennis. March 4. April 1. Livermore, CA. Mrs. Bernal is a daughter of Hiram Bailey and Casimera Molino Livermore.
- Callaghan, MG. March 4. April 2. Livermore, CA. Mr. Callaghan is the Postmaster at Livermore.
- DeMartini, Mrs. Victoria. March 7. April 1. Livermore, CA. Mrs. DeMartini is a daughter of Robert Livermore Jr. And Aunt of Mrs. Schenone and Mrs. Tillson; she resides on the old Las Positas Rancho.
- Dutcher, N.D. March 7. Livermore, CA. Mr. Dutcher is a pioneer of the town of Livermore.
- Gifford, E.W. February 5. UC Berkeley, CA.
- Henry, MR. March 4. Livermore, CA. Mr. Henry is Business Manager of the Livermore Herald Newspaper.
- Houpers, Mrs. March 4. Livermore, CA. Mrs. Houpers is a daughter of Hiram Bailey and Casimera Molino Livermore Bailey.
- Hunter, Ruben. March 4. Livermore, CA. Mr. Hunter came to Livermore Valley in 1865.
- Kroeber, A.L. February 5. UC Berkeley, CA.
- Livermore, Charles. March 4. Livermore, CA. Charles Livermore is a son of Robert Livermore Jr.
- McKown, Mr., March 7. Livermore, CA. Mr. McKown is a pioneer of the town of Livermore.
- Schenone, Mrs. Angelo, March 7. Livermore, CA Mrs. Schenone is a granddaughter to Robert Livermore Jr. She resides on Old Las Positas Rancho.
- Taylor, Dr. W.S., March 11. Oakland, CA. Dr. Taylor came to Livermore Valley in 1876.
- Teeter, Daniel. March 12. Alameda, CA. Mr. Teeter came through Livermore Valley in 1858 and settled on Dougherty's land near Dublin in 1860.
- Tillson, Mrs. Adele de Berandiere.
 - March 15, San Francisco, CA.
 - April 1, Livermore, CA. Mrs. Tillson is a grand daughter of Robert Livermore Jr.

Livermore Valley to 1860

FINDING ROBERT LIVERMORE BIRTHPLACE

First published in the Livermore Herald-News, October 7, 1963
By Janet Newton (edited)

A friend of mine, John Kelsey in England, through [postal] Christmas correspondence in 1961 [decades before e-mail], led to extensive research about Robert Livermore in England. I asked Mr. Kelsey if a certain house connected with the Livermore family still existed in London. He replied that it did still exist, and collected some information about it. Mr. Kelsey lives in the town of Bath, but travels to London frequently for the Navy Office.

Mr. Kelsey's mother, Mrs. Rita A. Kelsey, a close friend of mine, lives in London. She soon became interested in collecting information about the Livermore family, and sent a lot of data. This work entailed tedious searching of records, of interviewing people and of acquiring information by any means her ingenuity could suggest.

Most histories of Livermore state that Robert was born in Bethnal Green, a part of London. Letters (1) were written to Robert by his brother from Bethnal Green.

Mrs. Kelsey went to great lengths to try to find the record of Robert's birth in London. Genealogical work is detective work, and the letters were re-read for clues. There was a possibility, suggested by one letter, that Robert was born in Chelmsford, the County seat of Essex. This was supported by Robert having stated in one of the documents in the Spanish Archives in California, (2) that he was born in Essex. Bethnal Green is not in Essex, though it very nearly is.

I informed the Livermore family in California of Mrs. Kelsey's work. Mrs. Juanita Vidalin, a great-great-granddaughter of Robert Livermore who has done considerable research into the history of the Livermore family, called with some information. She said that in the California Spanish Archives, she had been permitted to copy the record of Robert's baptism at Mission Santa Clara. With the kind permission of Father Spearman, the archivist, and with his help, she very carefully took down every letter of the Spanish script. This revealed that Robert stated that he was born in Springfield, Essex. (3)

In an old atlas of the English counties, in the map for Essex, we found the village of Springfield, quite near Chelmsford. Our modern atlases do not show it. I made a tracing of the old map and sent it and the information to Mrs. Kelsey. She lost no time in going back to the Essex Record Office. She had already examined the records of Chelmsford Cathedral for Livermore births. She then obtained permission from the rector of All Saints' Church in Springfield, Mr. J.B.H. Critter, to examine the church baptismal register (such permission cannot always be obtained) and then in examining the register itself, found:

"December 15, 1799, Robert Thomas, son of Robert and Mary Livermore" (4)

Baptisms were usually six weeks after the infant's birth, so that this record fits the testimony of Joshua Neal, (5) Robert Livermore's major-domo, who said that Livermore was born in October 1799.

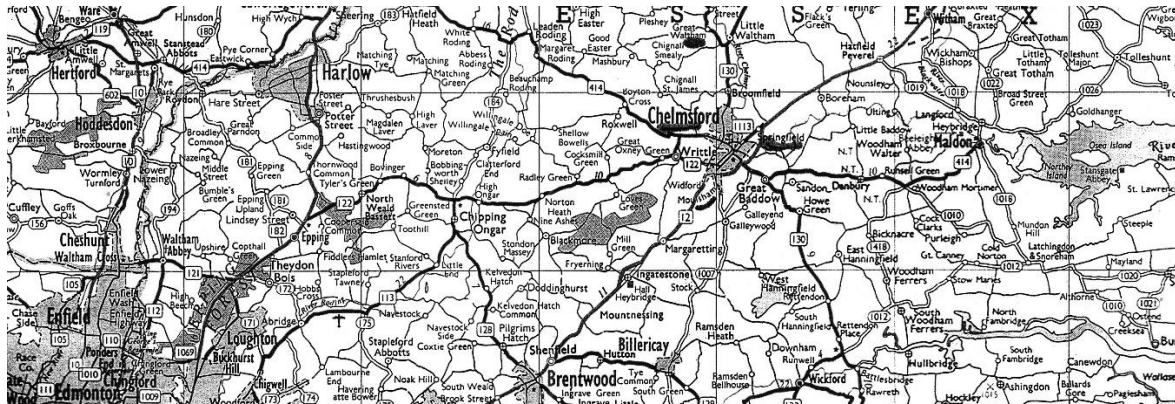
One acquaintance of Robert Livermore, the pioneer Emery Munyan, stated (6) that Robert was born in the town of Nottingham. Mr. Munyan wrote his recollections at the request of Robert's son-in-law, Valentine Alviso (7) in 1884, 26 years after Robert's death. At the end of it, Mr. Munyan says "I can vouch for the correctness of all except the place of his birth..." The Livermore Post Office was [briefly] called Nottingham from Jan 1, 1869, to July 7, 1870. (8) I do not know the reason for this.

Robert Livermore in California, once gave his name as Robert Caduar Livermore, (9) Caduar being the Spanish spelling of Cudworth. We know the name Cudworth from the reference to an aunt in one of the letters from London. Mrs. Kelsey found that Robert's mother was [initially] Mary Smith Cudworth. (10)

It is an ancient name. In an old book, there is a record of a man named Cuddeworthe being a prebend of Wells Cathedral, in Somerset, England, in the year 1298. (11)

Livermore Valley to 1860

I visited Springfield in 1963 and the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford (Springfield church archives). There were Livermore [members] in Essex as far back as 1520, (12) and was told that a Livermore family lived on Springfield Green until last year.



Map 10 - Springfield near Chelmsford, Northeast of London

There is a pretty church and a lovely old house next to it, called Springfield House. Behind the garden of the house are many springs and ponds, the reason for the name of the village. Note the similarity between this place and Robert's rancho in California. Las Positas means the little springs and there were many springs on his rancho.

Springfield is a beautiful village and, as yet, quiet and unchanged by recent building. Directly across from the lich [?] gate of the church is the house, where, we were told, Oliver Goldsmith wrote the poem *The Deserted Village*. The ending is most appropriate for historical research. "Sweet Auburn!, loveliest village of the plain," the poem begins, and it ends with a tribute to the village schoolmaster –

"And still they gazed and still the wonder grew
That one small head could carry all he knew
But past is all his fame. The very spot
Where many a time he triumphed, is forgot."

William Pinchion, the founder of the town of Springfield, Massachusetts, was a churchwarden of this [Essex] church in 1624.(13)

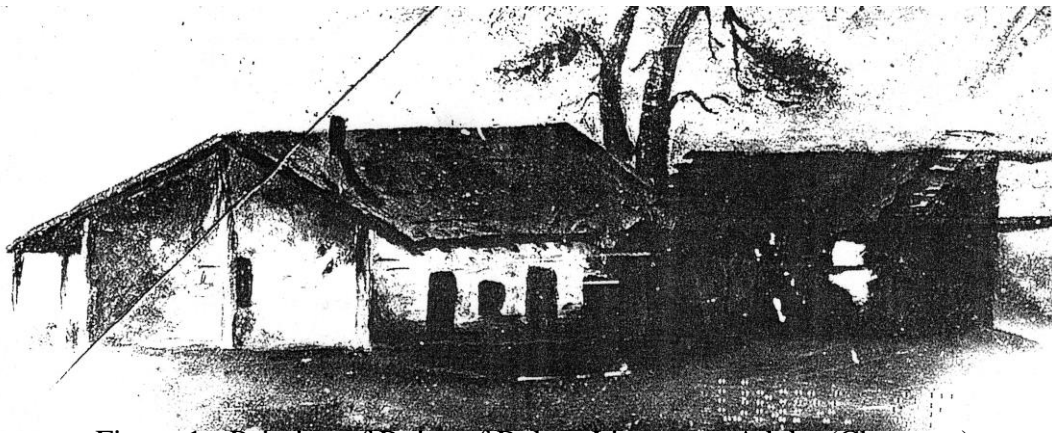


Figure 1 - Painting of Ruins of Robert Livermore Adobe (Chapman)

Mrs. Dennis Bernal, daughter of Hiram Bailey and Casimera Molina Livermore Bailey, loaned the above painting and told me that it was a copy painted by Mrs. Chapman, daughter of Josefa Livermore and Valentine Alviso, from the original by Deny, a California painter.

Livermore Valley to 1860

Footnotes.

1. The Livermore Papers. Bancroft Library, UC, ms.
2. State papers, Sacramento Series, Vol.XIII, Military and Political, 1821 - 1845, page 22 (page 3).
3. Archives of Mission Santa Clara, Calif. Book of baptism Mo. 7392, 1823.
4. Baptismal register of Springfield Church. Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, England.
5. Statement of Joshua A. Neal, MS Bancroft Library.
6. Letter in the Livermore Papers, 'Bancroft Library.
7. Bancroft, History of California, vol.II p 696, (Pioneer register)
8. *"Valentine Alviso...Deeply interested in the history of his country, he furnished me the valuable Documentos para la Hist .of Cal forming the Alviso family-archives; and has rendered aid in other matters, besides contributing the Livermore Papers."*
9. Information given by Mr. Maitland R. Henry, editor of Livermore Herald-News, and Livermore historian.
10. Baptismal register. See note number 3 above.
11. Signature on marriage banns of Robert Livermore's parents, London, England.
12. "Chapters in Early History of the Church, of Wells." by Rev.CM.Church, 1894.
13. Files of Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, England.
14. "Short History of All Saints' Church, Springfield, Essex," 1949.

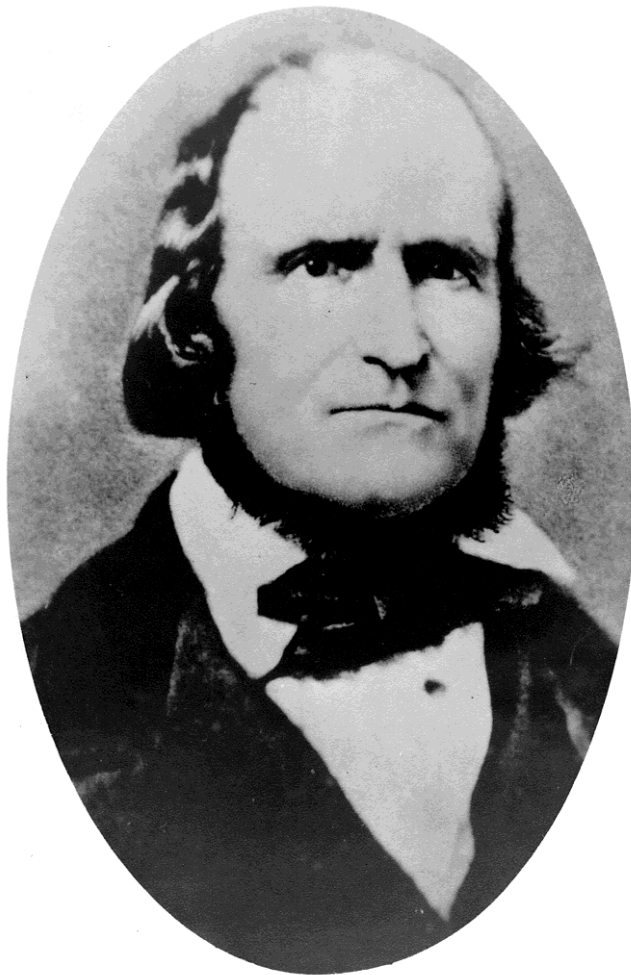


Figure 2 - Robert Thomas Livermore (Livermore Heritage Guild)