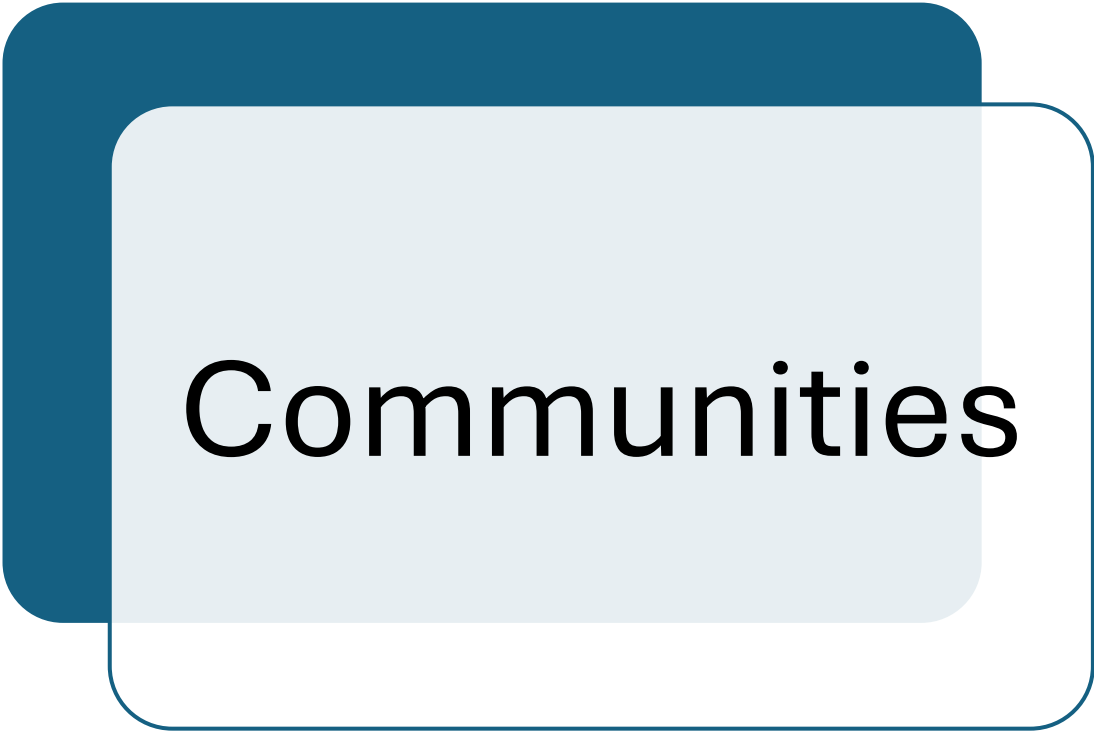


# Lamorinda History and Genealogy

Resources and Strategies for Research

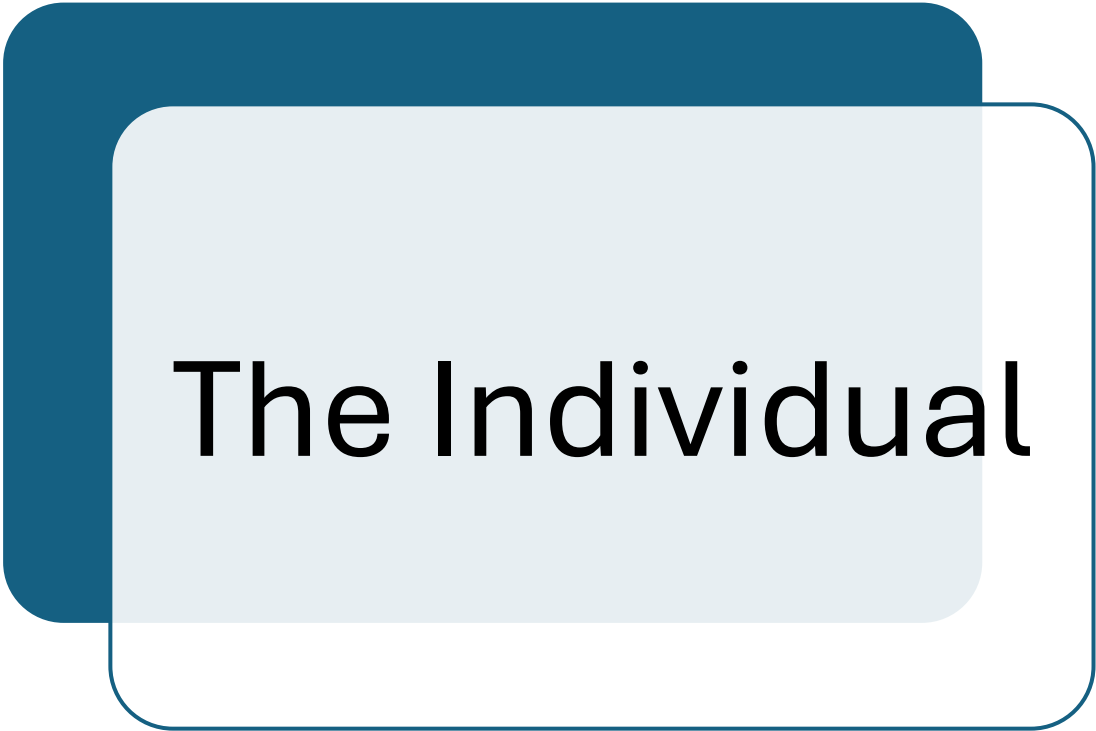
Presented by Susan Skilton, AG®

California Genealogical Society and  
Moraga Historical Society  
10 May 2025



Communities

The diagram for 'Communities' consists of a dark blue rounded rectangle in the background. Overlaid on its bottom-right corner is a light blue rounded rectangle. A white rounded rectangle is further overlaid on the bottom-right corner of the light blue rectangle. The word 'Communities' is centered within the white rectangle.



The Individual

The diagram for 'The Individual' consists of a dark blue rounded rectangle in the background. Overlaid on its bottom-right corner is a light blue rounded rectangle. A white rounded rectangle is further overlaid on the bottom-right corner of the light blue rectangle. The text 'The Individual' is centered within the white rectangle.

# Researching the Settlers and Residents in our Local Communities: Research Strategies



CONTACT THE  
ARCHIVISTS



STUDY THE CONTENTS  
OF THE VERTICAL FILES



EXAMINE MAPS

## Navigate Popular Genealogy Websites

1

Build Accurate  
Family Trees

2

Obtain original  
records where  
possible

3

Find birth, marriage,  
and death  
documentation for  
each individual

4

Link generations  
using strong  
records.

# **Community History**

- **Organizations**
- **Schools**
- **Religious Groups**
- **Sports**
- **Neighborhoods**
- **Transportation (including trains in our area)**
- **Water Sources**
- **Open Space**
- **Businesses**

## **Resources:**

**Newspapers, Vertical Files at Historical Societies,  
Published and Manuscript Local Histories, Books**

# House/Tract Histories 🏠

The area has some interesting house histories to document and to explore further.

Examples:

- The Old Yellow House in Orinda
- The Moraga Adobe in Orinda
- Reginald Tibbetts former residence in Moraga (site of World War II secret communications)
- The location of the former Bernal Adobe on Happy Valley Road in Lafayette
- Subdivisions in Moraga developed by Frank Draeger with street names taken from British phone books



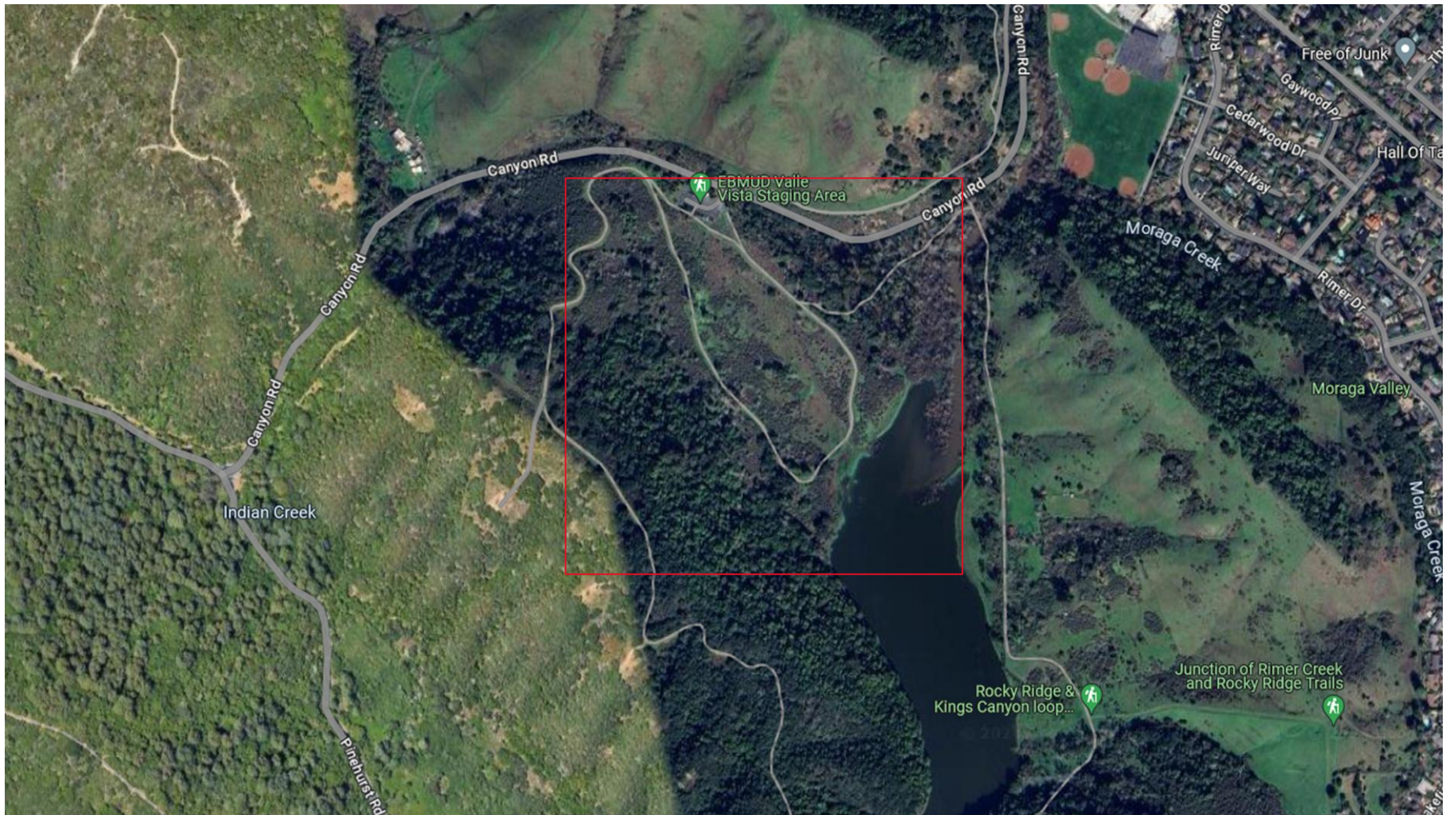
## Case Study: Re-Create a Neighborhood of the Past

- Have you ever hiked in King Canyon? Redwood? Noticed the concrete foundations at the Riche Loop trail?
- Driven past the hiking staging area on Canyon Road?
- There was once a thriving subdivision there called Valle Vista.

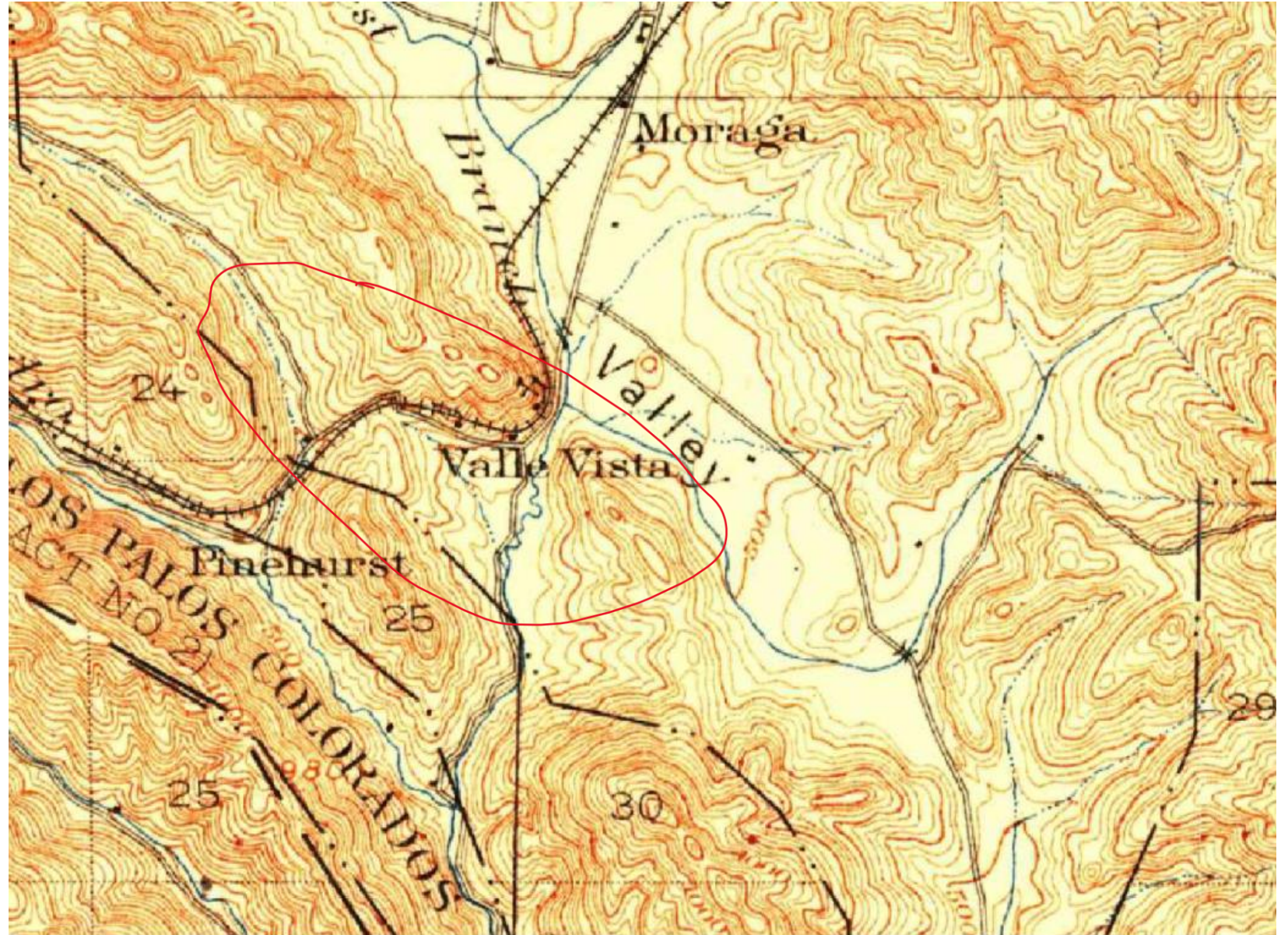


Image Source: AllTrails



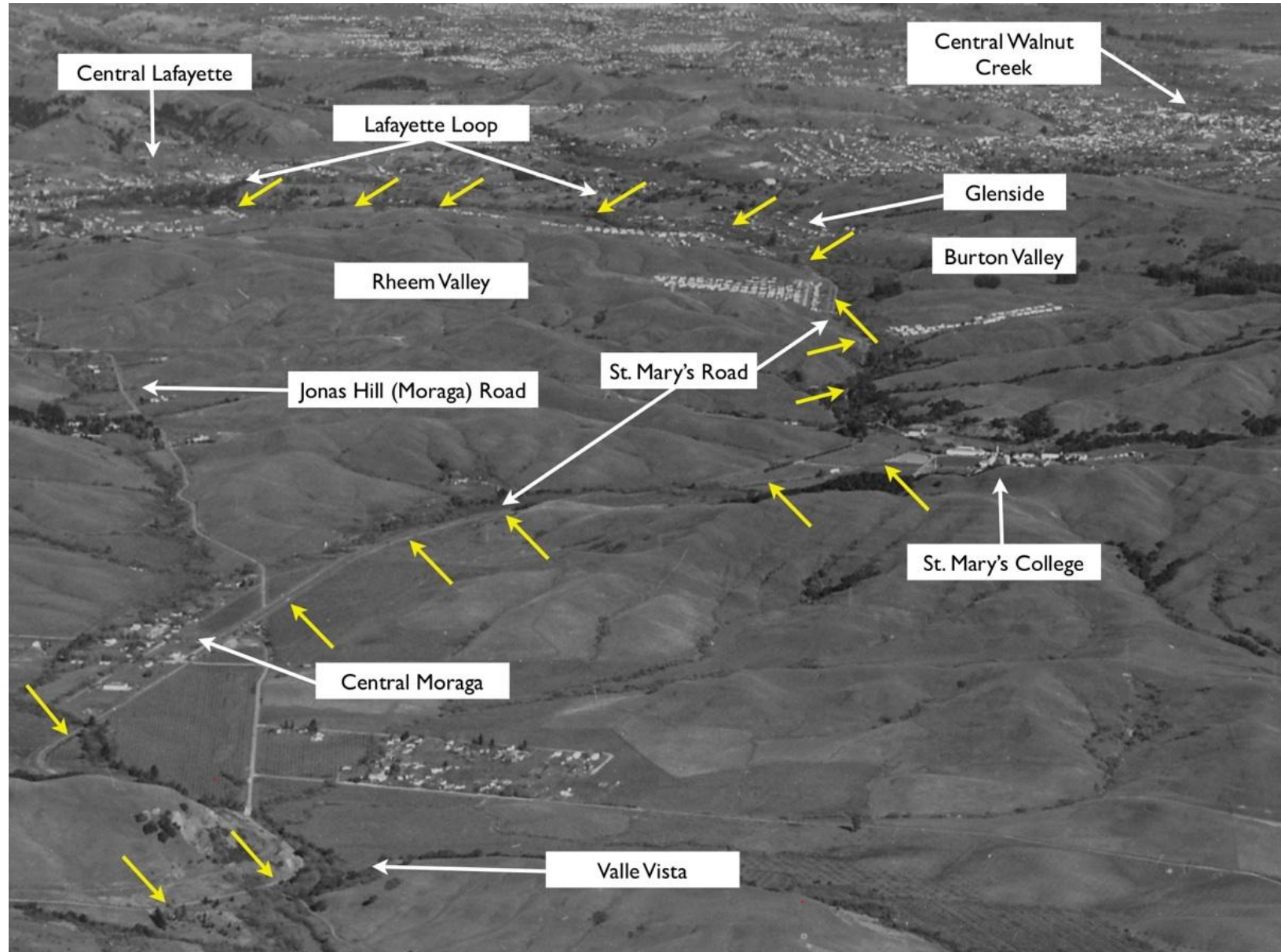


# Find Maps



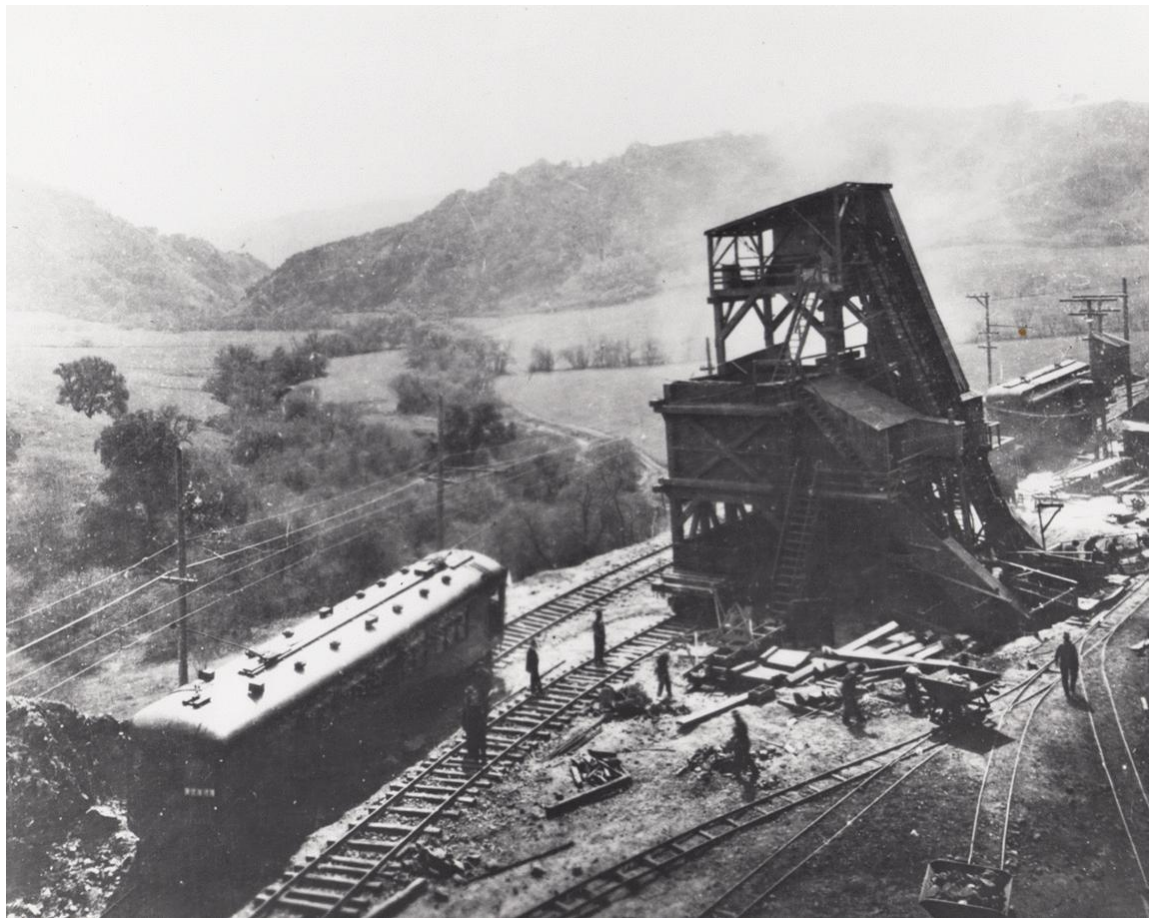
Source: PastMaps

# Find Photos

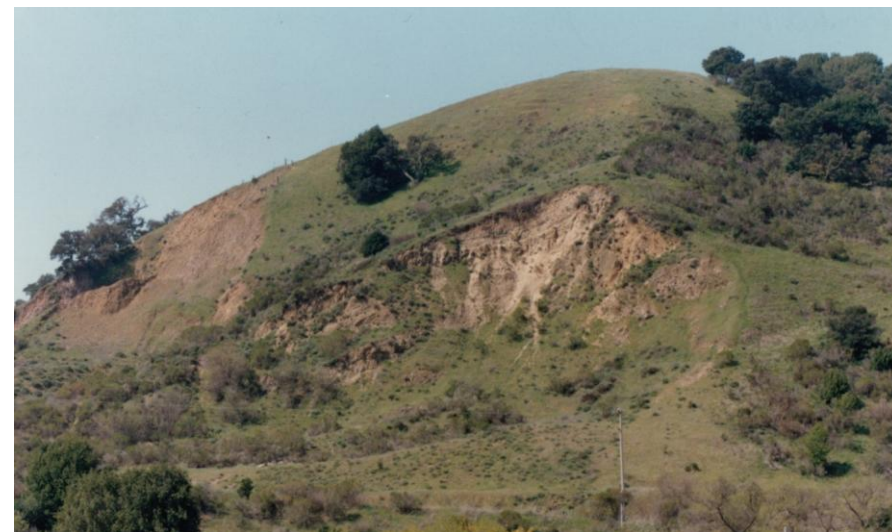


Source: Moraga History Center

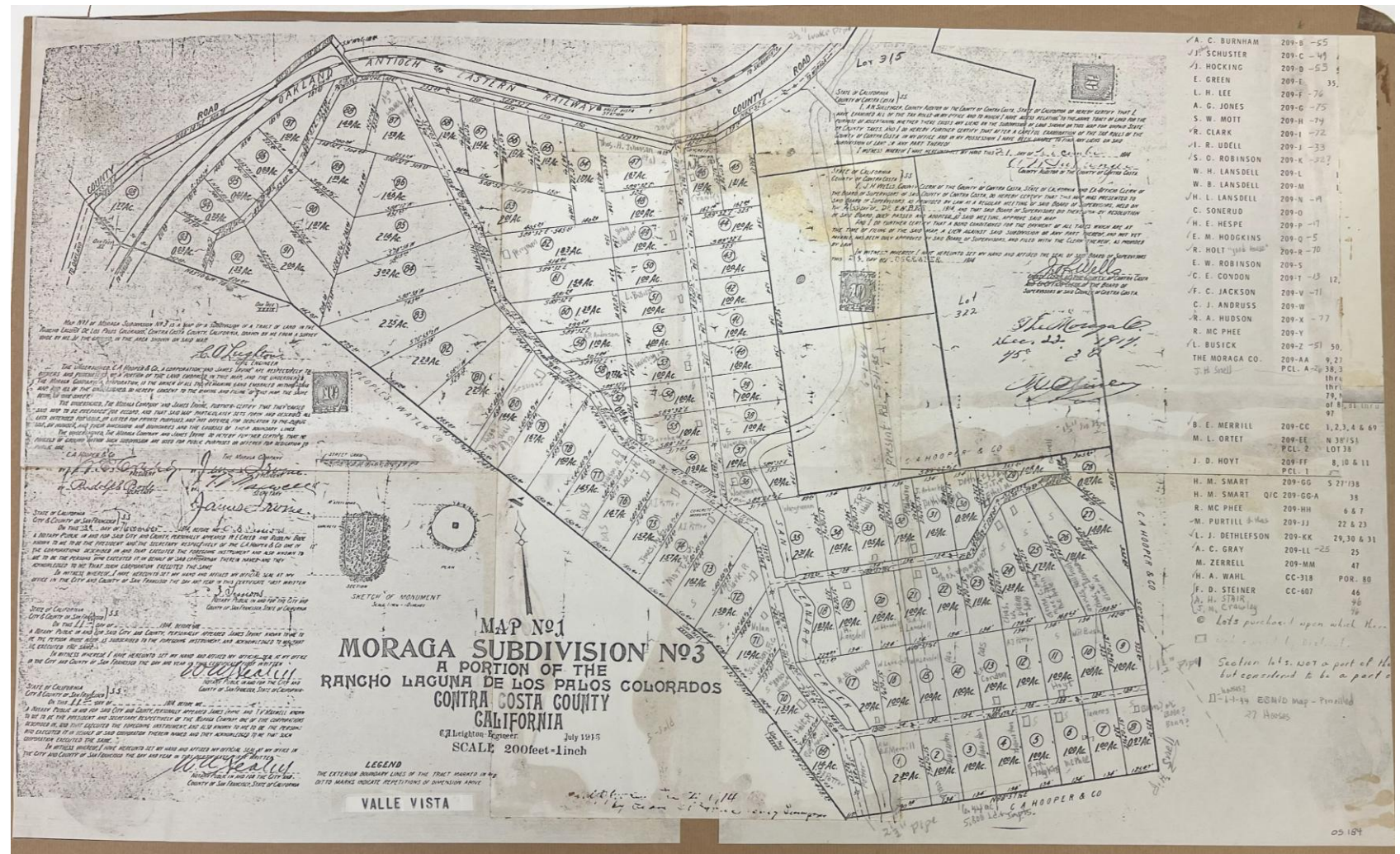
# Valle Vista Then and Now



Images: Moraga History Center



# Find Subdivision Plans or Reports



Names of some of the purchasers and the lots they purchased.



|                        |           |      |       |
|------------------------|-----------|------|-------|
| ✓ A. C. BURNHAM        | 209-B     | -55  |       |
| ✓ J. SCHUSTER          | 209-C     | -49  |       |
| ✓ J. HOCKING           | 209-D     | -53  |       |
| E. GREEN               | 209-E     |      | 35,   |
| L. H. LEE              | 209-F     | -76  |       |
| A. G. JONES            | 209-G     | -75  |       |
| S. W. MOTT             | 209-H     | -74  |       |
| ✓ R. CLARK             | 209-I     | -72  |       |
| ✓ I. R. UDELL          | 209-J     | -33  |       |
| ✓ S. C. ROBINSON       | 209-K     | -32? |       |
| W. H. LANSDELL         | 209-L     |      | 1     |
| W. B. LANSDELL         | 209-M     |      | 1     |
| ✓ H. L. LANSDELL       | 209-N     | -19  |       |
| C. SONERUD             | 209-O     |      |       |
| ✓ H. E. HESPE          | 209-P     | -17  |       |
| ✓ E. M. HODGKINS       | 209-Q     | -5   |       |
| ✓ R. HOLT "good House" | 209-R     | -70  |       |
| E. W. ROBINSON         | 209-S     |      |       |
| ✓ C. E. CONDON         | 209-T     | -13  | 12,   |
| ✓ F. C. JACKSON        | 209-V     | -71  |       |
| C. J. ANDRUSS          | 209-W     |      |       |
| ✓ R. A. HUDSON.        | 209-X     | -77  |       |
| R. MC PHEE             | 209-Y     |      |       |
| ✓ L. BUSICK            | 209-Z     | -51  | 50,   |
| THE MORAGA CO.         | 209-AA    |      | 9, 27 |
| J. H. Snell            | PCL. A-26 |      | 38, 3 |
|                        |           |      | thru  |
|                        |           |      | thru  |

# Building out the Stories of the Residents

- Sources include:
- Vertical files
- Published biographies in books, unpublished biographies in manuscripts
- Newspapers
- Census, tax, voting records
- Military records, especially draft registrations and pension files
- Vital records, church records, and memorials such as *Find a Grave*

- Newspapers in Online Collections



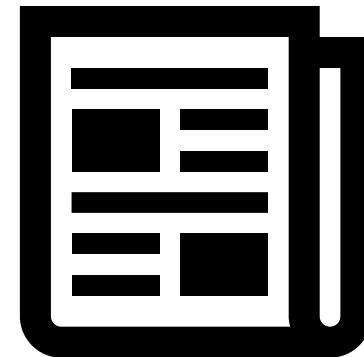
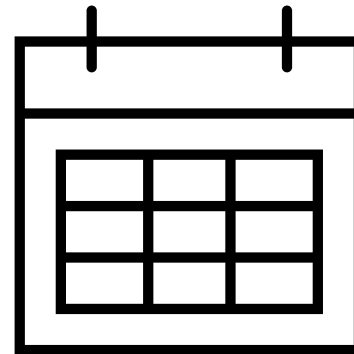
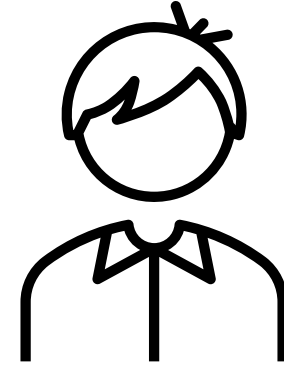
*Chronicling America (does not hold Contra Costa County newspapers)*

*California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC)*

*Newspapers.com (paywall)*

## Search Parameters

- Restrict dates
- Seek town or neighborhood names
- Enter names of residents

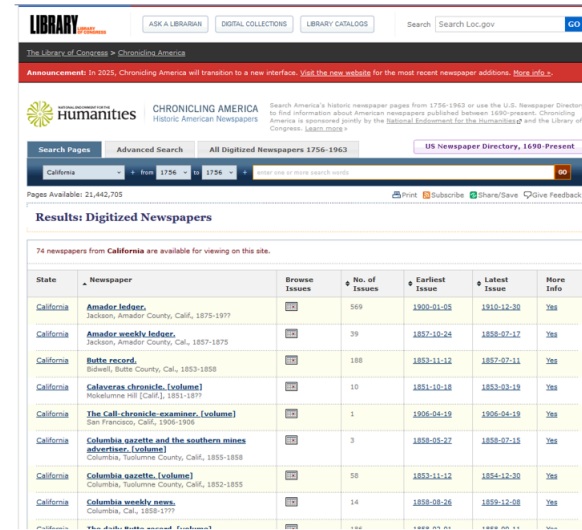


# Chronicling America Newspapers and Indices



## Chronicling America Holdings

Chronicling America, Library of Congress, accessed November 2024.



The screenshot shows the Chronicling America website with a search for "California" from 1756 to 1756. The results show 74 digitized newspapers. The table below lists the first 10 results.

| State      | Newspaper                                                                                                           | Browse Issues        | No. of Issues | Earliest Issue | Latest Issue | More Info            |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| California | <b>Amador Index.</b><br>Jackson, Amador County, Calif., 1875-1877                                                   | <a href="#">View</a> | 569           | 1900-01-05     | 1910-12-30   | <a href="#">View</a> |
| California | <b>Amador weekly index.</b><br>Jackson, Amador County, Calif., 1857-1875                                            | <a href="#">View</a> | 39            | 1857-10-24     | 1858-07-17   | <a href="#">View</a> |
| California | <b>Butte record.</b><br>Butte, Butte County, Calif., 1853-1855                                                      | <a href="#">View</a> | 188           | 1853-11-12     | 1857-07-11   | <a href="#">View</a> |
| California | <b>Calaveras chronicle. [volume]</b><br>Hokelumme Hill [Calif.], 1851-1877                                          | <a href="#">View</a> | 10            | 1851-10-18     | 1853-03-19   | <a href="#">View</a> |
| California | <b>The Calif. chronicle-examiner. [volume]</b><br>San Francisco, Calif., 1906-1908                                  | <a href="#">View</a> | 1             | 1906-04-19     | 1906-04-19   | <a href="#">View</a> |
| California | <b>Columbia gazette and the southern mines advertiser. [volume]</b><br>Columbia, Tuolumne County, Calif., 1855-1858 | <a href="#">View</a> | 3             | 1858-03-27     | 1858-07-13   | <a href="#">View</a> |
| California | <b>Columbia gazette. [volume]</b><br>Columbia, Tuolumne County, Calif., 1852-1855                                   | <a href="#">View</a> | 58            | 1853-11-12     | 1854-12-30   | <a href="#">View</a> |
| California | <b>Columbia weekly news.</b><br>Columbia, Calif., 1855-1777                                                         | <a href="#">View</a> | 14            | 1858-08-26     | 1859-12-08   | <a href="#">View</a> |
| California | <b>The daily Butte record. [volume]</b><br>Butte, Butte County, Calif., 1853-1855                                   | <a href="#">View</a> | 188           | 1853-11-12     | 1857-07-11   | <a href="#">View</a> |

**Title:**

Amador ledger. : (Jackson, Amador County, Calif.) 1875-19??

**Place of publication:**

Jackson, Amador County, Calif.

**Geographic coverage:**

- Jackson, Amador, California | View more titles from this: [City](#) [County](#), [State](#)

**Publisher:**

R. Webb & F.S. Briggs

**Dates of publication:**

1875-19??

**Description:**

- Vol. 21, no. 6 (Dec. 4, 1875)-

**Frequency:**

Weekly

**Language:**

- English

**Subjects:**

- Amador County (Calif.)--Newspapers.
- California--Amador County.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01205775

**Notes:**

- Archived issues are available in digital format as part of the Library of Congress Chronicling America online collection.
- Master negatives are available for duplication from:

**LCCN:**

sn 93052980

**OCLC:**

27395392

**ISSN:**

1941-3025

**Preceding Titles:**

- [Amador weekly ledger. \(Jackson, Amador County, Cal.\) 1857-1875](#)

**Succeeding Titles:**

- [Amador ledger and the Amador record. \(Jackson, Calif.\) 19??-1989](#)
- [The Amador record. \(Sutter Creek, Amador County, Cal.\) 1892-19??](#)

**Related Links:**

- <http://bibpurl.oclc.org/web/31162>
- <http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/lccn/sn93052980/issues>
- <http://bibpurl.oclc.org/web/31162>



**Amador ledger. January 5, 1900 , Image 1**

**Browse:**

 [Calendar View](#)

[All front pages](#)

[First Issue](#) | [Last Issue](#)

**Amador Ledger, Volcano weekly ledger, The weekly ledger, and Amador weekly ledger**

The same year that hydraulic gold mining began in Volcano, California, Thomas A. Springer published the town's first paper, the [Volcano Weekly Ledger](#). Debuting on October 27, 1855, the *Ledger* appealed to the community's interests by covering issues unique to mining and by advocating that the Amador County seat be moved from nearby Jackson to the burgeoning town of Volcano. In the end, the county seat remained the same, the population of Volcano dwindled with its gold supply, and Springer set up shop in Jackson, debuting [The Weekly Ledger](#) on April 18, 1857. Published every Friday, the newspaper became the [Amador Weekly Ledger](#) on October 24, 1857. Though the campaign to move the county seat had failed, the *Ledger* maintained its political bent, supporting the North in the Civil War as a decidedly Republican paper. A competing area newspaper, the [Amador Dispatch](#), supported the South, leading Federal authorities to arrest its editors in 1865. Republican politics carried Springer to elected office, becoming State Printer in 1871, and the *Amador Weekly Ledger* to success under new ownership and a new name. In 1875, the paper dropped "weekly" from its title (though still printing only once a week) to become the *Amador Ledger*.

The *Amador Ledger* entered the twentieth century with a change of ownership, but with its long-held politics in place. On January 2, 1900, the Amador County Publishing Company acquired the *Amador Ledger* and discontinued the [Amador Republican](#), which it had owned for several years. The paper continued to advocate for Republican politics and to report on issues of import to the community in general, in particular the status of the local mining industry. Another transfer of ownership and editorship put Richard Webb at the helm of the *Amador Ledger* on June 8, 1901, along with "some of the wealthiest and most prominent men in [the] county." Under Webb's guidance, the *Amador Ledger* claimed the county's largest

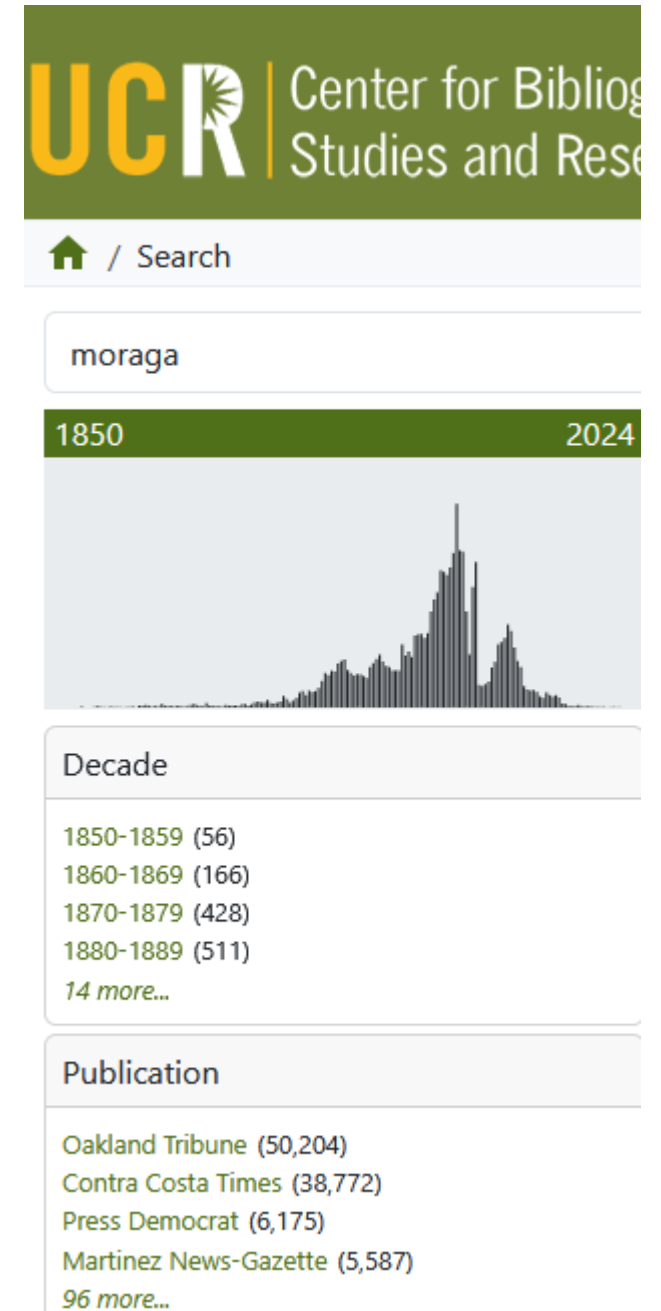
# California Digital Newspaper Collection

- Free
- Easy to Search/Browse
- Relevant to our area

*Narrow the search dates to narrow the results*

Source:

*California Digital Newspaper Collection*



# Case Study: Valle Vista Residents

Consult Newspapers

*Martinez Daily Standard* 2 July 1924  
Source: *California Digital Newspaper Collection*

## **PERMITS FOR SPUR TRACKS ARE GRANTED**

The Railroad Commission today issued orders permitting construction of railroad spur tracks in Contra Costa as follows:

To the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company to construct a spur track at grade across Cornwall street in the city of Pittsburg.

San Francisco-Sacramento Railroad Company to construct a spur track at grade across a county road between Moraga and Valle Vista.

# FINEST LIQUOR STILL FOUND IN COUNTY CONFISCATED IN RAID AT VALLE VISTA

What county prohibition agents describe as the finest still ever taken in Contra Costa County was seized last night in raids made at Valle Vista, near the Alameda County line, in which two men were arrested and two distilleries confiscated.

The record still, declared by Clyde Laird, chief of the prohibition squad, to have cost its owner \$1500, is of the double rectifying variety, equipped with every device for cleanliness and provided with rails to convey heating apparatus to and from

a boiler like arrangement used in reducing processes.

The still, according to Laird, was found in possession of Frank Crowe, said to have been a wrestler under the name of Frank Clark. The second still seized, much smaller than Crowe's apparatus, was taken at a neighboring home and resulted in the arrest of John Shuster.

Both men were charged with possession of apparatus and were liberated on depositing bail of \$500 each with Justice of the Peace George Duncan at Walnut Creek.

✓ John  
J. SCHUSTER

209-C - 49

## Runaway Wife Near Death is Calling Husband in Moraga To Her Side But Doesn't Give Address So Frantic Spouse Can Reach Her

It was just a little oversight, Mrs. Katie Shuster's forgetting to put her address on a letter to her husband at Moraga, Contra Costa county. But because of it, tragedy has entered the lives of Mrs. Shuster, her husband, John, and their young sons, Johnnie and Heinie.

Somewhere in Oakland, Mrs. Shuster, believed to be near death, is grief-stricken because her husband does not respond to her appeal and come to her. And all over Oakland Shuster, equally grief-stricken, is searching vainly for his wife.

The trouble began when a misunderstanding arose some months ago between the Shusters on their ranch near Moraga. Mrs. Shuster asked her husband to teach her to drive their new automobile.

But Shuster refused to do so, because he had had an accident while learning to drive, and did not consider himself competent to instruct her. Mrs. Shuster became convinced that her husband no longer loved her, and disappeared from home.

Some time later Shuster received a letter from her, written in German, and postmarked Oakland. It was a friendly letter, and indicated that Mrs. Shuster was willing to return home if her husband still wanted her. But she had not given her address.

Shuster very much wanted her to return to him. He sent a letter in care of general delivery, but apparently she did not call

## Realtor Fee Cut in Half

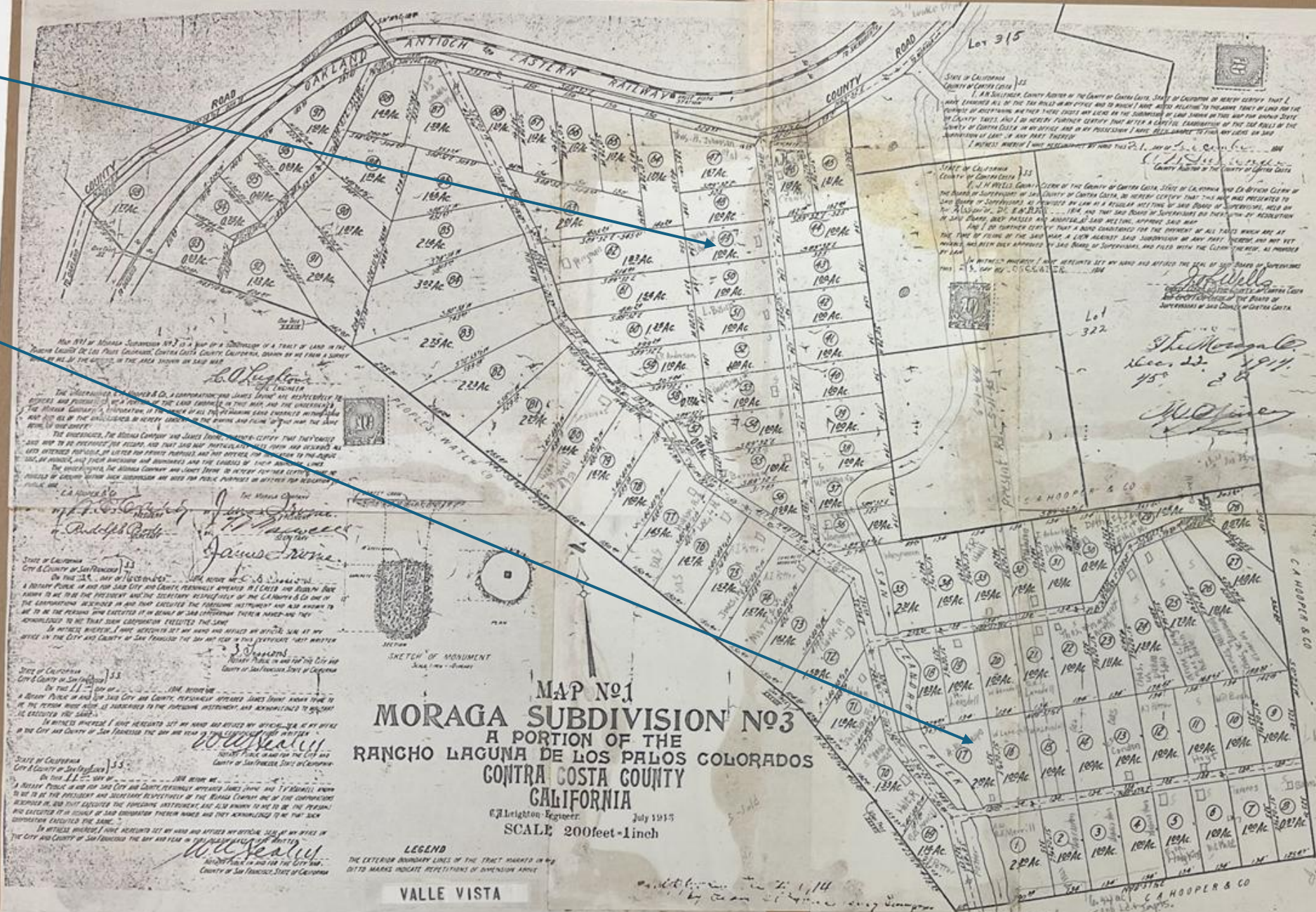
C. A. Ricks returned from Sacramento this morning, reporting that the Senate Judiciary committee, at the hearing last night, recommended that all of the bills introduced by the California Real Estate Association "do pass". The Real Estate Association bills have been in process of preparation for many months. Two or three consultations have been held over them with Governor Young, the final being held yesterday morning. W. F. Herron, chairman of the State Board of Control, has also had a hand in correlating the real estate license bills with the budget for the real estate department.

There was no dissenting vote in the senate judiciary hearing on any of the realtors bills.

One of the principal bills, introduced by the realtors, cuts the present \$10 license fee in half. Heretofore an average of \$120,000 per annum has been left over from license collections and has reverted to the general fund of the state. Cutting the license fee in half will cut down this double taxation of the real estate brokers.

✓ John SCHUSTER

209-C - 49



|                  |              |                 |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| A. C. BURNHAM    | 209-B        | -55             |
| J. SCHUSTER      | 209-C        | -49             |
| J. HOCKING       | 209-D        | -53             |
| E. GREEN         | 209-E        | 35              |
| L. H. LEE        | 209-F        | -70             |
| A. G. JONES      | 209-G        | -75             |
| S. W. MOTT       | 209-H        | -74             |
| R. CLARK         | 209-I        | -72             |
| I. R. UDELL      | 209-J        | -33             |
| S. O. ROBINSON   | 209-K        | -32             |
| W. H. LANSDELL   | 209-L        |                 |
| W. B. LANSDELL   | 209-M        |                 |
| J. H. LANSDELL   | 209-N        | -9              |
| C. SONERUD       | 209-O        |                 |
| H. E. HESPE      | 209-P        | -17             |
| E. M. HODGKINS   | 209-Q        | -5              |
| R. HOLT          | 209-R        | -70             |
| E. W. ROBINSON   | 209-S        |                 |
| C. E. CONDON     | 209-T        | -13             |
| F. C. JACKSON    | 209-U        | -71             |
| C. J. ANDRUSS    | 209-W        |                 |
| R. A. HUDSON     | 209-X        | -77             |
| R. MC PHEE       | 209-Y        |                 |
| L. BUSICK        | 209-Z        | -51             |
| THE MORAGA CO.   | 209-AA       | 9, 21           |
| J. H. SELL       | PCL. A       | 38, 3           |
|                  |              | 19, 1           |
|                  |              | 79, 1           |
|                  |              | 81, 1           |
|                  |              | 97              |
| B. E. MERRILL    | 209-CC       | 1, 2, 3, 4 & 69 |
| M. L. ORTET      | 209-EE       | N 38' 15"       |
|                  | PCL. 2       | LOT 38          |
| J. D. HOYT       | 209-FF       | 8, 10 & 11      |
|                  | PCL. 1       |                 |
| H. M. SMART      | 209-GG       | 5 27' 13"       |
| H. M. SMART      | O/C 209-GG-A | 38              |
| R. MC PHEE       | 209-HH       | 6 & 7           |
| M. PORTILL       | 209-IJ       | 22 & 23         |
| L. J. DETHELFSON | 209-KK       | 29, 30 & 31     |
| A. C. GRAY       | 209-LL       | -25             |
| M. ZERRELL       | 209-MM       | 47              |
| H. A. WAHL       | CC-318       | POR. 80         |
| F. D. STEINER    | CC-607       | 46              |
| A. H. STRAIN     |              | 90              |
| J. N. CRAWLEY    |              | 76              |

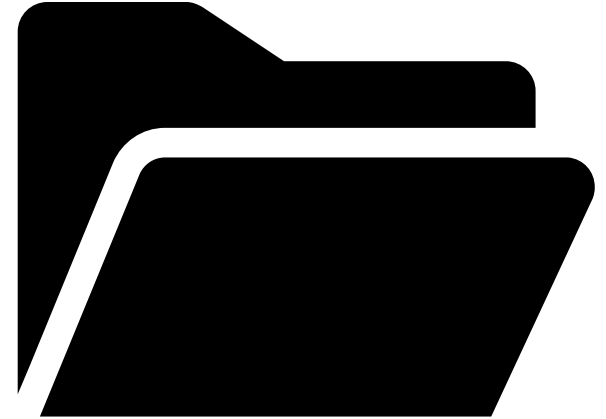
© Lots purchased upon which there is a mortgage.

Section lots, not a part of the lot, considered to be a part of the lot.

1-1-44 BSNVD map - Permitted

27 Houses

# Vertical Files

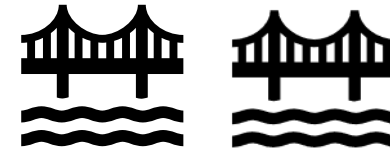


From the vertical files:

Vertical Files  
Biographies and  
Letters



- In 1914 the Hespes bought lot and moved there about June 1915.
- Later they bought 2 ½ acres on Old Redwood Road. Then they traded with the Irwin company for 2 ½ acres in Valle Vista on the east side of the creek between the two bridges.
- The Hespes farmed, had cows, delivered milk to Moraga Valley residents. Mrs. Hespe worked for PG&E in 1917-18. They also had dry beans. The planted hay with shares (sharecropping?) with the Moraga Company. The rain damaged the hay and there was no place to store it.
- The Hespes quit their work and moved to Southern California in 1920. Later they sold the property in Valle Vista to the Water Company.





H

Index to Marriage Licenses and Certificates, No. 17, Alameda County

| NAME MARRIED | TO WHOM MARRIED            | When Married |         |             | Amount |      |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|--------|------|
|              |                            | Month        | Day     | Year        | Cost   | Fee  |
| He           | Joe May Hong               |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | David H. Coffey            | Min          | Alameda | 10 1902     | 2.2    | 3.25 |
| Hesslop      | Esther Mary G. Lathrop     |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | Rev. G. J. Smith           | Dist         | Cal.    | - 20 -      | -      | 2.22 |
| He           | Edna R. R. Childs          |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | Rev. H. B. Smith           | Min          | Cal.    | - 10 -      | -      | 2.22 |
| Hesslop      | Harmon O. Matthews         |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | C. J. Bly                  | Min          | Cal.    | - 20 -      | -      | 2.24 |
| Hesslop      | Harry H. Conant            |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | David M. Smith             | Dist         | Cal.    | - 21 -      | -      | 2.22 |
| Hesslop      | Rebecca J. D. Marie Norman |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | C. J. Bly                  | Min          | Cal.    | Mar 2 -     | -      | 2.21 |
| Hesslop      | Andrew S. Russell          |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | W. J. Brown                | Min          | Cal.    | - 21 -      | -      | 2.22 |
| Hesslop      | James M. Hazel             |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | Rev. John W. Dunning       | Min          | Cal.    | - 12 -      | -      | 2.17 |
| Hesslop      | John L. Mary B. M. Kichie  |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | James G. Smith             | Dist         | Cal.    | - 11 -      | -      | 2.17 |
| Hesslop      | Lincoln R. Ward            |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | Matthew Smith              | Dist         | Cal.    | - 21 -      | -      | 2.11 |
| Hesslop      | Robert W. Thorne           |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | W. B. Wilson               | Min          | Cal.    | - 20 -      | -      | 2.12 |
| Hesslop      | Constance Margaret Scott   |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | Rev. John W. Dunning       | Min          | Cal.    | Mar 2 1902  | -      | 2.16 |
| Hesslop      | James L. Jones             |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | Rev. J. L. Dunning         | Min          | Cal.    | Mar 27 1902 | -      | 2.11 |
| Hesslop      | Joseph C. L. Smith         |              |         |             |        |      |
| MARRIED BY   | Rev. J. L. Dunning         | Min          | Cal.    | Apr 2 1902  | -      | 2.11 |

STATE California  
COUNTY Contra Costa  
TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Tronchelo

9-107

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

[D1-578]

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920-POPULATION

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT No. 2098  
ENUMERATION DISTRICT No. 6

SHEET No. 11  
**B**

NAME OF INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 4 DAY OF February, 1920.

WARD OF CITY \_\_\_\_\_

ENUMERATOR \_\_\_\_\_

| Serial, as shown on map, etc. | Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the date or territory. If of foreign birth, give the place of birth and, in addition, the mother tongue. (See instructions.) | NAME             | RELATION | SEX | AGE | PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | CITIZENSHIP | EDUCATION | NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE |            |          |            |          |            | OCCUPATION                                                                                 |                                                                                           |                                                                           |                                                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|-----|-----|----------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                  |          |     |     |                      |             |           | PERSON.                    |            | FATHER.  |            | MOTHER.  |            | Trade, profession, or occupation, or kind of work done, or service, or business, or other. | Industry, business, or establishment in which at work, or service, or business, or other. | Employer, or name of firm or person for whom working, or name of service. | Name of place where working, or name of service. |
| 1                             | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 3                | 4        | 5   | 6   | 7                    | 8           | 9         | 10                         | 11         | 12       | 13         | 14       | 15         | 16                                                                                         | 17                                                                                        | 18                                                                        | 19                                               |
| 51                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Madeline         | Daughter | F   | 11  | 6                    |             |           | California                 |            | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | None                                                                                       |                                                                                           |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 52                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Imogene          | Son      | M   | 5   | 5                    |             |           | California                 |            | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | None                                                                                       |                                                                                           |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 53                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Carlton          | Son      | M   | 3   | 3                    |             |           | California                 |            | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | None                                                                                       |                                                                                           |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 54                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Wilson           | Son      | M   | 3   | 3                    |             |           | California                 |            | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | None                                                                                       |                                                                                           |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 55                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Frank            | Son      | M   | 1   | 1                    |             |           | California                 |            | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | None                                                                                       |                                                                                           |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 56                            | 764 476                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Joseph, Michael  | Head     | M   | 38  | 11/10/81             |             | yes       | Germany                    | German     | Germany  | German     | Germany  | German     | yes                                                                                        | Carpenter                                                                                 | Adk                                                                       | W                                                |
| 57                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Bonnie           | Wife     | F   | 32  | 11/10/88             |             | yes       | Germany                    | German     | Germany  | German     | Germany  | German     | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 58                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Bonnie           | Daughter | F   | 2   | 2                    |             |           | California                 |            | Germany  | German     | Germany  | German     | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 59                            | 764 477                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Springer, Emma   | Head     | F   | 47  | 11/10/73             |             | yes       | Germany                    | German     | Germany  | German     | Germany  | German     | yes                                                                                        | Diaphanous                                                                                | Franklin                                                                  | D                                                |
| 60                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Emma             | Wife     | F   | 13  | 13                   |             |           | California                 |            | Germany  | German     | Germany  | German     | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 61                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Bonnie           | Daughter | F   | 12  | 12                   |             |           | California                 |            | Germany  | German     | Germany  | German     | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 62                            | 764 478                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Pimentel, Manuel | Head     | M   | 45  | 11/10/75             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | W                                                                         |                                                  |
| 63                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mary             | Wife     | F   | 37  | 11/10/83             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 64                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Albert           | Son      | M   | 14  | 14                   |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 65                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | George           | Son      | M   | 6   | 6                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 66                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Oakes, Jessie    | Wife     | F   | 65  | 11/10/55             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 67                            | 764 479                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Gasper, Manuel   | Head     | M   | 33  | 11/10/87             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 214                                                                    |                                                  |
| 68                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mary             | Wife     | F   | 24  | 11/10/96             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 69                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Charles          | Son      | M   | 8   | 8                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 70                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Agnes            | Daughter | F   | 5   | 5                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 71                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Edna             | Daughter | F   | 3   | 3                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 72                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Edna             | Son      | M   | 3   | 3                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 73                            | 764 480                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Madren, Matt     | Head     | M   | 49  | 11/10/71             |             | yes       | Denmark                    | Danish     | Denmark  | Danish     | Denmark  | Danish     | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 215                                                                    |                                                  |
| 74                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mary             | Wife     | F   | 38  | 11/10/82             |             | yes       | Denmark                    | Danish     | Denmark  | Danish     | Denmark  | Danish     | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 75                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Paula            | Daughter | F   | 16  | 16                   |             | yes       | Denmark                    | Danish     | Denmark  | Danish     | Denmark  | Danish     | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 76                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Charles          | Son      | M   | 8   | 8                    |             | yes       | Denmark                    | Danish     | Denmark  | Danish     | Denmark  | Danish     | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 77                            | 764 481                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Sanders, Frank   | Head     | M   | 36  | 11/10/84             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 216                                                                    |                                                  |
| 78                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Lottie           | Wife     | F   | 34  | 11/10/86             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 79                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mildred          | Daughter | F   | 13  | 13                   |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 80                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | John             | Son      | M   | 5   | 5                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 81                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Frank            | Son      | M   | 3   | 3                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 82                            | 482                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Barr, Alfred     | Head     | M   | 26  | 11/10/94             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA                                                                        |                                                  |
| 83                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Patricia         | Wife     | F   | 22  | 11/10/98             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 84                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Madeline         | Daughter | F   | 2   | 2                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 85                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Alfred           | Son      | M   | 3   | 3                    |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 86                            | 764 483                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | King, John       | Head     | M   | 53  | 11/10/67             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 217                                                                    |                                                  |
| 87                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Patricia         | Wife     | F   | 52  | 11/10/68             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 88                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Barkun, Samuel   | Servant  | M   | 49  | 11/10/71             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 218                                                                    |                                                  |
| 89                            | 764 484                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Boulton, Thomas  | Head     | M   | 40  | 11/10/80             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 219                                                                    |                                                  |
| 90                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Russell          | Servant  | M   | 45  | 11/10/75             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 220                                                                    |                                                  |
| 91                            | 764 485                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Burnham, Arthur  | Head     | M   | 53  | 11/10/67             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 221                                                                    |                                                  |
| 92                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ida              | Wife     | F   | 52  | 11/10/68             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 93                            | 764 486                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Green, John      | Head     | M   | 62  | 11/10/58             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 222                                                                    |                                                  |
| 94                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | William          | Wife     | F   | 61  | 11/10/59             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 95                            | 764 487                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Rebuck, William  | Head     | M   | 56  | 11/10/64             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 223                                                                    |                                                  |
| 96                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ida              | Wife     | F   | 55  | 11/10/65             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 97                            | 764 488                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Grady, Joseph    | Head     | M   | 61  | 11/10/59             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 224                                                                    |                                                  |
| 98                            | 764 489                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Grady, Joseph    | Head     | M   | 61  | 11/10/59             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 225                                                                    |                                                  |
| 99                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ida              | Wife     | F   | 60  | 11/10/60             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | None                                                                                      |                                                                           |                                                  |
| 100                           | 764 490                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Hespe, Herman    | Head     | M   | 34  | 11/10/86             |             | yes       | Portugal                   | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | Portugal | Portuguese | yes                                                                                        | Farmer                                                                                    | CA 226                                                                    |                                                  |

# REGISTRATION CARD

|                                                                                |                       |                                                                 |                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| SERIAL NUMBER                                                                  | 1200                  | ORDER NUMBER                                                    | 2079                    |
| 1 <i>Herman Emil Hespe</i>                                                     |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| 2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: <i>Moraga Contra Costa Cal</i>                       |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)                 |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| Age in Years                                                                   | Date of Birth         |                                                                 |                         |
| 3 <i>33</i>                                                                    | 4 <i>June 11 1885</i> |                                                                 |                         |
| (Month) (Day) (Year)                                                           |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| RACE                                                                           |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| White                                                                          | Negro                 | Oriental                                                        | Indian                  |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                          | 6                     | 7                                                               | 8 Citizen 9 Non-citizen |
| U. S. CITIZEN                                                                  |                       | ALIEN                                                           |                         |
| Native Born                                                                    | Naturalized           | Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority | Declarant Non-declarant |
| 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                         | 11                    | 12                                                              | 13 14                   |
| 15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| PRESENT OCCUPATION                                                             |                       | EMPLOYER'S NAME                                                 |                         |
| 16 <i>Farmer</i>                                                               |                       | 17 <i>for myself</i>                                            |                         |
| 18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: <i>Moraga Contra Costa Cal</i>             |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)                 |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| NEAREST RELATIVE                                                               | Name                  | 19 <i>Martha Isabelle Hespe (Wife)</i>                          |                         |
|                                                                                | Address               | 20 <i>Moraga Contra Costa Cal</i>                               |                         |
| (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)                 |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE             |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| P. M. G. O. <i>Herman Emil Hespe</i>                                           |                       |                                                                 |                         |
| Form No. 1 (11ed) (Registrant's signature or mark) (OVER)                      |                       |                                                                 |                         |

# REGISTRAR'S REPORT

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------|---------|----------------------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|
| DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| HEIGHT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                        |       | BUILD   |                                        |       | COLOR OF EYES  | COLOR OF HAIR        |
| Tall                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Medium                                 | Short | Slender | Medium                                 | Stout |                |                      |
| 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 23    | 24      | 25 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 26    | 27 <i>blue</i> | 28 <i>dark brown</i> |
| 29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.)                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| <i>No</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| 30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows: |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| <i>None</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| <i>Matt Madson</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| (Signature of Registrar)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| Date of Registration <i>September 12, 1918</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| LOCAL BOARD DIVISION NO. 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| CITY OF MORAGA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| (STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| (The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)                                                                                                         |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |
| 93-0171 (OVER)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |       |         |                                        |       |                |                      |

# Trace Roots of Early Settlers



ORIGINS

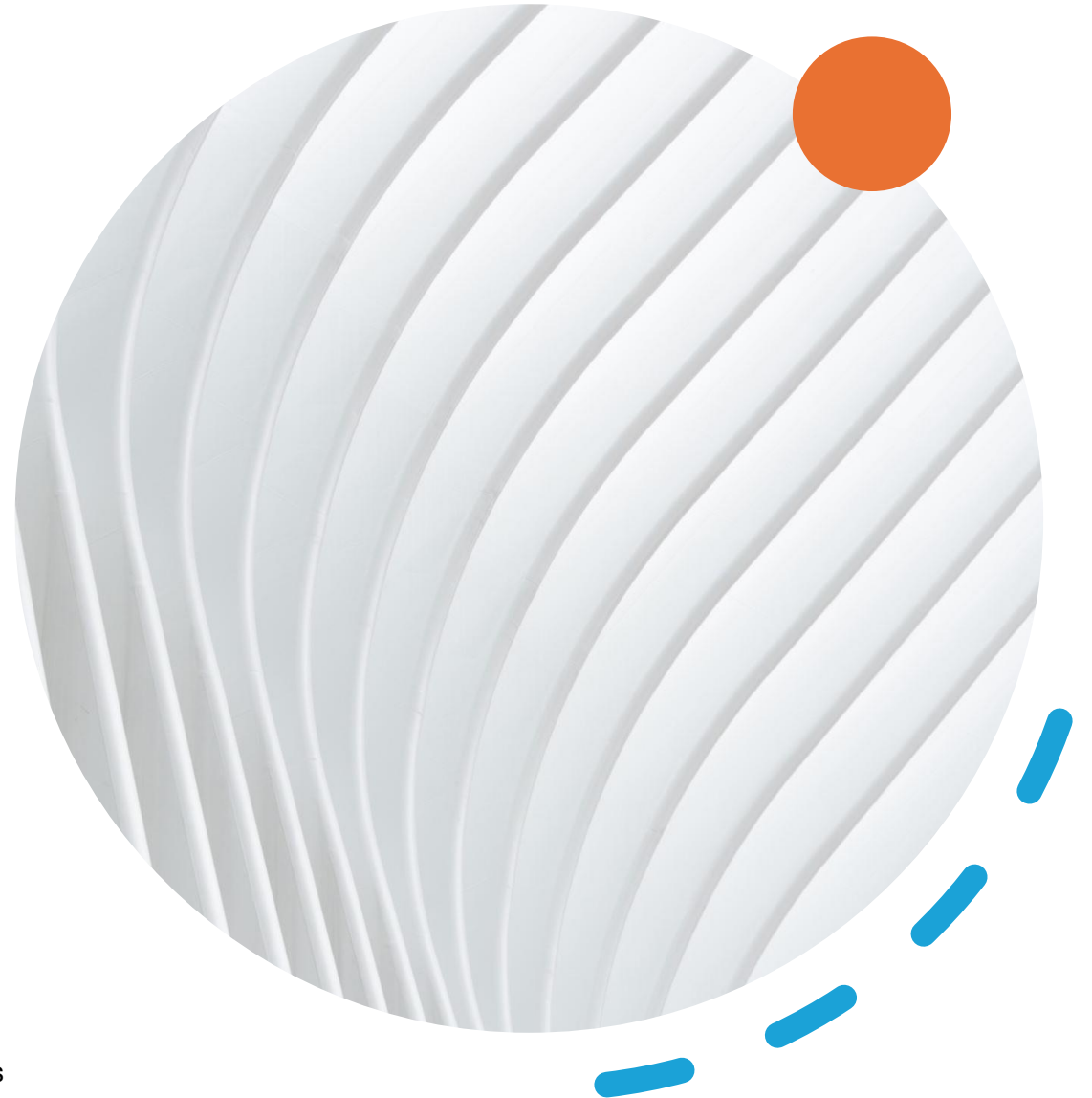


SETTLEMENT



MIGRATION  
ROUTES

Utilize vertical file biographies and photos, census records, local histories, newspapers  
Begin with the known and work towards the unknown



# Migration Patterns

Westward travelers often went in groups.

Find migration routes in

- overland wagon train lists (many are online) and publications
- ship lists (some went around the Horn)
- diaries

Identify groups that settled together by tracing them to earlier records and by noting affiliations, such as shared religion or language background.

# 1880 Census Value for Migration

|   |   |                     |   |   |    |      |   |               |    |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                |                |               |
|---|---|---------------------|---|---|----|------|---|---------------|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 3 | 3 | Hathaway Wilcome    | W | M | 52 |      | 1 | Jeweler       | —  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Massachusetts  | Massachusetts  | Massachusetts |
|   |   | — Ella B            | W | F | 21 | Wife | 1 | Keeping house |    |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | California     | New York       | Illinois      |
|   |   | — John A            | W | M | 4  | Son  | 1 | At home       |    |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | California     | Massachusetts  | California    |
|   |   | Bremner Robert H    | W | M | 47 |      | 1 | Butler        | —  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | England        | Scotland       | England       |
| 4 | 4 | Howard Samuel P. G. | W | M | 61 |      | 1 | Place keeper  | 12 | ✓ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | North Carolina | North Carolina | N. Carolina   |
| 5 | 5 | Hughes Jeremiah     | W | M | 35 |      | 1 | Boat steerman | ✓  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Frontier       | S. Carolina    | Canada        |

# 1880 Census Moraga Family

|        |              |        |               |   |               |   |      |      |      |    |
|--------|--------------|--------|---------------|---|---------------|---|------|------|------|----|
| 429445 | Helen Sarah  | W F 53 | sup. daughter | 1 | Farming       | ✓ | Cal. | Cal. | Cal. | 11 |
|        | Moraga Mary  | W F 33 | Daughter      | 1 | Keeping House |   | Cal. | "    | "    | 12 |
|        | — Visitation | W F 31 | Son           | 1 | Farming       | ✓ | Cal. | "    | "    | 13 |
|        | — Gabriel    | W M 28 | Son           | 1 | "             | ✓ | Cal. | "    | "    | 14 |
|        | — Joaquina   | W M 20 | Son           | 1 | "             | ✓ | Cal. | "    | "    | 15 |
|        | — Joseph     | W F 24 | Daughter      | 1 | Keeping House |   | Cal. | "    | "    | 16 |
|        | — Naddie     | W F 27 | Daughter      | 1 | " "           |   | Cal. | "    | "    | 17 |
|        | — Edocia     | W F 26 | Daughter      | 1 | " "           |   | Cal. | Cal. | Cal. | 18 |
|        | — Lola       | W M 14 | Son           | 1 | At School     | 1 | Cal. | "    | "    | 19 |
|        | — Gilbert    | W F 20 | Daughter      | 1 | Keeping House |   | Cal. | "    | "    | 20 |
|        | — Elea       |        |               |   |               |   | Cal. | "    | "    | 21 |

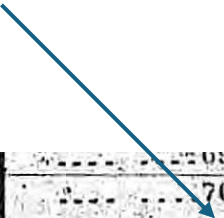
# 1870 Census Olive Family

|    |    |    |                   |    |                       |   |              |                             |       |          |       |       |                |  |    |    |   |   |   |    |
|----|----|----|-------------------|----|-----------------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|----------------|--|----|----|---|---|---|----|
| 34 | 99 | 97 | Ohio John         | 38 | m                     | W | Stage Driver | 7000                        | 10000 | Canada - | 1     | 1     |                |  |    |    |   |   | 1 | 34 |
| 35 |    |    | — Eliza           | 30 | f                     | W | Kep's House  |                             |       | Mrs -    |       |       |                |  |    |    |   |   |   | 35 |
| 36 |    |    | — Ellen           | 16 | f                     | W |              |                             |       | Cook -   | 1     |       |                |  | 1  |    |   |   |   | 36 |
| 37 |    |    | — Rosa            | 8  | f                     | W |              |                             |       | Cook -   | 1     |       |                |  | 1  |    |   |   |   | 37 |
| 38 |    |    | Taylor Mary       | 24 | f                     | W | Servants     |                             |       | Maid -   | 1     | 1     |                |  |    |    |   |   |   | 38 |
| 39 |    |    | Ryan John         | 47 | m                     | W | Hunter       |                             |       | Infant - | 1     | 1     |                |  |    |    |   |   | 1 | 39 |
| 40 |    |    | Hogan Richard     | 38 | m                     | W | Butcher      |                             |       | Infant - | 1     | 1     |                |  |    | 1  | 1 |   | 1 | 40 |
|    |    |    |                   |    |                       |   |              |                             |       |          |       |       |                |  |    |    |   |   |   |    |
|    |    |    | No. of dwellings, | 10 | No. of white females, |   | 14           | No. of males, foreign born, |       | 7        | 13000 | 10000 | No. of insane, |  | 24 | 22 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 10 |
|    |    |    | " " families,     | 8  | " " colored males,    |   | 2            | " " females, " "            |       | 4        |       |       |                |  |    |    |   |   |   |    |
|    |    |    | " " white males,  | 19 | " " " females,        |   | 3            | " " blind,                  |       |          |       |       |                |  |    |    |   |   |   |    |

# 1860 Olive Family

|    |   |   |               |         |   |  |               |  |      |        |   |  |
|----|---|---|---------------|---------|---|--|---------------|--|------|--------|---|--|
| 19 | - | 5 | John H. Olive | 28      | m |  | Stage Agent X |  | 2000 | Canada | ✓ |  |
| 20 | - | - | Elizabeth     | 20      | f |  | Wife          |  |      | Maine  | ✓ |  |
| 21 | - | - | Florence      | 6<br>12 | f |  |               |  |      | Cal    | ✓ |  |
| 22 |   |   |               |         |   |  |               |  |      |        |   |  |

# Great Register 1873 San Joaquin County



|      |                      |    |             |                |          |   |               |                      |             |            |
|------|----------------------|----|-------------|----------------|----------|---|---------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 7058 | Ott, George          | 54 | Germany     | Laborer        | Stockton | 2 | Apr. 1; 1856  | San Francisco, Cal.  | Superior    | Aug. 11, " |
| 7149 | Olive, John Hantford | 45 | Canada West | Stage Business | Stockton | 1 | Aug. 17, 1871 | Stockton, California | 5th J. Dist | Aug. 17, " |
| 7336 | Ohaver, Nathan       | 59 | Ohio        | Wheelright     | Dent     |   |               |                      |             | Aug. 30, " |
| 7348 | Odom, William Henry  | 50 | Tennessee   | Farmer         | Douglass |   |               |                      |             | Aug. 30, " |
| 7461 | Owen, Randolph Ross  | 42 | Alabama     | Farmer         |          |   |               |                      |             | Aug. 30, " |

# Lamson Diary published as *Round Cape Horn: Cattle Stealing in Contra Costa*



“August 17, 1854. My neighbor, Mr. R., has lost an ox. It was stolen; and a horse stolen also. Another neighbor, Mr. A., has lost three valuable oxen in the same way.

The great facilities for concealing oxen, horses, and other property in the innumerable deeply secluded valleys and hiding-places that occur in every direction in the mountainous country, which, commencing at these Redwoods, extend to the valley of the San Joaquin, offer too many inducements to the numerous idlers and vagabonds that prowl about the land to be visited; and consequently theft, robbery, and I may almost add, murder, are but every day occurrences.”

# Wagon Train Settlers



Elam Brown, prominent Lafayette settler, was born in 1797 in Herkimer County, in Northern New York.

His overland journey from Missouri to California has been well-documented in many publications, and by the Lafayette Historical Society.

This exhibit was placed in the Lafayette Library and learning Center by the Lafayette historical Society in 2024.



Compilations of firsthand accounts of overland journeys can be found at *Brigham Young University Digital Collections* and other websites.

Lists of travelers on wagon trains can be found in books and overland journey websites.



## Strategies and Resources for Successful Searches

# County Clerk Records in Contra Costa County

Most records are for current-day residents.

However, there is an “old book” property index going back to 1849.  
It is not easily searchable.

Alternatives:

- Contra Costa County Historical Society
- Holdings at FamilySearch

# FamilySearch: Catalog Search

## FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch online and in libraries and centers worldwide.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

### Search by:

Place | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place

### Search for:

[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche/Image Group Number \(DGS\)](#)

### Availability

- ☒ Any  
☐ Online  
☐ FamilySearch center

Search

Reset



# FamilySearch: DGS Number Search

## Eunice C. Smith Or Smyth

in the Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993



[Add or update information](#)

[Report a problem](#)

### Detail

Source

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Name           | Eunice C. Smith Or Smyth |
| Gender         | Female                   |
| Marriage Date  | 26 May 1836              |
| Marriage Place | Ashtabula, Ohio, USA     |
| Spouse         | John Mcfalkner           |
| Film Number    | 000890264                |

Save

## FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch online and in libraries and centers worldwide.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

### Search by:

Place | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place

### Search for:

[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche/Image Group Number \(DGS\)](#)

Film/Fiche/Image Group Number (DGS)

890264

### Availability

- ☒ Any  
☐ Online  
☐ FamilySearch center

Search

Reset

“Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993,”  
Ancestry.com, accessed November 2024.

# FamilySearch: DGS Number Search

Results per page:

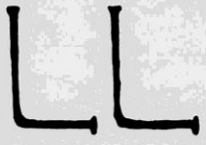
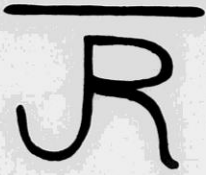
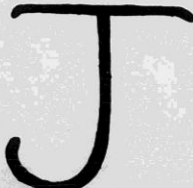
10 ▾

< Page 1 of 3 >

## Film/Digital Notes

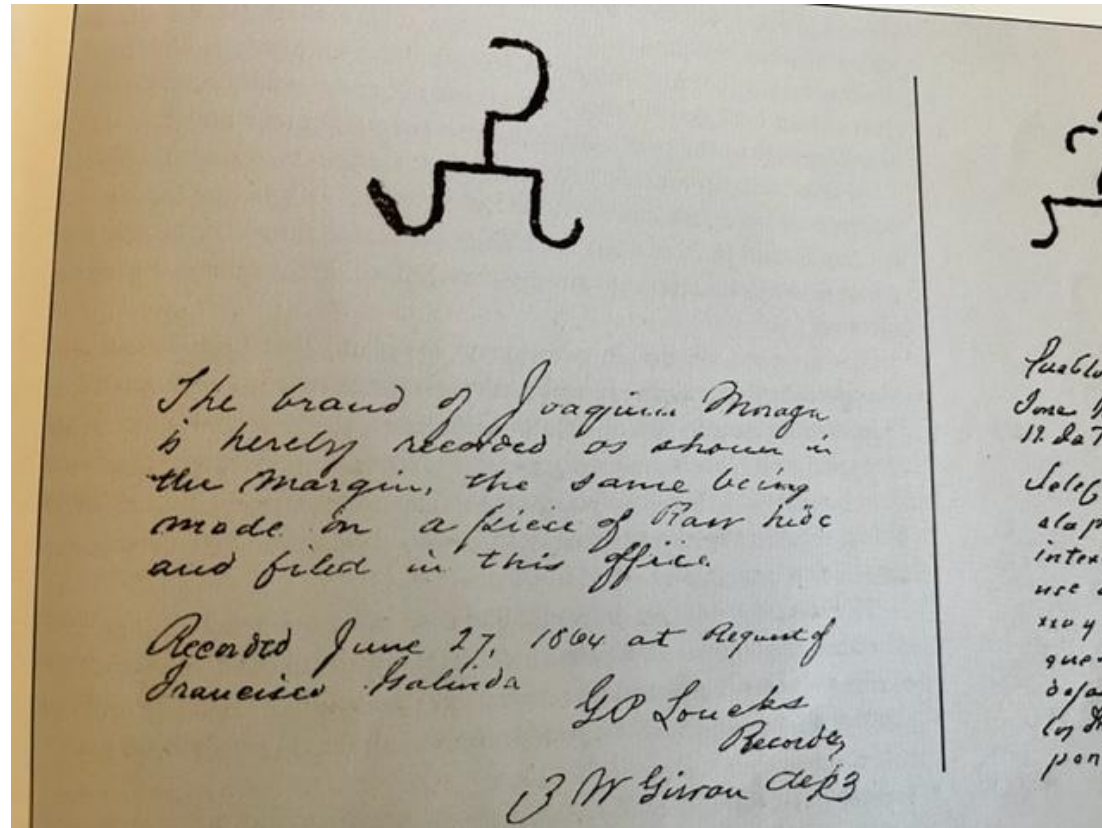
| Note                                    | Location                               | Collection/Shelf                      | Film   | Image Group Number (DGS) | Format |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| Marriage index v. 1-2 1812-1910         | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film | 890261 | 7724330                  |        |
| Marriage index v. 3 1911-1940           | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film | 890262 | 7724331                  |        |
| Marriage index v. 4 1941-1965           | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film | 890263 | 7724332                  |        |
| Marriage records v. A-D 1812-1872       | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film | 890264 | 4922505                  |        |
| Marriage records v. E-F 1853-1872       | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film | 890265 | 4016980                  |        |
| Marriage records v. G-H 1872-1884       | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film | 890266 | 4922506                  |        |
| Marriage records v. I-J 1884-1893       | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film | 890267 | 4922507                  |        |
| Marriage records v. K-M 1893-1901, 1907 | <a href="#">Family History Library</a> | United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film | 890268 | 4016981                  |        |

“Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993,”  
Ancestry.com, accessed November 2024.

| Brands                                                                              | Marks                                                                             | Owners Name                | Residence                 | Date of Record                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|    | Perpetuated                                                                       | Manuel Duarte              | Cattle in Pinole Valley   | Nov 13, 1914<br><i>McClure County Recorder</i> |
|    |                                                                                   | Herbert Brackman           | Cattle in Alhambra Valley | Feb 9, 1915<br><i>McClure County Recorder</i>  |
|    |  | Perpetuation<br>J. Mangini | Cattle near Clayton       | Apr 1, 1915<br><i>McClure County Recorder</i>  |
|   |                                                                                   | James Rutherford           | Cattle near Pacheco       | May 4, 1915<br><i>McClure County Recorder</i>  |
|  |                                                                                   | E. Morse                   | Cattle near Walnut Creek  | May 5, 1915<br><i>McClure County Recorder</i>  |

Source:  
FamilySearch

# Brand of Joaquin Moraga



Source: FamilySearch

# Squirrel Lien Inspection

1

**State of California, County of Contra Costa.**

Township No. *(3) Pine* *Oak Grove* Squirrel Inspection District.

Comprising *Oak Grove* School District,

*Augustus C. Chick (John Ruffy occupant)* and all owners and claimants,  
known and unknown, of, and that certain piece, parcel, lot or tract of land, lying  
and being situate in the above named State, County, Township, and Squirrel  
Inspection District, and known as the *Hill land No. 5 San Miguel Ranch*  
tract, and described as follows, to wit:

*Containing 600 acres North by Gregory  
East by Pine Creek South by Hill land  
No. 1 West lands of Blum J. E. Chase and  
Gregory*

# Wives property book, 1851-1916

123

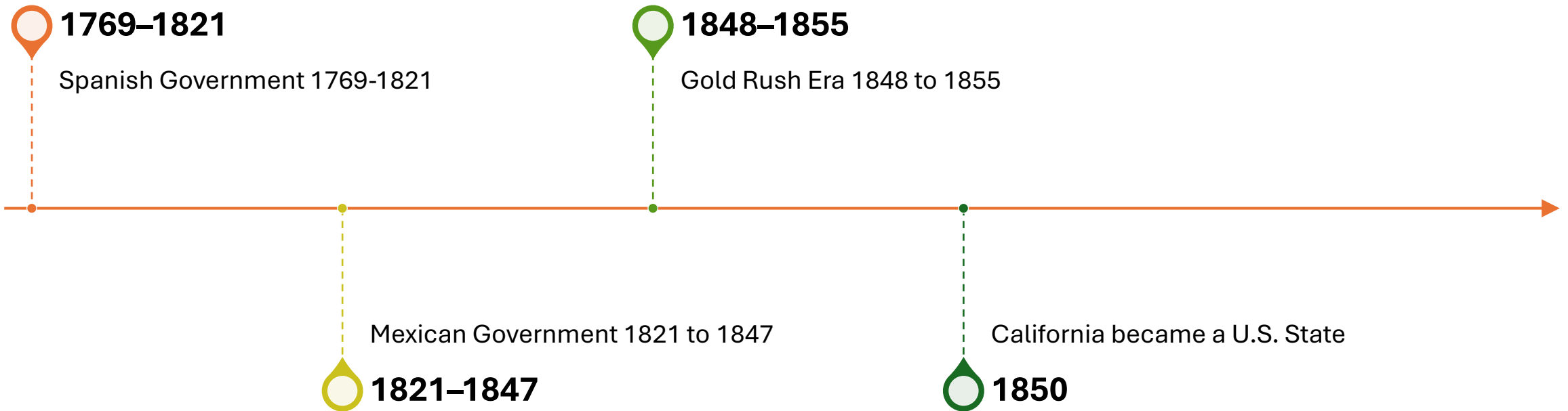
State of California }  
County of Contra Costa } ss

Know all men by these presents  
that I Mary Silva at the said County in the State of  
California wife of Manuel Silva residing in the County  
and State aforesaid do hereby declare and make known my  
intention to carry on business on my own account and in  
my own name as sole trader in pursuance of an Act  
of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled "An  
act to authorize married women to transact business in  
their own name as sole traders approved April 12<sup>th</sup> 1852.  
And I further declare that said business will be the  
business of Bar Keeping and farming and will be carried  
on and practiced in the County of Contra Costa and that  
the amount of Capital invested in this business does not  
exceed five thousand dollars. In Witness whereof I have  
hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 17<sup>th</sup> day  
of October A.D. 1861.

In presence of } Mary Silva X  
A. F. Dyer }  
witness

State of California }  
County of Contra Costa } ss

Source: FamilySearch



# Initial Settlement by the Spanish Crown and then by the Mexican Government.



Source for image of mission: [Wikipedia](#)

Source for image of map: [Study.com](#)

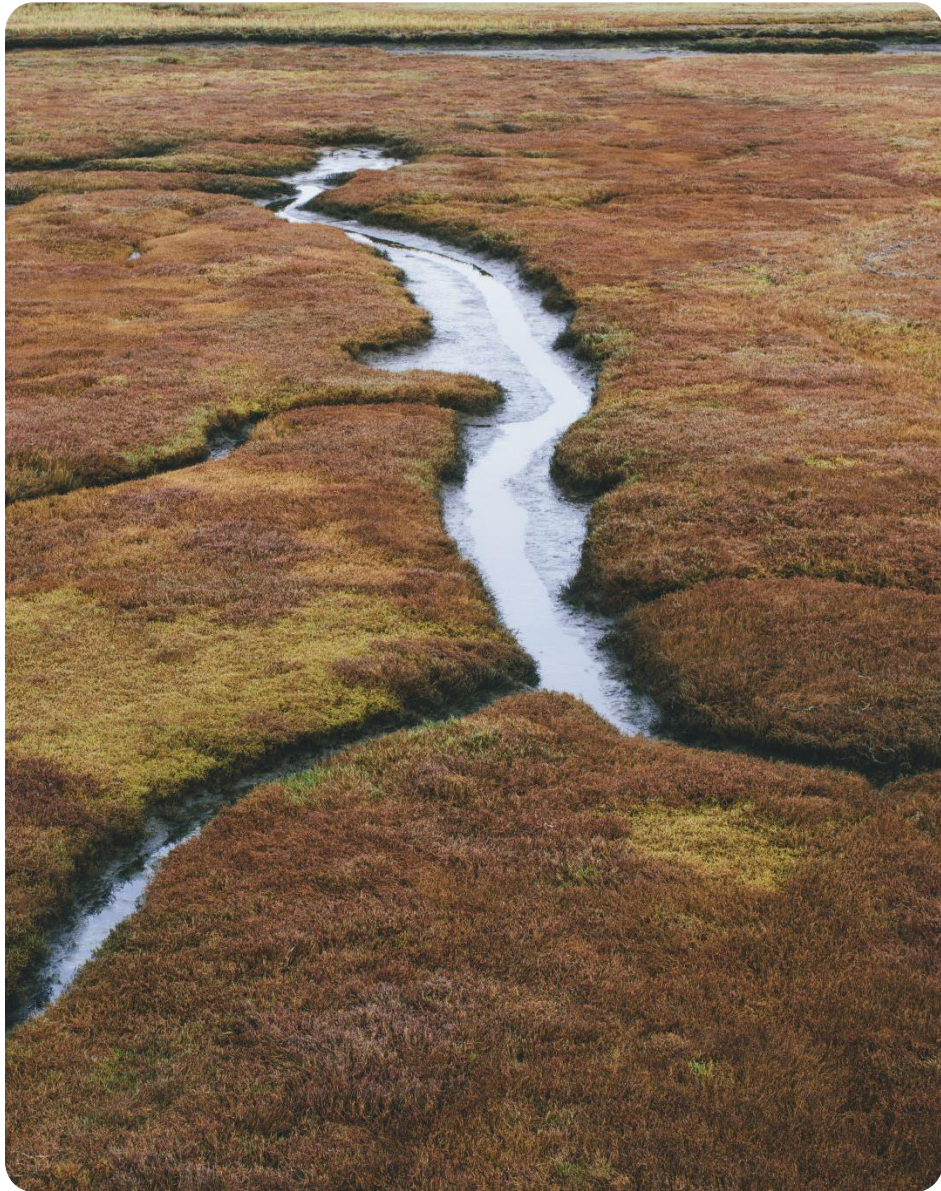
Lamorinda communities developed under two federal government systems:

Mexico (Alta California from 1821 to 1850)

U.S. (from 1850)

Prior to that time the Saklan were the main inhabitants of the area, and their communities overlapped with the settling Mexican and U.S. families.





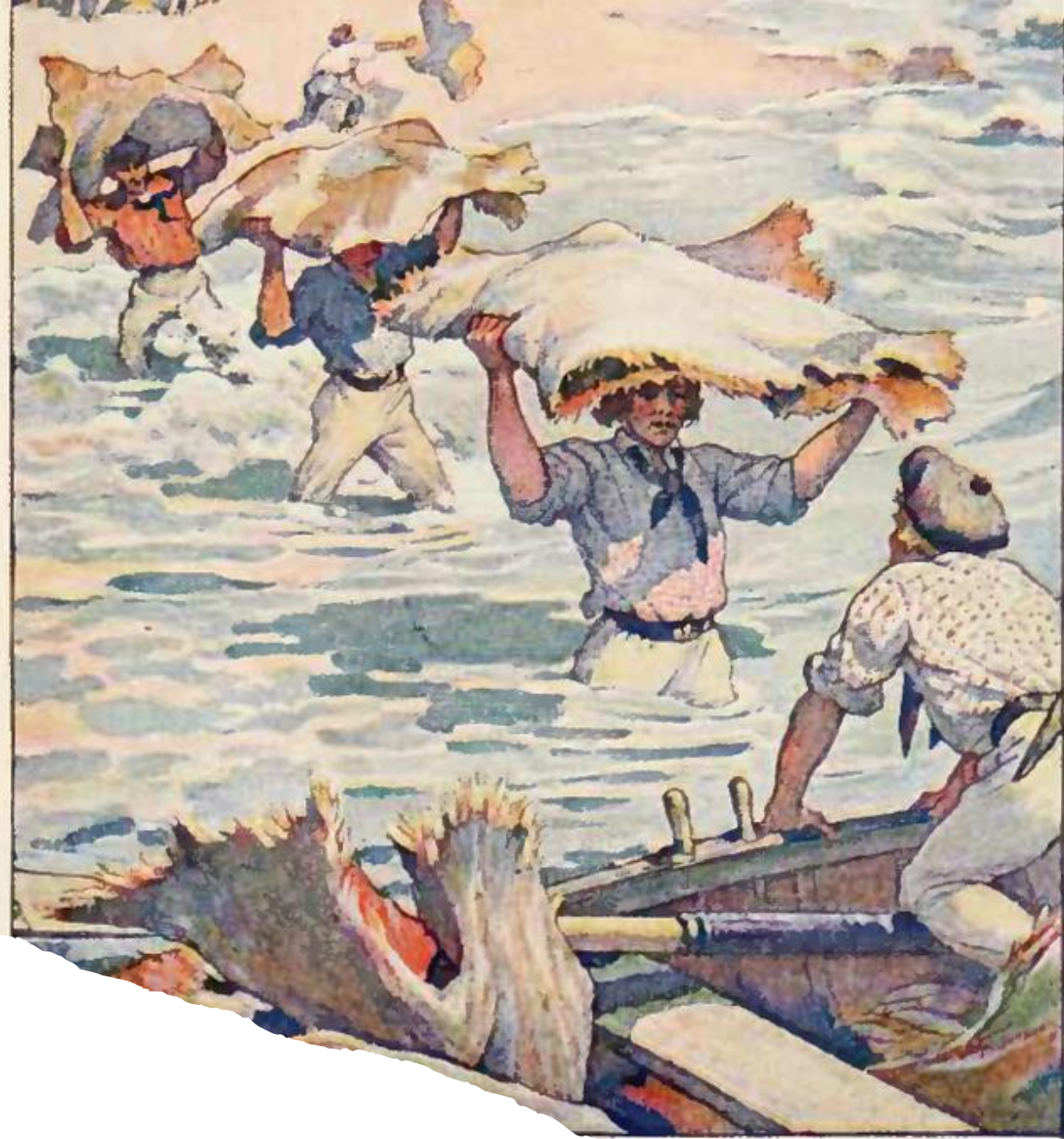
### *Types of Key Land Records in California*

- Spanish and Mexican Land Grants: Expedientes
- United States Public Land Survey System: Deeds, Surveys, Warrants
- Homestead Records and Preemption Claims: Deeds, Applications
- Land exchanges by individuals in counties and estate sales by sheriff: Deeds
- Mining claims: Deeds, Labor Books

- 
- A decorative gray border surrounds the slide content. A blue triangle is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.
- Where to find land records from 1850 on:
    - U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Website
    - County Clerk Records

# Value of Land Records for California Genealogy Research

| Finding                                                                     | Documenting                                   | Adding                            | Tracing           | Determining                                 | Providing                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Finding support for family relationships when direct evidence is not strong | Documenting property ownership and residences | Adding key details to biographies | Tracing migration | Determining occupations and economic status | Providing leads for locating other records, such as probate records, census records, newspaper articles, vital records, and court documents. |



# Alta California

Sources: Rancho Canada photo, *Wikipedia*; Hide Droghing painting by E. Boyd Smith, *NYPL Digital Collections* (<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org>)

# Californios and Land Grants

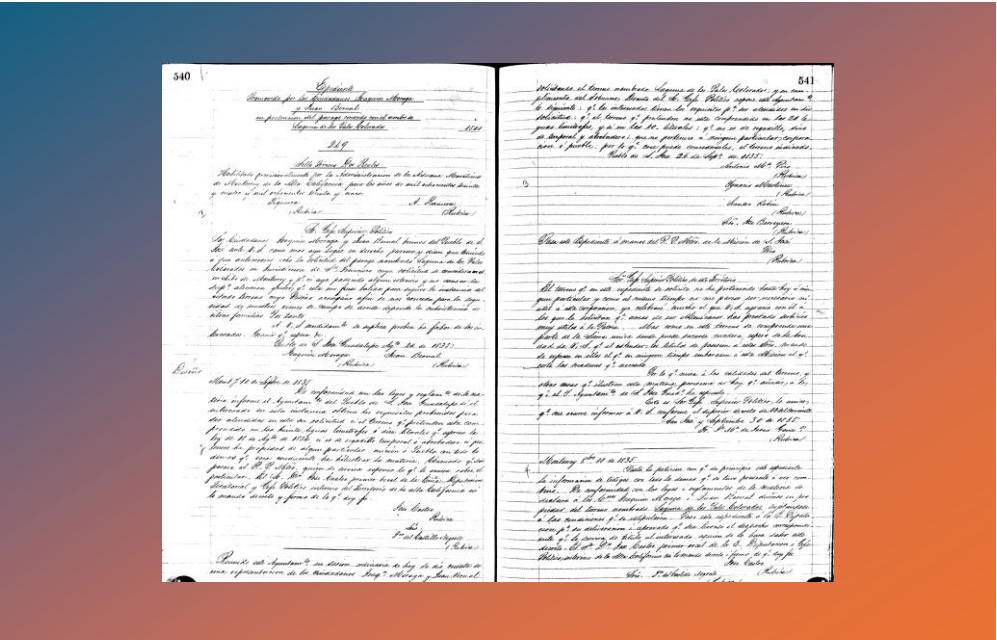
Places to Start for Research Online:

- Historical Society Websites
- *Californios* Website
- *Online Archive of California*
- Bancroft Library (hard copy items and online records)
- California State University Monterey Bay
- History San Jose
- *California Early Population Project*, Huntington Library
- Ancestry® and FamilySearch

Hard copy sources of mission records include books and binders of family groups compiled by Dorothy Mutnick. The Moraga History Center is one resource for her collection of mission records.

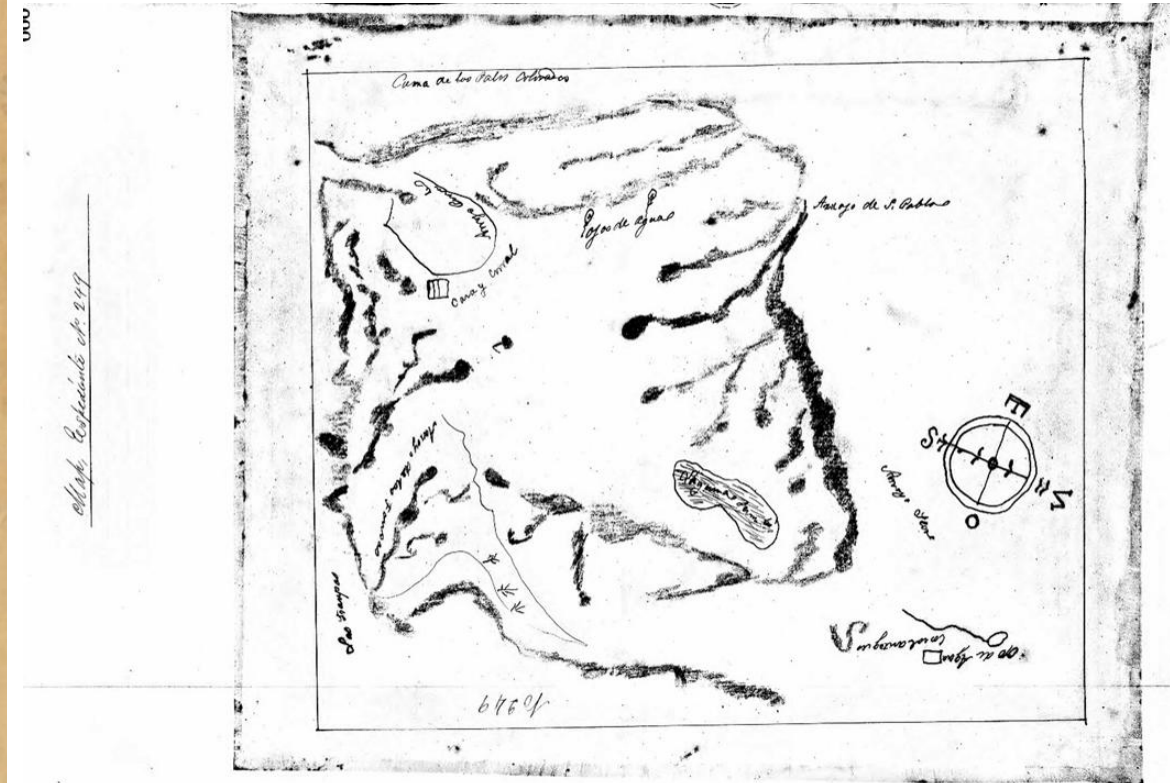
Source for Expediente: Ancestry.com; for Diseño, Online Archive of California

- 



*Digital Commons* at California State University Monterey Bay, *California State Archive*, and *Online Archive of California*, and *National Archives* are good resources for lists, documents, and leads on other records.

# Diseños- Legal Documents



Source: Online Archive of California

## Testimony of Salvio Pacheco, artist of the Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados Diseño.

Question 1<sup>st</sup>

What is your name, age & place of residence?

Ans.

My name is Salvio Pacheco, I am  
an eighty years of age. I reside  
at Mount Diablo Contra Costa County  
Calif.

Look at the document now shown  
you marked Exhibit No. 1, being a traced copy of the original  
design in the expediente of the Rancho  
Laguna de los Palos Colorados, can you  
tell me, who made the original

Ans.

I made the original design myself.

3

For what purpose did you mark it?

Ans.

To attach to a petition for the rancho.

# Land Claim Files

- Land claim files for the land grants awarded by the Spanish and Mexican governments in California pre-statehood include multiple records documenting the original award, the chain of title and property disputes, maps of the land claim made in different eras, and affidavits regarding boundaries, residence, land sales, and more.
- The extensive files can be mined for many details of the families who claimed the land or who lived on the land grant.
- The land claim files at Ancestry can be found under the catalog entry "California, U.S., Private Land Claim Dockets, 1852-1858." At FamilySearch the catalog entry is "California, land records: private land claims dockets, 1849-1895."

Sources: Ancestry.com

FamilySearch.org

546  
Vol 17  
Land

5. which invested him with the same pleasy and extraordinary power in these departments, that Santa Anna himself possessed in Mexico. A certified copy of the original application by Alvarado to Micheltorena, of the reference by this office to the Secretary of State, of the consequent reference to the chief of the district and of his reply, of Micheltorena's decree declaring Alvarado owner of the land lying between the Sierra Nevada, the San Joaquin, the Mercedes and Chanchiles rivers, together with a copy of the original deed of transfer executed to John Charles Fremont on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1847 are herewith laid before the commission, and are relied upon by your petitioner as the documentary evidence to establish his claim. - Within his knowledge there are no conflicting claims. The facts stated in this petition are of general notoriety, and can be sustained by the testimony of numerous witnesses for the obtaining of which your petitioner prays that all proper process and notices may be ordered. The accompanying map exhibits the natural boundaries mentioned in the petition and decree, and the tract within the red lines, containing about ten leagues in extent, shows what had long been commonly known as "Las Mariposas," and as such granted by the title in form of February 29<sup>th</sup> 1844 and now claimed by your petitioner.

(Signed) John Charles Fremont  
San Francisco, Cal., Jan'y 21, 1852  
Filed January 21<sup>st</sup> 1852

(Signed) A. R. Carr  
Sec'y

Upon which petition the following subsequent proceedings were had, in their chronological order, to wit:

to the settlers" have no possible right, nor has the Govt.  
any int. to protect. See Decree Confirmation of Grants.

Opening Arg. of Wm. A. Howard April 10. 1877. He then admits  
that the first survey was only ordered into Court and  
set aside under act of 1860.

Stipulation that Higley's map correctly represents the  
exterior boundaries of Ranchos. Oct 23. 1862.

~ 1<sup>st</sup> Survey by Lacey Aug 29. 1859.

2<sup>d</sup> " " " Sept 1860.

The last ordered into Court & filed in Dec. 1860.

~ The first order known to Howard & mentioned in his  
brief & is among Records. (Statement of Gen. Gail.)

~ Order of Aug. 29. 1859 vacated by sub. order. See Page 1



# Religious Records for Alta California



Photo: Moraga  
History Center

8019  
M<sup>te</sup> Juan Caprian  
&  
Naron  
8020  
Juana Flores

En dicho día mes y año en t<sup>ra</sup> b<sup>u</sup>er el P. Comp<sup>te</sup> Fr. Magin Catala a los dos sigui-  
entes nacidos tres días antes  
Primo a una Niña hija legítima de Blas Caprian y Paula Pacheco naturales de  
esta Caliza a la que puso M<sup>te</sup> de la Luz y fueron Padrinos Francisco Pacheco  
y Paula Sepulveda. Solo los dos a los que advertio lo deudo.

8010  
J<sup>te</sup> Gabriel  
& Barbara  
Tare  
Jecino

En 25 de Abril de 1817 en la t<sup>ra</sup> de esta Misión b<sup>u</sup>er  
y solemnemente por los dos t<sup>ra</sup> y por el Comisario  
a un niño y nació el día 25 de Julio del mismo  
año de M<sup>te</sup> de la Cruz Sibrian, le pu-  
se p<sup>ro</sup> nombre J<sup>te</sup> Gabriel & Barbara, fueron sus  
padrinos Joaquín & Barbara y M<sup>te</sup> de la Cruz  
Sibrian, advertio lo deudo y p<sup>ro</sup>  
q<sup>ue</sup> comte lo firme.

Source: Early California  
Population Project,  
Huntington Library

# Family Register

## Parents' Names

Husband Gabriel Ygnacio Moraga.

Born in Moraga Valley,  
July 31<sup>st</sup> 1848.

Son of José Moraga.

and Maria de la Cruz Sebastian  
Moraga.

Wife Maria de la Cruz Sebastian

Born in Monterey.

And Col. Florence Shaw Moraga  
Born in Brighton, Mass. 1851  
Daughter of John & Mary Shaw

and Elizabeth Leathwin Shaw

## Births

Olivette Moraga Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 1881.

Sadie Carolyn Moraga Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> 1882

Sophie Belding Moraga Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> 1884

Rose Maria Moraga Feb. 3<sup>th</sup> 1886.

Maud Adelaide Moraga Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1886

Anita Moraga. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 1894

Eugene Winslow Moraga. July 18<sup>th</sup> 1896

Antoinette Moraga Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> 1903.

# Estate Files Connected to Joaquin Moraga

✓  
No. 937

**In the Superior Court**  
OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

In the matter of the Estate of  
*Joaquin Moraga*  
Deceased.

**Petition for Letters of  
Administration.**

Filed, April 6th 1886

*L. L. Wittmayer*  
Clerk.

By *J. L. Chase*  
Deputy Clerk.

*Mills & Jones*  
Attorney for Petitioner.

Gazette Press, Martinez.

Costa, State of California.

That said deceased left estate in the said County of Contra Costa, State of California consisting of *Real*

property:

That the value and character of said property are as follows, to wit: *One Undivided interest in one half of the certain real estate situate lying and being in the County of Contra Costa and known as Laguna de Los Polos Rancho or Rancho of Joaquin Moraga containing three leagues of land more or less. That the value of said real estate is unknown to petitioner - That there is no personal property belonging to said deceased petitioner is informed and believes -*

*That the matter of said estate has been pending in the Counties of Contra Costa and Colusa for about 30 years last past - and there is no administration being in said estate - and it is necessary petitioner believes that an administration be appointed to close said administration and distribute the property to the owners thereof - That the interest of all the heirs of said deceased have and are vested in honor to complete in and to the said Rancho de Los Polos Rancho.*

That the estate and effects for or in respect of which Letters of Administration are hereby applied for do not exceed the value of

Dollars.

That the next of kin of said deceased and whom your petitioner is advised and believes, and therefore alleges to be the heirs at law of said deceased - *Joaquin B. Moraga, Benecinda M. Costa, Felisa M. Moraga, Brother R. Moraga, Jose J. Moraga, Roderica Moraga Dolores Moraga, Antonia Moraga Francisca Moraga Silva, all grand children of said deceased and over the age of twenty one years of age and residing in the County of Contra Costa State*

# Last Moragan To Live In 'Old Adobe' Dies

By GLADYS SHALLY

One of the last of the historical Moraga family to live in the Moraga adobe was buried in San Francisco last Tuesday.

Olivette Moraga, a resident of San Francisco, passed away March 2 at the age of 87. She was the daughter of Ella Olive and Gabriel Moraga. Gabriel was the grandson of the great explorer of the same name.

**THE FIRST** Gabriel was the son of Jose Joaquin Moraga, founder of San Francisco. Olivette was the first child of the first boy to be born in the adobe.

The Moraga family still resided in the old adobe at the time of Olivette's expected birth. Her mother, Ella Olive Moraga, however, returned to her former home on the Fish Ranch for Olivette's birth on Feb. 17, 1881. Olivette was

named for her maternal grandfather, John Olive.

**THE MORAGAS** had been struggling to keep what was left of the 13,000-plus acres of their ancestral land grant from the clutches of Horace Carpentier. But in 1886 the final eviction notice came.

Miss Moraga used to tell of her memory of the final ball held in the adobe just before the family was forced to



**OLIVETTE MORAGA** — taken May 23, 1954, at the time of the Moraga "old adobe's" dedication as a historical landmark. The home, now occupied by the Don Manuel family, majestically overlooks the valley from the hillside above Miramonte High School.

leave. She had been put to bed, but was later aroused by her grandfather so that she might, with him, lead the last grand march.

**SHE RECALLED** that dressed in her best dress and her hair dusted with sparkles, just like a grown-up senorita, she was the five-year-old belle of the ball.

After the eviction, the family lived on the Fish Ranch. Olivette attended the old Moraga school, built on land donated by her parents. (This was the first school in the Orina School District).

**HER TEACHER**, and life-long friend, was M. Jennie Bickerstaff (the late Mrs. William Rosenberg of Lafayette).

During the ninth-grade term, Olivette was thrown from her horse and a broken leg kept her from attending school. Miss Bickerstaff rode horseback to the Fish Ranch to tutor her and Olivette graduated with her class in 1895.

**OLIVETTE** Moraga leaves three sisters, Mrs. Harry Dederman of San Francisco; Rose Cole of Portland, Ore., and Sadie Kemerer of Baldwin Park, and her only brother, Gene Moraga of Tracy.

## Olive Moraga

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. today (Tuesday) for Miss Olive Moraga, 87, descendant of a pioneer San Francisco family, who died here Saturday.

Miss Moraga was the great-granddaughter of Lieutenant Jose Moraga, the first commandant of the Presidio.

The services will be held at the Chapel of the Memories in Oakland with the Rev. Roland Hills of the Episcopal Church officiating.

Miss Moraga, of 1700 El Camino Real, South City, was employed by Pacific Telephone Company for 40 years.

Survivors include three sisters, Antoinette Dederman of South City; Sadie Kemerer of Baldwin Park, and Rose Cole of Portland, Ore., and a brother, Eugene W. Moraga of Tracy.

Funeral arrangements are being made by the Del Reynolds Bayview Chapel, 2414 Grove street, Berkeley.

MORAGA

# Juan Bernal Probate files

*Estab of I Bruner  
Petition for  
Salary & Personal Property*

Filed 5<sup>th</sup> May 1851

Thos. A. Brown  
Clerk

B30  
Bernal  
doc 1

Summe. L. Insubrit; Public Administrator; of the  
Estate of Juan Bruna deceased; represents to V<sup>o</sup> S<sup>o</sup> Court  
that he has not assets in his hands, to pay the  
Expenses of Administration, nor for the support of the  
family of the deceased. he therefore asks of the Court an  
order for the sale of the personal property belonging to  
the Estate of said Juan Bruna

Sam. J. Sumner

*P. Arminius, hater*

Thos A Brown says says that he posted up this notice  
on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nov 1857, on the Court House second  
stairs also one similar on the door of the House  
of Representatives on the Store door of B R Paddy & Son  
Says he & his brother lay on Thomas A Brown  
on the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 1857 —

Lyonsville & arrived to before me this 24<sup>th</sup>  
day of Nov 1882  
N. H. Hammett  
County Judge

9  
En el nombre de las Santísima Trinidad Padre  
Hijo y Espíritu Santo tres personas distintas  
y un solo Dios verdadero Jho. Juan Bernat  
creyendo como verdaderamente creo todos artículos  
y misterios de Nuestras Santas fe Católica en  
cuya creencia presento viva y reverencia como  
verdadero Católico expresando en la Divina  
Magistratura y he de tener misericordia de mis  
culpas en la vida veniente y luego del fin de  
mi vida el uno de mil ochocientos ochenta  
y siete años habiendo gravemente sufrido en  
las enfermedades que la Divina providencia  
ha tenido a bien mandarme después de  
siete años curas de haberme gustado o ha-  
biendo hallado como gozo de justicia de con-  
ducir a disponer de mis bienes antes de  
morir en la mejor forma posible y a  
falta de escribirme publico auxilio con-  
puesado el Ser Dios de Paz de este  
Contrato (Jho. Joaquín Estudillo a quien  
he pedido y delante de los mismos  
testigos escriba el siguiente mi Testamento  
y por mismo vez a dictar en la forma  
siguiente  
Primeramente entrego mi alma en manos  
de Jesus Cristo mi Metente tener en  
mi peregrinación Dios que lo crea y lo  
pueda y por los méritos dignidad de sus  
sacrosantos Sacramentos de la Eucaristía en los  
cuales he recibido limpiado y lavado de  
todas manchas de pecado pues quiero  
morir hijo fiel de la Santa Iglesia Católica  
Apostólica Romana  
Luego mande que mi cuerpo sea enterrado  
en la Iglesia de S. Francisco en uno  
de los S. de una mejor de piedad y que

10  
en suplicas es mi alma se me digan los  
mi esposa tenga a bien mandarme  
que declare ser casado con M<sup>a</sup> Encarnación  
Lito en los y me a dado su D. M. Lito  
hijos hombres y una mujer de cinco años  
de edad  
Luego mande y es mi voluntad que mi esposa  
M<sup>a</sup> Encarnación Lito sea dueña absoluta  
de la mitad de mis bienes de hecho y  
acciones con todos los muebles de mi casa  
para sus alimentos y mantención y en  
curar a todos mis hijos y cumplir con  
ellas estas mis últimas voluntades lo mismo  
que si fuese por mi persona  
Luego deduje y es mi voluntad mandarme  
y nombro en efecto por Alcaides y deutor  
de este mi Testamento y últimas voluntades  
a mi esposa M<sup>a</sup> Encarnación Lito por  
primer lugar por primer Alcaide y  
tenedora de mis bienes de hecho tener  
derecho y acciones facultades para celar  
y guardar de los puntos de todos los  
bienes correspondientes a ellas y a nuestros  
hijos como también para hacerlas cum-  
plir estas mis últimas disposiciones tes-  
tamentarias  
Joualante deduje por Segundo Alcaide  
a mi tío Antonio María Peraltá quien  
abrará en caso de ser en un todo  
unido a mi primer Alcaide  
Luego deduje tener un Portero de  
unos Seguros y medio en Compensación  
de otro tanto que tiene D. Joaquín  
Moragas en el mismo terreno el que es  
mi voluntad dejar a mi esposa a quien  
he dado todos mis derechos y acciones



# Gold Rush Era: 1848 to 1855

---

- During the Gold Rush Era many new settlers came to the West.
- The new California residents needed places to live for the evolving gold rush-centered economy.
- Land grants were sometimes occupied by settlers, boom towns evolved, and money changed hands in different ways than before.
- The economy changed, the culture changed, the government changed, and land use and land recording processes changed.

# California as a U.S. State



California Statehood in 1850 is a significant turning point for land records.



Changes include:



U.S., State, and County courts and land survey systems



Mapping



Land Use



Land Owners

# Mapping Land

Maps define property boundaries but the way the boundaries are described in California is not static. Mapping has changed with different cultural influences, different governments, and different interests. Below are examples from Alta California and from early years in California under U.S. government.

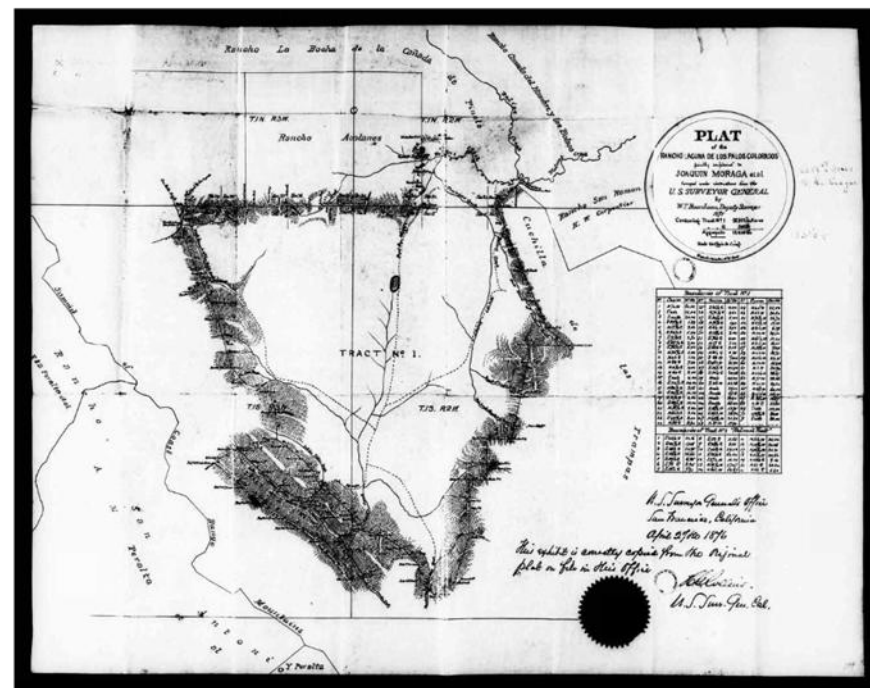
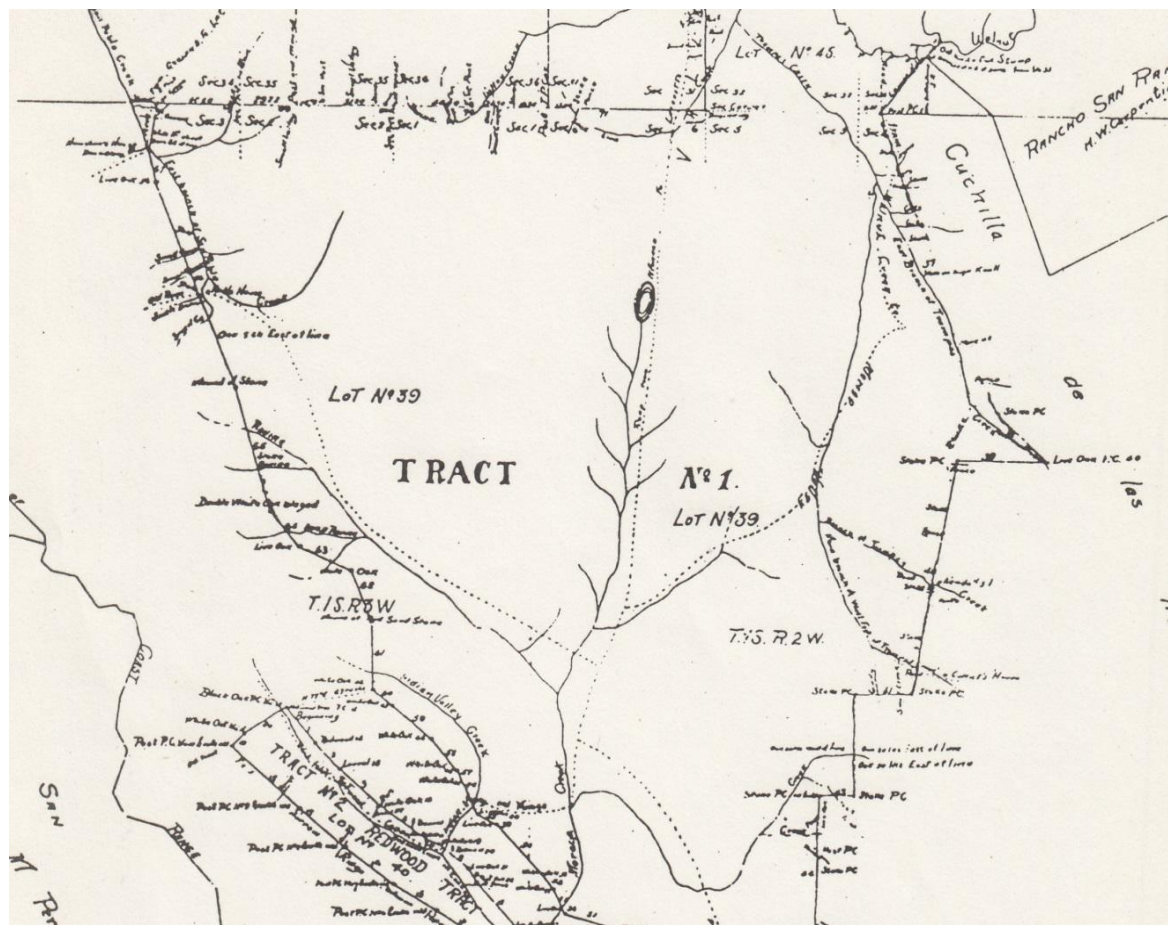
## Spanish and Mexican Maps



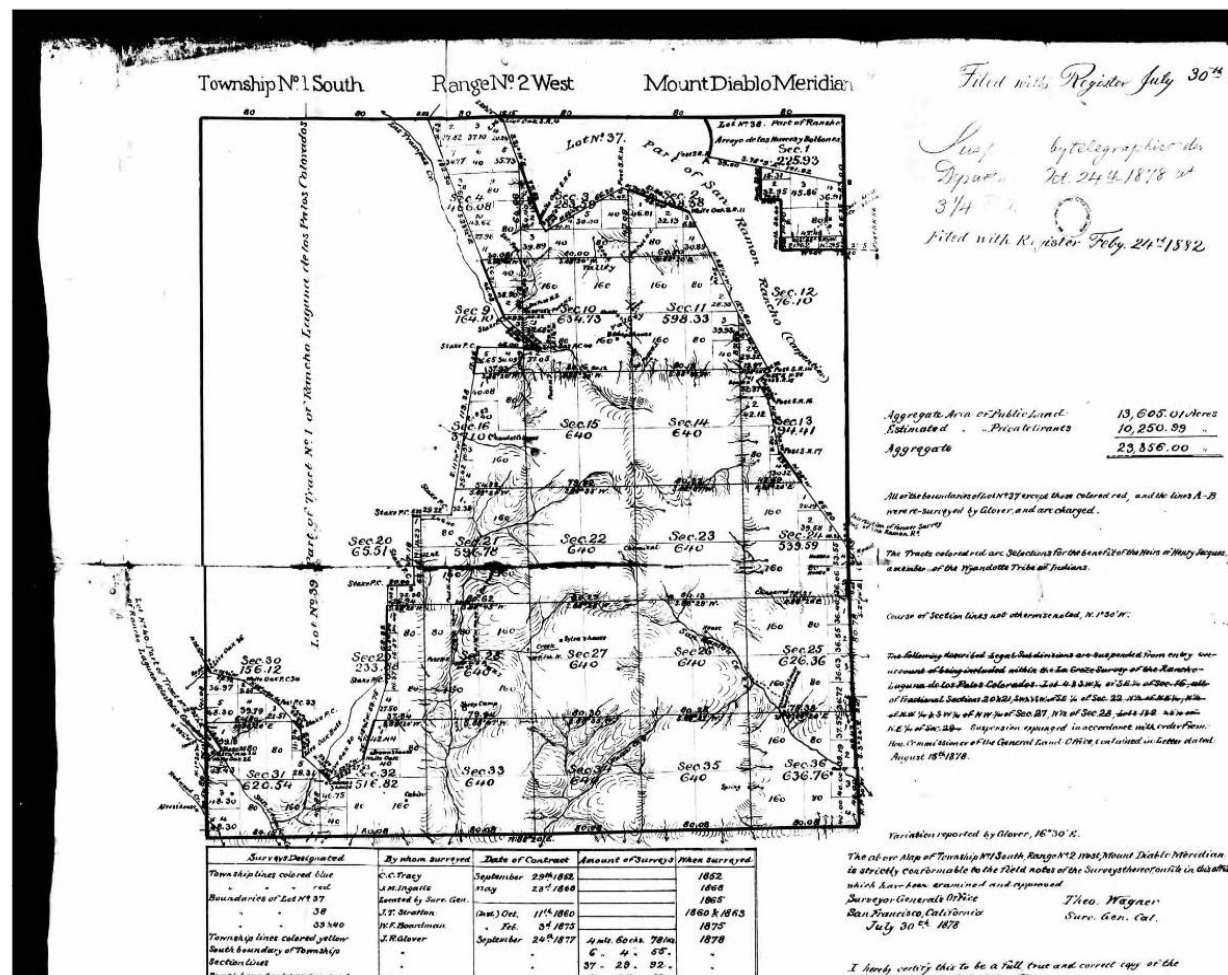
## U.S. Survey Maps



Source for images: *Online Archive of California*.

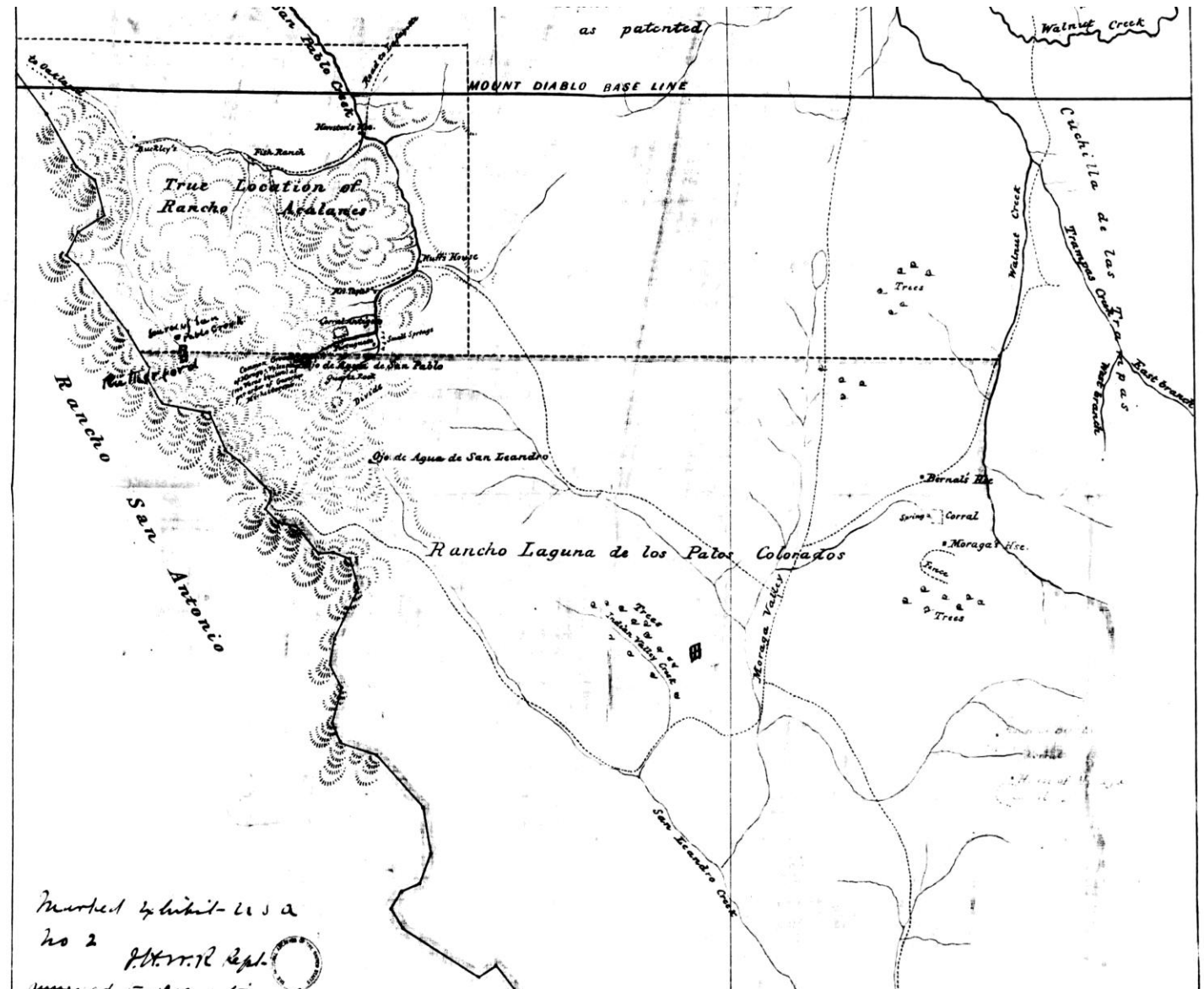


# Map from 1878 in land claim docket



# Map by Ferdinand Von Leicht in land claim docket

The Moraga and Bernal adobes are clearly marked on the Canyon road. Phineas Harrington stated the Moraga residence was one and a half miles further west from Walnut Creek than shown here.



# Bureau of Land Management Records

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PRIVATE CLAIMS.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

General Land Office Records



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Patents

Note: An *Italic* entry denotes data that has not been indexed against the land patent document, and has no image.

| Image                                                 | Accession                     | Names ↑                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Date      | Doc #   | State | Meridian     | Twp - Rng   | Aliquots | Sec. # | County       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|--------------|-------------|----------|--------|--------------|
| ---                                                   | <a href="#">CACAAA 002067</a> |  BERNAL, GUADALUPE,<br> BERNAL, INCARNACION,<br> BERNAL, JUAN,<br> BERNAL, MARIA REYES,<br> BERNAL, NICHOLAS,<br> MORAGA, JOAQUIN | 8/10/1878 | PLC 123 | CA    | Mount Diablo | 001N - 002W |          | 32     | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001N - 002W |          | 33     | Contra Costa |
| ---                                                   | <a href="#">CACAAA 137274</a> |  BERNAL, JUAN HEIRS OF,<br> MORAGA, JOAQUIN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 8/10/1878 | PLC 123 | CA    | Mount Diablo | 001S - 002W |          | 4      | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 5      | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 6      | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 7      | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 8      | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 9      | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 10     | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 16     | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 17     | Contra Costa |
|                                                       |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              | 001S - 002W |          | 18     | Contra Costa |
| ...document contains 23 additional land descriptions. |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |         |       |              |             |          |        |              |

Source: U.S.  
Department of the  
Interior Bureau of  
Land Management

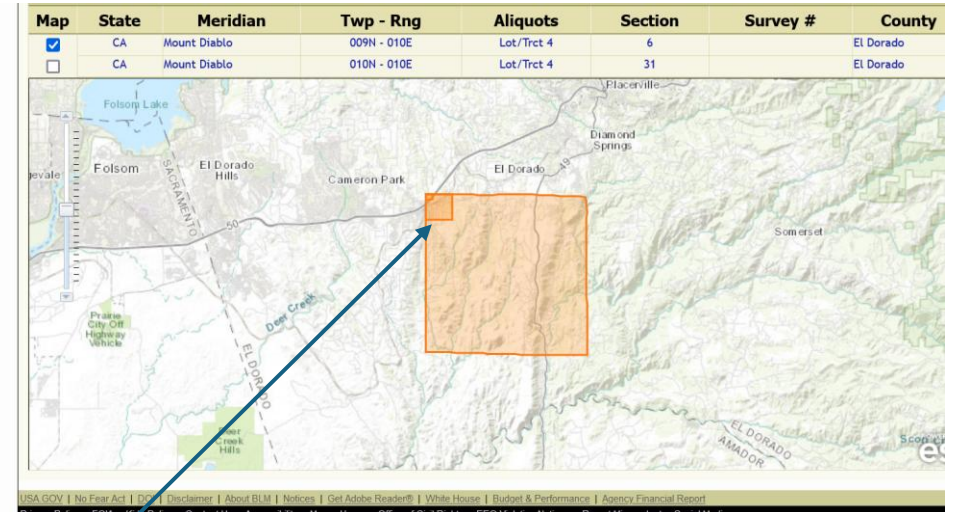
# General Land Office Records at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Land Patents are searchable by State and county and name of patentee

The image of the patent document as pdf. can be downloaded

The record includes the residence of the applicant and the date of the patent

For some entries it is possible to see exactly where the land was located on a map



## Deeds and Deed Indexes

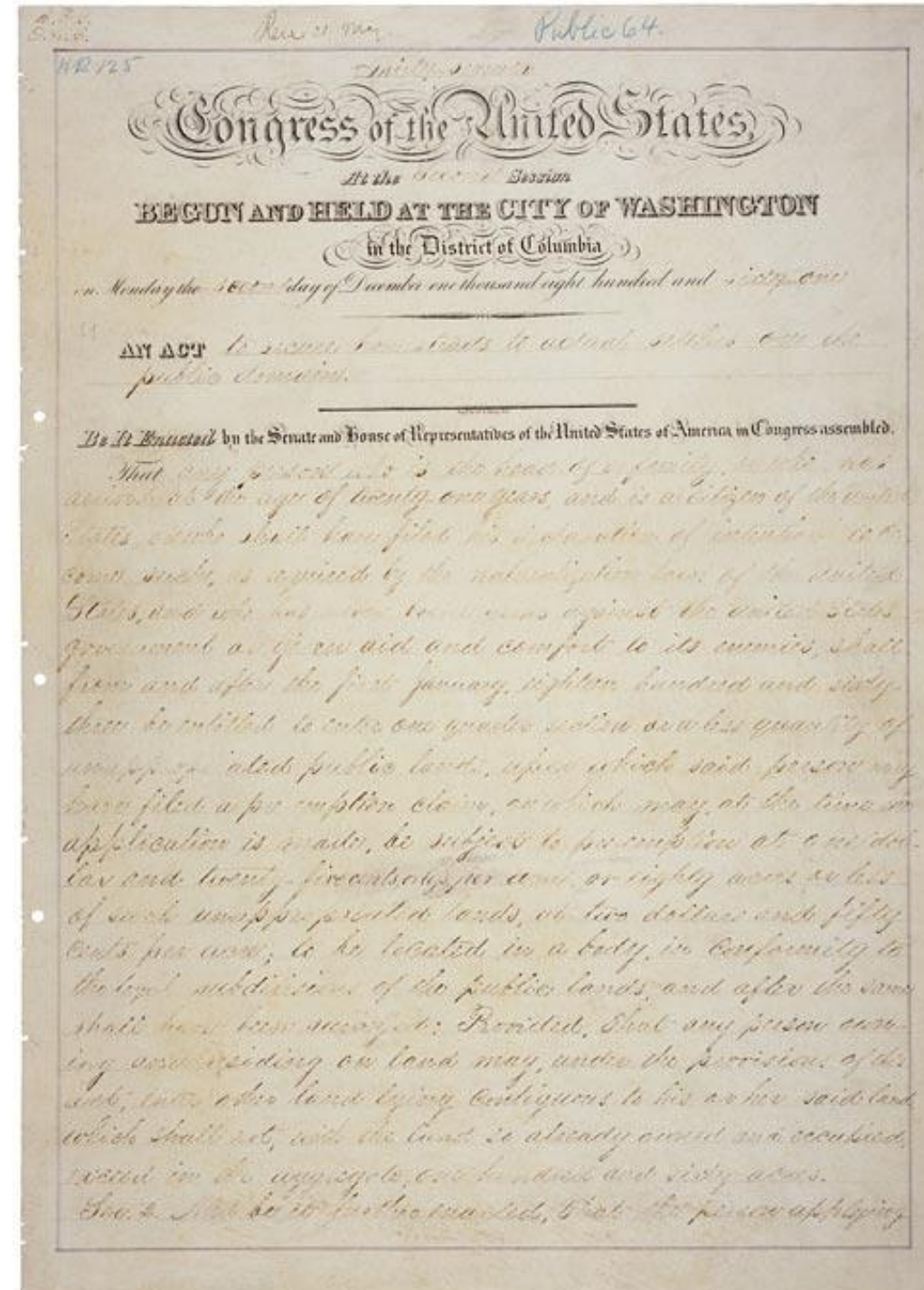
- Property deeds indicate the names of the grantor and grantee, the date of the transaction, and include a description of the property.
- Many property deeds have indexes but the pages of the deeds themselves are not accessible via indexes and must be found by browse. Review the indexes to narrow down the results.
- Property deeds for California are sometimes listed in the county catalog index at FamilySearch.
- California State Archives holds county records for the years 1850–1987, including deeds and homesteads for 28 counties. Not all records are available for all counties.
- The deeds may be available at the county clerk and recorder office. The entries may or may not be digitally indexed.
- Local historical societies have many types of records and may have deed transcripts or deeds or may have leads on where to locate the deeds.



# Homestead Act

- The Homestead Act of 1862 encouraged westward movement and settlement.
- Adult heads of families could obtain 160 acres of surveyed public land.
- Requirements included living on the land and making changes on it, such as erecting structures, farming (all improvements).
- Options for obtaining land included living on the land for 5 years while improving it, and then paying a registration fee, or living on the land for a short time, making small improvements, and paying a fee per acre of the land.

Source: National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov>)



[illegible]

Legend:

- Homestead Records Online
- Homestead Records Not Online
- Non-Homestead State

- Homestead Files include details of when the claimant entered the land, what buildings were built on it, how the land was used, and often, the make-up of the family unit. The details vary from record to record.
- Pre-1908 homestead records for California can be requested from National Archives in Washington D.C.
- To order the records you need to know the name of the homesteader, the state in which the land is located, and an approximate date the homesteader entered the land.
- These details may be found at the Bureau of Land Management, where you can see if a land patent was issued as a homestead patent. The date, place, and name will be on the indexed record.
- Some homestead records are available in other locations, including California Archives and at Family History Centers.

Legend:

- Homestead Records Online
- Homestead Records Not Online
- Non-Homestead State

# Pre-Emption Act

- The Pre-Emption Act of 1841 in the U.S. provided for claiming land as personal property.
- The requirement dovetailed with the interests of squatters: improve the land and then purchase up to 160 acres at \$1.25 per acre before the land was offered for sale to the public
- The applicant had to be a single man over the age of 21 or a woman, widowed; a citizen or intending to become a citizen, and had to live on the land for at least 14 months



# Land Claims After Statehood: Example

State of California }  
County of Contra Costa }  
R. G. Thomas being  
first duly sworn, deposes and says that he  
is a citizen of the United States, and that he  
has located and taken up by virtue of the  
possessory law of said State, approved April  
20th 1852 and of the Act amendatory thereof  
one hundred and sixty acres of what he claims  
to be Government land - situated, lying and  
being in the said County of Contra Costa,  
and bounded and described as follows to wit:  
The N. E. 1/4 Sec 31 T 2. N. R 1 E Mount  
Diablo Meridian. Deposant says the  
aforesaid boundaries do not embrace more  
than one hundred and sixty acres of  
land, and that he holds no other claim  
under the aforesaid act and the amendments  
thereof, approved March 7th 1854, and to the  
best of his knowledge and belief, said lands  
is not claimed under any existing title.  
Subscribed and sworn to }  
before me this 1st day of Nov } R. G. Thomas  
1869. G. L. Mattinger }  
County Clerk. }

# Reese G. Thomas

Accession Nr: [CA0090\\_\\_490](#) Document Type: [State Volume Patent](#) State: [California](#) Issue Date: [11/3/1876](#) Cancelled: [No](#)

## Patent Details

## Patent Image

## Related Documents

### Names On Document

[P](#) THOMAS, MARGARET G,  
[P](#) THOMAS, REESE G

Military Rank: ---

### Miscellaneous Information

|                       |                                                               |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land Office:          | <a href="#">San Francisco</a>                                 |
| US Reservations:      | <a href="#">No</a>                                            |
| Mineral Reservations: | <a href="#">No</a>                                            |
| Tribe:                | <a href="#">---</a>                                           |
| Militia:              | <a href="#">---</a>                                           |
| State In Favor Of:    | <a href="#">---</a>                                           |
| Authority:            | <a href="#">April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566)</a> |
| General Remarks:      | <a href="#">Heirs</a>                                         |

### Document Numbers

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Document Nr:      | <a href="#">5852</a>          |
| Misc. Doc. Nr:    | <a href="#">---</a>           |
| BLM Serial Nr:    | <a href="#">CACAAA 031380</a> |
| Indian Allot. Nr: | <a href="#">---</a>           |
| Coal Entry. Nr:   | <a href="#">---</a>           |

### Survey Information

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Total Acres:     | <a href="#">160.00</a> |
| Survey Date:     | <a href="#">---</a>    |
| Geographic Name: | <a href="#">---</a>    |
| Metes/Bounds:    | <a href="#">No</a>     |

## California's Gold

California Birth Index covers 1905-1995

Search at:

- [californiabirthindex.org](http://californiabirthindex.org)
- FamilySearch
- Ancestry®

California Birth Index includes

- Child's name
- Gender
- Birth date
- Birth county
- Mother's maiden name



Source: facebook

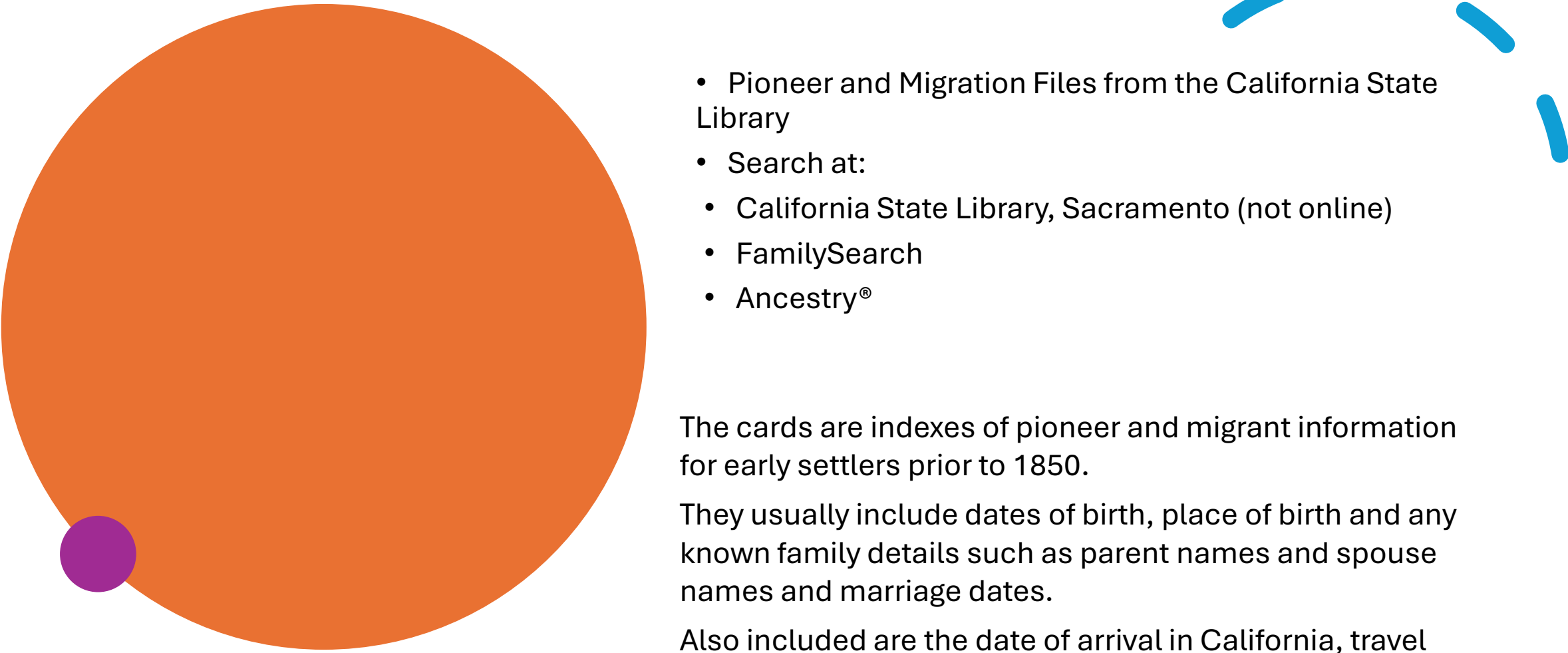
# Census 1852

| SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in the County of <u>Contra Costa</u><br><u>Eleventh</u> day of <u>September</u> 1852. <u>Saml. L. Maurick</u> Census Ag't for the |              |          |                           |                                  |                                          |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Names of Persons of every Description.                                                                                                                    | Description. |          |                           | Profession, trade or occupation. | Place of Birth, naming State or Country. | Last residence.    |
|                                                                                                                                                           | Age.         | Sex.     | White, Black, or Mulatto. |                                  |                                          |                    |
| 1                                                                                                                                                         | 2            | 3        | 4                         | 5                                | 6                                        | 7                  |
| 1 <u>Wm. Davis</u>                                                                                                                                        | <u>32</u>    | <u>M</u> | <u>W</u>                  | <u>Sawmillman</u>                | <u>Ohio</u>                              | <u>Ohio</u>        |
| 2 <u>Chas. Cate</u>                                                                                                                                       | <u>27</u>    |          |                           | <u>Laborer</u>                   | <u>Ohio</u>                              | <u>Augen</u>       |
| 3 <u>Wm. J. Hendricks</u>                                                                                                                                 | <u>20</u>    |          |                           | <u>Carpenter</u>                 | <u>Florida</u>                           | <u>N. H. Mass.</u> |
| 4 <u>R. W. Chase</u>                                                                                                                                      | <u>33</u>    |          |                           | <u>Laborer</u>                   | <u>Ohio</u>                              | <u>Mass.</u>       |
| 5 <u>Sam. Smith</u>                                                                                                                                       | <u>43</u>    |          |                           | <u>Cook</u>                      | <u>N York</u>                            | <u>N York</u>      |

# Census 1852

|    |                          |    |               |       |          |            |               |   |   |   |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------|-------|----------|------------|---------------|---|---|---|
| 33 | Joaquin Monaga           | 59 |               |       | Ranchero | California | Redwood Ranch | 1 |   | 1 |
| 34 | Jose Jesus Monaga        | 30 |               |       | do       |            |               | 1 |   | 1 |
| 35 | Lucia B. Monaga          | 9  | $\frac{1}{4}$ |       |          |            |               |   | 1 |   |
| 36 | Victoriano Monaga        | 0  |               |       |          |            |               |   | 1 | . |
| 37 | Marc <sup>a</sup> Monaga | 6  |               |       |          |            |               |   | 1 |   |
| 38 | Gabriel Monaga           | 4  | $\frac{1}{2}$ |       |          |            |               | 1 |   |   |
| 39 | Eudocio Monaga           | 3  | $\frac{1}{4}$ |       |          |            |               |   | 1 | . |
| 40 | Joaquin Monaga           | 2  | $\frac{1}{2}$ |       |          |            |               | 1 |   |   |
| 41 | Salas Monaga             | 1  | $\frac{1}{4}$ |       |          |            |               |   | 1 |   |
| 42 | Maria C. C. Monaga       | 25 |               | White |          |            |               |   | 1 |   |

## More of California's Gold

- 
- Pioneer and Migration Files from the California State Library
  - Search at:
    - California State Library, Sacramento (not online)
    - FamilySearch
    - Ancestry®

The cards are indexes of pioneer and migrant information for early settlers prior to 1850.

They usually include dates of birth, place of birth and any known family details such as parent names and spouse names and marriage dates.

Also included are the date of arrival in California, travel details, and more.

# Great Register

28

THE GREAT REGISTER OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, 1892.

| No.  | Voted. | NAME.               | Ballot No. | Height.      | Complexion. | Color of Eyes. | Color of Hair. | VISIBLE MARKS OR SCARRIF ANY, AND THEIR LOCALITY. | OCCUPATION. | Country of Nativity. | PLACE OF RESIDENCE. | PRECINCT.       | P. O. ADDRESS. | NATURALIZED.                       | DATE OF REGISTRATION. |
|------|--------|---------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|      |        |                     |            |              |             |                |                |                                                   |             |                      |                     |                 |                | DATE, PLACE AND COURT.             |                       |
| 1991 |        | Miller, William L.  |            | 43 5ft 8 in  | Fair        | Blue.          | Brown.         | Middle finger left hand stiff.                    | Bricklayer. | Illinois             | Martinez            | Martinez No. 2. | Martinez       |                                    | Aug. 23, 1892         |
| 1992 |        | Miner, James Ogden  |            | 57 5ft 11    | Dark        | Brown          | Dark           |                                                   | Farmer      | Connecticut          | Orinda Park         | Lafayette       | Orinda Park    |                                    | Aug. 23, 1892         |
| 1993 |        | Mylhare, Patrick    |            | 66 5ft 5 1/2 | Fair        | Gray           | Brown.         |                                                   | Farmer.     | Ireland              | Antioch             | Lone Tree       | Antioch        | Oct. 27, 1866, San Fran U. S. Cir. | Aug. 23, 1892         |
| 1994 |        | Matheson, Alexander |            | 50 6ft       | Fair        | Hazel          | Dark           | Scar left hand                                    | Farmer.     | Ireland              | Diablo Valley.      | Concord         | Concord        | Oct. 26, 1876, San Fran 19th Dist. | Aug. 24, 1892         |
|      |        |                     |            |              |             |                |                |                                                   | Farmer      | Austria              | Concord             | Concord         | Concord        | June 21, 1892, Contra Costa Sup.   | Aug. 24, 1892         |

- Best Practices For Researching Individuals of the Past
- Create a Plan
  - Begin with the known and work towards the unknown
  - Begin with the local region and expand searches as warranted
  - Evaluate the availability of records for the region
    - Research Wiki
    - FamilySearch catalog: county level
    - County Clerk

# Research Wiki

## Contra Costa County, California Genealogy

[United States](#) → [California](#) → [Contra Costa County](#)

Guide to **Contra Costa County, California** ancestry, genealogy and family history, birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, family history, and military records.

### Contents <sup>[hide]</sup>

- 1 [County Information](#)
  - 1.1 [Description](#)
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  - 1.3 [Contra Costa County, California Record Dates](#)
  - 1.4 [Record Loss](#)
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  - 1.6 [Populated Places](#)
  - 1.7 [History Timeline](#)
- 2 [Resources](#)
  - 2.1 [Bible Records](#)
  - 2.2 [Biographies](#)
  - 2.3 [Business, Commerce, and Occupations](#)
  - 2.4 [Cemeteries](#)
  - 2.5 [Census Records](#)
  - 2.6 [Church Records](#)
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  - 2.13 [Guardianship](#)
  - 2.14 [Land and Property Records](#)
  - 2.15 [Local Histories](#)
  - 2.16 [Maps and Gazetteers](#)
  - 2.17 [Migration](#)

### County Information <sup>[edit | edit source]</sup>

#### Description <sup>[edit | edit source]</sup>

Contra Costa County was created 18 Feb 1850<sup>[1]</sup> and means "opposite coast" in the Spanish language; it is located opposite San Francisco, in an easterly direction, on the San Francisco Bay.<sup>[2]</sup> Its county seat is Martinez. It is located in the west-central area of the state.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### County Courthouse <sup>[edit | edit source]</sup>

##### Contra Costa County

725 Court Sreet

Martinez, CA 94553

Phone: 925-608-1000

[Contra Costa County Website](#)<sup>↗</sup>

County Recorder has birth and death records.

County Clerk has marriage, divorce, probate and court records. <sup>[4]</sup>

#### Contra Costa County, California Record Dates <sup>[edit | edit source]</sup>

Information for this chart was taken from various sources, often containing conflicting dates. This information should be taken as a guide and should be verified by contacting the county and/or the state government agency.

| Known Beginning Dates for Government County Records <sup>[5]</sup>                         |          |        |       |      |         |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------|
| Birth*                                                                                     | Marriage | Death* | Court | Land | Probate | Census |
| 1850                                                                                       | 1850     | 1850   | 1850  | 1850 | 1850    | 1850   |
| *Statewide registration for births and deaths started in 1905. General compliance by 1920. |          |        |       |      |         |        |

“Contra Costa County, California Genealogy,” Research Wiki, *FamilySearch*, accessed November 2024.

Always consult, or rule out as unnecessary:

- Census
- Voting
- Tax
- City or Region Directories
- Death records
- Birth records
- Marriage records or announcements
- Probate
- Newspapers, including obituaries
- Biographies in local histories, at *GenWeb*, *Wikipedia*, historical society publications or “puff pieces” in publications for a region
- Religious records
- Naturalization, immigration, migration
- Land records
- Court records
- Military records

# Contra Costa County Historical Society

- Online records, including maps
- County records, including tax assessor books from 1850 through 1910
- Court records
- Naturalizations from 1850, including naturalizations of residents of land grants
- Photographs

# Holdings of Vertical Files

- Legal documents, including probate records
- Biographies
- Photos
- Family group sheets
- Vital record and church record copies
- Newspaper clippings
- Ledgers
- Letters

# California Genealogical Society

- California Genealogical Society has extensive collections and a large library. There is a special California Room collection. The entire CGS book collection can be searched at *WorldCat*.
- The organization also has many events and special interest groups.
- A great, informative newsletter with historical articles, information on events and more.
- Tours to places like the Peralta Hacienda.
- Classes, including classes taught by representatives from Californios.
- The website has a CGS Names Index containing more than 410,000 records. Included are biographies, death records in San Francisco, cemetery records, probate records, church records, and voter registers from 1890.
- Additionally, you can search a manuscript collection, a vertical file index, a pedigree charts index, and more.

Thank you for participating!

Contact: Susan  
Skilton:  
[sskilton@gmail.com](mailto:sskilton@gmail.com)

Please share your  
great finds, ideas,  
questions and  
comments!