

FREE

The Travels AND Accomplishments of Francisco Salvador B  jar 1790 to 1824



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INTRODUCTION

The data contained in this booklet was gathered from many sources. I have printed books and charts of the Béjar/Véjar genealogy in 1990, 1994 and 1996.

This book, printed in 1999, contains additional data not printed in previous books. The genealogy chart printed in 1976 had 171 names. The primary research in that chart was accomplished by Gail Dormer Smith, aided by sisters, Nancy Jones Tyson and Martha Jones Coxe.

With the publication of the 1999 chart, the number of names has grown to 1,058 names—all related, although some quite distant. The surnames range literally from A to Z—Abrenica to Zamora.

The data on the movement and accomplishments of Francisco Salvador Béjar was extracted from a book entitled *"Building and Builders in Hispanic California—1769-1850"*. This book was generously donated by Mimi Lozano Holtzman, president of the *Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research*.

I would like to mention that the names of the Rodriguez and Perez families was researched and furnished by Dennis Grimes, Jr.

Hispanic surnames connected with Salvador Béjar

ABRENICA	GARCIA	ORTEGA	SANDAVAL
ACUNIA	GONZALEZ	ORTEZ	SOLORIO
ARMENTA	LENARES	PADILLA	SOTO
ARRILA	LEON	PALOMARES	TERASAS
AVILA	LÓPEZ	PERALTA	TORRES
BÉJAR	LUGO	PEREZ	TRIANA
CABOS	MARRUJO	PEREZ-NIETO	URQUIDEZ
CARDENAS	MARTINEAU	PICO	VALENSUELA
CASTENEDA	MARTINEZ	REYES	VÉJAR
CASTILLO	MEDINA	RIVERA	VELESQUEZ
CATLIN	MEDIOLA	RODRIGUES	VELEZ
CONTRERAS	MEZA	SAINZ	VERDUGO
COTA	MUNGUIA	SALCADO	VILLALOBO
ECHEVARIA	NIEBLAS	SAMORA	ZAMORA
ESPINOSA	NUNEZ	SANCHEZ	
ESTRADA	OCHOA	SANDAVAL	
FELIZ	ORNELAS	SOLORIO	

FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR and MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ

1772-1824

1784-1863

Founders of the Béjar/Véjar families in Alta California

Francisco Salvador Béjar was the son of Salvador Béjar and Josefa Petra Castellanos Ornelas.

María Josefa Benita López was the daughter of Juan Francisco López. He came to California with Gaspar de Portolá and Fray Junipero Serra.

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The information was assembled by the fifth generation descendant of  
Francisco Salvador and María Josefa Benita,  
William Gradwell Taylor, II.  
August, 1999

FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ  
FOUNDERS OF THE BÉJAR/VÉJAR FAMILIES IN ALTA CALIFORNIA

Francisco Salvador Béjar or Salvador, as he was called, came from Tepic, Mexico. His father was Salvador Béjar, his mother was Josefa Petra Castellanos Ornelas. They were from Mexico, also. Salvador married María Josefa Benita López at the Mission San Gabriel on October 14, 1798. They had five daughters and eight sons..

In 1790, Salvador was sent by contract as an artisan and leather jacket soldier to Alta California by the Catholic Church. He worked as a contract carpenter on Fort Guijarros, which is now known as Ballast Point, San Diego, California. He also worked on the San Diego Presidio and Mission San Diego de Alcalá. He was a Soldado de Cuero (leather jacket soldier) traveling with the Catholic priests on their northern trek from Tepic, Mexico.

During his contract period, he worked on the altars of La Plaza Church in Los Angeles, Missions San Gabriel and San Juan Capistran. He probably carved the Santos used in the chapel at Rancho San José that was owned by his son, Ricardo.

In August of 1796, Salvador was sent by Governor Diego de Borca to Mission San José to

construct machinery for processing hemp fibers. Because of his work at Mission San Gabriel, he was familiar with this type of construction. Mission San Gabriel, he was familiar with this type of construction.

Before 1820, Salvador returned to San Diego. During that time he was summoned by Governor Colonel Pablo de Vicente de Sola to go to the Santa Barbara Mission to prepare fireworks (he was a Master of Fireworks) for the two-day celebration marking the completion of the five-year construction of the mission, according to a book by Maynard Geiger, entitled *Mission Santa Barbara 1782-1925*, on page 46. The request for his presence was made by Fathers Suner and Ripoll on June 20, 1820. They also requested the Governor to be the Padrino or sponsor.

Salvador and his wife were the founders of the Béjar/Véjar family in Southern California.

He died as Spanish rule evolved into Mexican rule, and was buried at San Gabriel Mission on March 28, 1824.

The Census of Inhabitants of California, 1769-1800, list Salvador Béjar and Pablo Béjar, Salvador's brother, as carpenters.

FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ  
FOUNDERS of the Béjar/Véjar Families in Alta California



Reproduction of  
Salvador's signature

*Salvador Béjar*

**PREFACE**

The Master Carpenter Salvador Béjar had a hobby as a rocket-maker. He put together spectacular fireworks for the dedication of Santa Barbara's new church in 1820 that included a bullfight and a castle.

**PART II, PAGE 13**

The carpenter Salvador Béjar, who had been employed as a civilian up until 1797 enlisted as a soldier-carpenter in May of that year, perhaps upon fulfilling his contract as carpenter and to take advantage of the better pay of the soldier.

**(Note: When Salvador came to Alta California, his brother, Pablo came with him).**

**PART II, PAGE 16**

Pablo Béjar was in California for ten years, but later returned on temporary assignments.

This is a wooden statue that was said to be carved by Salvador Béjar. It was in the Ricardo Véjar chapel, on the Rancho San José. It is now on display at the Palomares Adobe in Pomona, California.

**PART II, PAGE 24, 25**

One who may have been actively involved in erecting the new church at San Buenaventura, was Salvador Béjar. He was at the Presidio San Diego during the building years. Family tradition holds that he had a hand in its construction and that claim may be substantiated by the 1823 census of the pueblo that reported his household in "compliance with the church project," although the phrase could refer to an imposed tithe. Béjar had reached retirement age by then and may have been in failing health since he died in 1824.

**PART II, PAGE 31**

Salvador Béjar's widow, María Josefa López, had two orphans living in her household along with her sons in 1836. (The sons were probably Juan Crisostomo and José Manuel, the two youngest sons.)

The bricklayer-mason José María Aguilar was brother-in-law to a son of the carpenter Salvador Béjar.

The carpenter Salvador Béjar was witness to the marriage of a daughter of the smith Felipe Garcia Romero.

The carpenter Pablo Béjar witnessed the marriage of a son of the mason Basilio Rosas.

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*PART II, PAGE 33*

The celebration held at the dedication of the new (1820) church at Santa Bárbara included feasting, music, and fireworks made by the master carpenter Salvador Béjar.

*PART II, PAGE 55*

**José Pablo Béjar**

Master ship's Carpenter

Origin: Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico

Identity: Spainard

Parents: Salvador Béjar and Josefa Ornelas

Wife: María Josefa Miramontes

**California Record:**

1791-1798. Appears to have been at Santa Cruz, Alta California, throughout this period, except for either two visits or a temporary stay at San Gabriel. He was first recorded at Santa Cruz on November 27, 1781 when he and (his brother) Salvador Béjar, then an employee of the mission, were godfather at a baptism. Pablo was affiliated with the Department of San Blas. At baptisms on March 16 and June 30, 1792 Pablo was identified as an employee of the mission.

1796. Pablo Béjar, "master carpenter of Tepic, : served as godfather to baptisms at San Gabriel on January. 5 and May 24. On January 5 he was also a witness to the marriage of José Marcelino Rosas, son of the mason Bisilio, and María Béjar, a neophyte. At the time Pablo was identified as a widower.

December 24, 1797. Marriage at Santa Cruz of Pablo Béjar, carpenter from Tepic (son of Salvador Béjar and Josefa Ornelas)

and Maria Josefa Miramontes, resident of the Villa de Branciforte.

March 29, 1798. Béjar was witness to a marriage at Santa Cruz.

1800-1801. José Pablo Béjar and/or María Josefa Miramontes served as godparents at Mission San José. December 4, 11 and 19, 1800: January 2, April 13, 22, May 5, 9, June 7, July 8, August 18, 1801. In the latter entry Béjar was identified as the carpenter.

June 24, 1803. Pablo Josef Béjar, carpenter of the sloop *Orcasitas* from San Blas, "ploughing the seas in these parts" and his sister-in-law, Josefa López, wife of Salvador Béjar, served as godparents at Mission San Diego.

Oct. 20, 1807. Pablo Béjar, first carpenter of the brigantine *Activo* signed a receipt for 18 pesos 3 reales for twenty-seven days work on the battery and fort of Guijarros. He was there with the permission of the Commandant of San Blas, Don Juan Carrasco. His brother Salvador also worked on the refortification.

**Note:** The Master Carpenter should not be confused with his nephew and namesake Pablo Béjar, son of Salvador.

**Summary of California Career:**

From 1791 through 1801 Pablo Béjar attached to the Department of San Blas, was on duty in Alta California: at Santa Cruz or Branciforte from 1791 through 1798 and at mission San José 1800-1801. He then apparently returned to San Blas and the role of ship's carpenter, positions which he held

**FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ**  
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on temporary assignments to San Diego in 1803 and 1807.

**Salvador Béjar**

Soldier and Master Carpenter

Origin: Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico

Identity: Spainard

Dates: ca. 1767-1824

Parents: Salvador Béjar and Josefa Ornelas

Wife: María Josefa López

**California Career:**

November 27, 1791. Salvador Béjar, employee of Santa Cruz and his brother, Pablo Béjar, of the Department of San Blas, served as godfathers to a baptism at Santa Cruz.

1792-1795. Salvador was at San Diego (Bancroft 1964: 369)

September 22, 1796-May 7, 1797. The carpenter Béjar began work at the Presidio de Monterey on the earlier date, replacing Leocadio Martínez, who "was exiled by order of the viceroy." On the later date he left Monterey to serve as a soldier at San Diego (1796 Presidial roster. CA 74:unnumbered).

October 14, 1798. Marriage at San Diego of Salvador Béjar, soldier and carpenter of the Presidio de San Diego, native of Tepic (son of Salvador Béjar and María Josefa Ornelas) to María Josefa López, native of the Presidio de San Diego.

December 31, 1798 presidial roster of San Diego listed Salvador Béjar as a private (Prov. ST. Paps. Ben. Mil. II, SBPRL).

1802. Salvador Béjar and Felipe Romero,

the blacksmith, were engaged in the manufacture of conduits for drinkin gwater for the garrison at Point Guijarros. He signed the document verifying the project. (P.I. 16. Exp. 19: 458-475).

June 24, 1803. Josefa López, wife of Salvador Béjar, carpenter of the Presidio de San Diego, and [her brother-in-law] Josef Béjar served as godparents at Mission San Diego.

Dec. 20, 1804. In compliance with an order from the viceroy, Lt. Don Manuel Rodríguez, Commandant of the Presidio de San Diego, with a sargeant, a corporal, and the soldiers Salvador Béjar, carpenter, and Felipe Romero, blacksmith, burned the old boat that had been used to supply the garrison at Point Guijarros in order to salvage the iron. Béjar signed his name to the document attesting to his compliance with the order (P.I. Vol. 17:1-54).

May 12, 1805. Salvador Béjar was a witness to the marriage at Mission San Diego of a daughter of the blacksmith Phelipe García y Romero.

October 9, 1808. Salvador Béjar, "second corporal oof the California militia and parpenter," signed a receipt for 36 pesos for the construction of the *baluarte* (watch tower) at Point Guijarros for which he had labored for twenty-four days at a rate of 12 reales a day. His brother Pablo was also engaged in refortification of the site (P.I. 17:370-384).

1817. A leaking roof at San Luis Rey Mission was being repaired with the assistance of Master Salvador (Englehardt 1921: 35).

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September 3, 1817. "Master Salvador Béjar" and the masons were struggling to repair the roof on the church at San Luis Rey (Peyrí to Solá, CMD 1475, SBMAL).

1820. In preparation for the dedication of the new church (September 10, 1920), Father Ripoli asked the governor for permission to allow Salvador Béjar to come to Santa Bárbara for two months to make rockets (Englehardt 1923: 107).

1823 census of Los Angeles listed the household of Salvador Béjar and María Josefa López with children Ricardo, Emidio, Lazaro, Juan Crisostomo, María Názaria, and María Ramona (Temple VIII, SBMAL). The list drawn up the same year of persons who complied with the [construction of the] church listed the same personnel in the same order (CMD 2531, SBMAL).

November 22, 1823. Josefa López, wife of Salvador Béjar, and neighbor from Los Angeles, was godmother to a baptism at San Juan Capistrano.

March 27, 1824. Burial at San Gabriel of (Francisco) Salvador Béjar, 57 years, from Tepic (son of Salvador Béjar and Josefa Ornelas), former master carpenter from the Presidio de San Diego, and husband of María López, native of the said presidio and neighbor of Los Angeles.

1836 census of Los Angeles households listed that of Josefa López, 50. Still residing with their mother were Lazaro 20, Crisostomo 18, Manuel 18, and Francisco 11. The three older sons were identified as ranchers. Also in the household were

Dolores Verdugo 12, and Loreta Velásquez 8. All residents were identified as Angeleños. The older son Ricardo Véjar, 33, his wife María Francisca Soto and six children were residing at the Rancho rodeo de los Aguas (Temple VIII, SBMAL).

March 11, 1863. Burial in Los Angeles of Josefa López Véjar, 83, the widow of Salvador Béjar.

Note:

According to family tradition, Béjar was engaged in the construction of San Gabriel Mission as well as the Los Angeles church (May 4).

Summary of California Career:

1791. Salvador Béjar was employed by Mission Santa Cruz.

1792-1795. Béjar was at San Diego.

1796-1797. He was attached to the Presidio de Monterey from September 22, 1796 to May 7, 1797

May 1797-1822? He was attached to the Presidio de San Diego as a soldier-carpenter. The exact date of his retirement from the army is so far undetermined, but we can surmise that he enlisted for two ten and on five year stints which would put his retirement year in 1822. The highest rank he achieved was as "second corporal of the California militia" in 1808. In addition to construction work on the presidio proper and Point Guajarras, he is known to have been on temporary assignments to San Luis Rey (1817) and Santa Bárbara missions (1820).

FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ  
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1823. Béjar, apparently retired, was living with his family in Los Angeles.

1824. Béjar was buried at San Gabriel mission.

Upon completion of a new boat, the viceroy ordered on September 20, 1803 that the old one be burned in order to salvage the iron from it. In compliance with his order, the commandant of San Diego Lt. Don Manuel Rodríguez, with a sergeant, a corporal, and the privates Felipe Romero, blacksmith, and Salvador Béjar, carpenter, set fire to the old boat on December 20, 1804 and recovered forty-six pounds of nails and other iron. The commandant and four assistants all signed the document attesting to the deed (P.I. 17: 1-54).

Additional improvements at Point Guisjarros were undertaken in 1807 and 1808. Pablo Béjar first carpenter of the *brigantine Activo*, signed a receipt on October 20, 1807 for 18 pesos 3 reales for twenty-seven days work on construction at the battery and fort. On October 9, 1808 his brother Salvador Béjar, second corporal of the California Militia and carpenter, signed a receipt for 36 pesos for the construction of the *baluart*, or watch tower.

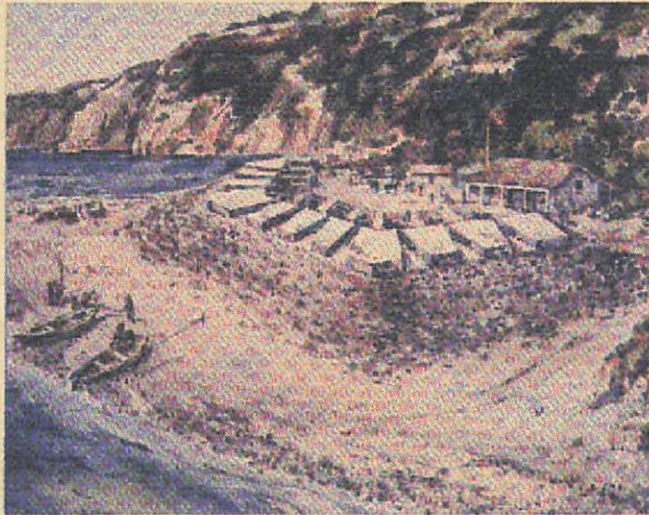
Another master carpenter, Salvador Béjar, was attached to the presidio from 1792 to 1795, and again from 1798 to 1821, and could have had a hand in mission projects

### APPENDIX

Artisans Connected with California Presidios  
1793-1805.

| Presidio  | Carpenter | Salary | Artisans                            |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 1793      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar         |
| 1794      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar         |
| 1795      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar         |
| 1796      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar         |
| 1797      |           |        |                                     |
| Monterey  | 1         | 180    | Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar         |
| 1798      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Soldier Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar |
| 1799      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Soldier Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar |
| 1800      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Soldier Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar |
| 1801      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Soldier Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar |
| 1802      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Soldier Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar |
| 1803      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Soldier Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar |
| 1804      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Soldier Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar |
| 1805      |           |        |                                     |
| San Diego | 1         | 180    | Soldier Carpenter<br>Salvador Béjar |

**FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ**  
FOUNDERS of the Béjar/Véjar Families in Alta California



This is an artist's conception of how Fort Guijarros looked

**FORT GUIJARROS**  
**SAN DIEGO'S OLD SPANISH FORT**  
Ballast Point, located on Point Loma,  
San Diego, California

- >The site of Spain's 1542 discovery of California
- >The site of Viscaino's 1602 visit to San Diego
- >The site of a 1796 Spanish cannon battery
- >The only Spanish-American ship-to-shore cannon battle in California's history.

**NOTE:** Both Salvador and Pablo Béjar worked at Fort Guijarros. (See page 5)

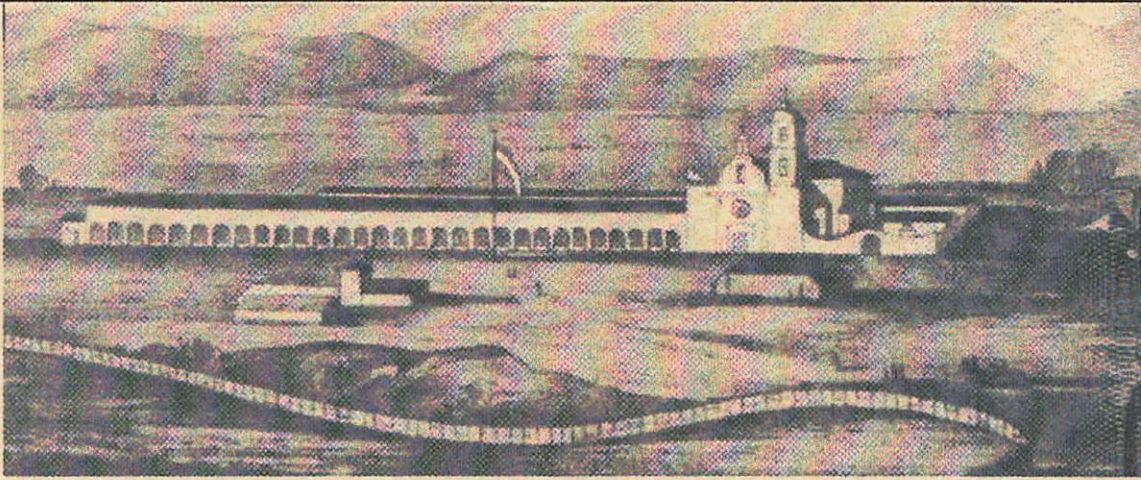
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MISIÓN de SAN DIEGO de ALCALÁ. 1851 from J. R. Bartlett's personal narrative.

On July 16, 1769, Junipero Serra dedicated the first Franciscan mission site in Alta California, Mexico.

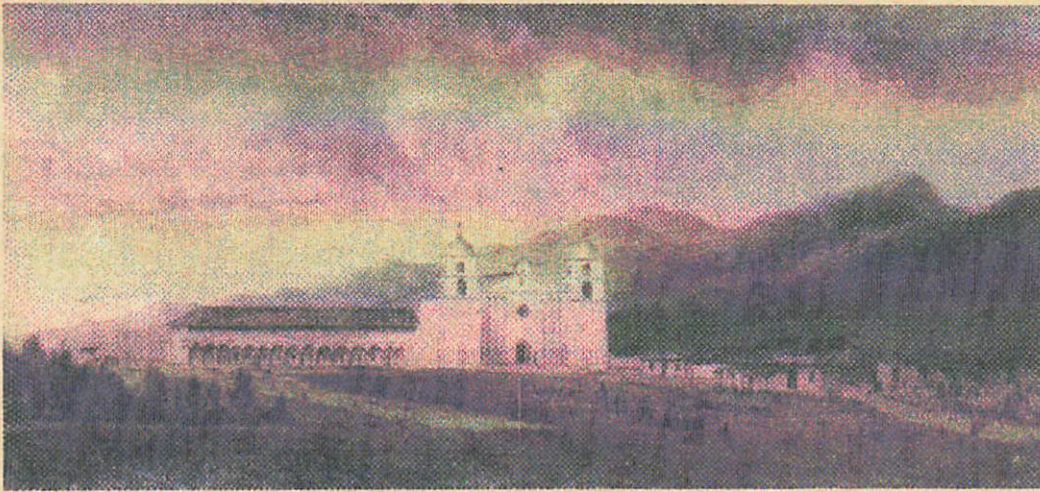
FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ  
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MISSION SAN LUIS REY, 1830's. From Albert Robinson's *Life In California*.. The eighteenth mission to be founded in Alta California, Mexico, was San Luis Rey which became a reality on June 13, 1798. It was situated to halve the distance between San Diego and San Juan Capistrano. Within months of it's conception buildings were being erected of adobe by a military detail from Presidio San Diego.

NOTE: Salvador Béjar worked on this mission. (See page 4).

FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ  
FOUNDERS OF THE Béjar/Véjar Families in Alta California



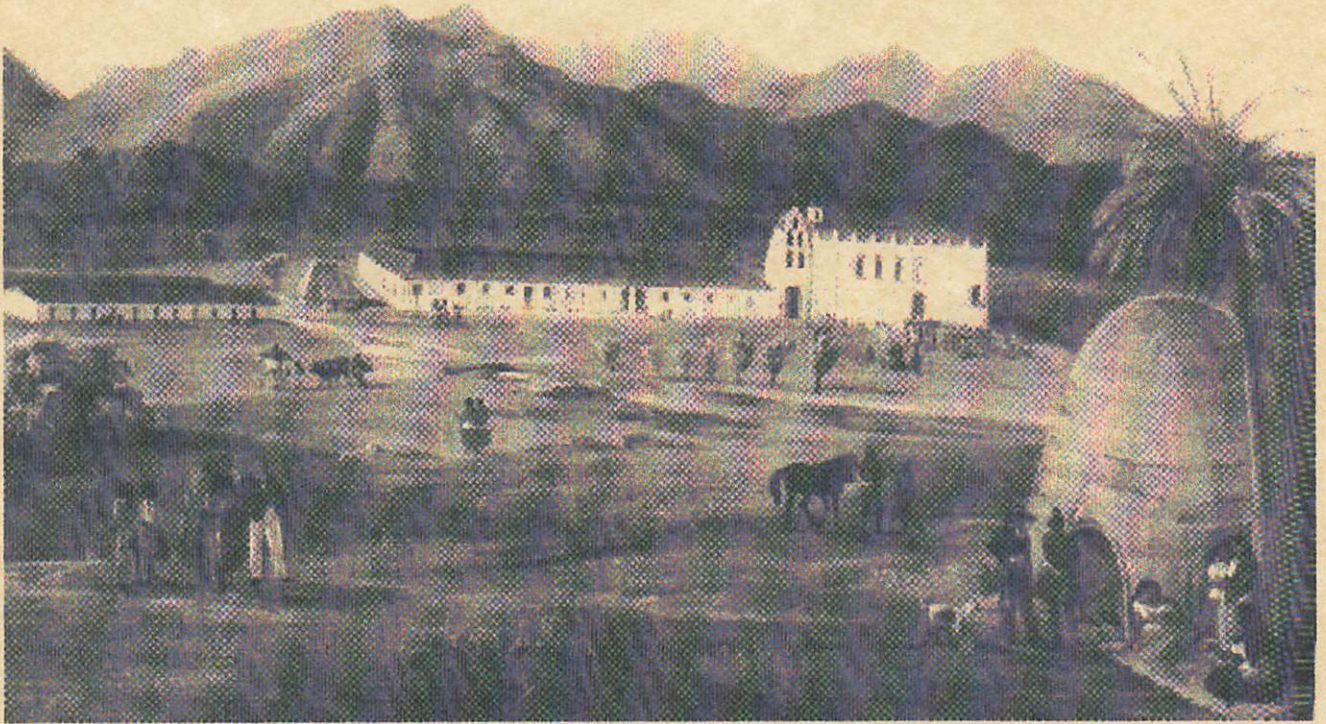
MISIÓN SANTA BÁRBARA, by J. M. Alden, 1853. Courtesy Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library.

The Santa Bárbara Mission was founded on December 16, 1786 and the first palisaded constructions were undertaken.

In preparation for the mission dedication, Father Ripoll had asked permission of Governor Sola to allow Master Carpenter Salvador Béjar to come to Santa Barbara for two months to make the fireworks.

(See page 4)

FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ  
Founders of the Béjar/Véjar Families in Alta California



San Gabriel Arcángel Mission by Ferdinand Deppes, 1832. Courtesy of Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library.

Santa Barbara, the second mission to be established in Alta California, was founded on September 8, 1771.

NOTE: Salvador Béjar was said to have carved statues and altars for the La Plaza Church in Los Angeles and the Mission San Gabriel. Salvador was buried at the mission on March 26, 1824.

FRANCISCO SALVADOR BÉJAR AND MARÍA JOSEFA BENITA LÓPEZ  
 Founders of the Béjar/Véjar Families in Alta California

Nº 5.

Dijo yo Salvador Béjar Soldado de la  
 Compañía de Caballería del Presidio de S.<sup>n</sup>  
 Diego y de oficio Carpintero; q.<sup>l</sup> he recibido de mi  
 Jefe y Comandante D.<sup>n</sup> Manuel Rodrig.<sup>z</sup>  
 quatro Cufas para las bocas de las ruedas de  
 las Carruças, diez y seis Sierros y diez y seis Cla  
 vos de mas de media Vara para el afianze  
 de las mareas y Camas de dñs ruedas como asi  
 mismo ochenta Clavos de a seis pulgada  
 y veinte lbs. de Pica para clavar y calafatear  
 los Tablones del Fondo de la Lopa de la Parca  
 Plana con que se auxilia la Guarnicion del  
 Fuerte de Luna de Gujarragos: y para q.<sup>l</sup>  
 conste p.<sup>r</sup> su verdad lo juro a Dios y a la  
 Santa, F. y lo firmo en el copiado Presidio  
 de S.<sup>n</sup> Diego a 31. de Diciembre de 1800.

Salvador Béjar

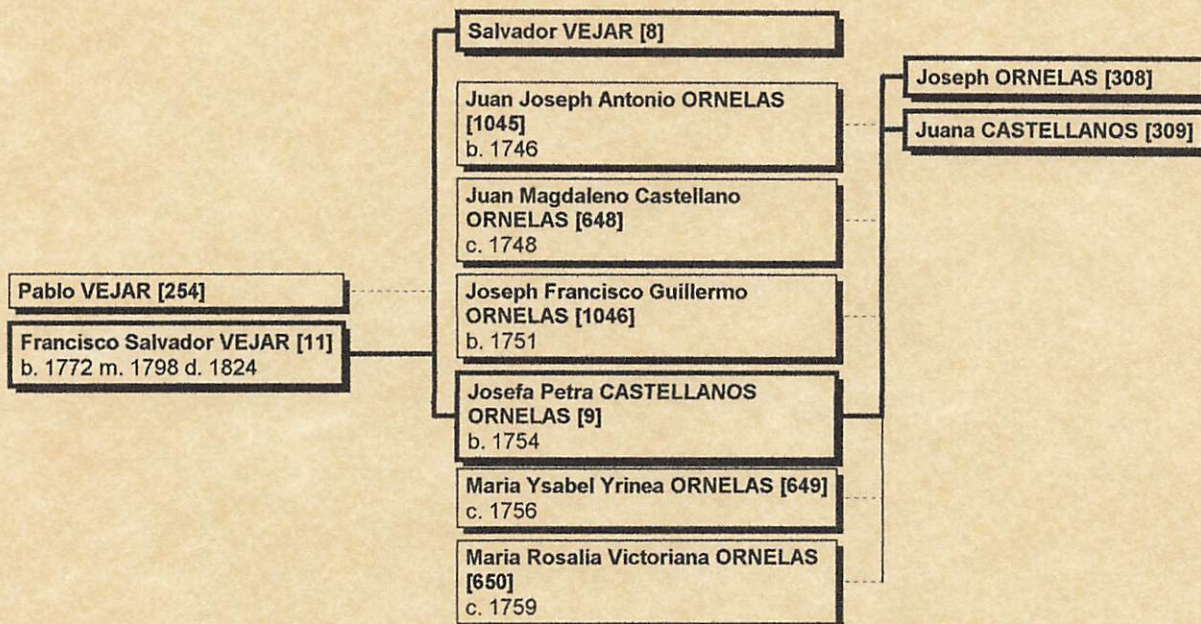
v. p. p.

Manuel Rodriguez

Manuel Rodriguez

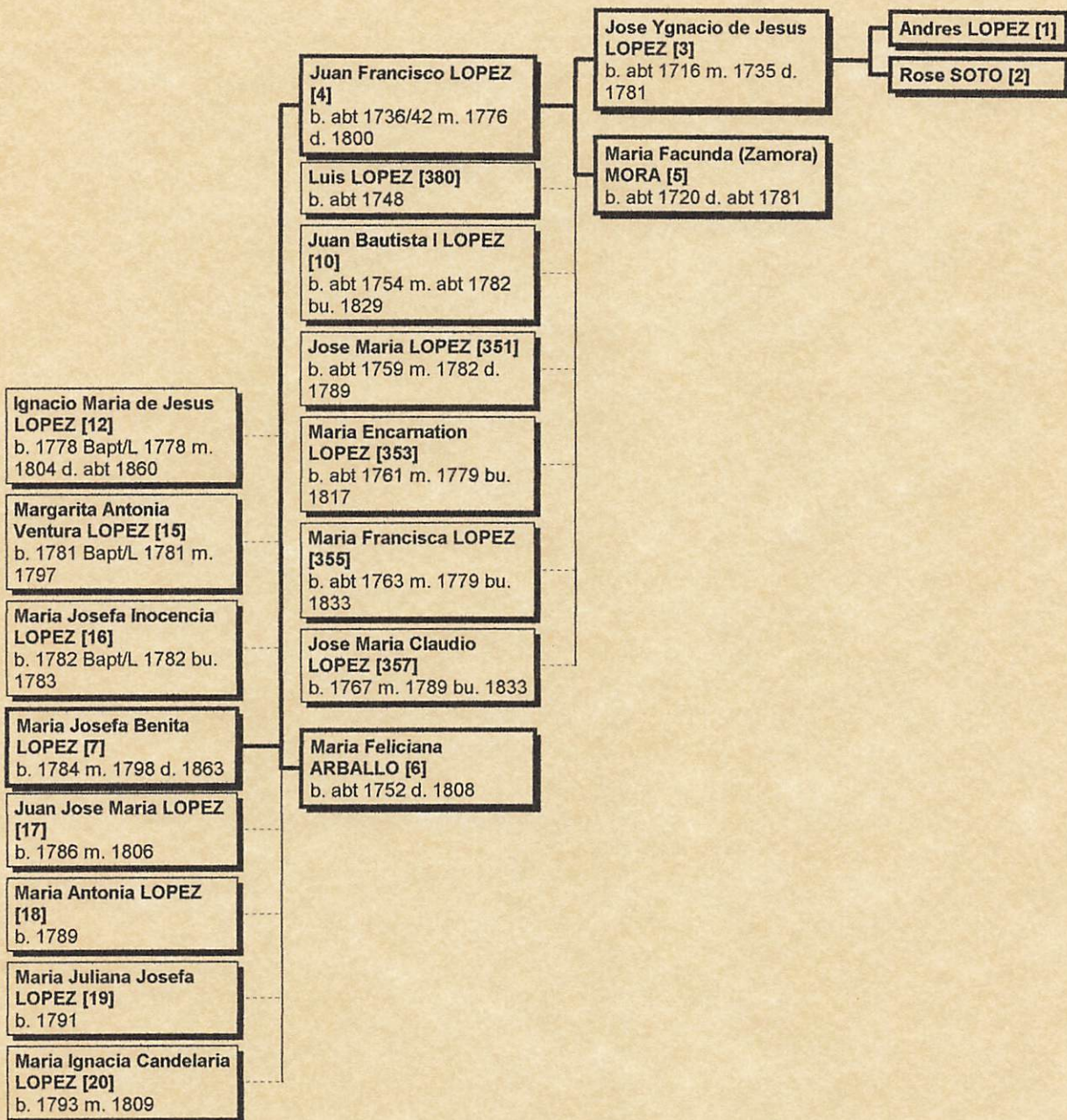
The above is a note signed by soldier Salvador Béjar and authorized by Manuel Rodriguez, his commander, dated 31 December 1800

# Ancestors of Francisco Salvador VEJAR



WILLIAM TAYLOR, 711 LE CONTE STREET, OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA

# Ancestors of Maria Josefa Benita LOPEZ



WILLIAM TAYLOR, 711 LE CONTE STREET, OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA

# Certificate of Baptism



CHURCH OF

Presidio de San Diego

\* This is to Certify \*

That Juan Nepomuceno Ricardo Béjar

Child of Salvador Béjar

and Josefa Lopez

born in

on the 16th day of November 19 1805

\* Was Baptized \*

on the 19th day of November 19 1805

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church

by the Rev. Jose Sanchez

the Sponsors being Jose Maria Pico

and Eustaquia Lopez as appears

from the Baptismal Register of this Church.

Dated November 18, 1997

L. Ripard, Archivist Pastor.

Copy of Baptismal record of Juan Nepomuceno Ricardo Véjar [29],  
son of Francisco Salvador Béjar [11].

## HERALDICA

CONOZCA EL ORIGEN DEL APELLIDO

### LÓPEZ/LOPES

LOPEZ, the 6th most common surname among modern Hispanic families in the United States and the 5th most popular in Spain. It is paronymic deriving its origin from the Latin "lupo," lupe, lope, meaning wolf. The very popular Lupe, used for both men and women as first name does not originate from wolf. Lupe as a first name comes from Guadalupe which is Arabic in root.

Of the men who accompanied Cortes in 1521, the second most frequent surname was Lopez, twenty-two men named Lopez, twenty-four men named Fernandez. A survey of surname frequency in the 17th century in northeastern Nuevo Espana placed Lopez in 6th place, which interestingly 300 years later still holds.

Lopez men came to Nueva Espana from all parts of Spain, Jaen, Cordoba, Salamanca, Asturias, and Seville. Most, however, came from Seville. The background and occupations varied from Jeronimo Lopez, Hildalgo as occupation, to Pedro Lopez, Physician to Martin Lopez, a ship's carpenter.

No one played a bigger part in the conquest of Tenochtitlan, save Cortes, then did Martin Lopez. Lopez was 26 years old when he arrived in the Indies in 1516. He spent a year in Cuba before joining the 1519 entrada with Cortes. The son of a Spanish carpenter, he was taken on as ship's carpenter. Although not the position Martin had wanted, it was his skill and knowledge that played a key role in the success of the conquest. It was he that fashioned a kind of wooden mobile fortress armed with guns and small cannons by which the small army escaped out of the Aztec capitol. It was he who devised the strategy for fighting against the 1,000 war canoes which made up the Aztec navy.

From a base high in the mountains with the Tlaxcala nation, Martin directed the building of 13 brigantines from scratch, improvising with found materials. Ship's riggings and sails which had been saved from their ocean voyage were used. After testing their sea worthiness, the ships were dismantled. On Christmas day and with the help of 2,000 Tlaxcalan Indians, the traveling navy began its descent. Ship pieces were carried the 60-mile four-day trek over the 11,000 foot mountain pass.

The city Texcoco was captured easily. Martin Lopez directed the construction of dry docks inside the city and lock and dams, from the lake to the city. On April 28, 1521, after a solemn mass, a salute was fired and the prefabricated vessels entered the water. The small vessels with no wind for their sails were almost surrounded by Aztec canoes, when a miraculous wind suddenly filled the ships' sails and gave them the victory. Martin Lopez's carpenter skills and creative brilliance had succeeded in capturing Tenochtitlan. Martin Lopez, son of Cristobal Diaz Narices and Estefania Rodriguez was rewarded with part of an encomienda and several land grants. He also received three different coats of arms, dated 21 December 1539, 15 May 1550, and 20 May 1551. His first wife, Ines Ramirez of Seville, died before 1529, and in 1533 in Seville, he married Juana Hernandez. He fathered 10, 5 boys.

*By Mimi Lozano, president of the Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research.*

Researched and printed  
by  
William Gradwell Taylor II  
August, 1999

