

Chapter VI – RANCHO SANTIAGO DE SANTA ANA

Rancho Santiago de
la Santa AnaRancho Lomas de Santiago
W. WolfskillD. Sepulveda
Estancia Costa Mesa

Yorba

Anza's Sergeant

Juan Bautista de Anza when organizing his 1775 expedition to bring the civilian settlers to Alta California chose as his "right hand men" Joaquín Moraga as *alferez*, and Juan Pablo Grijalva to be his sergeant. In a letter to Viceroy Bucareli, September 23, 1775, Anza (Antepasados 1995, VIII:148) wrote:

... This individual [Ignacio Espinosa] be replaced by Corporal Juan Pablo Grijalva of the company of the Presidio of Terrenate, whom, . . . I have named Sergeant from day eight of the present month on which he arrived at this presidio [Horcasitas].

Juan Pablo Grijalva had been baptized 2 February 1744 at Mission Guevavi, Arizona, the son of Andrés Grijalva and Luisa María Leyba. Juan Pablo enlisted in the army at the Terrenate Presidio in Sonora on 1 January 1763. With him, in the 1775 expedition, came his wife, María Dolores Valencia, aged 31, and their two daughters, María Josefa, 6, and María del Carmen, 4. Traveling with them was also 21 year old Claudio Grijalva, perhaps a brother or nephew. Although mentioned in some of the earliest journals, what happened to Claudio after that is unknown. Some have suggested that he was a servant appearing in later records as Claudio Alvirez. In the difficult trip through the desert from Yuma to Borrego, the expedition was divided into three separate parties, one of which was led by Grijalva. The party finally reached San Gabriel in January of 1776. From there they proceeded to Monterey, and after being delayed there for a time, they finally arrived at San Francisco on 27 June 1776. There a palisade fort was built and a few rough houses put up. At

San Francisco, his elder daughter, Josefa, married Antonio Yorba in 1782, and his younger daughter, Carmen, married Pedro Regalado Peralta in 1785.

Grijalva, after serving ten years in San Francisco was commissioned *alferez* of the San Diego Company in 1787. In his last year of active service he was sent to inspect the *escoltas* of Missions San Gabriel, San Juan Capistrano, and San Miguel (Baja). In March of 1796 he asked for retirement, claiming 33 years of service at Terrenate, San Francisco, and San Diego. While at Terrenate he had served in nine campaigns against the Apaches and Seris, being wounded twice. At 51 years of age, he was retired on disability at half pay of \$200 a year in 1796 with the rank of *Teniente*, continuing to live in the Presidio of San Diego, where he spent his last years. He was buried there on 23 June 1806. His wife Dolores Valencia was buried 13 August 1833 at San Juan Capistrano.

By the turn of the century, Grijalva was running cattle and horses and had built an adobe near Olive. In a petition signed at San Diego on 8 December 1801, Grijalva asked "for the Arroyo de Santiago". A translation of the original petition of 1801³² reads:

Don Pablo Grijalva, retired Ensign of the cavalry and resident of this Royal Garrison of San Diego, presents himself before you soliciting the tract of "Arroyo of San Tiago" for the purposes of Keeping my cattle and horses, which tract is distant from the Mission of San Juan Capistrano Eight Leagues and from the Mission of San Gabriel nine or ten Leagues. The extent I solicit is from the Banks of the River of Santa Ana towards Santiago which is taking a direct Course a little more than a League and toward the Beach about five Leagues. From this Creek upwards to where the house is then about one League and a half and from there to the mountains about three Leagues and towards the South unto "Ranas" I solicit which is about One League and a half.

From the above petition it appears that Grijalva had built an adobe by 1801. Recent research indicates that it was located near the intersection of Hewes St. and Santiago Blvd. in Orange. A few foundation rocks are all that remain of the first house built in the Santa Ana Valley.³³ This adobe probably was used as a residence during roundups, branding and slaughtering of his stock; it is less likely that he and his wife lived there because they appear

³²Translation in the *expedientes* for the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. [In the process of checking the *expedientes* for this quote, we found a copy of the original request in Spanish. It revealed that the translation is somewhere between bad and poor. In the original Grajalva is given as a resident of Santa Barbara and the distances given are all different. The quote used is the translation which satisfied the Land Commission.]

³³Grijalva, personal contact.

in the San Diego Presidio records until his burial in 1806. After Juan Pablo's death, his widow Dolores lived with her grandson Juan Peralta until her death in 1833.

With the permission of his widow, the land was regranted to one daughter's husband and another daughter's son. In 1810 the Spanish governor made the official grant to Antonio Yorba with the concession that his nephew, Juan Pablo Peralta was a co-occupant. At this time they had about 300 head of cattle and a similar number of horses on the rancho. Generally, the Yorbas settled on the east side downstream from Santa Ana Vieja (Olive), where the river turns to flow toward the south, and the Peraltas occupied the south side of the westward flowing, upper Santa Ana River. Each family cultivated its fields without any boundaries except occasional fences around a garden to keep out roaming cattle. The rancho became known as Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana.

A Catalan Volunteer

Antonio Yorba had been born in the village of San Sadurni de Noya, in Catalonia, Spain, and baptized 20 July 1746, the son of Pablo Yorba, a glazier, and Rosa Nizona. After enlisting for a term of six years in the First Company of Catalan Volunteers on 23 October 1766, he was sent to New Spain in 1767. At the end of his six year enlistment, he joined the *soldados de cuera* of Monterey, serving both there and in San Francisco (see Appendix A). He was promoted to *Cabo* by 1777, and transferred to San Diego between 1787 and 1789. By 1797 he was a sergeant and was retired as disabled by 1798. He was buried 18 January 1825 at San Juan Capistrano.

Antonio Yorba was one of those few Catalonians, who married one of the neophytes of Alta California. His first wife, María Gracia Félix, who had been born about 1753 at Tucunut Rancheria near Monterey, was baptized as an *India neofita* on 10 April 1773 at Carmel, taking the last name of Félix from her godfather, Claudio Félix. María Gracia and Antonio Yorba were married 20 May 1773 at San Carlos. Before Gracia's burial 27 August 1781 at the Monterey chapel, there were three known children born to them but none left descendants:

Pedro Antonio, baptized 4 February 1774 San Carlos, buried 4 December 1780 San Carlos;

Francisco Xavier, baptized 10 November 1776 San Carlos, enlisted in the San Diego Company in October 1792, reportedly drowned at San Miguel, Baja California, while on duty there; and

Diego María, baptized 14 November 1780 San Carlos, enlisted in the San Diego Company in July 1800, buried 28 February 1806 San Diego Presidio, unmarried.

At Mission San Francisco de Asís on 3 November 1782, Antonio Yorba, now a 36 year old widower with two young sons, married 14 year old Josefa Grijalva, elder daughter of Juan Pablo Grijalva. They were to have thirteen children to found the Yorba family in Alta California:

José Antonio, baptized 23 January 1785, San Carlos, married first Antonia Martina Verdugo 12 September 1805 San Gabriel, married second Catalina Verdugo 10 February 1834 Capistrano, buried 20 January 1844 San Gabriel; Tomás, baptized 22 December 1787 San Carlos, married Vicenta Sepúlveda about 1834, buried 1 February 1845 San Gabriel;

Isabel María, baptized 21 November 1789 San Diego Mission, married José Joaquín Maitorena 26 May 1805 San Diego Presidio, who took her to Mexico City;

María Presentación Cecilia, baptized 22 November 1791 San Diego Mission, married Leandro Serrano 26 May 1805 San Diego Presidio, died before June 1834;

Raymunda, baptized 7 July 1793 San Diego Presidio, married Juan Bautista Alvarado 12 September 1809 San Diego Presidio, buried 4 February 1851 San Diego;

José Domingo, baptized 27 May 1795 San Diego Presidio, buried 24 August 1796 San Diego Presidio;

Francisca Dominga, baptized 12 March 1797 San Diego Presidio, married Francisco Ortega 22 April 1811 San Diego Presidio, buried 9 April 1814 Santa Barbara;

María Nieves, baptized 7 August 1798 San Diego Presidio, buried 2 September 1800 San Diego Presidio;

Bernardo Antonio, baptized 24 August 1801 San Diego Presidio, married first María de Jesús Alvarado 16 April 1823 San Gabriel, married second Felipa Domínguez 2 February 1830 San Gabriel, married third Andrea Lisalde about 1854, buried 22 November 1858 Los Angeles;

Juan Pablo, baptized 28 October 1803 San Diego Presidio, buried 25 December 1804 San Diego Presidio;

Teodocio Juan, baptized 2 June 1805 San Diego Mission, married first María Antonia Lugo 25 September 1825 San Gabriel, married second Inocencia Reyes 5 September 1860 San Gabriel, buried 5 February 1863 San Gabriel; Andrea, baptized 3 December 1807 San Diego Presidio, married José María Avila 23 January 1823 Capistrano, buried 24 January 1824 San Gabriel; and Martín, baptized 18 November 1810 San Diego Presidio, buried 3 May 1812 San Diego Presidio.

Antonio Yorba, the Catalanian, died 16 January 1825 in his adobe on the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. A religious man, he had requested in his will that his body be wrapped in the habit of a Franciscan friar and be buried in the church of Mission San Juan Capistrano under the baptismal font. Records of the Mission show he was buried at San Juan Capistrano, but in the cemetery rather than in the church. His family has erected a marker to honor this early ranchero of Orange County.

Antonio left his estate to his wife Josefa and to their four sons, without considering the rights of their daughters. Following his death, Doña Josefa promptly appealed to the courts to break the will and succeeded in having the inheritance equally divided. Josefa was buried at San Gabriel on 4 January 1830.

José Antonio Yorba, Eldest Son

Four sons of Antonio Yorba and his second wife Josefa Grijalva survived to become *rancheros* within sight of old Saddleback. The eldest son, José Antonio, married in 1805 Antonia Verdugo, who had been baptized at San Gabriel on 21 March 1785, the daughter of José María Verdugo and Encarnación López. José Antonio and Antonia were residents of the San Diego Presidio from 1806 to at least 1816. He later served as *alcalde* at Santa Ana Abajo in 1830, *alcalde auxiliar* in 1836, and *juez de campo* in 1840.

This eldest son attended the San Diego Presidio school 1795-96 and was reported as "very advanced", studying writing, the highest level of student.³⁴ He probably began working on Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana as a young man, but apparently did not take up a permanent residence there with his family until about 1817. He built his own home near the Santa Ana River about a mile and one-half west of where the city of Orange would later rise. Called "Santa Ana Abajo", this house had three sides built around a patio. Its comfortable rooms provided adequate accommodations for José Antonio and his wife, Antonia Verdugo, all the little Yorbos, and the many cousins and travelers stopping by to

³⁴Williams, SCQ, Fall 1991, p. 189.

visit. Later José Antonio also built another house known as El Refugio at the edge of his property in the southwest part of the future city of Santa Ana. The children of José Antonio Yorba and Antonia Verdugo were:

Soledad, baptized 2 December 1806 San Diego Mission, married Juan Avila (*informaciones* 29 August 1832) San Gabriel, buried 3 October 1867 Capistrano;

María Magdalena, baptized 26 August 1808 San Diego Mission, she was still single in 1851;

José Antonio, baptized 4 August 1810 San Diego Mission, married Benigna López 21 August 1837 Capistrano, buried 6 October 1876 San Diego;

María Susana Ramona "Juana", baptized 13 August 1812 at San Diego Presidio, married José Ramón Osuna 23 May 1842 Capistrano;

José Ramón, baptized 9 October 1814 San Diego Mission, buried 2 December 1868 Capistrano, unmarried;

José Dolores, baptized 9 July 1816 San Diego Mission, buried 28 May 1822 Capistrano; and

José Miguel "Chavito", baptized 10 June 1818 Capistrano, married Josefa Bermúdez 3 May 1842 Capistrano, buried 22 June 1895 Capistrano.

After the burial at Capistrano of his first wife, Antonia, on 3 December 1820, José Antonio Yorba was free to marry her cousin, Catalina Verdugo. Catalina had been baptized 30 April 1799 Capistrano, daughter of Juan María Verdugo and Matilde Amesquito. Whether the Church was slow to grant the dispensations, or José Antonio was slow to request them is not recorded, but the marriage finally took place at Capistrano 10 February 1834, legitimating their children:

Domingo de la Resurrección, baptized 26 March 1826 Capistrano, married María (Juana) Rios 12 May 1845 San Gabriel, buried 30 July 1889 Capistrano; and

María Dolores, baptized 14 August 1831 Capistrano, married at San Gabriel on 31 October 1848 Cristóbal Aguilar, the son of José María Aguilar of Los Angeles, and not closely related to the Aguilar family of Capistrano.

One other child of José Antonio, husband of Catalina Verdugo, needs to be mentioned: José Dolores Yorba, baptized 22 February 1836 Capistrano, the son of Catalina Manríquez and José Antonio Yorba. Catalina Manríquez married Rafael Peralta at Capistrano in 1851.

José Dolores Yorba married at Capistrano 6 January 1869 Salvadora Aguilar, the eldest child of Blas Aguilar's second marriage, mentioned in Chapter II.

The sons of José Antonio provided part of another generation of Yorbas. His eldest son, Antonio married Benigna López who had been baptized 19 February 1807 San Diego, daughter of José López and Eduvigues Arce. Their known children were:

- María Nimfa Praxides, baptized 29 July 1838 Capistrano, married Antonio Argüello 13 November 1869 Ensenada (recorded 5 January 1870 San Diego), buried 29 April 1870 San Diego;
- José de Altagracia, baptized 19 April 1840 Capistrano, married María Presentación Machado 13 Nov 1869 Ensenada (recorded 8 February 1870 San Diego), and the family remained in Baja;
- José de Gumecindo "Rudicindo", baptized 16 January 1842 San Diego, living in 1863;
- Peregrina Rosa, baptized 10 May 1843 Capistrano, married Manuel Manríquez 19 December 1863 Capistrano;
- Natalia Lucinda, baptized 16 November 1845 San Diego, aged 9 months, living in 1863; and
- Jesús de Altagracia, baptized 1 April 1851 San Diego.

Also growing up in the home and sometimes using the last name Yorba were two children born to Benigna before her marriage:

- Manuela, baptized 1 January 1823 San Diego, daughter of José Ramírez, married Guadalupe Gutiérrez 7 May 1852 Capistrano, living in 1863 (Manuela was baptized a Ramírez, was married as a López, and used Yorba frequently);
- Tomás, baptized 31 October 1824 San Diego, son of Mariano Ramos, married Angustia Verdugo 3 February 1855 Capistrano (baptized as a Ramos, married as a López, and used Yorba frequently).

Also appearing in the home in 1844 was Soledad, born about 1837, but no further record of him or her has been found.

The second son of José Antonio Yorba and Antonia Verdugo, José Ramón, never married. He became part owner of the Rancho las Bolsas, which he purchased from Catarina Ruíz, the widow of José Antonio Nieto. Las Parades, his adobe home which

disappeared about 1880, was located where the city of Fountain Valley would eventually develop.

The third son of José Antonio Yorba and Antonia Verdugo was José Miguel "Chavito", who married in 1842 Josefa Bermúdez. She was baptized 19 March 1826 San Gabriel, the daughter of Hermanegildo Bermudez and Estefana Morillo. They had eleven known children:

Maria del Refugio, baptized 2 December 1843 San Gabriel, married José Dolores García 4 January 1862 Capistrano;

María Encarnación, baptized 19 May 1845 San Gabriel, married Justo Flores, of Chile, 19 December 1860 Capistrano, went to Arizona;

Modesta, baptized 28 November 1846 San Gabriel, married first Juan José Aguilar, son of Rosario, 9 February 1868 Capistrano, married second Felipe Zarate of Chile 9 September 1888 Yorba Chapel, buried 4 April 1897 Capistrano;

Susana, baptized 14 November 1848 Plaza;

Arcadia, baptized 21 May 1850 Plaza, married Inocencio Aguilar, son of Blas, 5 September 1872 Capistrano, died 19 April 1893 in Winnamaca Nevada (recorded Capistrano);

María Magdalena de Jesús, baptized 18 October 1852 Capistrano;

Soledad María Paula, baptized 30 June 1854 Capistrano, married Vidal Arce 6 October 1877 Capistrano;

José Antonio, baptized 1 April 1856 Capistrano;

Raimundo, baptized 19 March 1859 Capistrano, married Tomasa Rios, daughter of Gregorio, 8 March 1879 Capistrano;

Celso, baptized 16 April 1861 Capistrano;

Juan Capistrano Celso, baptized 25 October 1863 Capistrano, married María Rios, daughter of Gregorio, 22 May 1886 Capistrano; and

Miguel, baptized 24 December 1865 Capistrano, married Teresa Pryor 22 May 1898 Capistrano.

Domingo Yorba, the only son of José Antonio Yorba and Catalina Verdugo inherited El Refugio from his father in 1844. In 1854 he sold the house and his interest in Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana to José Andrés Sepúlveda. He married in San Gabriel in 1845 María Juana Rios, who had been baptized 25 January 1831 Capistrano, daughter of Silverio and Juana Barreras. She was buried 1 October 1896 Capistrano. Their children included:

José Antonio, born about 1847, married Ma. Encarnación Quintana 29 May 1871 Capistrano;

María Francisca, born about 1849, living in 1860;

Ramona, born about 1852, married Teodosio Velarde 25 July 1870 Capistrano;

(María Francisca) Manuela, baptized 23 November 1854 Capistrano, married first Gregorio López 27 November 1882 Capistrano, married second José Antonio Pico 13 May 1900 Capistrano;

María Zenobia de la Luz, baptized 18 April 1856 Capistrano, married Clodorio Lopera 7 August 1875 Capistrano;

José Felipe, baptized 3 May 1858 Capistrano, living in 1860;

María Nieves, baptized 4 September 1860 Capistrano; and

María Teresa, baptized 24 October 1865 Capistrano.

Domingo Yorba also had a daughter by Catalina Olivares, named María Manuela de Jesús, baptized 2 June 1850 Capistrano, who married José María Silvas 18 December 1871 Capistrano.

While there is no doubt that Antonio Yorba (the Catalanian) was granted Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana in 1810, there is no record that there is any Yorba family in the area before 1818. The first mention in church records of Rancho Santa Ana is in 1813 with a baptism by Juan Cañedo of a child of Juan Perez. In 1816 Pedro Alvares is given as living at the Rancho de Santa Ana. Finally, in June of 1818 the first baptism of a Yorba north of San Diego is found, when Miguel Yorba was baptized at Capistrano with *padrino* Juan María Cañedo. It appears that the Yorbas resided in the San Diego Presidio until 1817, and may have commuted to Rancho Santa Ana to tend their herds and supervise their hired hands. José Antonio Yorba, eldest son of the first Antonio appears to have been the first resident with his family on the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana.

Tomas Yorba, Second Son

Tomás Yorba, the second son of old Antonio Yorba and Josefa Grijalva, was born in 1789 two years before the family moved from Monterey to San Diego. He, like his elder brother attended the San Diego school 1795-96 and was reported as "advanced" studying writing, the most advanced class (Williams 1996:189). In 1809 he wrote the petition of his father for the regranting of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. Later he also began ranching on the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana with the rest of his family. Don Tomás was a highly respected civic leader; in 1830 and 1832 he was a member of the *diputacion*, the

provincial legislature. He also served as *alcalde auxiliar* of Santa Ana Vieja in 1832, *alcalde* at Santa Ana in 1835 and as *juez de campo* in 1840, all in rotation with his brothers. He operated a store which carried dry goods, wine, brandy, hardware and a few groceries. He also sold hides and tallow to the yanqui (Yankee) merchants.

Throughout his life Don Tomás enjoyed dressing in elegant and valuable suits. Alfred Robinson visited him at his home in 1829 and described him as:

. . . a tall, lean personage . . . Upon his head he wore a black silk handkerchief, the four corners of which hung down his neck behind. An embroidered shirt, a cravat of white jaconet tastefully tied, a blue damask vest, short clothes of crimson velvet, a bright green cloth jacket, with large silver buttons, and shoes of embroidered deer skins comprised his dress (Robinson, 1969:29-30).

Tomás Yorba married Vicenta Sepúlveda in 1834. She had been born about 1815, daughter of Francisco Sepúlveda and Ramona Serrano. The children of Tomás Yorba and Vicenta were:

Juan Francisco Santo, baptized 16 June 1835 Plaza, married Isabel Serrano 13 July 1854 Capistrano;
Guadalupe Manuel, baptized 24 December 1836 Plaza, died before 1844;
Juana, baptized 25 April 1838 Plaza, buried there the same day;
José Antonio, baptized 29 April 1839 San Gabriel, buried 3 February 1914 Anaheim unmarried;
Josefa, baptized 18 June 1841 San Gabriel, married John Smythe 2 April 1856 Plaza (Smythe was a leading citizen of the new settlement of Anaheim), died 1906 Anaheim; and
Ramona, born about 1843, married first her first cousin Marcos Yorba, son of Bernardo, married second Juan de la Guerra 25 January 1896 Yorba Chapel, died 10 October 1911, buried Yorba Cemetery.

A contemporary account describes the manner in which Tomás and Vicenta lived.

The estate lies like a fortress on an elevation. Everything was arranged for order and comfort. I was astonished at the completeness of furnishings, from the solid dining table, the well-stocked buffet, the excellent beds, down to the Black Forest clock, which I was surprised to find in this country. The owner, Don Tomás Yorba, was known everywhere for his hospitality. He combined polite frankness with

modest dignity, and belonged to that class of our customers who can rightly be called the patricians of California and whose word is as good as gold . . . Doña Vicenta, attractive and slender, was just the person to rule the comfortable household with grace and dignity.³⁵

Such was the impression of Edward Vischer, a merchant who in 1842 visited Don Tomás and his wife, Vicenta Sepúlveda.



Josefa Yorba and John Smythe
(Courtesy of Bowers Museum)



Vicenta Sepúlveda de Yorba
(First American Title Company)

³⁵Gudde, CHSQ, Vol. 19, p. 208.

In his will, Tomás Yorba requested, as did his father, that he be buried in Franciscan robes at the Mission San Gabriel and that one fifth of his estate be reserved for burial and masses. He left to his wife and four children the following: 3,000 head of cattle, 900 ewes and their mates, three herds of 100 mares and their stallions, three donkeys, about 21 tame horses and 19 mules, also the house of 18 rooms at Santa Ana Vieja, two vineyards enclosed with walls and some fruit trees.³⁶

After her husband's death 31 January 1845, Doña Vicenta handled the business affairs of the ranch. Pioneer merchant William Heath Davis wrote that she was one of his best customers, coming personally to his ship at San Pedro to inspect and buy merchandise. Not only was she a practical woman but she had a reputation for beauty. In February 1847, Doña Vicenta married Don José Ramón Carrillo. Although José Ramón survived hunting escapades and military encounters – including the Battle of San Pasqual - he eventually met a violent death. One day in May of 1864 he was riding toward his home when someone shot and killed him. The murderer was never found. Doña Vicenta lived many more years. She died at age 94 in 1907 at the Anaheim home of her daughter, Natalie Carrillo, wife of Adolph Rimpau.

Tomás Yorba's son Juan married his first cousin once removed, Isabel Serrano, in 1854. Isabel had been baptized 5 July 1835 Plaza, the daughter of Petra Avila and José Antonio Serrano, who was the brother of Juan Francisco's grandmother Ramona Serrano. Isabel was buried 24 December 1868 Capistrano. Their children included:

José Tomás, baptized 29 July 1855 Capistrano;
José Antonio, baptized 18 January 1857 Capistrano;
Francisco Guadalupe, baptized 5 June 1858 Plaza;
María Francisca, baptized 16 December 1859 Capistrano, married José de Jesús Morillo 2 May 1885 Capistrano;
Miguel, baptized 14 October 1861 Plaza;
Godofredo, baptized 25 August 1863 Yorba Chapel; and
Francisco, baptized 20 April 1867 Plaza, died about 1909.

The lack of education in early California has been exaggerated. José Antonio and Tomás Yorba along with Juan Pablo Peralta, each received at least 16 months of education at the school of the San Diego Presidio from 1794 to 1796. Both boys had completed the courses in reading, and were reported as advanced in writing by January 1797. Tomás'

³⁶Stephenson 1941, HSSCQ, Vol. XXII, No. 3-4 p. 135.

education served his father well as shown by the letters and petitions he wrote on his father's behalf in later years. Surely they passed some of this knowledge on to their sons, and perhaps their daughters. Tomás' son, José Antonio, was sent to the East Coast to be educated at Boston College.

Don Meadows (1966:141) states, "The first public school in Orange County was opened in San Juan Capistrano in 1854, and a few months later the second was started at the home of Bernardo Yorba." The teacher was Thomas Scully, who became a son-in-law of Bernardo. Surely many of the youngsters born during these years attended either the school in the Yorba hacienda or in the little one-room schoolhouse which replaced it and opened in 1867. First called the Santa Ana School, then the Yorba School, and later the Peralta School, its records reveal that many Yorba and Peralta children received their education within its walls.

Don Bernardo's Dynasty

The most famous son of the first Antonio Yorba and Josefa Grijalva was Don Bernardo. His portrait appears in many history books and his legacy can still be seen on the Orange County landscape. He not only developed the inherited share of his father's estate but expanded it with newly-acquired holdings of his own, becoming the wealthiest of the Yorbas. His establishment became a virtually self-sufficient feudal estate. Through his three marriages he also left many descendants to carry on his traditions.

Bernardo Yorba, born in 1801, married as his first wife María de Jesús Alvarado on 16 April 1823 at San Gabriel. María de Jesús had been baptized 26 April 1796 at San Gabriel, the daughter of Francisco Alvarado and Ignacia Amador, and was buried 25 April 1828 at Plaza three days after the birth of their fourth child. Their children were:



Bernardo Yorba
(Courtesy of Bowers Museum)

María Dolores Francisca, baptized 2 February 1824 Capistrano, and probably died in childhood;

José Ramón de los Dolores "Raimundo", baptized 25 November 1825 Capistrano, married first Francisca Domínguez 27 August 1850 Capistrano, married second Concepción Serrano 11 May 1856 at Capistrano, buried 29 January 1891 Yorba Cemetery;

María Inez de los Dolores, baptized 28 August 1827 Capistrano, married Leonardo Cota 27 November 1847 San Gabriel, died 19 April 1911 Santa Monica; and

María Ramona Anselma, baptized 22 April 1828 San Gabriel, married Benjamin "Benito" D. Wilson 19 February 1844 Plaza, recorded at San Gabriel, buried 22 March 1849 Plaza, moved to the Yorba Cemetery.

Raimundo's first wife Francisca Domínguez, was baptized 10 March 1829 Plaza, daughter of Mariano and Benancia Sotelo, and was buried 13 September 1850 Plaza only 16 days after their marriage, also moved to the Yorba Cemetery. Their children were:

José Antonio, baptized 9 January 1848 Plaza, buried 17 July 1866 Plaza; and Francisca de los Remedios, baptized in danger of death 11 September 1850 Plaza.

Raimundo's second wife Concepción Serrano, was baptized 2 December 1829 Plaza, daughter of José Antonio Serrano and Petra Avila. Their known children were:

María, baptized 26 July 1858 Capistrano;

María Victoria Gloria, baptized 29 June 1860 Yorba Chapel;

Betsaida, baptized 16 March 1862 Capistrano, married Juan Pablo Peralta 4 May 1887 Tustin, recorded at Yorba Chapel, died 7 January 1938 buried Yorba Cemetery;

Ruperto, baptized 5 June 1864 Capistrano;

Constancia Amancia, baptized 24 June 1866 Capistrano;

Victor José, baptized 1 July 1868 Capistrano; and

Raymundo de la Cruz, baptized 4 July 1872 Capistrano, married Carlota Sepúlveda 30 January 1891 Capistrano.

Don Bernardo Yorba married as his second wife Felipa Domínguez 2 February 1830 San Gabriel, daughter of Mariano Domínguez and Benancia Sotelo. Felipa was baptized 1 May 1812 at the San Diego Presidio, and was buried 9 September 1851 Plaza at the birth

of their twelfth child. Interestingly, Felipa was the eldest sister of Francisca who would marry Raimundo Yorba, Don Bernardo's son by his first wife. Don Bernardo's and Felipa's children were:

María de Jesús, baptized 21 February 1831 Capistrano, married first Anastacio Botiller 28 November 1846 Capistrano, married second Thomas Scully 24 May 1857 Plaza, living in 1870;

(José Antonio) Prudencio, baptized 22 May 1832 Capistrano, married María Dolores Ontiveros 4 August 1851 San Gabriel, buried 3 July 1885 Yorba Cemetery;

José de Jesús, baptized 15 December 1833 Plaza, married Soledad Lugo 27 October 1856 Plaza, buried 19 May 1881 Plaza;

Marcos, baptized 27 April 1835 Plaza, married his first cousin Ramona Yorba perhaps about 1866, buried 4 October 1892 Yorba Cemetery;

Andrés, baptized 23 October 1836 Plaza, married his first cousin Andrea Yorba about 1858, died before 1870;

María Leonor, baptized 13 March 1838 Capistrano, married Juan Bautista Rowland 5 February 1853 Capistrano;

José Trinidad, baptized 16 June 1840 Capistrano, married first María de Jesús Lugo, married second Josefa Palomares 26 May 1869 San Gabriel, buried 8 June 1881 Yorba Cemetery;

Vicente, baptized 3 February 1843 San Gabriel, married Erolinda Cota 25 October 1876 Plaza, buried 30 March 1903 Yorba Cemetery;

Zenobia, baptized 30 June 1845 San Gabriel, married Tomás Rowland 12 January 1861 at the Rancho Rincon, buried 21 February 1892 San Gabriel;

Tomás Antonio, baptized 25 December 1847 Plaza, buried 18 March 1896 Yorba Cemetery;

Teodosio Geronimo, baptized 11 November 1849 Plaza, married Francisca Juana Coronel; and

Felipe, baptized 8 September 1851 Plaza, married Felicidad Peralta 28 January 1881 Santa Ana, buried 15 January 1905 Yorba Cemetery.

Don Bernardo Yorba seldom left his feudal estate. Indeed it is reported by family tradition that both his second and third marriages were by proxy. It is not known with which Yorba marriage the custom originated, but the family is said to have developed a method of sending "telegrams" to indicate the progress of a wedding party as it returned from mission to ranch. If, for example, a ceremony took place at San Gabriel, all would

afterwards mount their horses and follow El Camino Real to Los Nietos. There they would fire three home-made skyrockets as a signal to those ahead to indicate the newly-married couple had reached that point. After a stopover, the mounted procession would continue on to Rancho los Coyotes, where three more sky-rockets were fired. When finally the wedding party arrived at the Bernardo Yorba's Rancho Canon de Santa Ana, the celebration would commence and would last from three days to a week.



Raimundo Yorba Home on Rancho Rincón. Built about 1853, it became a stopping point for the Butterfield Stages in 1868.
(*Saddleback Ancestors*, 1969)

Such proceedings were quite customary by the time the second child of Don Bernardo and Felipa grew old enough to marry. Prudencio married in 1851 María de los Dolores Ontiveros, baptized 15 August 1833 at San Gabriel, daughter of Juan Pacífico Ontiveros and Martina Osuna. The Ontiveros were neighbors of the Yorbos, living to the west on Rancho San Juan Cajón de Santa Ana. Dolores was buried 27 November 1894 in the Yorba Cemetery. The children of Prudencio Yorba and María Dolores were:

Felipa de Jesús, baptized 2 December 1852 Plaza, married Pablo Domínguez 7 December 1882, died about 1944;
Adelaida Bernarda, baptized 15 April 1854 Plaza (born 20 November 1853), married Ramón Carrillo 19 January 1884, died 11 April 1933, buried Yorba Cemetery;
José David, baptized 8 November 1855 Capistrano, died 7 March 1925 unmarried, buried Yorba Cemetery;
Angela Christina, baptized 6 January 1858 Capistrano, buried 5 October 1862 Yorba Cemetery;
Esperanza Prudencia, baptized 29 June 1860 Yorba Chapel and still living in 1870;
Angelina Martina, baptized 11 October 1862 Yorba Chapel, married Samuel Kraemer 30 September 1886 Yorba Chapel, died 27 January 1941;
Prudencio de los Santos, baptized 29 January 1865 Yorba Chapel, married Constancia Véjar about 1889, died 1942;
Dolores Martina, baptized 10 November 1866 Yorba Chapel, living 1870;
Zoraida Benuta, baptized 6 April 1869 Yorba Chapel, married J. Coleman Travis, died 13 October 1933;
Ernesto Tomás, baptized 30 April 1871 Yorba Chapel, married Dolores Ruíz 11 January 1910; and
María Dolores, born 1 January 1874, married José Dolores Ruíz 29 April 1901 Lompoc, died 24 February 1953.

José de Jesús Yorba born in 1833 was the second son of Don Bernardo and Felipa Domínguez. He married at the Plaza Church on 27 October 1856 Soledad Lugo, baptized 5 January 1838 Plaza, the daughter of Felipe Lugo and his wife Francisca "Pancha" Perez. Their children included:

Felipe Antonio, baptized 17 January 1858 Plaza, living in 1860;
(Juan Nepomucino) Fernando, baptized 24 May 1859 Plaza, buried 11 October 1866 Yorba Cemetery;
Angel María, baptized 2 September 1860 Yorba Chapel, buried 12 October 1862 Yorba Cemetery;
Carolina Francisca, baptized 16 February 1862 Yorba Chapel, buried 3 November 1868 Plaza;
Angel, baptized 29 December 1863 Yorba Chapel;
Praxedis Piedad, baptized 27 January 1866 Yorba Chapel;
José Bruno Fernando, baptized 6 October 1867 Yorba Chapel;

Francisca Carolina, baptized 24 July 1869 Plaza;
Nimpha Amelia, baptized 1 January 1871 Plaza;
(Tranquilina) Erolinda, baptized 3 September 1872 Plaza, buried 23 February 1887 Plaza;
José de Jesús, born 26 July 1875, buried 2 June 1892 Yorba Cemetery; and
María Antonia, born about 1879, buried 25 February 1887 Plaza.

Don Bernardo petitioned for Rancho Cañada de Santa Ana, which was granted by Governor José Figueroa on 1 August 1834. This area of "Three square leagues, more or less" on the north side of the Santa Ana River across from Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana was the land on which he would built his new adobe, to be called San Antonio for his favorite saint. The large, two-story structure was considered one of the finest in Southern California, and by the standards of the day its eighty rooms were lavishly furnished. About twenty of these rooms housed the artisans who worked there. According to a descendant of Bernardo Yorba: The tradesmen and people employed about the house were four woolcombers, two tanners, one butter and cheeseman who directed every day the milking of fifty to sixty cows, one harness maker, two shoemakers, one jeweler, one plasterer, one carpenter, one majordomo, two errand boys, one sheep herder, one cook, one baker, two washerwomen, one woman to iron, four sewing women, one dressmaker, two gardeners, a schoolmaster, and a man to make the wine (Saddleback Ancestors, 1969:76).

Others not mentioned above surely included a miller, the personal maids for the women, several to make tortillas, and more than a hundred lesser employees, all residing on the rancho. Although many lived in the ranch buildings, most of the Indian workers lived in a village of their own.

In addition to herds, Don Bernardo had orchards where various types of fruit were grown, and fields of wheat and corn. Ditches were dug to irrigate the crops and vineyards and to supply power for the grist mill. It is reported that ten steers a month (often more) were slaughtered to supply the people of the ranch. What with the industries, a store, and mill, the ranch could exist almost independently of the rest of the world.

Marcos Yorba, the next son of Don Bernardo and Felipa Domínguez, married Ramona Yorba, born about 1842, daughter of his uncle Tomás, discussed earlier in this chapter. Their children included:

Luis (Antonio), baptized 11 September 1865 Plaza, living in 1870, buried Yorba Cemetery;

Vicenta Dominga, baptized 29 May 1867 Yorba Chapel, married José Véjar 24 November 1888 Yorba Chapel;
Marcos Romualdo, baptized 20 February 1870 Yorba Chapel, buried Yorba Cemetery;
Ramón Romualdo(twin), baptized 20 February 1870 Yorba Chapel, buried Yorba Cemetery;
Froilan Milano, baptized 12 October 1873 Yorba Chapel, buried 4 January 1878 Yorba Cemetery;
Erlinda Margarita, baptized 6 September 1877 Yorba Chapel, buried Yorba Cemetery; and
Rosa, married Herman Locke.

Rosa was the person who donated to the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana the statue of San Antonio which had been given to her maternal grandfather, Tomás Yorba by the fathers of San Juan Capistrano in appreciation for Tomás' assistance to them in a time of loss of their herds.

Following Marcos was Andrés who also married his first cousin, Andrea Yorba, baptized 13 December 1837 San Gabriel the daughter of Teodosio, discussed later in this chapter. She died 23 April 1922 and was buried in the Yorba Cemetery. Their children included:

(Martina Felipa) Mistica, baptized 17 January 1859 Plaza (born 27 November 1858), buried 14 August 1879 Yorba Cemetery;
Teodosio Romualdo, baptized 29 June 1860 Yorba Chapel, buried 26 February 1880 Yorba Cemetery;
(José Angel) Carlos, baptized 5 November 1865 Yorba Chapel, buried 1887 Yorba Cemetery.

The marriages of Marcos to Ramona Yorba and Andrés to Andrea Yorba are only two examples of the Yorbas' tendency to marry first or second cousins. There was a sound economic reason for this practice. Hispanic custom was for all children, both male and female, to inherit equally in the estate of their parents. With the large families of the Yorbas, even the largest rancho could in a few generations be reduced to many little garden plots. By encouraging cousin marriages, two smaller portions could be united into a more viable amount of acreage.

Don Bernardo's and Felipa's next son José Trinidad married María de Jesús Lugo, baptized 18 June 1843 Plaza, the younger sister of Soledad, wife of José de Jesús above. María de Jesús was buried 12 May 1868 Plaza. There were only two daughters:

Francisca Mariana de Jesús, baptized 20 April 1866 Yorba Chapel, married Francisco Zoilo Véjar 16 November 1892 Yorba Chapel; and Zoila Sara, baptized 3 February 1868 Yorba Chapel, buried 22 August 1882 Yorba Cemetery.

Trinidad married second Josefa Palomares in 1869, who had been baptized 19 October 1847 Plaza, daughter of Ignacio Palomares and Concepción López. She was buried 22 November 1882 Yorba Cemetery. Their children included:

Ignacio, aged 2 months in the 1870 census, died soon;
Ignacio, baptized 4 October 1871 Yorba Chapel;
Alesandro Gabriel, baptized 24 March 1873 Yorba Chapel;
José Germán, baptized 19 June 1876 Yorba Chapel; and
Irenia Sofia, baptized 24 September 1878 Yorba Chapel.

After Trinidad came Vicente who married Erolinda Cota in 1876 at the Plaza Church. She was baptized 11 November 1853 Plaza, the daughter of Francisco Cota and Martina Machado. She died 19 May 1933, buried Yorba Cemetery. Their children included:

Martina Lepidia, baptized 25 May 1879 Yorba Chapel, married Lorenzo Pelaconi;
María Isabel, baptized 15 February 1881 Yorba Chapel, buried 1883 Yorba Cemetery;
María Claudina, baptized 28 October 1882 Yorba Chapel, buried 1883 Yorba Cemetery;
María Isabel, baptized 27 October 1883 Yorba Chapel, buried 1892 Yorba Cemetery; and
Erolinda, born 1889, buried 1892 Yorba Cemetery.

Possible other children were:

Bernardo Marcos, born 28 May 1893, married Edna Leep of Nebraska 22 April 1920;

Vicente Francisco, born 19 September 1895, married Mabel Peterson of Nebraska in 1920;

Hortensia, married Porfirio Palomares;

María L., married Ignacio Véjar; and

Uvenia Juanita, married George Wente of Los Angeles.

The two youngest sons, Teodosio and Felipe also married, but their families were begun too late for the scope of this book.

According to family tradition, every morning Don Bernardo would put on his skull-cap and sit on the veranda of his home to receive each of his children and return their greetings with affection and instructions for the day. Probably in the Yorba household, as in most of the aristocratic homes of the day, the evening meal was followed with prayers after which the sons and daughters kissed their father's hand and withdrew to their own quarters. These little ceremonies were typical of the respect with which children treated their parents. It did not matter what the age of the children, there was little change in their manner toward their parents or in the parents' manner toward the children. A man fifty or sixty years old would not smoke or wear his hat in the presence of his father. In spite of all the strictness and ceremony, perhaps even because of it, family life was generally pleasant and harmonious.

Don Bernardo Yorba's third marriage about 1854 was to Andrea Lisalde, baptized 1 December 1830 Plaza, the daughter of Nicolás Lisalde and Juana de Dios Rendon. After Don Bernardo's death in 1858 she married Pío Quinto Davila on 19 May 1860 Plaza. Don Bernardo and Andrea had three children:

Bernardo Antonio, baptized 8 November 1855 Capistrano, married Julia Dryden
28 September 1878 Plaza, buried 16 August 1888 Plaza;

(Francisco) Xavier, born about 1856, married Victoria Carnahan; and

Gregorio, baptized 3 January 1858 Capistrano, probably died young.

It appears that Andrea and her new husband did not continue to care for the younger children of Don Bernardo and his second wife. Vicente, Zenobia, Tomás, Teodosio and Felipe Yorba are found in the 1860 census apparently in the care of a "nanny" Uriola García age 30 of Mexico.

The estate of Bernardo Yorba was divided among his children according to his will. Don Bernardo had acquired Rancho Cañada de Santa Ana, Rancho Sierra, Rancho Rincon, in addition to his inherited share of Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana for a total of approximately 37,000 acres of land. In addition, he had other assets probably worth over

\$100,000. On his death one square league (about 4500 acres) went to his widow Andrea and their two minor sons, who sold their share in 1875 to John Bixby for \$3 an acre.

There were hundreds of descendants of Don Bernardo, some remaining on the lands and many scattered far from the old home site. His once fine adobe fell into ruins. In 1926 an offer by the descendants of the Yorba family to donate it to the County was declined, citing the costs of restoration and maintenance. A marker on the high ground overlooking the river above Esperanza Road in Anaheim Hills today marks the area where the grand home once stood and where the large family once lived.

On 6 November 1858, shortly before his death, Don Bernardo deeded to the bishop of the Catholic Church, a plot of land 400 paces from his adobe for the Yorba Chapel, which was already under construction. Additionally there was to be a residence for a priest and a small garden. In his will he also provided money for the completion of the structures. The chapel, then named the San Antonio Church was officially consecrated by Father Blas Raho, Vicar General of the Los Angeles Diocese on 29 April 1860. On this same day he baptized María Felicitas Peralta daughter of Rafael. Father Haime Borgatta was the resident priest from 1862 until 1868. Before that and after that the church was dependent on priests from San Gabriel. "By the 1890's the elements had deteriorated the adobe walls, and new wooden structure was erected slightly west of the original site. Lack of funds prevented upkeep, and the Church deteriorated until its abandonment around 1948. By 1956 the Church was demolished".³⁷ Meanwhile, a small congregation in Anaheim had begun meeting in the home of Francisca Avila de Rimpau and her husband Theodore Rimpau. In 1869 the first building of what would become Saint Boniface was erected. The church of San Antonio was always considered part of Saint Boniface, and the records of San Antonio are incorporated into those of Saint Boniface.³⁸

In the same deed of 1858, Don Bernardo Yorba also deeded another plot nearby for a cemetery, to be known as the Yorba Cemetery, where so many of the Yorbas are buried. The Cemetery was redeeded to the County in 1967, but its maintenance has been provided by a private group under the Santa Ana Canyon Historical Council. When old Calvary Cemetery in Los Angeles was destroyed for highway construction in the 1920's the remains of Don Bernardo and other members of his family were moved here. Now under crumbling crosses so many Yorbas rest under the shadow of old Saddleback.

³⁷Jorba, Yorba and Yorba Linda, Santa Ana Canyon Historical Council, 1997, p. 15.

³⁸St. Boniface Parish. *The Story of a Parish*.

Dashing Don Teodosio

The last son of old Antonio Yorba and Josefa Grijalva was Teodosio Juan, born in 1805 at San Diego. As early as 1836 Teodosio pastured several thousand head of cattle on land adjoining Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana to the east. He built his home on a hill near Santa Ana Vieja and was living there in 1846 when Governor Pío Pico freely gave land grants to his relatives and friends. Teodosio benefited from this largess on 26 May by receiving a grant for four square leagues of the land he had been using. This land was called Rancho Lomas de Santiago. In 1852 he presented a claim to the United States Government which was found valid, and a patent was issued to him in 1858.

Teodosio's marriage on 25 September 1825 to Antonio María Lugo's daughter, María Antonia was performed at the Plaza Church, but recorded on the records of San Gabriel. She had been baptized 1 February 1810 at San Gabriel. From the records available, it would appear that she was still living in 1856. The couple apparently had only one child, a daughter María (Escolastica), baptized 11 February 1827 Los Angeles Plaza Church. She married 28 November 1846 at Capistrano the Sonoran Desiderio Burruel, for whom Burruel Point, the center of the community of Olive in the city of Orange, was named.

Judge Hayes (1929:111) made the following notes in his diary when he visited the Yorba Household in 1856:

I made the intervening distance in time to dismount just as Don Teodosio was sitting down to breakfast . . . He made me take a seat, without unnecessary ceremony, and with three or four of his vaqueros we went "to work" (literally) upon the viands. Finished a hearty meal, the frijoles most excellent, as usual, and so, indeed, the rest of the fare. Then Don Teodosio proceeded to dress for Los Angeles. Somewhat tired, I lounged upon a bed in the room, taking him at his word that the house was at my disposition. He arrayed himself in full Californian costume of the old style, and made as gay an appearance as if he was going to see his novia, (which may have been a fact, although he is married).

San Gabriel records show that on 5 September 1860 Teodosio next married Inocencia Reyes, thereby legitimating their children. She had been baptized 28 December 1815 San Gabriel, daughter of Antonio Reyes and Clara Cota. This second marriage did not last long as both Teodosio and Inocencia were buried by 1863. Their relationship had been long-standing, with ten children born between 1835 and 1860:

Isabel, baptized 26 November 1835 Plaza, married first, Felipe Santiago Duarte 28 July 1860 San Gabriel, and second Diego Nieto, son of Antonio María Nieto and Josefa Cota, 13 January 1864 San Gabriel;

Andrea, baptized 13 December 1837 San Gabriel, married Andrés Yorba, son of Bernardo, buried 24 April 1922 Yorba Cemetery;

José de la Ascensión, baptized 6 June 1840 San Gabriel, married Eziquia López 21 August 1862 San Gabriel, and reportedly married second, Carmen Sandoval;

Margarita Primitiva, baptized 19 June 1843 Plaza, married Miguel Ballesteros;

Juan Bautista, baptized 16 October 1846 Plaza, married María Antonia "Anita" Rowland 16 April 1873 San Gabriel;

(José Antonio) Felipe, baptized 26 October 1848 Plaza;

Catarina Carolina, baptized 24 November 1850 Plaza, married first Ramón Reyes 15 April 1869 Plaza, married second Adolfo Botillier 16 February 1889 Yorba Chapel;

José de Jesús Antonio, baptized 19 August 1853 Plaza, buried 10 April 1892 San Gabriel;

María de la Luz Romualda, baptized 10 February 1855 Plaza, perhaps married Gerald Preciado; and

Antonio Juan de Dios, baptized 29 April 1860 Yorba Chapel.

Teodosio Yorba had one other out-of-wedlock child, who needs to be mentioned. María Presentación Yorba was baptized 13 September 1839 at Capistrano, the daughter of Catalina Manríquez, previously listed above as the mother of one of José Antonio's sons. Presentación was married 11 April 1853 at Capistrano to Venancio Rios, son of Feliciano Rios, as mentioned in Chapter II. She was buried 14 September 1865 at Capistrano.

An inveterate gambler and lover of pleasure, Don Teodosio was in a bad financial situation by 1860. With Rancho Lomas de Santiago mortgaged, he sold it to William Wolfskill, for \$7,000. Wolfskill used it as a cattle ranch, built a home near the site of the future Irvine Park, and placed in charge as manager, J. E. Pleasants. Teodosio suffered a stroke about this time, his hands became palsied, and he spoke with difficulty. Don Teodosio, once so dashing, moved to Mission San Gabriel where he died and was buried on 5 February 1863.

A Sonoran Corporal

Gabriel Peralta was another soldier whose descendants were to share in the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. He served as corporal under sergeant Juan Pablo Grijalva on the Anza expedition of 1776, both having been recruited from the Presidio of Terrenate. The Peralta family is best known for their involvement in military, civic, and ranching activities in the San Francisco Bay area.

A native of Real de San Juan in Sonora, Mexico, Gabriel Peralta was born about 1735. He married Francisca Xaviera Valenzuela 1 January 1756 at Mission Santa Maria Suamca near Terrenate, Sonora. He served with the San Francisco Company at Santa Clara and San Jose, and was listed as a *soldado invalido* at San José as one of the original *pobladores* on 29 November 1777. On 23 October 1807 he was buried at Santa Clara. His wife, Francisca Valenzuela, who had been born about 1742 at Terrenate, was buried 4 March 1811 also at Santa Clara.

Their four children, all born in Sonora before the family set out for Alta California were:

Juan José, born 26 April 1757 Mission Santa Maria Suamca, married Ana Isabel Berreyesa, another member of the Anza party on 7 April 1777 Dolores, buried 19 June 1832 Santa Clara;

Luis María, baptized 31 August 1759 Mission Guevavi, near Tubac, married María Loreto Alviso 23 February 1784 Santa Clara, buried 27 August 1851 Santa Clara;

Pedro Regalado, born about 1760 Tubac, married María del Carmen Grijalva in Dolores 17 November 1785, buried 23 December 1839 Santa Clara; and
María Gertrudis, born about 1766 Tubac, married Nicolás Berreyesa, brother of Isabel, 10 October 1779 Santa Clara, buried 1 January 1803 San Jose.

The third son, Pedro Regalado Peralta who had married Juan Pablo Grijalva's daughter Carmen, had at least nine children:

Juan Pablo, baptized 10 November 1786 Dolores, married Gertrudis Arce 26 August 1804 San Diego Presidio, buried 4 October 1829 San Gabriel;

Tomasa, baptized 26 December 1788 Dolores, married Francisco Gonzales, buried 18 May 1810 Santa Clara;

Luisa, baptized 27 August 1790 Santa Clara, married first Tomás Antonio Soto 28 November 1807 Dolores, married second Juan Ygnacio Alviso 22 February 1830 Santa Clara, buried 14 August 1865 Santa Clara;

Sebastian, baptized 21 January 1794 Santa Clara, married first Gregoria Cipriano 17 June 1831 Santa Clara, married second Paula Sepúlveda 3 January 1846 Santa Clara, buried 19 December 1859 Santa Clara;
José (de Jesús), baptized 7 June 1796 San Carlos, buried 28 September 1838 Dolores, unmarried;
Antonia Magdalena, baptized 9 August 1805 Santa Clara, married José Fernandez about 1831;
An unnamed son, baptized and buried 15 August 1808 Dolores;
José Doroteo, baptized 7 February 1810 Santa Clara, buried 28 September 1838 Dolores (killed by Antonio Galindo in a knife fight), single; and
María de Jesús de Asunción, baptized 7 May 1812 Dolores, buried 14 June 1812 Dolores.

It is with the eldest child of Pedro Regalado Peralta, Juan Pablo, that the Peralta name arrives on the Southern California scene. Shortly after his fourth birthday he was living with his grandfather Juan Pablo Grijalva in the San Diego Presidio who enrolled him in the Presidio school in 1795. After sixteen months at school, His report card issued on 2 January 1797 stated that he had completed the courses in reading and to be advanced in writing (Williams 1996:189). We will probably never know why this one grandson came to San Diego. All we do know is that on 27 February 1791 he was confirmed at San Diego with his grandfather Juan Pablo Grijalva as his *padrino*. He never returned to live in the North where all the rest of his family had settled and acquired many ranchos.

Juan Pablo Peralta married at the San Diego Presidio on 26 August 1804 Ana Gertrudis Arce, who had been born about 1789 at Loreto, the daughter of José Joaquín Arce and Matilde Carrillo, another family living at the Presidio. She was buried 12 November 1828 Capistrano, 11 months before he was buried at San Gabriel. He enlisted in 1805 in the San Diego Company to support his young bride.

Juan Peralta's continued residence in the Presidio of San Diego is shown by the baptism of their first seven children there. The children of Juan and Gertrudis Arce were:

(Juana) Catarina, baptized 26 December 1805 San Diego Presidio, buried 1 February 1818 Capistrano;
Janario Eustaquio, baptized 30 September 1807 Capistrano, his intentions to marry Ana María Acebedo are recorded 1 February 1828 at San Gabriel, buried 1 January 1843 Plaza, no known children;

Juan Pablo, baptized 23 April 1809 San Diego Presidio, his intentions to marry Nieves López are recorded 15 January 1830 San Gabriel, buried 22 May 1852 Capistrano;

Felipe Benicio Bartolomé, baptized 24 August 1812 San Diego Mission, living in 1860;

José Teodosio, baptized 29 May 1814 San Diego Presidio, living in 1844;

Rafael Apolonio, baptized 14 April 1816 San Diego Presidio, married Catalina Manriques 28 October 1851 Capistrano, buried 16 July 1894 Yorba Cemetery;

Paula, baptized 16 January 1818 San Diego Presidio, married Carlos Domínguez 19 May 1851 San Gabriel;

Josefa, baptized 19 March 1820 Capistrano, married Manuel Félix, buried 23 March 1887 Ensenada; and

Candelaria, baptized 2 February 1824 Capistrano, married Luis Wilhardt 10 November 1849 San Gabriel, buried 3 July 1861 Plaza.

In 1810 Juan Pablo Peralta had been granted an undivided half share of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana with his uncle Antonio Yorba according to the wishes of his grandfather Juan Pablo Grijalva. Although he appears to have immediately begun running stock and horses on the rancho his residence remained in the San Diego Presidio until about 1818. He established his family on a part of Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana in the Santa Ana Canyon on the south side of the river. He built several houses on his part of the ranch and called the settlement Santa Ana Arriba. It was about four miles up-river from the Yorbas' Santa Ana Vieja. The Peraltas and the Yorbas were the first to develop irrigation from the Santa Ana River, and they soon planted crops, vineyards, and fruit orchards to supply their household needs. The major efforts of the Peraltas, however, were directed toward stock raising.

The first son of Juan Pablo Peralta and Gertrudis Arce known to have left descendants was their second son, Juan Pablo born 1809. His wife was María Nieves López, who had been baptized at San Gabriel on 6 August 1813, the daughter of Antonio López and Viviana Monroy. He continued ranching on the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana until his burial on 22 May 1852 in Capistrano. His wife survived him by many years. There were eleven children:

María (del Espiritu Santo), baptized 22 May 1831 Plaza, married Francisco Alvarez 24 June 1854 Capistrano, living in 1870;

María Antonia, baptized 13 June 1833 Plaza, married José Matías Domínguez 18 May 1850 Plaza, buried 14 October 1866 Yorba Cemetery;

María Trinidad, baptized 15 June 1835 Plaza, married José Rosario Marquéz 4 August 1861 Plaza;

Soledad, born about 1837 and was married on 25 December 1861 to Luis Wilhardt, the widower of her aunt Candelaria Peralta;

María (de Jesús Josefa), baptized 12 February 1839 Capistrano, married first Ramón Copas (Cooper), who had been brought by William Workman from New Mexico, married second Ignacio Alviso 28 August 1886 Yorba Chapel;

José Ramón, baptized 25 July 1841 Capistrano, married Josefa Verdugo on 25 October 1868 Capistrano;

(Pilar) Gertrudis, baptized 15 November 1843 San Gabriel, married Tomás Moreno on 4 August 1861 Plaza.

María del Refugio "Magdalena", baptized 13 April 1846 Plaza at five months of age, married August Melchart 21 July 1867 Plaza;

María Merced, baptized 26 April 1848 Plaza, at the age of 2 months and 6 days, buried 25 May 1848 Plaza;

María de la Merced, baptized 8 July 1849 Plaza at 15 days of age, married Salustriano Barrios about 1868, living in 1880; and

Juan Pablo Fernando, baptized 25 July 1852 Plaza, married Betsaida Yorba, daughter of Raimundo Yorba and Concepción Serrano, 4 May 1887 Yorba Chapel, buried 13 August 1931 Yorba Cemetery.

The other son of Juan Pablo Peralta and Gertrudis Arce who is known to have left descendants is Rafael, born in 1816. On 28 October 1851 in Capistrano he married Catarina Manríquez, who had been baptized at San Gabriel 12 August 1821, the daughter of Luis Manríquez and Juliana Alanis. Their children included:

Mariana, baptized 13 April 1845 San Gabriel, living in 1879;

Felicidad, baptized 4 June 1847 Capistrano, probably died young;

María Benigna, born on 3 February 1851, died unmarried 23 September 1931 and buried in the Yorba Cemetery;

Micaela Refugio, baptized 3 October 1853 Capistrano, also reportedly died unmarried 19 July 1902;

(Remedio) Rosendo, baptized 8 November 1855 Capistrano, reportedly married Guadalupe Morillo 19 July 1879, buried 1941 in the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery of Orange County;

José "Janario", baptized 3 April 1858 Capistrano, living in 1870;

Felicitas, baptized 29 April 1860 Yorba Chapel, married Felipe Yorba 28 January 1881 in Santa Ana, buried 13 July 1889 Yorba Cemetery;

Eugenio Antonio, baptized 30 November 1862 Yorba Chapel, living in 1880; and (María Maclavia) Dolores de Jesús, baptized 30 Nov 1862 Yorba Chapel.

In addition to the three daughters born before marriage, there was an *hijo natural* of Catarina, José Antonio, baptized 6 April 1849 Plaza whose father was unnamed. It has been suggested that he was a Yorba. It should be noted that Catarina Manríquez was the same Catarina mentioned in the Yorba section of this chapter as the mother of a son by José Antonio Yorba and a daughter by Teodosio Yorba.

Romantic accounts of the Yorba and Peralta families picture the two families living in continuing friendship and running their herds together over the undivided rancho. Examination of the records more closely shows a continuing struggle of the Peraltas against the attempts of the Yorbas to take over the entire rancho. In 1809 Tomás Yorba wrote to the Governor on behalf of his father requesting that the rancho be granted to his father alone. In 1810 the grant however was made to Antonio Yorba and Juan Peralta jointly as per the will of Juan Pablo Grijalva and the wishes of his widow.

In 1814 Tomás Yorba again wrote on behalf of his father to the Governor that Juan Peralta was a drunkard, had been disrespectful of his father and had neglected the required labor on the rancho and had even drawn his sword against Antonio Yorba. Tomás also claimed again that his father was more entitled to the land with an implied request that Juan Peralta be thrown off. This petition was forwarded to the *Comandante* of the San Diego Presidio for investigation. The reply, in January 1815, stated that Antonio Yorba was a man of little patience and a quick temper which had earned him the little respect that he received. Both Yorba and Peralta were told to mend their ways so that the *Comandante* would not have to intervene further.³⁹

In 1840, José Antonio Yorba, eldest of the four brothers filed a petition with the Governor requesting that the title of the southern half of the rancho be reissued in his name alone. No action was taken on his request, fortunately for the other heirs and for the Peralta family. All of the above actions must have been unsettling to the Peraltas and

³⁹Grijalva – personal communication.

therefore in 1849, they petitioned for a defined portion of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana as opposed to an undivided share.

In the partition of Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana in 1849, the Peralta heirs were given the lands around Santa Ana Arriba as well as the flat mesa by the Pacific which would one day be Costa Mesa. The Peralta stock-raising activities in the canyon were extended to the lands on the mesa. Most of the Peraltas, however, continued to live around Santa Ana Arriba in the area of the later community of Olive now part of the City of Orange.

On 9 November 1852, a claim for Santiago de Santa Ana was filed by the Yorbos and Peraltas before the US Land Commission, confirmed 10 July 1855, and the appeal dismissed 8 June 1857. At the time of filing it was stated that about fifty heirs lived on the rancho. Settling the individual land rights in court eventually became a necessity.

In 1866 the entire matter was taken to court. By this time some of the heirs had died leaving no children, others of the heirs had sold their rights and, of course, a new generation of heirs had been born. The shares had become so fragmented that some of the minor heirs were granted only one-tenth of one percent.

This great rancho, originally granted to Juan Pablo Grijalva in 1801 had become the foundation of a landed aristocracy for the Yorbos and Peraltas through the two Grijalva daughters. As the haciendas were filled with the children and grandchildren so necessary in the beginning to build and develop the rancho, their very numbers were a factor in the demise of the rancho. The eventual partitioning forced the fragmentation of the property as members of succeeding generations claimed their inheritance. The Yorbos did try to limit this somewhat, by the marriages of cousins, but all for naught. Of all the great ranchos which were "bred out of existence," the Santiago de Santa Ana is a classic example.