

SADDLEBACK ANCESTORS

**Rancho Families of
Orange County California**

Revised Edition

Celebrating Our 35th Year
Orange County California Genealogical Society
1963 - 1998

Saddleback Ancestors: Rancho Families of Orange County California
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The vital records and historical information compiled for Saddleback Ancestors: Rancho Families of Orange County California - Revised Edition, have been carefully documented from public domain records and individual family genealogical research findings. If any information contained herein does not agree with data heretofore acquired by other researchers, we invite submission of such statements with documentation to amend what we have gathered. Please submit any such statements in writing, along with documentation, to the Editors, c/o Orange County California Genealogical Society.

The Editors

FOREWORD

Ted Rischard was the President of the Orange County California Genealogy Society, when the first Saddleback Ancestors went to print in 1969. He and his wife, Maureen, had the foresight to preserve the original paste-ups, prints and photos. Ted's original Preface has been included in this revised edition, because it contains information about the goal of the first publication and the names of the participants who made the first edition of Saddleback Ancestors a reality.

Our thanks to Marcy and Maurice Bandy, Text and Research Editors/Writers for their incredible knowledge, research ability and documentation acumen. Their diligence and perseverance made this book possible for the 35th anniversary of the Orange County Genealogical Society.

We appreciate the talent of our member Sharon Heinz, Committee Chair and General Editor, for her design, layout and interface with production vendors. Just as importantly, she is the glue that made all the parts come together as she persevered to find solutions to the barriers in the path of completion.

This project took almost four years of determination, devotion and dedication, and is a shining example of the generous volunteers who comprise the OCCGS. They are remarkably loyal, supportive and helpful – a joy to work alongside.

Pat Cohen
President (1995-1998)
Orange County California
Genealogical Society

MARKING THE PAST



PREFACE TO 1969 FIRST EDITION

Saddleback Ancestors is designed to acquaint the reader with the families of the Spanish, Mexican, and American immigrants who between 1769 and 1869 established themselves on the *ranchos* at the foot of the mountain landmark "Old Saddleback" in the geographical area later to become Orange County. The book introduces the main characters by telling of their heritage and the events leading up to their arrival. In some instances descendants are mentioned to the present time. Conditions of life in the *ranchos* period, individual experiences, and involvement in historical events are covered.

A number of family names are included which, though not primary to Orange County, are sometimes necessary to complete a pedigree. Other families could have been included, but space dictated that limitation be set. The subject is larger than can be covered in this small book; much more research remains to be done to complete the story of these early families. Most lines are covered for four or five generations, and any single family to which children were still be added in 1869 are carried to completion. In order to avoid duplication, children of a woman marrying into one of the major families are enumerated under her husband's surname.

Many of the vital statistics included were taken from old mission records in handwritten Spanish, some nearly illegible. The early census reports contain obvious errors, and various published works in the field contain not-infrequent conflicts. Discrepancies have been evaluated, and the data which seemed most reasonable under the circumstances were used. An attempt has been made to maintain a degree of readability while at the same time giving the genealogical information in a form usable to readers interested in this field.

It is hoped that the publication of this book in connection with the Bicentennial Celebration of the arrival of the Portolá party in California will stimulate public interest in a hitherto neglected aspect of California history. Perhaps it may encourage others to bring to light new information that has lain hidden in attic trunks—information which would help to fill some of the gaps found in this story of the Saddleback ancestors.

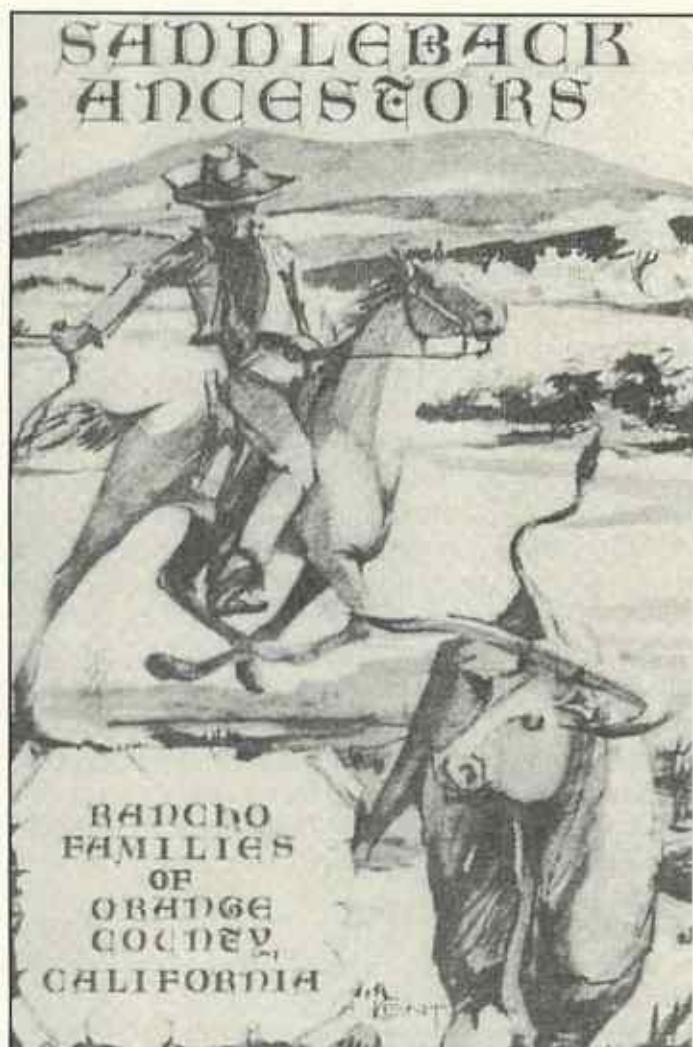
A special note of thanks is due to C.E. "Ted" Parker, Orange County historian, for making his personal file of genealogical data available, and to Jim Sleeper, staff historian of the Irvine Company, for his invaluable editorial guidance and criticism. An expression of appreciation is offered to the Fathers of Old Mission San Juan Capistrano, who very graciously permitted study of the mission records. A debt of gratitude is owed to the following for allowing use of their pictures and for the assistance of their staffs: First American Title Insurance Company and the Charles W. Bowers Memorial Museum of Santa Ana, the Rancho Los Cerritos Museum of Long Beach, and the History Division of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. The writers are indebted to Mrs. Gladys Ashby, Mrs. John Berner, H. A. Chamberlin, and George Key for sharing their historical and genealogical information.

Among the membership of the Orange County California Genealogical Society, credit goes to Agnes B. Pearlman and Ted E. Rischard, who edited the copy; to Harold L. Kent, who created the maps, illustrations and cover design; to Mrs. P. J. FitzGerald, Mrs. Walter Forbes, Miss Martha Fuller, Mrs. Anna Hoover, Miss Annabel Lannert, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Harry H. Platt, Mrs. Ted E. Rischard, Mrs. Harry D. Roberts, Mrs. Fred A.

Shaw, Mrs. Edwin Stanley, and Mr. and Mrs. Rolland S. Thomas — all of whom conducted the research and wrote parts of the manuscript. The typing, proofreading, and general assistance of Mrs. Dennis B. Dunivent, Kathryn McKnight, Harry D. Roberts, and Mrs. Thomas S. Smith is gratefully acknowledged.

Not the least, credit should be given the general membership of the Orange County California Genealogical Society without whose moral support the project could not have been undertaken and to the individual members whose very generous financial support made possible its completion.

Ted E. Rischard
President [1969]
Orange County California
Genealogical Society



1969 Edition Cover

PREFACE TO 1998 SECOND EDITION

Saddleback Ancestors, first published in 1969, has been a significant resource for those interested in either the history of Southern California or their own families. The vast amount of records, abstracts, and compilations that have become available in the last twenty-nine years, has inspired the Orange County California Genealogical Society to produce a revised second edition. Regretfully, many of the more romantic tales in the first edition have had to be removed as later evidence has shown that they were not true. For example: Andrés Ybarra was not killed in 1837 at San Isidro, he and his family lived peacefully in Encinitas until at least the 1860's; Cornelio Avila was not sent from Spain by the King to lead a colonization party to California, but was born in El Fuerte, Sinaloa about 1744 and came to California in the 1790's as a settler; Feliciano Rios did not retire in 1794 to Capistrano, he never lived in Capistrano.

Perhaps the single most significant source has been Marie Northrup. Her published works, as well as the many personal communications from her to the editors before her death, have added a great amount of information for this edition. Her generous contributions through the years are much appreciated. Her mentor, Thomas Workman Temple II, has provided abstracts of many Mission records which have proven invaluable. The Temple abstracts are available from many sources, however the most complete set is in the possession of Los Californianos. This set has been one of the editors' sources and we wish to thank them for access to these records.

Mention must also be made of the huge data base that has been accumulated by the Church of the Latter Day Saints, which is made available to the general public on an equal basis with their own members. Through the Family History Centers, the editors have had access to microfilms of many of the original mission records.

With the 1995 publication (by Los Californianos) of the hitherto unpublished list by Juan Bautista de Anza of those he recruited, it is now possible to state definitely who did or did not join that expedition. Each year students pursuing advanced degrees are writing more papers on Southwestern life and events, adding to our knowledge. The Archives in Mexico City and Spain are being indexed and copied, and therefore these records are now more available to researchers. Well documented family histories are beginning to be appreciated for what they can contribute to the history of the Southwest. Historians and archaeologists are beginning to appreciate the value of Church records and the historical information they contain. Surely in the next few years, other documents will be found to change our current perceptions.

The reader is directed to the Preface of the first edition for the purpose, intent, and style. These have remained the same for the second edition. The single exception is that the first edition stated that any family whose first child was born by 1869 (100 years after Portolá) would be listed in full. In the second edition, it is not possible as our expanded knowledge of these families would make the book far too large, so only those significant to the story have been included. Some of the families, who went to northern California and were discussed at length in the first edition, have been deleted from **Saddleback Ancestors, Revised Edition** in order to maintain emphasis on Southern California.

The research editors have been compiling records on all Southern California families up through 1850 for 40 years. This has facilitated reconciling and correcting discrepancies in primary and secondary sources through 1850. On a selected basis, we have been able to verify information after 1850, particularly baptisms, marriages, and burials at missions, Los Angeles Plaza Church and the Yorba Chapel.

A copy of our family sheets for the families covered in **Saddleback Ancestors, Revised Edition** will be deposited with the Orange County California Genealogical Society library. These include specific source references, and more detail on later generations and collateral lines which are not included in the text. A significant problem is the proliferation of parish churches and Protestant churches after 1850, so that many of the family lists are incomplete.

In addition to the records of the various missions, churches, censuses and Easter Duty lists, the editors have consulted many books, manuscripts and early accounts of events. It has not been possible, within a reasonable time frame actually to verify every generally accepted statement. Therefore, events where a specific date and place are given allow verification, those that are listed without both date and place should be viewed as probable but not as proven.

In using original mission records, the authors have found that it is not uncommon that a person baptized with one name, used a completely different name during his life. While it may be possible to squeeze an unbaptized child in the list of the parents' children, it is more likely that there was a name change. Wherever this seems reasonable, we have indicated so in the text. This includes changes even in surnames, particularly when a widow remarried. [The editor's great-grandfather, who married, lived, and died as Lee Perez, was baptized as Abelardo Encarnación Cota.]

Many Spanish words are used in the text of this edition. The reader is directed to the glossary for a translation and expanded explanation of the meaning of the term as used in the time period 1770 to 1850. For example, the word *padrino* is used because no English word carries all the meanings that *padrino* did in that time period. Also, some Spanish words had quite different meanings in Alta California than they did in the rest of Latin America, e.g. *rancho* here was a very large land holding, tens of thousands of acres, while elsewhere a rancho was a small farm. Some English words particularly of the Catholic faith that may be unfamiliar to a non-Catholic reader are also included. It is suggested that the reader peruse the glossary before reading the text.

The name index is of a different format than that ordinarily encountered. Individuals are listed by approximate birthdate to distinguish between several persons of the same or similar names, and alphabetized under the name they commonly used. Also by use of the index, the reader will be able to determine whether a person mentioned in one chapter is indeed the same individual mentioned elsewhere in the book.

We wish to express our special appreciation to Msr. Davis of Saint Boniface Church for making the Yorba Chapel records available; to Dr. Jack Williams for answering our many questions, alerting us to many references and for contributing his drawings; and to Professor David Langum, of the Cumberland School of Law for his assistance defining various legal terms. The personal communications from many people have prevented numerous errors from being repeated or committed. Where errors have been included, the fault must remain with the editors. Special thanks must go to Harry Crosby, Ed Grijalva,

Mary Haggland, Alex King, Jim Norris, Don Rowland, Betsy Swanson and Margaret Staunchfield for sharing their private papers with us. Others who have reviewed parts of the manuscript and added pieces of information are Georgia Callian, Beverly Enz, Carmelita Flores, Don Garate, José de Larios, Bob Lopez, Bernice Miller and Al Pico. We cannot list all of the Los Californianos' members who have shared their family information with us to make this book more complete, but we gratefully acknowledge their contributions.

Additionally, we would like to thank Marsha Snelling, Old Town Descendants-San Diego; the staff at the Anaheim Library-Special Collections; the office of Orange County Board Supervisor William G. Steiner; and Gregg Hamby for his assistance with the photographs and graphics.

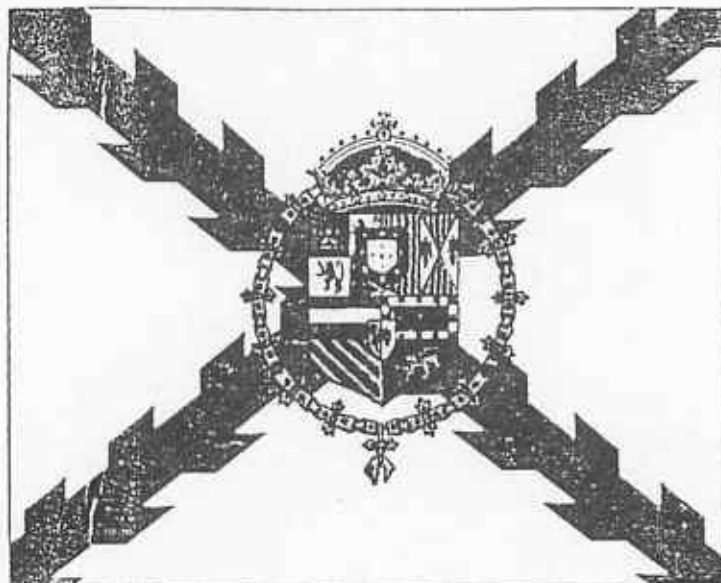
Finally, our thanks go to the Orange County California Genealogical Society and their president, Pat Cohen, for their faith in us, their patience as time schedules slipped, their support throughout the entire process, and for their funding of the publication of this venture.

Marcy and Maurice Bandy
Text and Research Editors/Writers

Sharon Heinz
Committee Chair and General Editor



The Spanish Empire flag - first to fly over California,
planted by Cabrillo at San Diego in 1542
(Public domain)



Spanish flag flown by Vizcaíno at San Diego in 1602
(Public domain)

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The Pioneer
(by Howard L. Kent)

GLOSSARY

The following glossary of Spanish terms used in "Saddleback Ancestors, Revised Edition" emphasizes the usage in California in the early period. Also included are some English words relating to religious or civil matters which are uncommon today.

- Abaja/o* – under, below, lower.
- Afinidad* – relationship, usually a relationship by marriage or an illicit sexual relationship which required a dispensation be married.
- Ahorcado (orcado)* – hanged.
- Ajusticiado* – executed.
- Alcalde* – official of a community, head of the local council, having both executive and judicial, as well as some legislative powers. Appointed or elected for one year.
- Albanil* – mason, usually a stone mason.
- Alferez* – lowest rank of army officer, corresponding to ensign in the US Navy, or 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. Not to be confused with the Spanish term "*Teniente*", which was a much higher rank.
- Alferez de defensores* – public defender, defense attorney.
- Alamo, Alamito* – cottonwood, small cottonwood.
- Aliso* – alder tree, the native alder is the white alder.
- Alta/o* – high, tall.
- Alta California* – "Upper" California, roughly what is now the current state of California.
- Arreglo* – government regulation.
- Arriba/o* – above, higher.
- Asesor* – a legally trained person who served as a consultant to a lay judge, governor or legislative body. (California had very few of these.)
- Asistencia* – a chapel in an outlying area where services were held by mission priests at irregular intervals.
- Aspirante* – candidate for military or public office.
- Averiguacion* – investigation.
- Ayuntamiento* – governing body, usually the city council of a pueblo.
- Baile* – dance, ball.
- Baja California* – "Lower" California, the peninsula comprising the current Mexican states of Baja California, and Baja California Sur. In this time period, the Religious, military and civil center was Loreto.
- Balazo* – gunshot.
- Bandido* – bandit, outlaw.
- Blooded* – stock derived from a quality breed. Stallions were brought from Spain to upgrade the horse herds. Pedigree rams were imported later to improve the sheep herds.
- Boca* – mouth. In placenames, the mouth of a stream or river.
- Bolsa* – pocket, neck of land between water or swamp.
- Brea* – tar, used as a roofing material.

Caballero – cavalryman, gentleman.

Californias – term referring to both Alta (Higher) and Baja (Lower) California. In earlier documents they were referred to, respectively, as Nueva and Antigua California.

Californio – a resident of either Alta or Baja California. Neophytes from Baja were referred to as Californios.

Cajon – box canyon, place boxed in by hills.

Camara de Diputados – Mexican House of Representatives, in Mexico City.

Campo Santo – Holy Ground, cemetery consecrated by the Church.

Cañada – glen or dale.

Canales – canals, the name of a presidio in Durango; channels, the Santa Barbara area, (Channel Islands). Sometimes the Santa Barbara Presidio was called Presidio de Canales.

Capitan – captain, a high military rank, approximately equal to colonel in the US Army. Also used to refer to the Indian chief of a *rancheria*.

Carreta – a cart with solid wooden wheels drawn by oxen. The only wheeled vehicle in normal use. Used to transport bulky material as well as women and young children.

Carta – letter, chart, document.

Cascarones – a party diversion, consisting of the frolicsome breaking of egg shells filled with finely-cut paper of many colors, including gold leaf. The contents were scented with cologne or other essences. After the eggs were broken over the head of a favorite unsuspecting caballero, he was then bound to return the compliment to his señorita.

Casta – a term referring to anyone not of pure Spanish (European) ancestry – "Españoles".

Catalonian Volunteers – a group of about 100 soldiers recruited in Catalonia, Spain in the late 1700's for service on the frontier of New Spain. As time passed, recruits came from Mexico.

Cerrito – small hill.

Chanter – an English word, one who chants. In this period, one who chanted Gregorian chants, which was a prominent part of Catholic Masses, also one who led the Padre into the church at the beginning of Mass.

Chica/o – small.

Chiquita/o – very small.

Cienega – marsh, swamp.

Cocina – kitchen.

Comandante – commander.

Comisionado – those empowered by the Government to perform some official function.

Comisionado de Policia – police inspector. Usually the head of a civil body charged with enforcing the laws.

Conquistadores – conquerors, the very early Spanish soldiers in New Spain. For services to church and crown, they and their descendants were given special privileges.

Consanguinidad – relationship by blood.

Coyote – a person of mixed race, Español, Indian and Negro.

Diablo – devil.

Dias tras Dias – day after day.

Diegueños – early Spanish name for San Diego Indian tribes, now called Kumya'ay.

Diligencias matrimonial – see *Informaciones*.

Diputacion – council, usually elected.

Diseño – map, sketch attached to land claims.

Easter Duty List – a list drawn up by church or military officials during Lent of persons within their jurisdiction who had to comply with "Easter Duty" which is to go to confession and receive communion.

Encargado de Justicia – similar to *Juez de Paz*.

Encino, Encinitos – live oaks, small live oaks, as opposed to "robles" which were deciduous oaks.

Escandalo – scandal.

Escolta – the squad of soldiers assigned to protect a Mission or Pueblo (normally five soldiers and one corporal).

Español – a person of primarily Spanish ancestry. In practice in California, sometimes applied to anyone who had fully assimilated into the Hispanic culture including Indian, Mestizo, Mulato and Coyote.

Esperanza – hope.

Espiritual – related spiritually through the godparent relation.

Exposita/o – foundling, abandoned child.

Fandango – a lively dance accompanied by guitars and other instruments (see text). Also refers to a party open to all.

Fiesta – feast, festival.

Fiscal – prosecuting attorney, specially appointed to handle a particular case on behalf of the public interest.

Fondo Piadoso – the Pious Fund, a benevolent fund of the Catholic Church to promulgate the faith and care for the needy.

Frijoles – beans.

Gente de razon – "people of reason", a member of the established Christian community. This included second generation Indians, as well as some Neophytes who had assimilated into the community.

Gentil – in this period, applied to Indians who had not been baptized.

Grito – shout, rallying cry.

Guatmotol – probably a placename near Capistrano.

Habilitado – paymaster, quartermaster.

Hacienda – large home.

Hijo/a – son, daughter.

Hijo/a espurio – a son or daughter born to parents who could not marry because one or both parents were currently married to someone else. Considered "illegitimate", the term appears infrequently, when the Padre was annoyed with one or both of the parents.

Hijo/a legitimo/a – a son or daughter born to parents who were legally married.

Hijo/a natural — a son or daughter born to parents who could marry, but had not; not considered illegitimate because neither parent was married to someone else.

Huerta — garden, orchard.

Informaciones — documents establishing that a couple were eligible to marry under the rules set up by the Council of Trent (see Chapter III). They were required for all marriages.

Juez de Campo — acted as judge and jury at a rodeo to decide the ownership of disputed animals. His decision was final.

Juez de paz — justice of the peace, who handled local disputes, primarily civil.

Junta — a group joined together to pursue a cause; sometimes applied to governing councils.

Labrador — worker; one who does manual labor; includes *vaqueros*.

Labrador Proprietor — worker on land that he owns.

League — a measure of distance, approximately equal to 3 1/2 miles.

Legitimate — make legitimate by subsequent marriage previous *hijos naturales*. Theoretically *hijos espurios* could not be legitimated, however, it is clear that this occurred.

Libro de Bautizados — Book of Baptisms, where all baptisms were recorded, includes the full names of both parents, sometimes with all grandparents, occupation of the father, and always the *padrinos*.

Libro de Confirmaciones — Book of Confirmations, where all confirmations were recorded, included the name of the confirmed, parents of children, *madrina* or *padrino*, and sometimes the age. (Boys had *padrinos*, girls *madrinas*, helpful to determine the sex of the child).

Libro de Difuntos — Book of Deaths, where all deaths were recorded, usually the parents were named, or spouse for adults, and sometimes the baptismal number for Indian deaths.

Libro de Matrimonios — Book of Marriages, where all marriages were recorded, included the names of bride and groom, whether they were single, widow or widower, usually the names of their parents, dispensations if any, and the names of witnesses.

Line — one twelfth of an inch.

Madrina — see *Padrino*.

Maestro — master, highly skilled artisan.

Mala vida — "bad life", a euphemism for prostitute, also applied to women of notoriously bad moral character.

Mañana — tomorrow, later, never; morning.

Mayordomo — overseer.

Mestizo — a person of mixed Spanish and Indian ancestry.

Mira — look!

Morba — disease.

Mulata/o — person of mixed Black and European ancestry.

Neofito/a — local Indian, baptized, but not fully assimilated into the Hispanic society, a neophyte.

Novia/o — fiancée, fiancé, sweetheart.

Olé! — bravo!

Orejano — unbranded calf or colt of uncertain parentage.

Padrino(s) — godfather, godparents with the obligation to ensure the proper spiritual upbringing of a child and also to provide support and care in case of death or disability of the parents. Also the sponsor at confirmation.

Padron — census, also the ongoing record of all Indian Neophytes and families belonging to a mission.

Palo — tree.

Playa — beach.

Poblador — settler; usually applied to the first settlers of a pueblo.

Prefect — local official.

Presidio — garrisoned fort. There were five in the Californias, Loreto, San Diego, Monterey, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara. A fully manned garrison was 55, including officers, although it was frequently less, from which the *escoltas* were drawn for each mission and pueblo.

Prior Witness — see *testigo*.

Pueblo — specifically chartered town, i.e. San José, Los Angeles and Branciforte. After secularization, others.

Puente — bridge.

Rana — frog.

Rancheria — Indian village. Erroneously used by Emory for rancho.

Rancho — large land holding with cattle.

Real — royal.

Reales — Spanish coins, 1/8 of a Peso, about 12.5 cents, a "bit".

Rebozo — shawl.

Recuerdos — memories, reminiscences, usually applied to written accounts.

Refugio — refuge. (also a given name.)

Regidor — councilman (lower than *alcalde*).

Rico — rich.

Rincon — small piece of land.

Rodeo — round up of stock.

Rubrica — a flourish added to a signature, or used in place of a signature.

Sanja — see *Zanja*.

Santiago! — war-cry of the Spanish, used also as the starting signal for a horse race.

Secularization — conversion of all Mission properties to civilian use, begun in the 1830's.

Serbiente — servant; frequently also applied to artisan employees.

Síndico — town attorney concerned with pueblo ordinances, permits for dances, fairs, etc. However, it has a broader meaning of trustee, receiver, overseeing officials of some sort or another.

Sitio — small farm.

Sobre — about.

Soldado de Cuera — leather jacket soldier; the common soldier of the Southwest, usually mounted. The jacket was a knee length coat of seven layers of deer hide, effective against arrows, but not bullets.

Soldado Distinguido – soldier given extra privileges usually because of belonging to a ranking family, e.g., he did not perform K.P. or latrine duty.

Soltera/o – single, never married.

Supercargo – a ship's officer in charge of cargo. Usually responsible for sales of ships cargo and purchase of hides and tallow.

Tapanco – awning.

Tejada – roof tile.

Teniente – the military rank above *alferez*, approximately captain or major in modern terms.

Testigos – witnesses to a ceremony, usually marriage. Prior witnesses testified to the validity of *informaciones*.

Tule – tule, reed, rush.

Vara – measure of length about a yard.

Vecino – neighbor. Usually someone who lives in or near a location.

Velacion – literally, the blessing of a marriage. Although couples could be married at any time, the velacion could not be performed during certain periods such as Lent and Advent, so that this final sacrament of marriage could occur considerably after the marriage. Normally both ceremonies were performed together.

Viands – an out-of-date English word meaning articles of food.

Vieja/o – old. Or old person.

Vigilante – member of a vigilance committee, an unauthorized committee organized for the maintenance of order and summary punishment of crime in the absence of regular or efficient courts.

Visitador General – ecclesiastical inspector of missions and parishes; a high government official.

Viuda/o – widow/widower.

Vocal – member of a committee or governing body.

Zaguan – entrance.

Zanja – ditch.