

**General
Membership Notice**

The MHS December general membership meeting is moved from the 2nd Thursday to the 3rd **Thursday Dec. 15th** for a Christmas Party/Dinner at Salvatore Italian Restaurant, details to follow.



Dec.3

Adobe Christmas, come celebrate an 1850s Christmas with snacks, hot drinks and fun.

Mark your calendar,

Adobe Dust

JUAN MATIAS SANCHEZ
ADOBE MUSEUM



NOVEMBER 2016

Message From the President—Chris Vargas

History has been a passion of mine for decades.

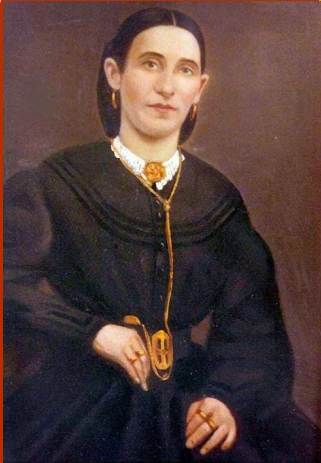
The Montebello Historical Society and the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe have provided me a grand opportunity to work with good people who share the same passion and enthusiasm for the history of Southern California. A history that is rich and full of complicated stories covering several centuries. At the Sanchez adobe, we share stories about people, culture and events. There are no volumes of information about the residents of the adobe, so we have to take a broader historical context in an attempt to tell our story to visitors at the adobe. We have to go outside the Juan Matias Sanchez adobe and *Rancho La Merced* – which was the 2,363-acre land grant that the adobe was built on – and tell the story of the San Gabriel Valley, Greater Los Angeles, Southern California, California, the Nation and our neighbor to the south. We have to paint a picture with broad strokes and, hopefully, strike an interest or build on an already established interest. History can be an extraordinary adventure taking you back in time to see how people lived, what they thought, what they ate, drank, their interests and desires. It is an adventure that opens doors to a world long gone, but not forgotten.

Thank you and persevere.

—Chris Vargas



The Mujeres of the Adobe



*Luisa Archuleta 1820-1873
First wife of Juan Matias Sanchez*



**Matilda Bojoquez
Sanchez**



The Mujeres of the Adobe Exhibit will attempt to answer some very relevant questions about women's lives in 19th century Southern California. First of all we need to look at how a woman was viewed by her society and how she viewed herself, for what we consider to be restrictive by modern terms was actually never viewed as negative or demeaning to the 19th century woman. A fixed role within the household was not less than occupying a man's world. The confines of the home were protection from the outside world, a world of lawlessness and brutality and harsh aggression. To live in the house showed care and compassion of a spouse and the financial means to protect which could be costly. Also there was a mutual respect between husband and wife where she would uphold his honor while he would provide protection and material comforts.

All aspects of a woman's life will be centered around this identity of the lady. We will explore how this formation begins from birth by watching her mother, and later by a formal education. A lady's education was not merely intellectual but social. It was to prime her for marriage within her own class and to enable her to be the mistress of the household. By examining the schooling these women acquired we note an emphasis upon a clearly defined type of woman, an almost cookie cutter senorita whose beauty, charm and quiet influence became the background of the upper class family. She was to become the mistress of her own domain and was judged by how well she could hold conversation with her husband's friends just as much as she could entertain, sing, embroider and recite poetry.

The Mujeres of the Adobe Exhibit will introduce aspects of women's lives which have long been forgotten and are not known by quite a few. Traditionally, history has long been taught within a masculine framework most often in terms of war, physical power, government, and wealth. The external developments were also influenced by internal developments and this is where the mujeres of the adobe play an important role. The senorita did have many intellectual interests and the schools she attended offered a college level curriculum. Because many of these women did not complete degrees does not mean that they were not capable. More often than not, the needs of society were stronger than their self-fulfillment as students and as tradition dictated, they married at a young age. If they had been given the freedom to choose their own paths as women can today, we would see a much higher level of education, but this was not to be realized within their world.

The Mujeres of the Adobe Exhibit will emphasize the importance of place and time and how this was crucial to the lives of the specific women of the adobe as well as all the women of their social and ethnic class. It is an interesting blending of two distinct cultures: the Spanish-Mexican and the Anglo-Americans and these women were not only merging in response to a changing man's world but they were also bonded by a shared responsibility to uphold what was virtuous and distinctly female. We hope you will come away from this exhibit with a better understanding of and respect for these ladies of our past.

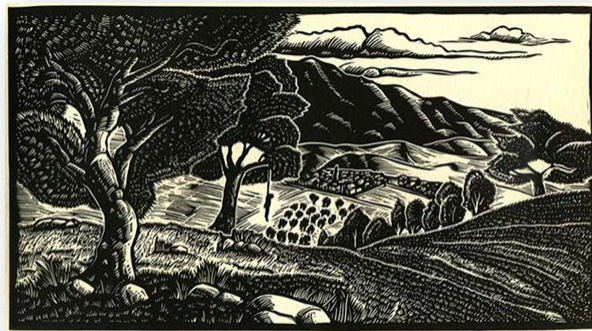
Barbara Garcia-Guzman, Montebello Historical Society

The Greater Los Angeles area before and during the U.S. Civil War (1850-1865) — Act I

This critical subject will consist of 2-3 articles because it is impossible to cover the history of Greater Los Angeles before and during the U.S. Civil war in 500-600 words and/or in one article.

The greater Los Angeles area after the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) and the inclusion of California in the Union in 1850 remained a raw frontier area scattered with pueblos. Cattle remained the predominant economy along with agriculture. The greater Los Angeles area was sparsely populated (6,000 residents by 1855). The ethnic make-up of the greater Los Angeles area consisted of Mexican-Californios, Native Americans, White-Americans, Chinese and Black-Americans. Los Angeles had one the most significant Black populations in Southern California. Many of the Black-Americans arrived to the region as servants with white officers during the war between the U.S. and Mexico. When you entered the *pueblo de Los Angeles*, it would not be uncommon to see packs of barking dogs roaming in the dusty streets and a heavy dose of violence. The area was also prone to droughts and floods making life very hard. Many of us have heard of early violent frontier towns- e.g., Deadwood, South Dakota, Tombstone, Arizona and Dodge City, Kansas, but *pueblo de Los Angeles*, in its own right, was a very violent and dangerous frontier town in the far West.

However, before we can address the U.S. Civil War, which was a seismic event in our nation's history, we must take a few steps back and have an understanding of what transpired during the 1850's in greater Los Angeles and California. What was the social, economic and political setting leading up to the U.S. Civil War?



The Monte and Monte Boys

One of the first townships in the greater Los Angeles area to be established was the Monte (currently El Monte). The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the Monte Township on August 8, 1853. Monte was composed of 120,000 acres and included San Franciquito, La Puente, and Los Coyotes ranchos, along with a tract called Nietos and most of the *tierra* once part of Mission San Gabriel. Monte was located at the "end of the *Santa Fe Trail* and served as a way station between Southern California and the Southwest." Nestled along the banks of San Gabriel River where willow trees reigned. On or about the beginning of 1851, American settlers started to move to the Monte area. These settlers were primarily from Texas and other southern border states.

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ADOBE DUST

The Samson Tire and Rubber Company Plant

Montebello, CA

The Samson Tire and Rubber Company Plant opened in May of 1930 by Adolph Schleicher. He chose "Samson" because it symbolized strength and endurance. The building was designed with a Samson and Delilah motif and modeled after the 7th Century B.C. Assyrian palace of the Babylonian King Sargon II. The plant cost \$8 million. The long facade was originally 1,350-foot-long and later expanded to 1,750 feet. By January, 1931, US Tire and Rubber Company had acquired the Samson Tire and Rubber Company's new plant. US Tire and Rubber Co. became Uniroyal Tire in 1962 and the plant closed in 1978. In 1982, California State Historical Resources Commission approved the site nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The City of Commerce purchased the property in October 1983 to prevent the building's demolition. The Trammell Crow Company was awarded exclusive right to negotiate with the City of Commerce and in 1990 broke ground for The Citadel Outlets.



Los Angeles During the Civil War...continued from page 3

Some of the settlers were former Texas Rangers and included individuals that had fought in the early *Comanche Wars* in Texas. The majority of settlers were farmers. Many had raised livestock in Texas, so they brought with them agricultural and livestock skills to the Monte. Coming from Texas there was a strong independence and a cynical view of the law enforcement system at the time, which was in its infancy stages in the greater Los Angeles area. This sense of independence and reluctance with the nascent law enforcement system prompted an attitude of *we don't need or trust your law enforcement system*. It would be the infamous *Monte boys* of Monte dispensing their own form of criminal justice system on those individuals perceived to have violated the law. Vigilantism would keep order in Monte and the surrounding area. Many of the *Monte boys* were former Texas Rangers and were quite familiar with handling life in the *rough-and-tumble* frontier. The Monte boys had "cut their teeth fighting the Comanche" in Texas. The *Monte boys* were feared and administered, at times, a criminal *injustice* with their lynching, floggings and disregard for the rule of law; however, they were recruited by nearby pueblos to handle illegal activities by criminals. The newly arrived settlers brought with them a form of Southern Democracy and a strong institution of American culture in the newly acquired California.

In the next series, we will address the Monte boys and other Angeleno's sympathies and allegiances with the south along with unbridled partisan democratic politics in greater Los Angeles.

Membership News—Arlene Sandoval

Please let us welcome our newest & renewal members: Rosemary To, Amanda Sanchez, Ray Sanchez, Helen Weatherby, Barbara & Bill Hughes, Letty Gutierrez, A. R. Reyes, Helen Delovia, & Bryan Stanek. Keep the History Alive & share your stories with us.

We would also like to thank the vendors that came to our Evening In Italy which made our event a success: DJ Kenny who provided the music, Terry & Daniela Garcia, Inspired Jewelry, Annette Gonzales, Artist, Lori Miller, Cookies & Goodies, Mary Nykoluk, Journey Cards, & Richard Valdez, Artist.

Thank you Jay Nomura from M's Flower Shop donated \$300 to our Evening in Italy Fundraiser.

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