

WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH

Mujeres of the Adobe

General Membership Notice

2nd Thursday of the
month

At the

Senior Citizen's
Center

6:30pm start time

Upcoming Events

March 18

Women's History
Month Day

April 8

Baseball Day with
Marge Villa

Adobe Dust

JUAN MATIAS SANCHEZ
ADOBE MUSEUM



MARCH 2017

Message From the President—Chris Vargas

The Montebello Historical Society wants to announce that we are in the final stages of taking a different set of lenses that will allow us to view the *Adobe* through a new exhibit that we are calling the *Mujeres of the Adobe*. Who were these women of the adobe? (i) The first resident of the Adobe was Dona Maria Casilda Soto de Lobo (ii) Dona Maria Luisa Archuleta, a native of New Mexico and wife of Juan Sanchez (iii) Dona Maria de la Luz Epifania Sanchez, daughter of Juan and Luisa Sanchez (iv) Matilda Bojorquez de Sanchez, second wife of Juan Sanchez and (v) Lucinda Temple Zuniga, daughter of Francisco Pliny Fisk (F.P.F) Temple and Antonia Margarita Workman - prominent early *Angelenos*. There are other women, but these are the five women that we will focus on for this exhibit. The MHS has set-up a committee to develop and spearhead the *Women of the Adobe exhibit*. Our chairwoman is Carolina Ibarra-Mendoza, the artist behind this exhibit and with Barbara Garcia, doing the research and preparing the exhibit narrative and strong academic support from Kathleen Raba-go.

The role of women in the 19th century was socially important as pointed in Barbara Garcia's article entitled: *The Domestic Responsibilities and Roles of 19th Century Women* where Barbara points out that "They [women] provided stability for men through the institution of the home. The home was not just a physical place but a moral permanent foundation of the family structure, something viable and safe and non-aggressive." Moreover, women were tasked with the protection of "...morality, to build churches and schools, to see that sons and daughters grew up morally straight, these were important goals."

This *Mujeres of the Adobe* exhibit will step away from the standard narrative of 19th Century California where we traditionally address battles, ranchos, cows, horses and missions, which are stories that need to be told. We look forward to the completion of the *Mujeres of the Adobe exhibit* and the unveiling on March 18, 2017 (hours: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the Juan M. Sanchez Adobe.

Thank you and persevere.

—Chris Vargas

Maria De La Luz Sanchez Guirado

Maria De La Luz Sanchez Guirado, commonly called "Luz" was the daughter of Juan Matias Sanchez and Luisa Archuleta. She was born in 1861 in Montebello and died in Los Angeles in 1947. Luz attended a convent school in Los Angeles and reportedly attended Notre Dame College, the same institution as Lucinda Temple. The extent of her course work remains questionable because there are no existing records of any areas of study in the student register. It is probable that she did attempt studies there allowing to the fact that her friend Lucinda was a student at the college in 1876. Due to the strong alliances between the Workman-Temples and the Sanchez family and the fact that the college offered bilingual classes in Spanish and English - Luz would have probably followed this preliminary education. If this holds true, she would have also been exposed to the rudiments of French since the nuns teaching there were French speaking from Belgium.

Most biographical information about Luz has been supplied by church records and obituaries. There is also mention of her friendship with the Temple women. As with her counterparts she married well in accordance to her station in life when she became the wife of Bernardino Guirado. Guirado was the brother-in-law of John C. Downey, the first American Southlander to serve as a California Governor. Guirado made his profits as the owner of the largest walnut orchard in the state and amassed quite a fortune. He was also a Los Angeles County Supervisor in the 1850s. Luz had the reputation of being one of the southland's wealthiest women at one point in time although clearly her wealth had diminished considerably towards the end of her long life. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery and was survived by daughter Margarita Saturnina who passed away in 1976.

- Barbara Garcia-Guzman

Maria Matilde Bojorquez

Maria Matilde Bojorquez is recorded to have been born between 1859-61 at Sonora, Mexico and died in 1891 during childbirth at the Rancho La Merced. There is little written evidence about Maria as an individual but we know of her circumstances regarding her short marriage to Juan Matias Sanchez. She was the mother of three children: Dolores, Rosita and Jose Juan Matias.

During the decline of what may be termed the Sanchez Dynasty, much of the rancho had been foreclosed upon due to un-repaid loans and a very devastating banking venture which cost the Workman-Temples as well as Juan Matias Sanchez extreme amounts of gold and loss of property. Sanchez did however manage to secure a portion of the land and a dwelling for Maria and her children. Being his second wife and the mother to his young children (Juan Matias died while his second family of heirs were practically toddlers) Maria Matilde's circumstances were comfortable at best. Rather than foreclosing upon her, her creditors allowed her to remain at the rancho for the remainder of her short life. Maria Matilde was a witness to the end of the era of the ranchos and the beginning of the corporate industrialized economy which impacted several of the landowners of the late 1800s in Southern California.

- Barbara Garcia-Guzman



Lucinda Temple Zuniga

Daughter of F.P.F. Temple and Margarita Workman Temple, Lucinda plays an important role in the development of family ties among the Workman, Temple and Sanchez families. Born in 1860, she was one year older than Maria De La Luz Sanchez (daughter of Juan and Luisa Sanchez) which made them particularly close. Lucinda was given all the refinements of the upper class families of her time including attending highly acclaimed religious schools such as the College of Notre Dame in San Jose, California where she received awards for Piano and Grammar for the academic year 1875-76. According to a roster of student accounts, Lucinda's tuition and other related expenses totaled nearly three hundred dollars for half a school session, a considerable amount in 1876. Her family paid an additional forty dollars for piano lessons so it can be assumed that she was quite an accomplished pianist as well as a woman of letters.

The College of Notre Dame primed students for marriage into very influential families such as that of Manuel Zuniga. Lucinda's life was typical of the financially secure and important families of 19th Century California. As the Sanchez and Workman-Temple families became connected through business, the women became connected on social and domestic levels. Social activities such as marriages and baptisms (aside from marriages the families were bonded by god-parents) are recorded as being celebrated at the Juan Matias Sanchez adobe with all families in attendance. Upon her death in 1928, Lucinda was laid to rest in the Workman-Temple family cemetery, El Campo Santo, which is one of the oldest private cemeteries in Southern California. Walter P. Temple, grandson to the Workmans restored the cemetery and interred his family in a neoclassical mausoleum. He had the remains of Pio Pico and his wife also transferred from the old Calvary Cemetery in 1921 when the cemetery was being relocated.

- Barbara Garcia-Guzman



Lucinda Temple de Zuniga

Maria Casilda Soto de Lobo

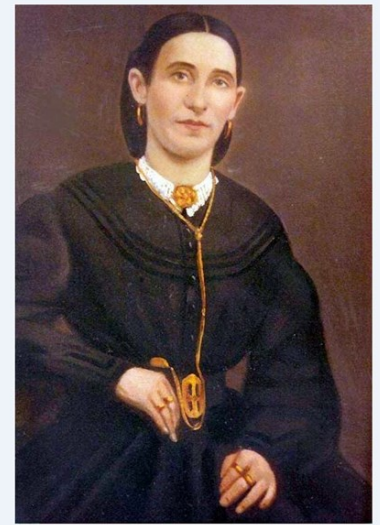
Maria Casilda Soto de Lobo (a.k.a Dona Lobo) was the first resident of the Sanchez Adobe area having received a land grant in 1844 from Mexican Governor Manuel Micheltorena, an uncommon practice during the 19th century. She was born in 1799 to Guillermo Soto and Juana Maria Perez. The long stretch of highway called Soto Street starting from Huntington Park to Boyle Heights was named in their honor.

At the age of 13 or 14, not uncommon for the year 1812, Maria Casilda married Jose Cecilio Villalobo at the Mission San Gabriel. Her husband was a soldier at the Mission San Gabriel. The couple had eight children of which only a few survived, all of them sons. In 1844 she was a 45 year old widow when she received her land grant and by 1845 she had her adobe on the Rancho La Merced. According to U.S. Census records, in 1850 two of her sons, Juan and Santiago were residing with her. It has been recorded that Juan and/or Santiago fought in the Battle of San Pasqual in December of 1846.

Swept up in the gold rush fervor of 1849, Juan went to Sonora “southern mines” and unwisely executed a contract where he borrowed one thousand dollars on promise of repayment or the surrender of the *Rancho La Merced*. When foreclosure proceedings commenced, it was disclosed that Juan had no legal rights to mortgage the land and he was consequently jailed.

In 1850 Dona Lobo mortgaged her property to William Workman who subsequently foreclosed on her for non-payment and in 1852 the *Rancho La Merced* was deeded to son-in-law F.P.F. Temple and Juan Matias Sanchez. The year of her death has been recorded as 1853 or 1854. Her recorded place of burial is the Mission San Gabriel.

-Barbara Garcia-Guzman



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

Luisa Archuleta Sanchez



Luisa Archuleta Sanchez was born c. 1826 at Taos, New Mexico and died in 1873 at the R Rancho La Merced, Montebello, California. Luisa is the mother of the first family Sanchez children fathered by Juan Matias and represents a period of stability and growth in the lineage. Juan Matias and Luisa were married on Feb. 11, 1872 at the Mission San Gabriel by Judge Ignacio Sepulveda. They had known each other for some time, being that her first husband Raphael Martinez and Juan Matias had known each other in Taos, New Mexico. Martinez went to the gold fields but never returned and subsequently Luisa and Juan Matias were wed to begin their legacy.

Luisa Archuleta was the mother of Tomas Louis, Francisco Antonio, Maria De La Luz, Juan Cristobal and Julian Librado. Luisa's marriage was comfortable, for this was during the time when the rancho was prospering with assets secured by wool production and farming. Most of the Sanchez enterprises were successful and she lived during a stable time. Having a limited control over her sons and their adventures she most likely turned her attentions to the rearing of daughter Maria De La Luz. This is evident from the schooling she had reportedly at a local convent school and a brief time at Notre Dame College. Maria most likely attended preparatory girl's schools for a brief time before marriage. Luisa was the overseer of the many lavish parties at the rancho particularly the annual celebration of St. John's Day, Juan Matias patron. Her role within the Sanchez family was one of internal dynamics, providing a stable environment for her husband and many sons.

- Barbara Garcia-Guzman