



# BATTLELINES



A Bimonthly Newsletter of the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association

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MARCH/APRIL 2021

15808 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027 - 760-737-2201

**We are looking forward to the park and visitor center at San Pasqual opening again!**



Museum stained glass panel display illustrating Mexican Californio lancers charging into battle against US Dragoons at the Battle of San Pasqual, December 6, 1846

## President's Message:



**by Tom Vilicich**

Hello again, SPBVA Members and Friends:

It has been a year since San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park has been fully open to the public due to the pandemic. I am sure you have known someone who has been stricken or affected by the Coronavirus-19. The people I know who were sick came through it. I pray that your loved ones who contracted the virus have come through it too, with no ill side effects.

I have no way to know if we will ever get back to

normal, without social distancing and the wearing of masks. I still cannot believe that you can go into a bank wearing a mask and it is okay.

I do have some good news about the park. We may open back up some time in March. This is not set in stone, but I am hopeful that this will happen. Staff for Old Town SHP are trying to work out a plan to reopen there. When we reopen, we'll be calling out to volunteers to help get our programs back on track. Hope to see you soon at San Pasqual!

**SPBVA 2021****BOARD***Donald Coates**Randall Hamud**Darlene Hansen**Jody Hansen**Stan Smith**Marci Trussell**Tom Vilicich**Bob Wohl***Emeritus:***Shirley Buskirk**Ron Hinrichs***President:***Tom Vilicich***Vice-President:***Don Coates***Treasurer/Sec'y:***Marci Trussell***SPBVA Info:**

Tom Vilicich

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**Battlelines:**

Ellen Sweet

Deadline Apr 23, 2021

elsweet@gmail.com

**State Park Updates****By Gregg Giacobuzzi, State Park Interpreter I**

It has been a long one year since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world. Each of us is trying his best to get through this stressful time. I hope you and your family and friends are in good health. I know I look forward to the time when staff and volunteers can greet visitors, face to face, and interpret our unique cultural resources to visitors throughout the world.

Below is a short list of park updates that have occurred over the last year:

- During the fall months of 2020 until the COVID-19 cases skyrocketed in Southern California, park staff presented interpretive programming outside the museum on weekends.
- In lieu of Battle Day 2020, staff created an excellent 18-minute video on the history of the Battle of San Pasqual, corresponding online resources, and youth educational activities. A special thanks goes to interpretive staff member Madeleine Meyer for her contributions toward this video.
- Additional cultural videos/demonstrations have been placed on the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park website in the last 90 days. Park staff have been posting regularly to the park's new Facebook page. Please "like" it to stay up to date!
- Park trails are currently open, yet the museum and main parking lot are closed. There is no specific, anticipated, date when the museum will reopen.
- The maintenance staff for the historic sector is in the process of clearing excess vegetation along the half-mile hiking trail from the Monument to the Museum grounds.
- The San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association and State Park staff will conduct a monthly Association ZOOM meeting on **March 19**. Board members will receive a ZOOM link from Megan Suster. This meeting will cover a range of topics, including ideas from the board on new avenues for volunteer recruitment.
- Kim Weinstein, Administrative Officer III, who acted as supervisor for Visitor Services from September 2019 to July 2020, has recently retired. I will now serve as the Cooperating Association Liaison (CAL) for the park. Contact me at [Greg.Giacobuzzi@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Greg.Giacobuzzi@parks.ca.gov)

**First Sergeant's Corner****submitted by Tom Vilicich***Charge as foragers.*

964.—The charge as foragers is used against artillery. It is executed as prescribed in the *school of the squadron*.

The colonel designates the squadron or squadrons which are to charge; they break off and march towards the point from which they can in succession charge the batteries; the rest of the regiment marches to support the attack or oppose the enemy, and to rally the foragers after the charge.

## Virtual Museum Tour in the Making

By Gil Garcia, Senior Park Aide

An online museum tour is in the making for the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. Interpretive staff member Maddie Meyers has already completed an introduction and overview video of the museum, which can be viewed at the park's website. Park Aide Gil Garcia has been writing and memorizing scripts for the individual exhibits. Lucy Chalgren, Seasonal Interpreter at San Elijo and Carlsbad State Beaches, has been doing the directing, video taping, editing, etc. All of this is under the supervision of Megan Suster, Historic Interpreter II. There are 18 total exhibits, so it's a lot of work and it is going to take some time to complete. For me, personally, the memorizing of the scripts and being on video has been a little stressful. However, everybody on the project has been so positive and encouraging, that is has also been a pleasure.

In honor of Women's History Month in March, we wanted to share an excerpt from one of these videos.

### JESSIE BENTON FRÉMONT and the ANTI-SLAVERY PARTY

Jessie Benton Frémont was an American writer and political activist. She wrote many stories that were printed in popular magazines of the day as well as several books. She was the daughter of Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton, who was a strong proponent of western expansion. In 1840 at the age of 16, while she was studying and living at the Georgetown Seminary, she met the explorer John Charles Frémont. The following year, she married

March is  
Women's  
History  
Month

him.

During the next several years, she supported and encouraged John in so many ways. She served as his secretary, editor, and writing partner. And she helped compose the reports of John's adventures, which were being published in books and newspapers. In 1849, Jessie and her daughter Lily journeyed aboard ship in order to come to California and reunite with John there. With income from their gold mines, they settled in San Francisco and Jessie quickly got involved in city politics. Just like her father, Senator Benton, and her husband, John C. Frémont, Jessie was a mighty powerhouse in her own right. She is one of the main reasons why California joined the Union as a free state.

During the Constitutional Convention in Monterey in 1849, she said, "My pretty rooms are the headquarters for the anti-slavery party; our decision is on the side of free labor!" When the Republican Party was founded in 1856 to oppose the expansion of slavery, her husband John was nominated as the party's first presidential candidate. And, of course, Jessie had a hand in that because she was John's political advisor. She could also converse with diplomats in several languages. Although John's run for president was unsuccessful, he had success as a senator in California and later as the Governor of the Arizona Territory. This, I'm sure, was due in part to the influence and support of his wife, Jessie. After John C. Frémont's death in 1890, Jessie moved to Los Angeles where she spent her remaining years.

What a remarkable woman she was! Don't you agree?



Left: Jessie Benton Frémont  
*Courtesy of the Library of Congress*

Right: Big Trees in Santa Cruz Grove,  
1880s. Gen. J.C. Frémont with his wife  
Jessie Benton Frémont and daughter  
Lily. *Courtesy of Santa Cruz Public  
Library*



Saluting Californio Señoras & Señoritas



Ysidora Bandini de Coutts



Magdalena Baca de Pico

March is  
Women's  
History  
Month



Ysidora Pico de Forster



Vicenta Sepulveda de Carrillo



Governor Pio Pico with his wife Maria Ygnacia Alvarado and nieces Maria de Jesus Alvarado and Maria de la Trinidad Ortega. Both girls had Pico mothers.



Estefana Alvarado de Johnson



Juana Marron de Rubio



Francisca Marron de Osuna

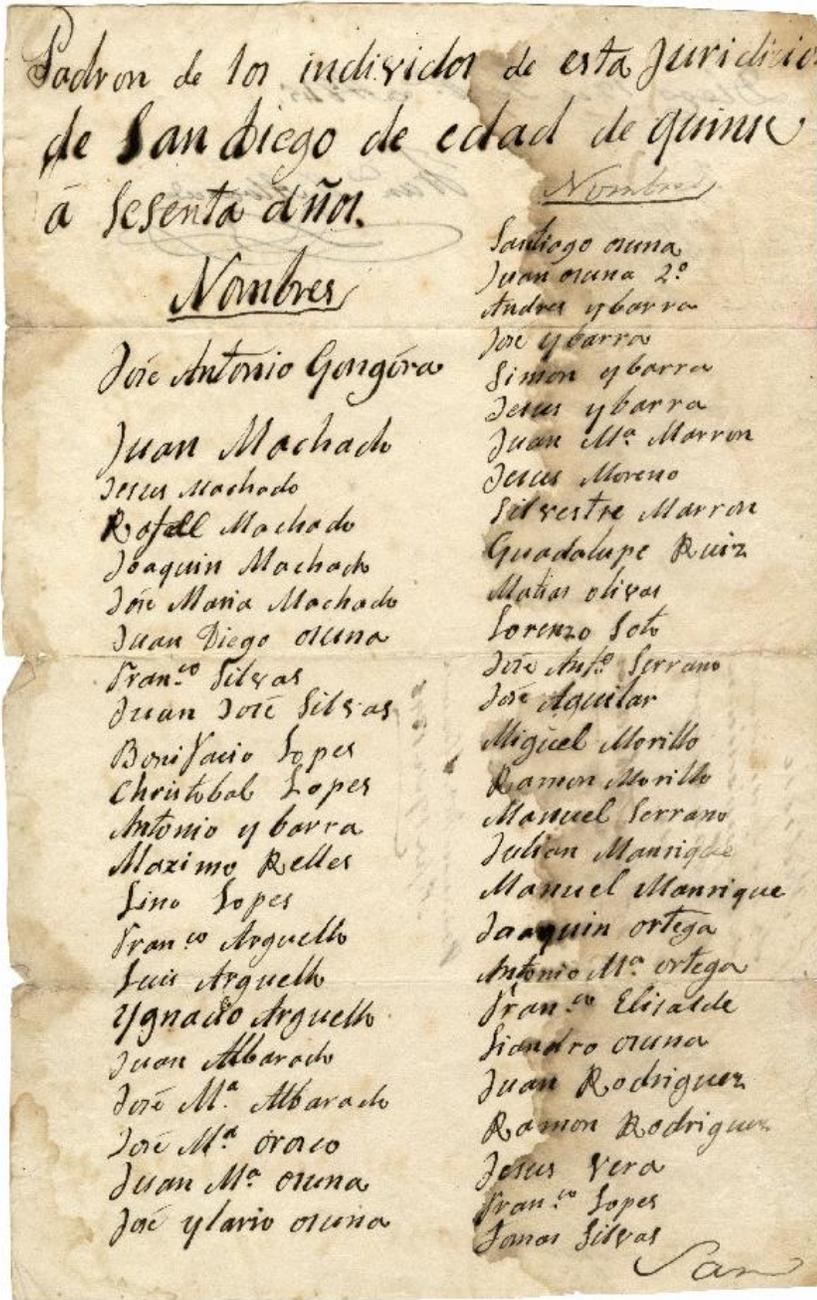


Maria Antonia Argüello de Wilcox

Credits for photographs are on page 6

Military Census of Californios, 1845

by Ellen Sweet



Census (Padrón) of Californios, ages 15 to 60 (quince a sesenta años), available for military service in San Diego taken by Alcalde Francisco María Alvarado, September 19, 1845.

This two-page original document is preserved at UCSD Special Collections. The abbreviated second page is mainly the date and signature of Francisco María Alvarado of Old Town and Rancho Santa María de los Peñasquitos.

We know that some of those listed fought at the Battle of San Pasqual. Of course, participants were not all from the local population.

Try to read these names. If you have visited our sister park at Old Town, you will recognize names from some of the adobes there or from some of the many ranchos in San Diego. You should be able to pick out these familiar Californio family names: Machado, Osuna, Silvas, Lopez, Argüello, Alvarado, Orosco, Ybarra, Marrón, Moreno, Ruiz, Soto, Serrano, Morrillo, Manriquez, Ortega, Elisalde, Rodríguez, and Aguilar. Some first names like Francisco, Antonio, and María are abbreviated. Once your eyes adjust to the handwriting and you know what to look for, you should be rewarded and feel a bit more connected to these people.



Can you imagine how excited I was to find this document? For researchers, this official document is like finding treasure.

Courtesy of the Department of Special Collections, University of California San Diego.

JOIN NOW! Our non-profit organization supports the activities of the San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. All members receive *BATTLELINES*, a 10% discount on all bookstore items, special programs, field trips, history discussions, and opportunities to participate in our Living History Sundays and in our annual December re-enactment of the Battle.

**SAN PASQUAL BATTLEFIELD VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

P.O. Box 300816, Escondido, CA 92030-0816

(760) 737-2201

www.spbva.org

This is my/our membership application & dues for the following category:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$5)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$50)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dragoon (\$100 or more)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$20)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$100)   | Please make checks payable to: SPBVA                  |

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

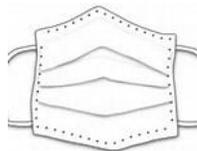
OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ INTEREST/SKILLS \_\_\_\_\_

**Dragoon Level Members**



- |   |                                     |                               |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • <b>Bob &amp; Judy Bowman</b>          | • <b>Jake Enriquez Family</b>       | • <b>Janell Percy</b>         |
| • <b>Justin &amp; Michelle Burkhard</b> | • <b>Allen &amp; Suzanne Foucar</b> | • <b>Ellen Sweet</b>          |
| • <b>Carole Chavez</b>                  | • <b>David Frazee</b>               | • <b>Thomas M. Vilicich</b>   |
| • <b>Donald &amp; Vicky Coates</b>      | • <b>David Herbert</b>              | • <b>Bob &amp; Robyn Wohl</b> |
| • <b>Jane Stokes Cowgill</b>            | • <b>Milo Johnson Automotive</b>    |                               |

**Membership Renewals**



- **Bob & Judy Bowman, Franklin, OH**
  - **Carole Chavez, Roll, AZ**
  - **Alexa Clausen, Escondido, CA**
  - **Richard Meyer, Barstow, CA**
  - **Janell Percy, Bermuda Dunes, CA**
  - **Robert Snashall, Portland, OR**
- Thank you all!*

**Credits for photographs on page 4**  
**Top row, left to right:**  
**San Diego County Parks; Mary Haggland;**  
**History and Museums Office, USMC**  
**Camp Pendleton.**

**Middle row, left to right:**  
**Anaheim Public Library; History and Mu-**  
**seums Office, USMC Camp Pendleton;**  
**Seaver Center for Western History Re-**  
**search.**

**Bottom row, left to right:**  
**Shelley Hayes Caron; Carpenter Family;**  
**Sayre Macneil.**