

Felipe N. Gomez, Esq., is a well-known citizen of Monterey, because of the active part he has taken in its business and civil development and of the historic prominence of his family in the State.

His father, Rafael Gomez, was one of the conspicuous figures in California's Mexican history; coming to California from Mexico in 1830. Being an able and eminent lawyer he was sent as an advisor of Governor Manuel Victoria, Commander-in-Chief of the Mexican forces, and Mexican Governor of California during the year 1831.

Victoria was an honest and an energetic officer, as well as aggressive, yet well meaning in the enforcement of the rules of good government. Disregarding the counsel of his friends, he made frequent short cuts to justice by military methods, thereby exciting the people to revolution. His rule was therefore decisive and brief, and, in 1832, he left the country in evident disgust. Gomez, however, had the respect and confidence of all law-abiding people and he remained in the State.

His official acts were later passed upon and approved by the then home government at the city of Mexico.

In 1831 he was grantee of the ranche Santa Rosa. He was a supporter of Figueroa's government, but resigned this position; and, in 1834, he was granted the Tularcitos ranche, and held local offices in Monterey in 1835 and '36. He was also appointed Government Agent to Mexico, which honor he declined.

He married, March 7, 1831, Josefa Estrada, to whom were born Felipe, the subject of this sketch; a daughter, Ysibela; and Juan, a prominent businessman of San Francisco.

Mr. Gomez lost his life in 1838, by an Accident' being entangled in a lareta while looking after his stock on the Tularcitos ranche in Monterey county. He was born in the State of Jalisco, Mexico; was of Spanish decent, and a man of broad intelligence, a lawyer of fine legal ability, and possessed of a kind heart. His wife, Josefa Estrada, was a daughter of Mariano Estrada, a Lieutenant of Mexican Artillery, who was born at Loreto, Mexico, 1784, and came to California in 1797 with Arrillaga as Alférez of Monterey, which position he held for ten years, being Habilitado most of the time. He was granted the Buena Vista ranche for his efficient services as a soldier, military and civil officer, retiring from the public service in 1829. He was one of the most respected and influential men in northern California.

Felipe Gomez is a prominent citizen of Monterey, and inherits many of the excellent traits of his illustrious father's character. He was born at Monterey, California, May 25, 1832, and was educated at a Latin college in Guadalajara, Mexico, taking a classical and physiological course of study, receiving his diploma in 1848. He then returned to Monterey, where he has ever since resided. On December 12, 1870, he received the appointment of Postmaster at Monterey from Postmaster-General Creswell. He was again appointed to the same office, January 2, by

President Chester A. Arthur, and held this position until the expiration of the term, April 4, 1887, when he turned it over to Ed Ingraham, Esq. Mr. Gomez was appointed Notary Public in and for the county of Monterey, by Governor Newton Booth, May 20, 1874. He was married February 5, 1860, at Monterey, to Refugio, daughter of H. Sanchez, Esq., and they are the parents of the following children:

Josefa, married in Santa Cruz; Concepcion and Alex. (deceased), Mariana, Adelaida, Martha, Mary Y., Amelia (deceased), Charles, (married), Frank and Julio M.

Mr. Gomez is an active man of affairs, strictly honorable and just in all his business dealings, and owns a fine ranche near Pacific Grove, besides his city property in Monterey.

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