

Don Jacinto Rodriguez was born January 12, 1815, in the Pájaro valley, Santa Cruz county, on which place is now situated the prosperous city of Watsonville. His father, Don Sebastian Rodriguez being then the owner of a vast tract of lands consisting of thousands of acres about and in the immediate vicinity of Watsonville.

Our subject removed to Monterey soon after the death of his father and was soon very prominent in the affairs of the capital of Alta California, Monterey. It will be remembered that education was very limited in the early days in California, but Jacinto applied himself, under the tuition of his father and was soon able to master the Spanish language, in which He learned to read, write and keep accounts. These accomplishments secured him a position in the customhouse, under the Mexican Government, which position he retained until California became a part of the Union. Don Rodriguez was a member of the first constitutional convention, which convened in Monterey, July 3, 1850, and gave California her first organic law under American rule.

In 1847. he commenced the creation of a noble house on what is now the corner of Alvarado and Franklin streets, and in one year succeeded in building one story of the house and putting on as light roof of shingles. The price of lumber was so very high and wages demanded by carpenters so great that it was several years before the house was completed. It was then considered one of the mansions of the city, and

unlike the others of its kind the rooms were large and light.

In 1848, he married Miss Pergrina Pinto, daughter of Don Rafael and Donna Mana Ygnacia Amador de Pinto, and they had five children, four sons and one daughter, all of whom are dead excepting the second son, Charles H. Rodriguez; He and his mother are the surviving members of the family. They are at present living in the same adobe building that was built in 1848, the son having been employed as bookkeeper for the Pacific Live Stock Mutual Protection Association of Monterey, amid at present clerk in the law office of Messrs. Parker & Nougues, Salinas city, the county seat of Monterey county.

In 1880, Don Jacinto Rodriguez died, leaving considerable property behind him, on the principal business street in Monterey, he having purchased the property formerly belonging to Curtis & Conover, on which was built the first brick store in the city, in 1857. He purchased this property at the time the county-seat was removed to Salinas city, paying a small price for the same; but to-day it is considerably enhanced in value, and it is all in the possession of the family and there is no encumbrance on it, whatever. This is but a brief history of one of the old families of California, who have ever proved themselves brave and true citizens of one of the largest States in this glorious Union.

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