

alvarado adobe

# SAN PABLO

## Historical and Museum Society

number 1 alvarado square, san pablo, california 94806

Visit the museums online : [www.ci.san-pablo.us/history](http://www.ci.san-pablo.us/history)

Tel. 510-215-3046

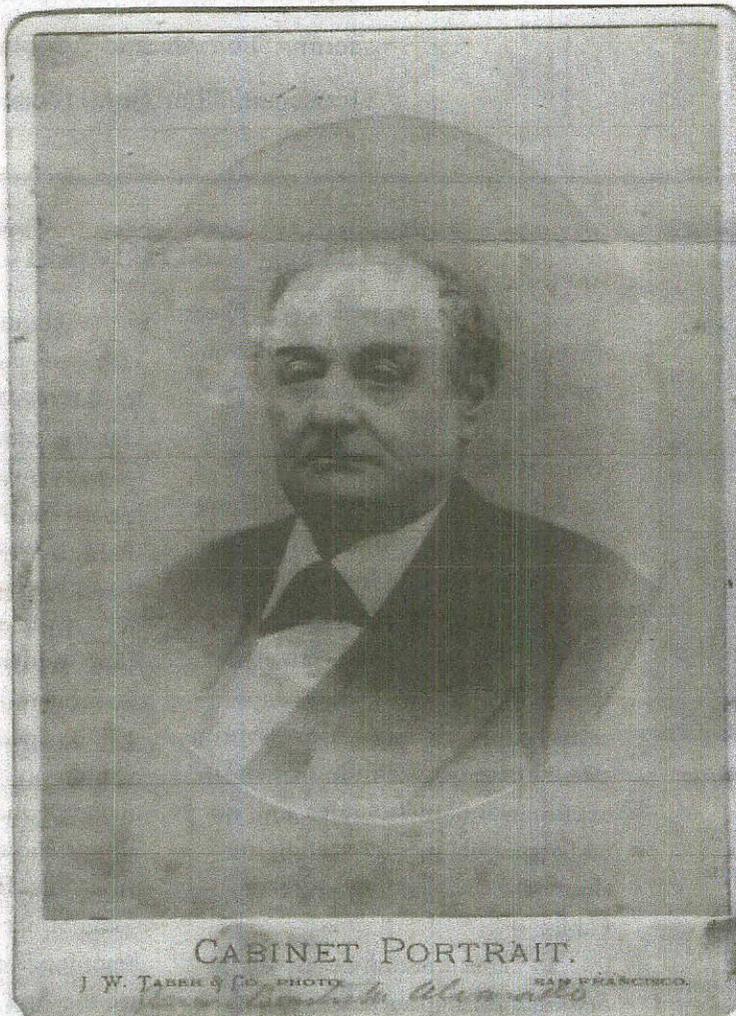
February is the month we recognize San Pablo's most historic figure, Juan Bautista Valentin Alvarado. He was born on Feb. 14, 1809 at the presidio of Monterey, Alta California. He was named Juan Bautista after his paternal grandfather and Valentin because he was born on Valentines Day.

His father Jose Francisco Alvarado and his mother Joseja Maria Vallejo were members of the earliest of California's exploring families.

Now, at this time Alta California bore little resemblance to the large geographical area we know as the State of California. Mexican Alta California consisted of a string of twenty-two missions clinging to the coastal lands from San Diego in the south to Sonoma in the north.

## Juan Bautista Valentin Alvarado

February 14, 1809– July 18, 1882



Alvarado at the age of 72 near the end of his life.

His father, sergeant Alvarado of the Mexican army, died in San Louis Obispo while on a trip along El Camino Real. Juan and his mother continued to live in Monterey where they spent a lot of time with her parents and her siblings including her youngest brother, Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, who later became the famous general.

In 1836 after a mini revolution, which no one was hurt, the people of the little pueblo of Monterey swore in their new governor of Alta California. This was not such a rare occasion in this turbulent time. Alvarado was the fourth governor to try his hand at this position. It should be noted that at first the powers in Mexico didn't recognize Alvarado and supported Carlos Carrillo the governor of the southlands. (cont pg.3)

**SAN PABLO  
HISTORICAL AND  
MUSEUM SOCIETY**

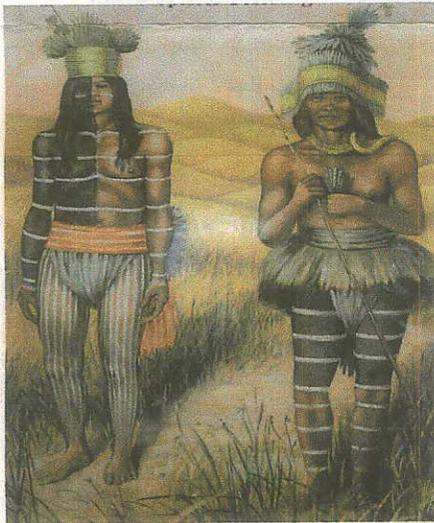
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San Pablo, Ca. 94806

Phone— 510 215-3046  
On the web— [www.ci.san-pablo.us/  
history](http://www.ci.san-pablo.us/history)

Make San Pablo's History a Part of Your Life.

We need new members and volunteers. Members may participate in all San Pablo Historical and Museum Society activities including public relations, program planning, hospitality, research, fundraising and/or become a docent at one of our museums.

The Historical and Museum Society's responsibility is to maintain the interiors of all three museums. The Alvarado Adobe, The Blume Farm House and The Bunk House



*San Pablo Before the Missions:*

Join us on **April 11, 2010** for a special celebration honoring the first people of the Contra Costa, The Miwok and Huichin Indians, by marking the anniversary of the 1772 and 1776 Anza Expedition's trek up through the East Bay.

## Spring Celebration

Here is some history. There is much documented of the famous Anza Expeditions and the indigenous people that those early explorers met along their journey. In a recent book, "Tracing Anza's Trail: A Photographer's Journey", author Nina Egert, Ph. D, follows portions of the path described by Juan Bautista de Anza and his chaplain, Pedro Font in their personal journals. But much less is known of the rare contact between these Spanish explorers and missionaries and the native people that lived along the shores of the East Bay and San Pablo.

This special event will be featured during our normal open time on **Sunday April 11, 2010 from noon to 4pm.**

Activities will commence at 12:30pm. and include performances by Marvin Marine and his Miwok Dances, demonstrations and information by the California native Plant Society and native floral arrangement by Dawn Kooyumjian. We will have a special demonstration in using native American food to create more modern dishes which will be available to taste!! Both museums will be open and new and exciting exhibits are going to be unveiled including the newly restored Blume House 2nd floor rooms. Also, author, Nina Egert will be exhibiting some of her original photographs. Planning is ongoing so be sure to see the Apr./May issue of this newsletter for the latest info.

## Juan Bautista Alvarado

As the missionary authority weakened, the boundaries of the mission lands began to crumble and huge ranchos were now appearing alongside mission properties. There were no cities yet just three pueblos and four presidio communities scattered along the coast. The 1836 census showed less than 700 inhabitants in the presidio and capital at Monterey.

For the next two years Alvarado and his followers rode back and forth between Monterey and Santa Barbara and on to Lo Angeles fighting their harmless wars, in which no one got hurt by managing to stay just beyond each others firing range. He at first proclaimed himself to be governor of the "free and sovereign State of California", and even made an effort to secure protection from such foreign powers as France, Great Britain and the United States. But in the end Mexico recognized his position and he would sign himself as a governor of a department of Mexico.

So in 1839 Governor Alvarado returned to Monterey and began to set up his government. There were many affairs of state awaiting his attention. One major task was to lay out the first streets up in Yerba Buena, the small settlement which eventually grew to be downtown San Francisco.

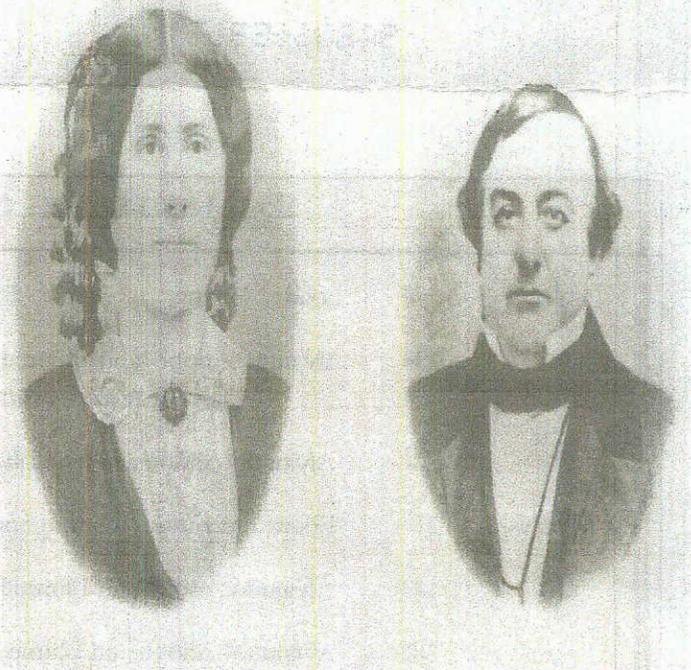
There are many in depth stories of Alvarado's great political life and many more of his colorful antics during his public and private life. But it was his marriage to Maria Martina Castro that would bring him to the town of San Pablo. Her father, Francisco Castro, was the grantee of Rancho San Pablo which had become a thriving outpost and supplier of the presidio in both San Francisco and Monterey. Alvarado may have met her on his many travels to Rancho San Pablo which was the landing place for the boat to San Rafael and the usual route to the northern country. They were married Aug. 24, 1839 at mission Santa Clara.

The governor and

Martina lived in his home in Monterey and governed until when in 1848 Mexico sent Governor Micheltorena to replace him. Alvarado was recognized by his peers as the brightest of all the Californios but it seems he never found a career for himself outside the halls of government. Being neither a business man or a ranchero, The Alvarado family moved to San Pablo in

1848 and settled into the house that still sits at its original location on the corner on San Pablo Ave. and Church Lane.

On Sun February 14, 2010 **The San Pablo Historical Society** will celebrate Juan Alvarado's birthday at The Alvarado Adobe and docents will share the history of his golden years in San Pablo.



*Martina Castro was the daughter of Francisco Castro, grantee of Rancho San Pablo. She inherited a 14/22 share of the rancho from her mother, Gabriella Castro in 1851. Juan Alvarado was the governor of Mexican California from 1836-1842. In 1839 he married Martina Castro and eventually moved to her family home where he lived for over 30 years. He died in San Pablo in 1882.*

February / March

2010



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MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 94806  
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### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- |            |     |  |
|------------|-----|--|
| February - | 2-  | Board Meeting - 3pm—85pm   |
|            | 14- | Alvarado Adobe and Blume House Museum - open 12 noon— 4 pm<br>Juan Alvarado's Birthday Celebration |
|            | 28- | Alvarado Adobe and The Blume House Museums— open 12 noon— 4 pm                                     |
| March-     | 2 - | Board Meeting— 3pm— 5pm  |
|            | 14- | Alvarado Adobe and Blume House Museum - open 12 noon - 4 pm  |
|            | 28- | Alvarado Adobe and Blume House Museum - open 12 noon - 4 pm  |



**Admission is always FREE. Donations Accepted**

**The museums are located in the San Pablo Civic Center**