

# *Rancho Lands*

## — All About Orange —



— *The Memoirs of Alfred B. Chapman* —

By  
Douglas Westfall



# AO1

— ORANGE, CA —

## Rancho Lands

### **The Rancho Lands** **All About Orange**

#### NOTICE

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**THE RANCHO LANDS**  
**All About Orange**

This edition of **All About Orange** is about the vast Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana and how that became the town of Orange.

Front Cover Illustration:  
***View of the Rancho Santiago from Robber's Peak.***

# ***The Rancho Lands***



**— All About Orange —**

***The Memoirs of  
Alfred B. Chapman***

**By  
Douglas Westfall**

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Orange, CA

**Library Page**

**Rancho Lands**  
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## Dedication

*To My Friend and Fellow Historian:  
Eddie Grijalva  
— Without whose research,  
this book would not be possible.*



## **Acknowledgments**

*This book would not be possible without the research and records of:*

*Eddie Grijalva, Historic Researcher*

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## **Preface**

In the early 1950s my family moved from downtown Los Angeles to Los Nietos, a small town west of Whittier, adjacent to the San Gabriel River. Our side of the block, was the last row of houses and from there there was 100 yards of open field. Beyond the field was the railroad and after that, the river.

This was my playground. Daily my friends and I would be in the field, playing Cowboys and Indians, building a fort in a tree (sometimes below ground), or just digging for whatever we could find.

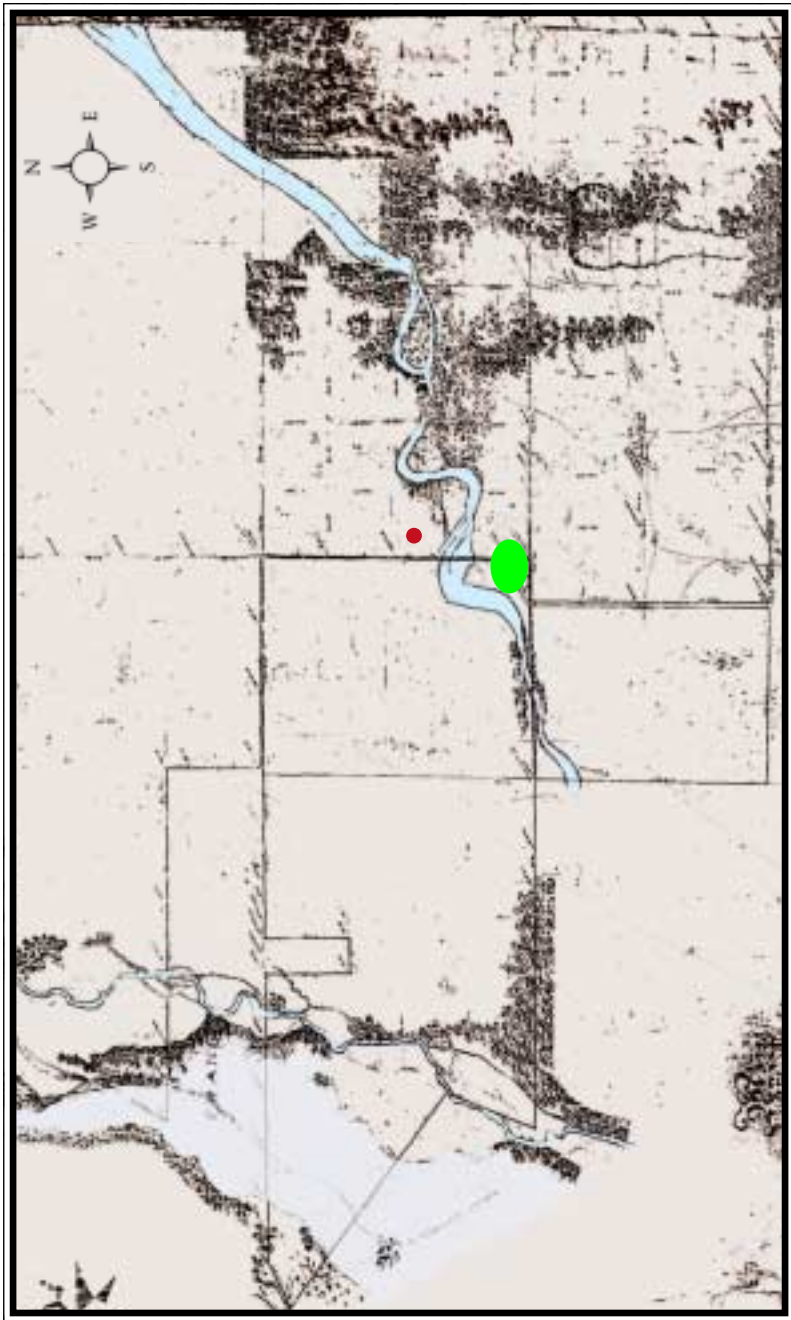
Find we did: square nails, horse bits and other pieces of metal — which were about all there was left in the ground because this was part of the vast Rancho Los Nietos de Santa Gertrudis Rancho. Here, we found a coin with a hole. I was with my Father and I was about eight.

He said, *“This is something special and we’ll save it for you.”* When he passed during my late teen-years I found the coin again. It’s a Spanish Two-Reales piece and sits on my desk in a frame — and now is a part of this book on the Rancho Lands.

— Douglas Westfall 2018

# Foreword

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



Red Dot — Oldest Tree in Orange, Green — Native American Village of Houtkangna

*Alfred B. Chapman Tract Map, 1870 — Gary Granville*



*Native Californians — Hutchings California Magazine*

## **Prelude**

### *Native American Nation*

**F**or some ten millennia, the Gabrieleño thrived in SoCal. Ranging over 2,560,000 acres from above Los Angeles through half of Orange County, some 10,000 people lived along the Coastal Basin which extended over to the offshore Channel Islands; and they lived here in Orange.

With the wide variety of game animals and an abundance of marine life at the shore, survival was easy with food so plentiful and a mild climate. As well, these people had reached the highest form of spiritual beliefs as well as a very creative art ability in stone.

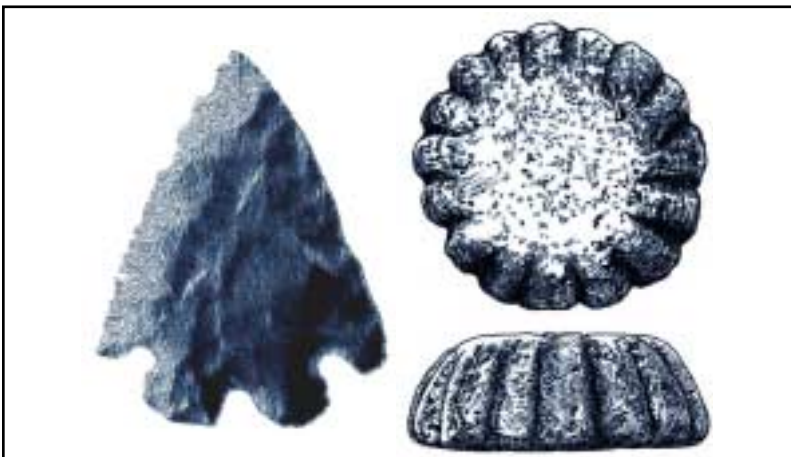
Prior to contact from the outside world, the native tribes of California had the highest population of any region of what would become the United States. In this area there are obsidian points brought from the Imperial Valley and clay pipes traded from the Inland Empire.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

The Gabrieleño then lived quietly here until the Spanish began visiting the shore in the 1500s. Yet there was a village here until about 1870 on the south side of Hart Park at the Santiago Creek, called Houtkangna. There is no plaque identifying this site. Still, there was so little contact here by the Spanish, there was minimal disruption of their lives in this area.

Also, other small tools and projectile points which came all the way from the Inyo Valley far up north. One exceedingly unusual human creation discovered here, is the Cog Stone. Found in all the five southern counties of SoCal, the Cog Stones remain a mystery even today. Theories run from religious purposes, tools, games and even as one prominent anthropologist suggests, they were modeled from the saguaro cactus — one Cog Stone has been donated to the Orange Library and History Center (OL&HC).

First discovered by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo in 1542 and although Christened San Diego in 1602 by explorer by Sebastián Vizcaíno, it was not until the Spanish colonization in 1769 that all of this changed.



*Obsidian Point and Cog Stone from Orange County — Joe Cramer*

## *Native American Nation*



*Mission San Diego Acala — William McPherson*

The great ship *San Antonio* sailed into the San Diego Harbor that summer and while many soldiers and Padres were aboard, many also marched up the shore from Loreto in Baja California. This was the beginning of an Empire.

Governor Gaspar de Portolá founded the Presidio of San Diego that July of 1769 and on July 16th, the Franciscan Padre Junípero Serra led Sebastián Vizcaíno and Fernando Parron to raise the cross, hang the bells and established the first mission in California: *San Diego de Alcalá* — eventually five miles up the San Diego River valley from the Presidio.

Portolà then prepared to lead an expedition north to the harbor of Monterey, also discovered by Sebastian Viscaino. It was their trail that took the expedition into Orange County and camp here within the City of Orange.

The expedition did not meet with a large village until they crossed the Santa Ana River about the place where it curves. Here, the water sometimes stops by July.

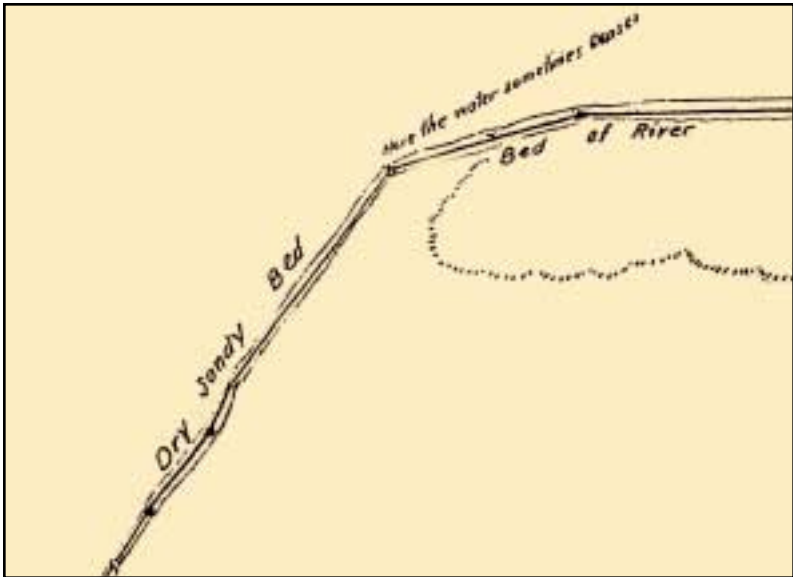
*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*Native American Tribal Lands of Orange County*



## Native American Nation



*Bend of the Santa Ana River — “Where the water sometimes ceases.”*

The abundance of food and good climate, allowed the Gabrieleno to grow in population and increase the area in which they lived. From Malibu Point in Los Angeles County to the Aliso Creek outlet.

At one point, a Federal Treaty would have given the Gabrieleno all the lands from Malibu Point East to Palm Springs and South to Oceanside. It was never ratified.



*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*Native American Nation*

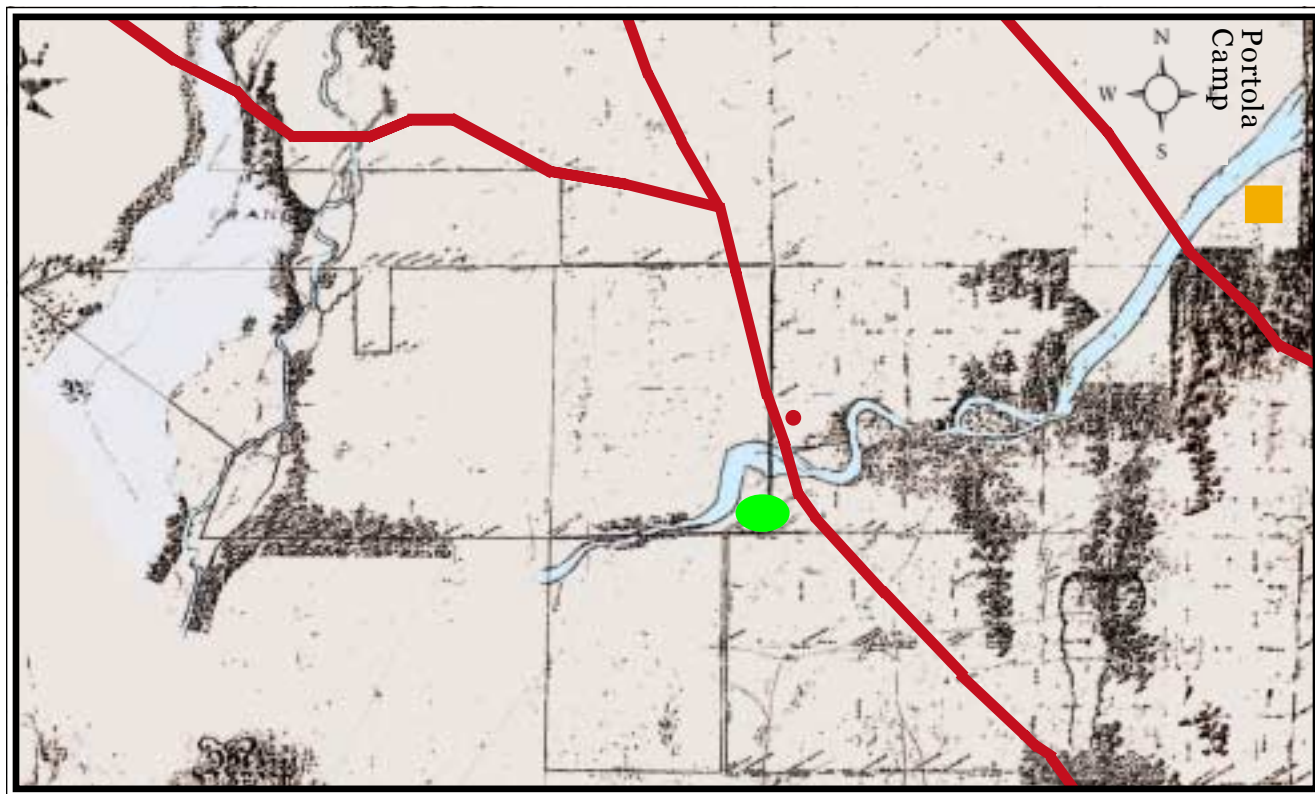


*Santiago Creek near the Village of Houtkangna*



*to 1st Site of Mission San Gabriel — to 2nd site of the Mission — Portola Trail to La Puente*

*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*Red Dot — Oldest Tree in Orange, Red — El Camino Real, Green — Native American Village of Houtkangna*

*Alfred B. Chapman Tract Map, 1870 — Gary Granville*



*Trail Through the Orange Hills*

## **Chapter 1**

### *Crossroads in a Spanish Empire*

*T*he present city of Orange actually began as a crossroads of what is now Southern California. Then, the large La Cienaga de las Ranas (*swampland of frogs*), ranged from the Tustin hills toward the historic Santa Ana River and then on to the sea. Because of this, all foot traffic back to Native American times, went through the foothills east of Old Towne Orange.

The Spanish were here to colonize Alta California and Christianize the Native Americans. As Portolá marched northward from the fledgling the first Mission San Diego de Alcalá with him he brought two officers, two padres plus some five dozen soldiers and servants. The track they made went near Old Towne Orange and here they camped on the bank of a creek, naming it for Saint Iago (*Saint James*) on July 27th. It is called the Santiago Creek to this day.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

Miguel Costanso is the recording engineer of the Portola expedition, noting every element of their trek. In his diary, Costanso writes about the countryside:

### **Miguel Costanso**

#### **— Diary —**

**Thursday, July 27, 1769**



*In the morning we broke camp at a watering place ... crossing the plain in the direction of the northwest, we arrived after three leagues, at a watering-place, which was a stream of very good running water. One could see, however, that it was diminishing each day on account of the dry season, the water gradually sinking into the sand.*

*The stream descended from the range, and appeared to have a considerable flow in the rainy season. Its banks are very luxuriant. To this place we gave the name of Santiago.*

*To Santiago, 3 leagues*

*From San Diego, 32 leagues*

**Friday, July 28, 1769**

*From Santiago we went to another place of which the scouts gave us particulars. It was not far, in truth, as we arrived after an hour's march. It is a beautiful river, and carries great floods in the rainy season, as is apparent from its bed and the sand along its banks. This place has many groves of willows and very good soil, all of which can be irrigated for a great distance.*

*We pitched our camp on the left bank of the river. To the right there is a populous Indian village; the inhabitants received us with great kindness.*



*Portola*

**GASPAR DE PORTOLÀ**

**Born in 1716 at Catalonia Spain, he was of nobil birth. The Don was a soldier in the Spanish army in both Portugal and Italy. Commissioned an Ensign in 1734 he became a Lieutenant by 1743 and Governor in 1768.**

**He was appointed governor of the provence of Puebla in New Spain in 1776 and returned to Spain in 1784. Although he became the Royal Lieutenant in 1786, he died the same year in Lleida Catalonia Spain.**

### **THE FIRST PORTOLA EXPEDITION**

Governor	Gaspar de Portola
Captain	Fernando Rivera y Moncada
Lieutenant	Pedro Fages
Sergeant	Joseph Francisco Ortega
Engineer	Miguel Costanso
Padre	Juan Crespi
Padre	Francisco Gomes

*Fifty-two of them came to our quarters, and their captain or cacique asked us by signs which we understood easily, accompanied by many entreaties, to remain there and live with them. They would provide antelopes, hares, or seeds for our subsistence, that the lands which we saw were theirs, and that they would share them with us.*

*At this place we experienced a terrible earthquake, which was repeated four times during the day. The first vibration or shock occurred at one o'clock in the afternoon, and was the most violent; the last took place at about half-past four.*

*One of the natives who, no doubt, held the office of priest among them, was at that time in the camp. Bewildered, no less than we, by the event, he began, with horrible cries and great manifestations of terror, to entreat the heavens, turning in all directions, and acting as though he would exorcise the elements. To this place we gave the name of Río de los Temblores.*

*To the Río de los Temblores, 1 league  
From San Diego, 33 leagues*





## *Crossroads in a Spanish Empire*

This is the track of Portolá expedition, which camped twice within Orange. The soldiers named it for the earthquake but the Padres named it for St. Anne (*Santa Ana River*). Traveling northward to the La Habra Hills, they named them for the Abre (*cleft*) in the hills and then went on to La Puente (*the bridge*). Here they made a bridge to cross the San Jose Creek down in the Walnut Valley. This has been given the name of El Camino Real (*The Royal Road*) but more likely Camino Viejo (*the old road*). This too, was part of the Empire.

Two plaques mark this northern trail of Portola: the first plaque from our local Orange Historic Committee, is located on the east side of Santiago Creek in Yorba Park as the Portola Camp Site. The actual site is about 200 yards up the creek in Grijalva Park. When this park was being graded, Hand-wrought Horseshoes were discovered. These have been donated to the OL&HC.



*Spanish Horseshoe — OL&HC*

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

The trail is marked here by a plaque from our Orange Historic Committee as the El Camino Real and is located at the Olive Elementary School. The actual camp site was about 1,200 yards north west, along the Santa Ana River at East Riverdale Ave. At this point, Miguel Costanso logged the first recorded earthquake in California.

The following year, Portolá made the same journey to Monterey with his two officers but just one of the padres. They used the same camping areas in Orange as before.

A plaque in the Serrano Elementary School, from the Orange Historic Committee, marks the Route of Portola, to Monterey. Padre Junipero Serra however, traveled on board the ship *San Antonio*. He met them at Monterey to found the second Mission, San Carlos Borroméo del río Carmelo. It was 1770.

A year later in 1771, Padre Serra founded the fourth Mission, San Gabriel. The Mission was originally located up between the hills of La Puente and Montebello — which changed the course of Camino Viejo.



*The Santiago Creek*

## *Crossroads in a Spanish Empire*



*Mission San Gabriel Arcangel — William McPherson*

That new trail and that portion of it through Orange, is marked today by the El Camino Real Park. The trail ran far north of the coastal estuaries and inland swamps and was then used by the Padres to reach the San Gabriel Mission.

Five years later in 1776, the Mission San Gabriel was moved north to its present location. The expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza would visit the Mission here. Grijalva would stay at the Mission while Anza traveled to San Diego.





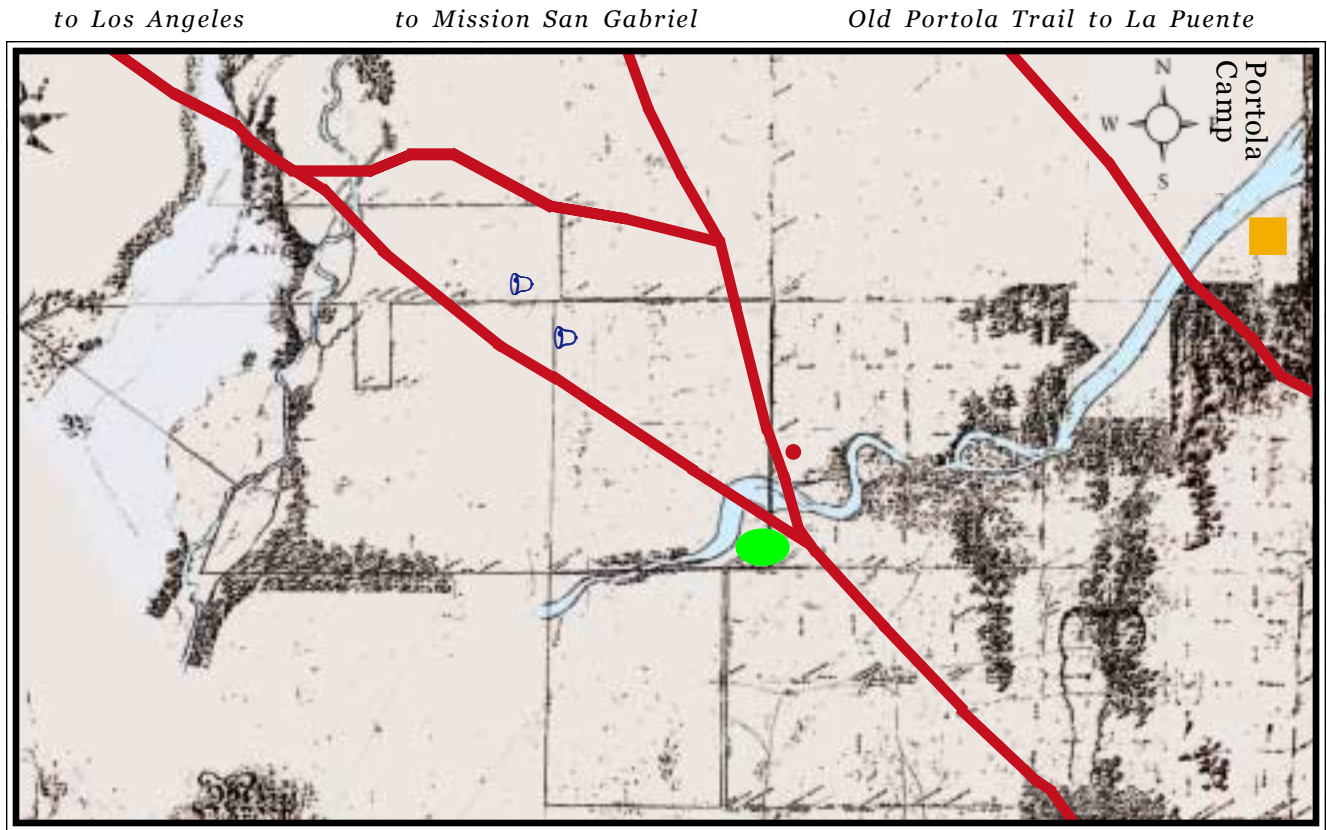
*Mustard Weed, growing along side the Santiago Creek.*



*Crossroads in a Spanish Empire*



*Planted by the Spanish, it is deadly to cattle.*



*Red Dot – Oldest Tree in Orange, Red – El Camino Real, Green – Houtkangna, Blue Bells – El Camino Real Bells*



*View of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana*

## **Chapter 2**

### *A Spanish Rancho*

**J**uan Pablo Grijalva: officer, settler, rancher and pioneer — came to California with the Anza Expedition in 1775. We cannot verify he camped in Orange, because the only record we have of the Anza Expedition camping here is on thier second march from San Diego later in 1776.

At that time there were only five Missions, two Presidios and a single rancho of 140 varas (*about 120 square yards*), up in Monterey. Grijalva's family heritage dates to the time of Cortez and his legacy includes the only Spanish Rancho entirely within Orange County.

Juan Pablo Grijalva was Second Corporal of the Presidio Terrenate when appointed as Sergeant of the Expedition to Alta California by Juan Bautista de Anza. An important factor of the trip were the women and children — four of which were born along the way.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

Commander Anza divided his force into three parties under the command of himself, Alfaréz Moraga and Sergeant Grijalva, together they brought 3 padres, 20 soldiers and 11 Native American servants. With Grijalva came his wife and two daughters, of which we know some detail. There is a name of Claudio, listed as Grijalva's son, however it proves to be a young man who changed his last name to Grijalva, so he could come on the expedition.

A year later in 1776, Juan Bautista de Anza's second expedition camped in north Orange on the Santa Ana River. He then headed northwest toward the Mission San Gabriel. That year the Mission San Gabriel was moved to its present location. The expedition finally reached San Francisco on June 27, 1776. Note that Anza was Basque and never went by the name 'de Anza' but simply Anza.

The Anza camp in Orange is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee as the Campsite of Anza. It is located on the Santa Ana River Bike Path, near the intersection of Orange Olive Road and east Riverdale Ave.



*Mission Dolores in San Francisco*



## *A Spanish Rancho*

Anza then went on to establish the Mission Dolores and the Presidio of San Francisco. During Grijalva's tenure at the Presidio San Francisco, both daughters married soldiers at Mission Dolores. Maria Josefa Grijalva, the oldest married Antonio Yorba, then a widower on November 3, 1782. She was then 16, he almost 40, only two years younger than her father.

After the Pueblo of Los Angeles was founded in 1781, Camino Viejo split into a third pathway, now going west to Los Angeles. That trail is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee located in Sycamore Elementary as El Camino Real. This third track ran just west of the Orange Plaza toward the Pueblo of Los Angeles.

This trail was much later replaced by Highway 101. This road is marked by two official El Camino Real Bells, one is on the west side of Main Street, two blocks south of Chapman Avenue.

The other bell is located on the north side of Chapman Avenue, two blocks west of Main Street. There are two other El Camino Real Bells in Orange, at the Main Library and at La Veta Elementary School.



*El Camino Real Bell*

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

Grijalva's daughter Maria del Carmen Grijalva married Pedro Regaldo Peralta on October 27, 1785. The young Peralta had come as a boy on the Anza Expedition with his family. When they married, she was then 14; he 21.

The following year, Juan Pablo Grijalva was transferred to Presidio San Diego. His wife went with him, leaving his two married daughters behind. The Peralta family stayed in the San Francisco Bay area and the Yorba family followed Grijalva to San Diego by 1789.

Twenty years after arriving in California, Juan Pablo Grijalva, the Alfaréz (*second in command*) at the San Diego Presidio, retired from active duty at age 54 in 1796. Receiving a post-retirement promotion to Lieutenant, he then petitioned for the Rancho Las Flores the following year from Governor Borica. His pension was 200 Pesetas per year.

Grijalva's last official act was to found the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, just east of where he later founded his rancho. Today that rancho is essentially much of the US Marine base, Camp Pendleton.



*Rancho Las Flores*

## *A Spanish Rancho*



*Grijalva*  
*Marion Chavez-Munoz*

### **JUAN PABLO GRIJALVA**

Juan Pablo Grijalva, born near Mission Guevavi Arizona in 1741, grew up in Prima Alta Sonora. At that time, there were more than 50 Missions, six Pueblos and perhaps three Presidios. He enlisted in the military at Presidio Terrenate, Sonora, New Spain on January 1, 1763 and married Maria Dolores Valencia about a year later. Over the course of 12 years, they had two girls.

The record shows that he served honorably for ten years, receiving a promotion to corporal and that he was literate. During his years of service in the garrison of Terrante, Sonora he was in nine campaigns against both the Apaches and Seris and during which he was wounded twice. He came to California with the Anza expedition in 1775.

*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

**Alfaréz Juan Pablo Grijalva**

— *Manuscript* —

San Diego, 1796



*San Diego, March, 18, 1797*

*Lord Governor:*

*I Don Pablo Grijalva, retired second lieutenant living at the Presidio of San Diego, in all humility place himself at Your Lordship's command. I explain that I desire to locate my habitation on the other side of the arroyo from the said presidio, and I have some need of land for my cattle and horses, to which end I place myself at the mercy of Your Lordship.*

*I request that I be granted the place called Las Flores, located ten leagues from the Mission of San Juan, to maintain my stock. At the same time I request a piece of land near my home where I can plant crops for my maintenance and for that of my family. For the reasons given above, I request the support of Your Lordship.*

— QBSM, Juan Pablo Grijalva



*Grijalva Adobe Casa*

## *A Spanish Rancho*



*Mission San Luis Rey — William McPherson*

Yet by the year 1800, Missions were allowed to expand up to nine leagues from their Mission headquarters — in every direction. Grijalva's Rancho Las Flores, being within that radius, was then taken by the Mission which claimed all of his property and structures. His adobe casa, built on a hill, still exists. Note that adobe is actually a plaster covering placed over the mud bricks for preservation.

Undaunted, Grijalva rode up the coastline and measuring nine leagues (23.4 miles) from the Mission San Juan Capistrano, drew a line in the sand — from the mountains to the sea — essentially Red Hill Blvd today. Actually he went only about 20 miles and here he founded his second Rancho, Santiago de Santa Ana in 1801.

In doing so, Grijalva created the first Spanish Rancho in what is today's Orange County, the only Spanish Rancho entirely within the county and the second largest rancho in California. Juan Pablo Grijalva was the first founding father of Orange County.



### **MISSION SAN LUIS REY DE FRANCIA**

Padre Juan Mariner in 1795 filed:

*A report on the survey which we made in company with Alfaréz Juan Pablo Grijalva, Corporal Juan Vicente, etc.*

Claudio, when in the military, accompanied Grijalva to locate the site for the Mission de San Luis Rey de Francia. On June 13, 1798, Padre Presidente Fermín Lasuén founded his last mission.

Later, seeds of a Peruvian Pepper Tree, came to the mission in the form of a gift. The seeds were planted by the Padres in the quadrangle. The original Mission Pepper Tree is still there.

*— Mission San Luis Rey, William McPherson*

*A Spanish Rancho*

**Teniente Juan Pablo Grijalva**

— *Manuscript* —

San Diego, 1801



*September 11 of 1801*

*Governor Diego Borica*

*Graduate Lieutenant Don Pablo Grijalva requests a place to put cattle and a house as the power of your Godliness has been directed to form the decree of this application and will show you the site of Aroyo de Santiago. I show here from the middle of the Missions San Juan Capistrano and San Gabriel, whose distance from one another is 18 leagues. This place is distant from the Mission San Juan Capistrano eight leagues and from the Mission San Gabriel, nine to ten.*

*Being hereupon located in a site about nine leagues and no great distance from the Santiago Rancheria site. Consider that instead of harm, that site will be useful and that are none of the intended sites of the Mission rights on the basis of laws prefixed or doctrines against Indians. Your kindness in good determination, is next to the site of a multitude of cattle that is at the nearby rancho of Manuel Nieto.*

*The distance that I ask is from the bank of the river of Saint Ann to the Santiago that which it is by the royal road, a distance a not much one league more and toward the beach as other of the royal road, the arroyo above where the house is a league & a half of the way to the mountains. A favour which I expect to attain from you, Your Attentive Servant.*

— QBSM, Juan Pablo Grijalva





## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*Hilltop Location of the Grijalva Casa Ruins — Dr. Abbott Smith*

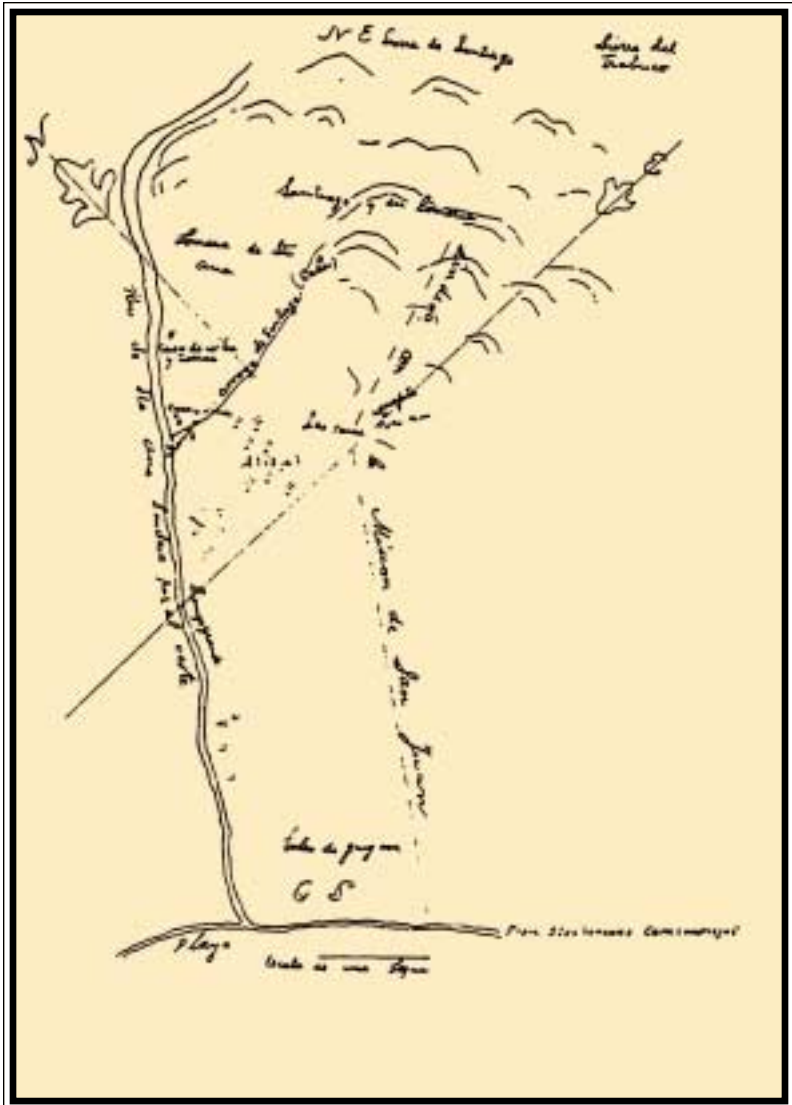
The Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana was then some 63,400 acres. Grijalva built an adobe casa on Santiago Creek's south side, just north of El Modena, at the point of the hills. Grijalva is said to have received the concession documents in 1802. The site is marked by a plaque from the Orange County Commission as the Grijalva Adobe Site, near Hewes St. and N. Rancho Santiago Blvd. While digging to place the plaque, descendant Eddie Grijalva discovered a Hand-wrought, Five-tined Spur — donated to the OL&HC.



*Grijalva Rancho Spur — Eddie Grijalva*



## A Spanish Rancho



Diseno of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana, 1801 — Eddie Grijalva

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

Juan Pablo Peralta, the grandson and namesake of Juan Pablo Grijalva, traveled south from the Rancho San Antonio of his Father, to live with his grandparents. Grijalva had not yet received confirmation of the rancho award, before he died in 1806 at age 64. After Grijalva passed, Peralta took over the rancho and the Peralta Hills are named for him.



*Las Flores Wooden Saddle Frame*

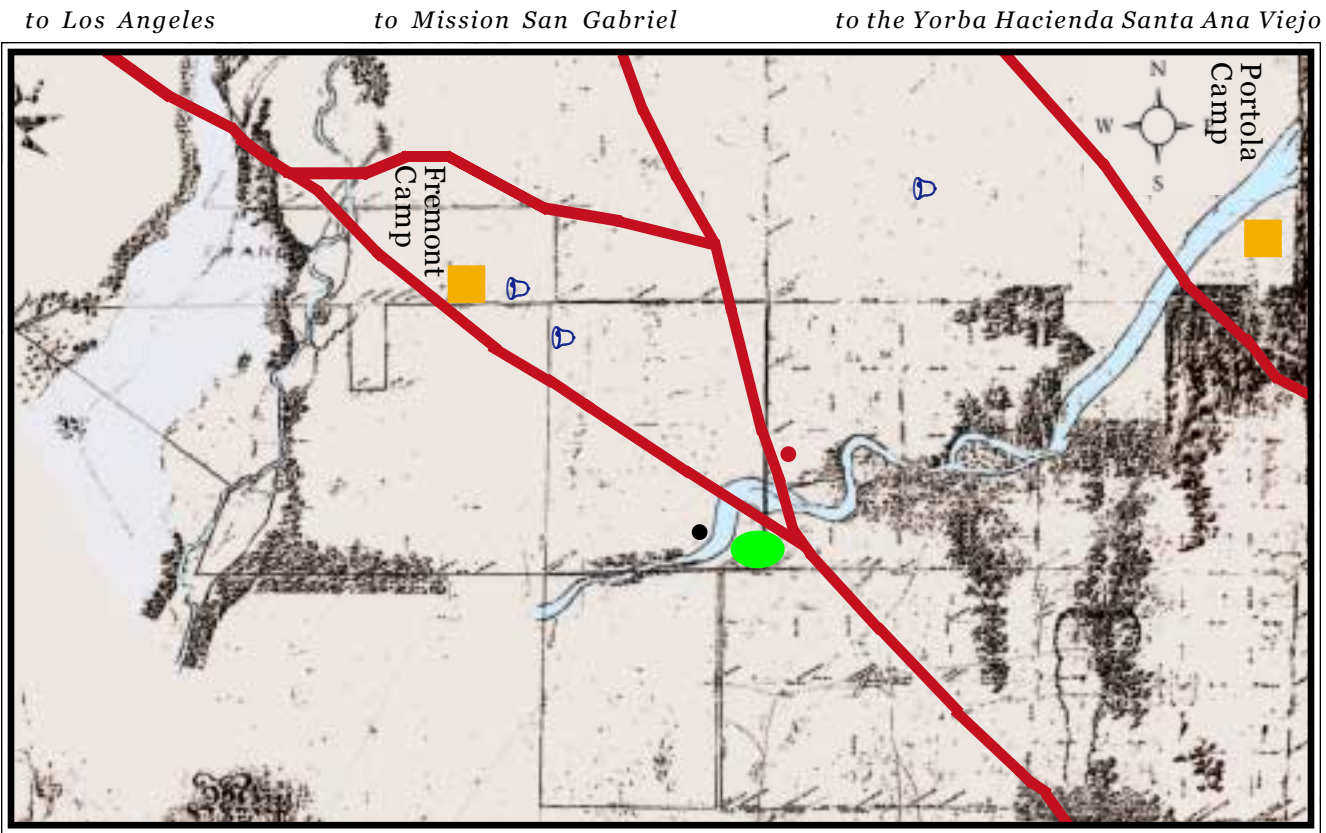
A Wooden Saddle frame from the Las Flores Rancho was donated to the OL&HC. The casa ruins of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana and evidences of a vineyard were attested to by American pioneers in that vicinity as late as the year 1900.



*A Spanish Rancho*



*A Vulture flies over the Rancho Santiago, looking for food.*



Red Dot - Oldest Tree, Black - dot Cannonball, Green - Houtkangna, Blue- Sanctus Bell & El Camino Real Bells



*Rio Santa Ana*

## **Chapter 3**

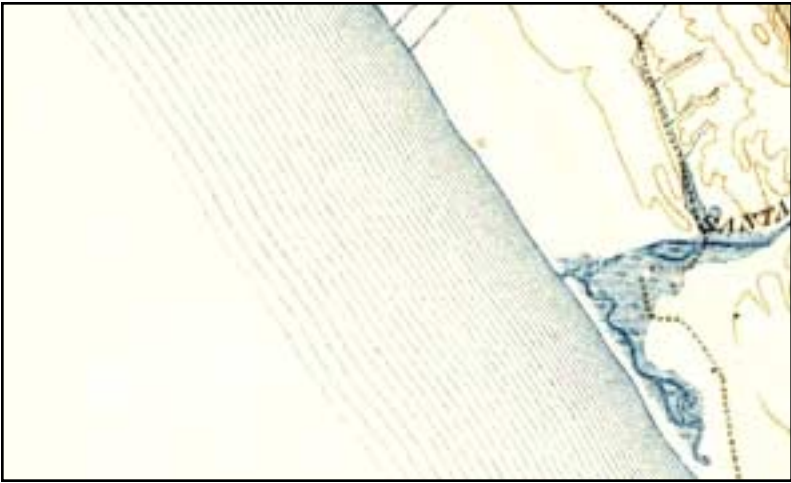
### *Mexican Rancho*

**A**ntonio Yorba: soldier, rancher and pioneer — also came to California yet as a Catalonian replacement in Monterey in 1771. We cannot verify he camped in Orange, because the only record we have of the Portola expedition here does not have Yorba in the roster.

The first recording of Yorba is as a Corporal at Monterey in 1771. The Yorba family heritage dates to 1743 in Sant Sadurní d'Anoia in Catalonia, Spain where Antonio was born. He would later take over the great Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana of his wife's father, Grijalva.

Jose Antonio Yorba, the Sergeant of the Guard at Presidio San Diego, retired from active duty as *Inválido Sargento (invalid Sergeant)* and operated a trading port at one of the many estuaries along the coast north of San Diego. Most likely at the outlet of the Santa Margarita River.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*Rio Santa Margarita*

This is the southern boarder of the Rancho Las Flores, once owned by Grijalva but taken by the Mission San Luis Rey. Now the Mission itself uses the estuary to operate a smuggling business with the Yankee Traders that come to shore.

Here Yorba, retired with 150 pesetas annually — one peseta was equal and interchangeable with a US dollar — yet one trade with a Yankee vessel could yeald up to 1,000 pesetas.

After Grjalva's death in 1806, young Juan Pablo Peralta was living with his grandmother María Dolores. She was then 42.



*June 21, 1806, San Diego — Pablo Grijalva, His Last Will:*

*Executed by Brevet Lieutenant Pablo Grijalva. He leaves his goods to his wife, María Dolores Valencia, and grandsons, José Antonio Yorba and Juan Pablo Peralta. He leaves nothing to his married daughters, María Josefa and María del Carmen, because at the time they were married he gave them their corresponding portions.*

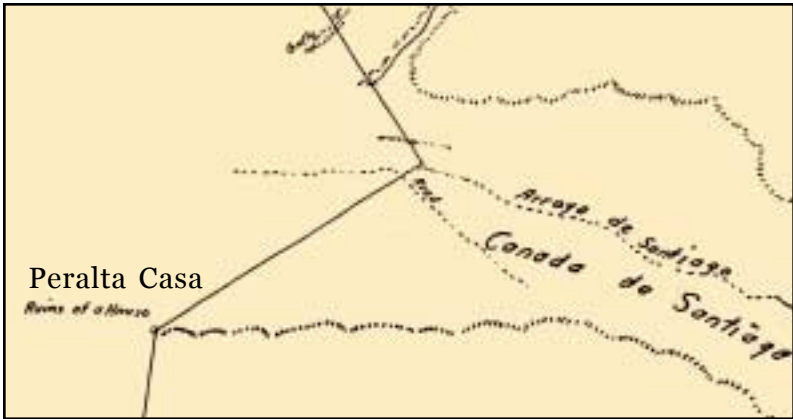




## *Mexican Rancho*

Antonio Yorba and wife Maria Josefa had thirteen children, the first of which was José Antonio in Monterey and the last, Martin, born in 1810 at San Diego. Sometime during that year, the Yorba family moved north to the great Rancho Santiago where Yorba made a deal.

Juan Pablo Peralta had the land, and Yorba had the money. The agreement was to share the Rancho lands of Santiago and Yorba's finances would be used to run and expand rancho operations. The Peralta family continued to remain at the old Grijalva Adobe Casa on the hill. Yet, there were conflicts in operations and in opinions.

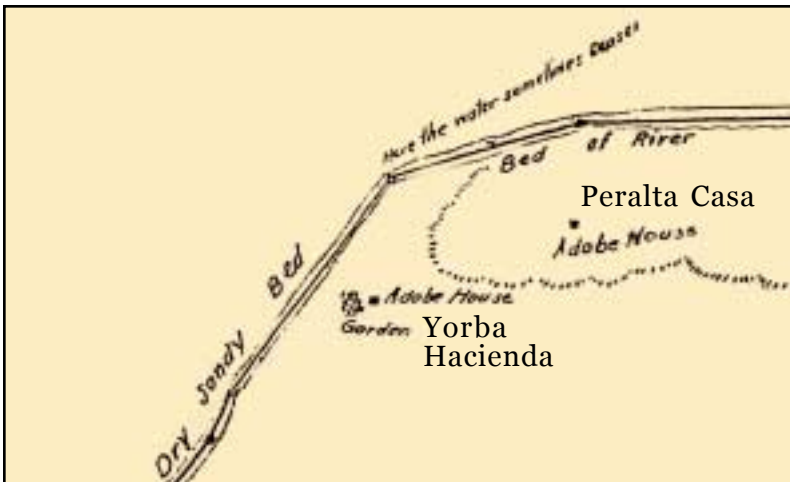


*Peralta Casa on the Hill at Canada de Santiago — 1853 Survey Map*

Antonio Yorba and family settled north of the old Grijalva casa. Here began the small pueblo of Santa Ana with the rancho bunk houses for the Vaquereos (*cowboys*) on the lowlands, and the large Yorba Hacienda (factory-home) on the hill above. The site is marked by a plaque from the State of California as Old Santa Ana CSHM #204, (*Santa Ana Viejo*) on Orange Olive Road between E. Main St. in the Olive area and Lincoln Ave. and only titled 'old' after the founding of today's Santa Ana in 1869.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

Juan Pablo Peralta took his family and moved out of the valley. North of the Peralta hills by the Santa Ana River is Santa Ana Arriba, (*Upper Santa Ana*) is the townsite of the Peraltas. Here, they formed the small pueblo. The site is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee as Peralta, in Imperial Elementary School at Imperial Highway and Nohl Ranch Road.



*Yorba and Peralta on the Rio Santa Ana — 1853 Survey Map*

Of the three towns which were spread out along the Santa Ana River, two were within Orange. These were Santa Ana Arriba in the north, Santa Ana Viejo in the northwest. Part of the Yorba family moved South and formed Santa Ana Abajo (*Lower Santa Ana*) in the southwest along the Santa Ana River on this side of Santiago Creek. There is no plaque however, to show it was ever there. The river is now east of the old river bed; floods have changed the course.

During a regrading project near the original Grijalva Adobe, a large Horseshoe was discovered in the land. Hand-wrought, the size of it indicates it was probably a draft horse, used for plowing rather than herding cattle.

## *Mexican Rancho*



*Hand-Wrought Draft Horseshoe*

With the long war in Mexico (1810-1821) coming to a close, Spanish rule officially ended on September 27, 1821. The military commanders in California took the oath of independence from Spain at an official junta, called for at Monterey on April 11, 1822. The Padres then took the oath and allegiance to Mexico on April 20.

There were perhaps only 40 ranchos during the half-century Spanish Period and when the Mexican regime officially took over California in 1822, perhaps 20 of those remained. Many of the 800+ ranchos of California however, were added over the next 25 years.

With the secularization of the Missions in the 1830s, the Rancho Los Nietos was divided into six ranchos: La Santa Ana, Las Bolsas, Los Alamitos, Los Cerritos, Los Coyotes and Santa Gertrudes. The rancho of La Santa Ana became Rancho San Juan Cajon de Santa Ana in 1837 when granted to Juan Pacífico Ontiveros of Los Nietos.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

The Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana however, remained intact. The two largest ranchos ever in all of California were the Los Nietos and the Santiago de Santa Ana. Together they covered 240,000 acres in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties, separated only by the Santa Ana River.



*The Battle of San Pasqual — William H. Meyers, 1847*

During the Mexican American War of 1845, Major John C. Fremont captured a cannon at the battle of San Pasqual. Because of the mark and that the Mexican Regime did not make cannon nor cannonballs, they are assumed to be of Spanish origin.

Fremont then marched toward Los Angeles to capture Governor Pio Pico, and camped in West Orange. Little did he know that Pico was staying just four miles north at Santa Ana Viejo — as noted in Pico's diary. The next day, Fremont went north — and Pico went south, to San Juan.

The John C. Fremont Camp is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee, on West Chapman Ave. just before Eckhoff St. As well, a cache of cannonballs was discovered in the 1990s and are believed to have been dropped by Fremont. One Cannonball is now in the OL&HC.

## *Mexican Rancho*



*3-inch Spanish Cannonball with the 'Castillo' insignia.*

Both General Stephen Kearney and Commodore Robert Stockton camped along the Santa Ana River in North Orange during the war, in January of 1847, on their way to capture Los Angeles — ending the war three days later. Marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee as Campsite of Stockton and Kearney it is located on East Riverdale Avenue, just west of North Orange-Olive Road.

Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana was the only Spanish Rancho Land in Orange County, awarded by the Governor José Joaquín de Arrillaga to Jose Antonio Yorba and his nephew Pablo Peralta in 1810. The grant extended eastward from the Santa Ana River to the line at Sierrito de las Ranas (*Hill of the Frogs*) now known as Red Hill, that ran from Weir Canyon to Back Bay Newport.

The name Santa Ana stayed with the river and this place, the town started up on the site and grew to the point of having a general store and a mayor — yet faded away prior to 1850. The Yorba Hacienda site overlooked the location of the old town and sat on the hill at Olive Elementary School today.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

In 1943, Robert Pargee Jr, moved to Orange at nine years of age. His parents bought a home with  $\frac{2}{3}$  of an acre for an orange grove. There were numerous discoveries in this field behind his house: old bottles, rusted square nails, etc. This was on Walnut Ave.

These were grove lots, typically 50 by 100 feet — enough to have an orange grove which would sustain a family.

In digging around one of the orange trees, he found another treasure under the third tree south of the fence in the center row. It was a bell.



*The Pargee Home on Walnut Ave.*



## *Mexican Rancho*

Actually a small church bell, dropped along the trail within the past century. After doing research on the bell, it is believe to be a Sanctus Bell, used at the Missions. These were bells fastened to a wagon wheel, and turned to create a multiple bell ring. Although the clapper is iron, the bell is 78% copper and 21% tin. The Sanctus Bell has been donated to the OL&HC.



*The 2.8 3.5 inch Sanctus Bell — Robert Pargee*

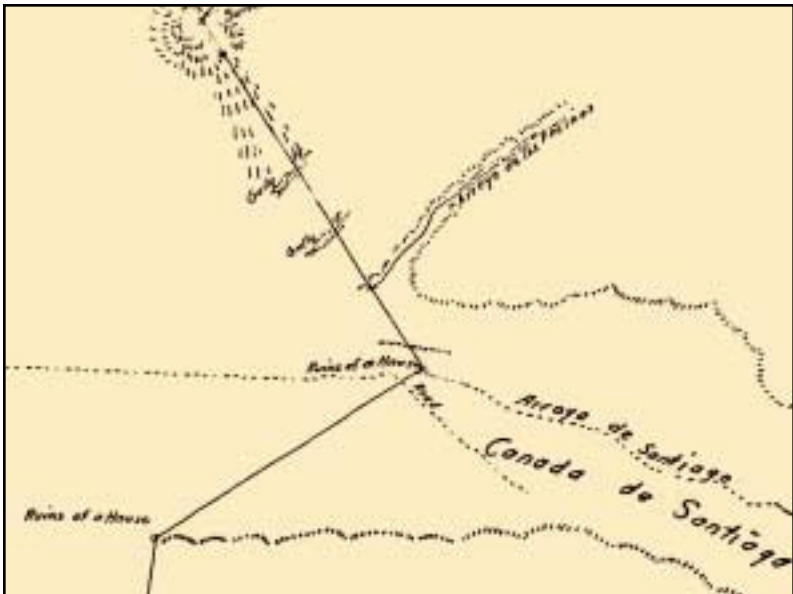
The Mexican-American war was by the Americans in 1847. After that, a stage line ran through the Orange foothills from San Diego to Los Angeles. It traveled up the canyons, around Rattlesnake Peak and through Santiago Oaks Park where there is a sharp bend. Here the stage would often be held up and robbed.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

Far above the canyon is Robbers Peak from which the bandits would ride down to stop the stage. The canyon as Arryo de Facinos (*the gully of the villains*). Robbers Peak is above Anaheim Hills Elementary School and can be reached with a short walk. It is not marked with a plaque.

Much later in 1903, George W. Smith laid a new irrigation pipeline from the submerged dam over toward the El Modena area. Digging below and old oak tree adjacent to the old stage road, he struck an old rotted box and discovered a cache of gold coin valued over \$5,000. The dates on the coins, ran no later than 1856. The Chest of Gold Coins was never donated to an archive.

About this time the son of Juan Pablo Peralta, Rafael Peralta, built his casa adobe in the town of Santa Ana Arriba. It remained until the 1930s yet there is no plaque to identify the site, other than the town itself.



*Arryo de Facinos off of the Canada de Santiago — 1853 Survey Map*

## *Mexican Rancho*



*Rafael Peralta Adobe Casa*

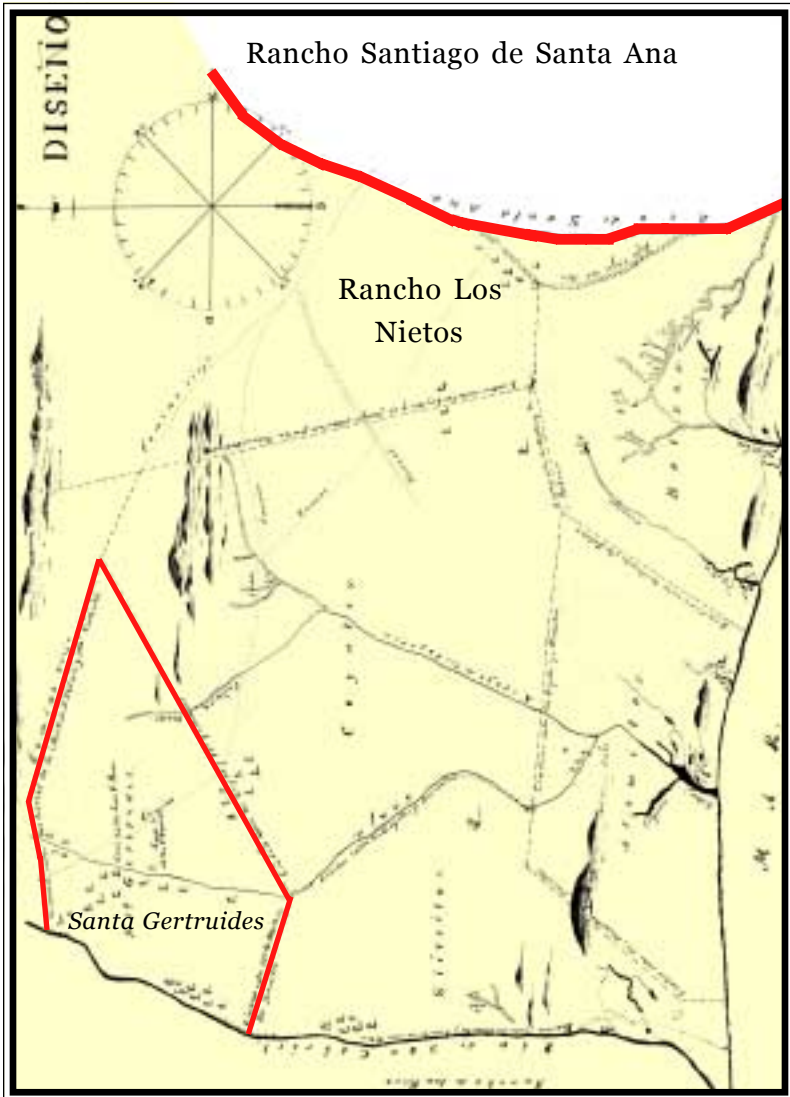
The 1850s were the end of the Rancho era and the next decade would bring turmoil to the towns of the Rancho Santiago. Droughts, floods and Gringos would bring an end to the great Ranchos of California. Note that 'Gringo' often means an American however comes from the Spanish word Griego, meaning Greek, as in '*He's speaking Greek to me*'.

The Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana was the 2nd largest rancho in California. The largest was his neighbor Nieto's.

Juan Manuel Perez Nieto had brought the Pobladores (*settlers*) to found the Pueblo of Los Angeles in 1871. Three years later, he was awarded his Rancho Los Nietos, initially only about 40,000 acres. Yet as the Santa Ana River changed its course further east, his land holdings grew. Ranging from the Rio Hondo River to the Santa Ana river and from the La Puente Hills to the sea, it was some 162,754 acres.

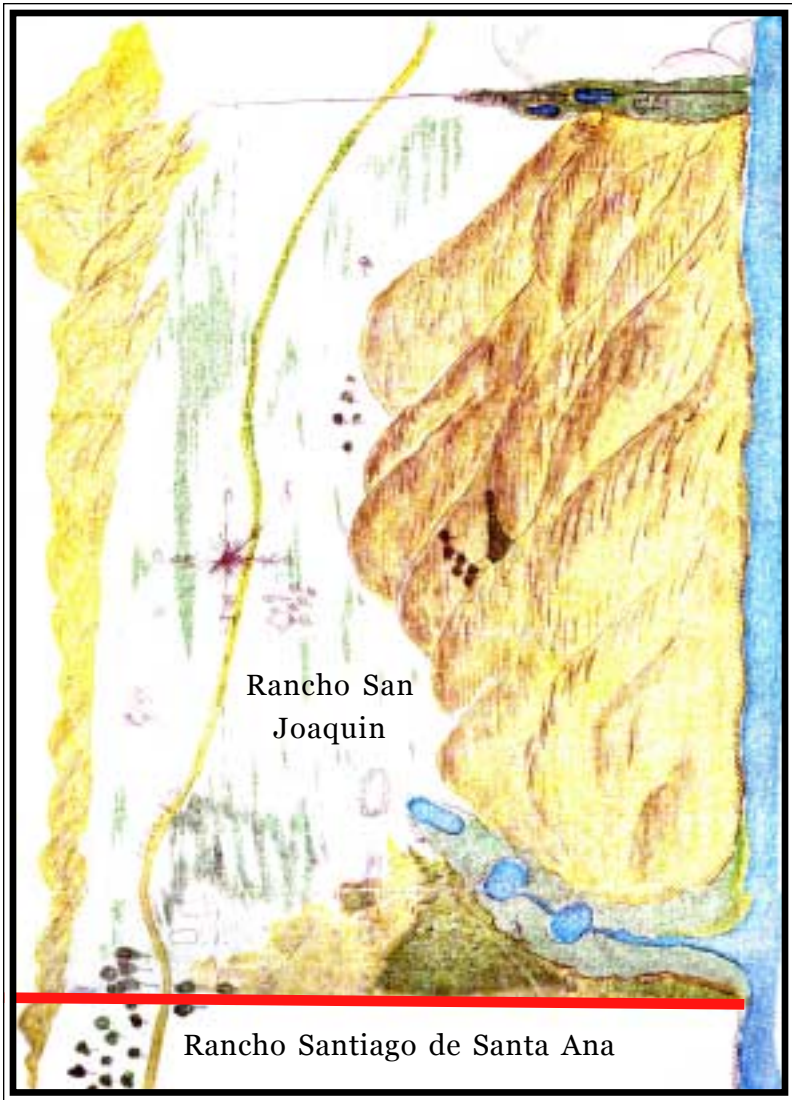
## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

Long after Manuel Nieto died, the family divided the rancho, with the original headquarters now called Rancho de Santa Gertrudes. These 21,298 acres were later sold to Lemual Carpenter, an American. Rancho Santiago was west of the Nieto Ranchos on the other side of the Santa Ana River.



*The 162,754 acres Of Rancho Los Nietos de Santa Gertrudes*

## *Mexican Rancho*



*The 48,808 acres of Rancho San Joaquin*

One of the early Mexican Ranchos was Rancho San Joaquin, founded by Diego Sepulveda. He eventually sold out and James Irvine created the Irvine Ranch from it.





*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

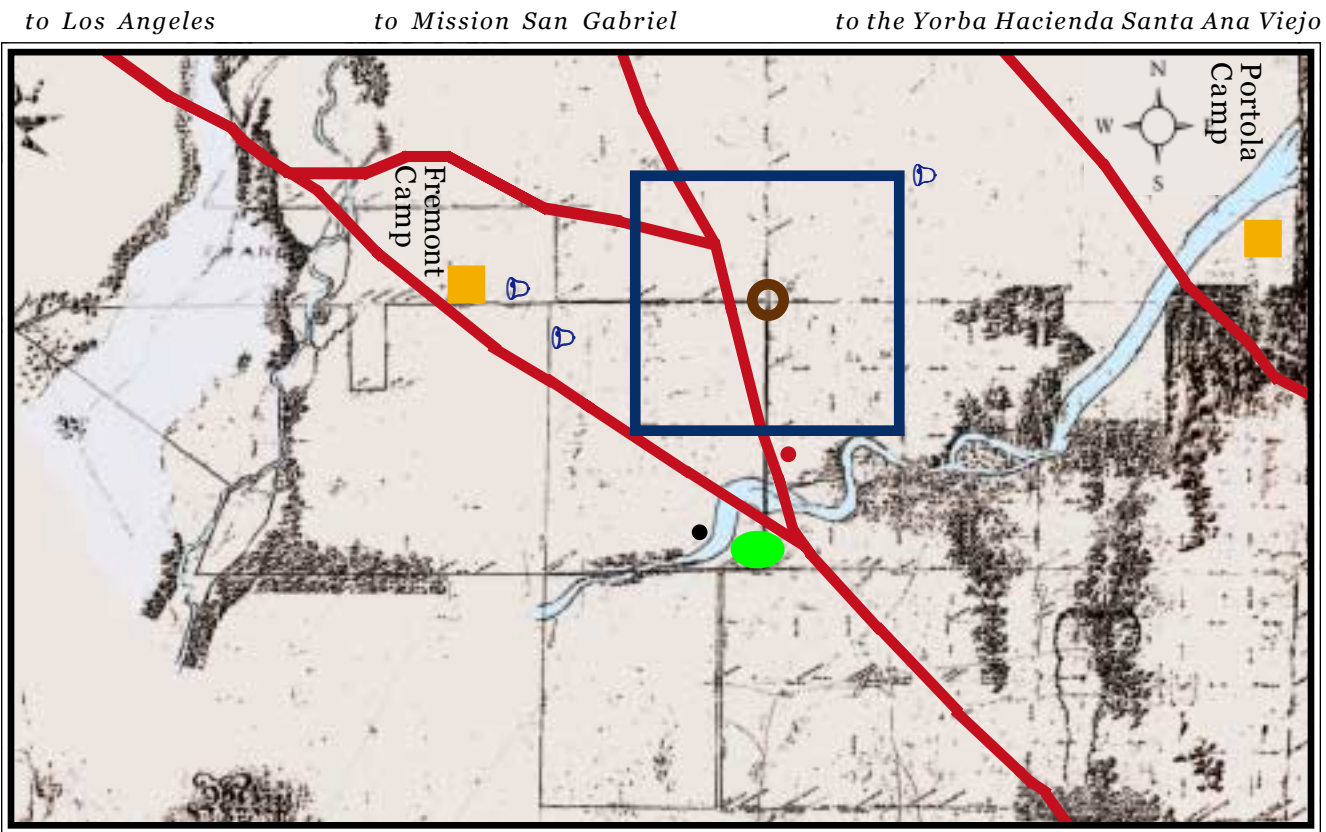




*Mexican Rancho*



*Blue Lupine, along the Santiago Creek*



Red Dot — Oldest Tree, Black — dot Cannonball, Blue square Old Towne, Green — Houtkangna, Blue— Bells



*Lands of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana*

## **Chapter 4**

### *American Lands*

**C**alifornia achieved statehood in September of 1850 — the only state to do so without going through the territorial process. There were 50,000 people at that time.

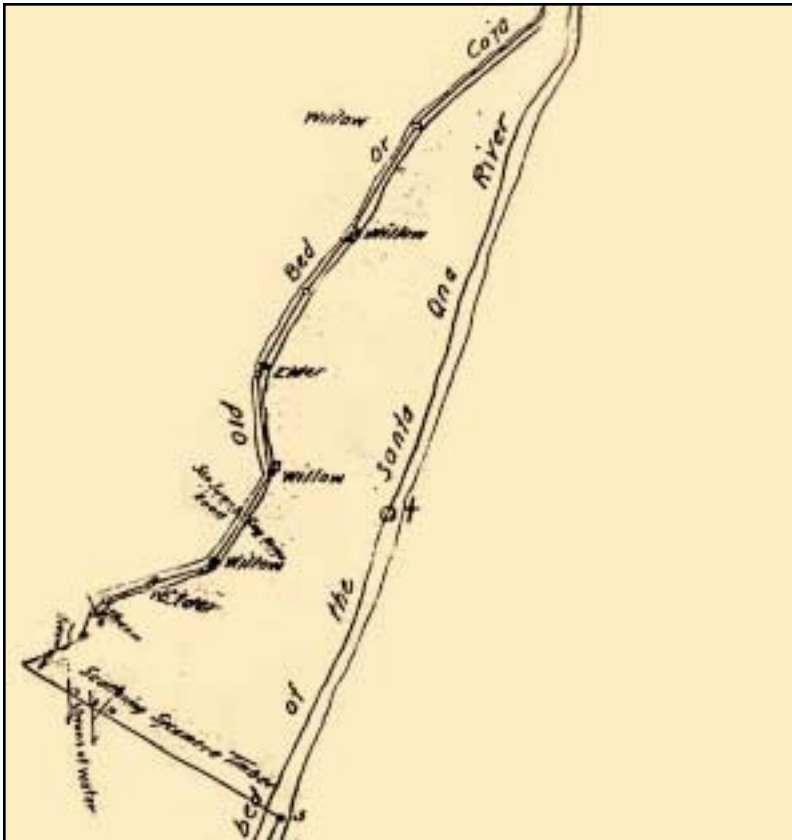
Don Abel Stearns came to Los Angeles in 1829 as a 31-year old trader, who eventually became one of the most wealthy people in California. In 1841, he married 14-year old Arcadia Bandini of San Diego however, he was then known as Cara de Caballo (*the Horse Face*) and was said to be as ugly as Arcadia was beautiful. He was then 43.

He acquired his first rancho the following year, the 28,000 acre Rancho Los Alamitos. Soon he owned another half-dozen ranchos, approaching 200,000 acres. These included the Ranchos Jurupa, La Bolsa Chica, La Habra, La Sierra, Las Bolsas, Los Coyotes, Los Coyotes and San Juan Cajón de Santa Ana.

## Rancho Lands: All About Orange

By 1862, the Civil War had reached as far west as Texas and Colonel Carleton marched over 2,000 soldiers from the Drum Barracks in Wilmington, 25 miles east to the Santa Ana River, then north east along the river toward New Mexico. The Carlton Camp along the east side of the river near Lincoln Ave. in Orange is the only major camp not yet marked.

Recently, above Back Bay Newport, a five inch, Armed Cannonball was discovered in San Jose Creek. This was a 150-year old, live round. Extensive research shows this is the only Civil War era cannonball found in all of Orange County.



*Old Dry Bed (Coja) of the Santa Ana River – 1853 Survey Map*



## *American Lands*



*5-inch Armed Civil War Cannonball*

So far, the only plausible explanation is that the troops of Carleton had dropped this in the Santa Ana River and during one of the many floods — and course changes — of the Santa Ana River, the cannonball had made its way to this point behind Back Bay. Back Bay itself had originally been created by the Santa Ana River, millennia ago.

The Civil War Cannonball has been donated to the Redlands Library — a major repository for Civil War material. Also it is here for safety, for it is a live round.

The Civil War ended in 1865 and thousands of the military came west, many bringing their families. They founded towns, created school districts and became civic leaders such as Mayors, Supervisors, and Judges.

They also drained the swamps and estuaries, making some of them harbors like Anaheim Landing. Of the more than 1,000 Civil War Veterans who came here — both Union and Confederate — over 800 are still here, buried in a dozen cemeteries across the county.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*The Swamps and Estuaries of Orange County — 1896 U— SGS Topo*

Previously, Able Stearns had conveniently offered — for pay — to survey and map all the viable ranchos in the region and knew which were the most valuable. Then the great drought of 1863 hit and many including Stearns were near bankrupt and heavily in debt. Yet Stearns had thought ahead and loaned money to rancho owners including one member of the extended family of Yorba, Leonardo Cota.

Stearns asked for only 7% interest — per month — and Cota put up his share of the Rancho Santiago. By 1866, Cota had defaulted on the loan — as did many others — and Stearns filed a lawsuit for a partitioning of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. Of the now 78,941 acres, Sterns received just 1,385. Yet, the rancho was now divided into more than 100 shares — several owned by Americans.

Sterns was not the only American to take advantage of the drought. Former Governor John Downey had loaned money to Lemuel Carpenter, the owner of the last vestige of the vast Rancho Los Nietos de Santa Gertrudes.

*American Lands*



*Partitioning Map of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana — 1869*



## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

Downey too foreclosed on the rancho and Carpenter was devastated. The loss of his rancho caused him to walk to the hills and kill himself, leaving his wife María de los Angeles Domínguez and his children: Susana, José Antonio, Mary Refugio and Francisco. Mary kept a diary.

After the Civil War ended, Alfred L. Seeley ran a stage line 130 miles from San Diego to Los Angeles. Starting out in 1866, he made the run in 24 hours with one over night stay at San Juan Capistrano. The Seeley freight line initially may have come from the canyon, down the Santiago Blvd-Villa Park Rd-Katella run and had a stage stop on the west side of the Santa Ana River.

Yet as the swamps subsided in Tustin, Seeley followed the road near the Tustin Hills. The Seeley Stage Line is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee and is inside the southwest gate of Anaheim Stadium.



*The Stearns Ranchos*

## *American Lands*



*Seeley Stage Line — Merle Ramsey*

Another American who came to Southern California was Alfred Beck Chapman, a soldier from West Point. Just two years later, the American Civil War began with California supporting the Union. Chapman then moved to Los Angeles and became a lawyer, specializing in land deals.

Eventually he became a partner with Andrew Glassell. Andrew had come to California earlier during the Gold Rush era, managed a rancho and was now practicing law. Living with Andrew in Los Angeles, were his brother William, a Confederate Naval Captain, from the Civil War.

Also there was his Sister, Susan Patton with her four boys. Susan's husband, Colonel George S. Patton had been killed at the battle of Winchester III. The law firm of Chapman and Glassell worked in land deals, first acquiring 30,000 acres of the Rancho San Rafael, north of Los Angeles.

William had been in the Coastal Survey of the US Navy prior to the Civil War so had experience in that area. Alfred, the more active partner hired William for land surveys.



*Alfred B.  
Chapman*

### **ALFRED BECK CHAPMAN**

Alabama born in 1829, Alfred Beck Chapman graduated from West Point in 1854, serving in Florida during the Seminole Indian War. Later as a 2nd Lieutenant, he was in New Mexico & Arizona during the Gadsden Purchase, stationed at Fort Buchanan. He then marched to Fort Tejon, California on a Mojave expedition in 1859.

After hearing the news on the start of the Civil War in April of 1861, Chapman a Southerner, resigned his commission in May. He moved to Los Angeles, read law and went into real estate with the breakup of the great Spanish ranchos. He married twice and had seven children. He partnered with another southerner, Andrew Glassell in 1867, to form Chapman & Glassell in Los Angeles.

**Alfred Beck Chapman**  
— Memoir —  
**Orange, 1870s**



*My earliest knowledge of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana was in 1865. I bought some interest in the ranch, and during those years, from 1865 to 1868, I acquired the interest shown on the map. The partition was made in 1868.*

*I went with Captain Glassell to have a survey made of my interest. I think that was in 1869. That survey was completed in 1870 and my own lands divided up into smaller tracts. I commenced work, I think, in the winter of 1870 and 1871, and I think water for the purposes of irrigation flowed down as far as Orange through that ditch.*

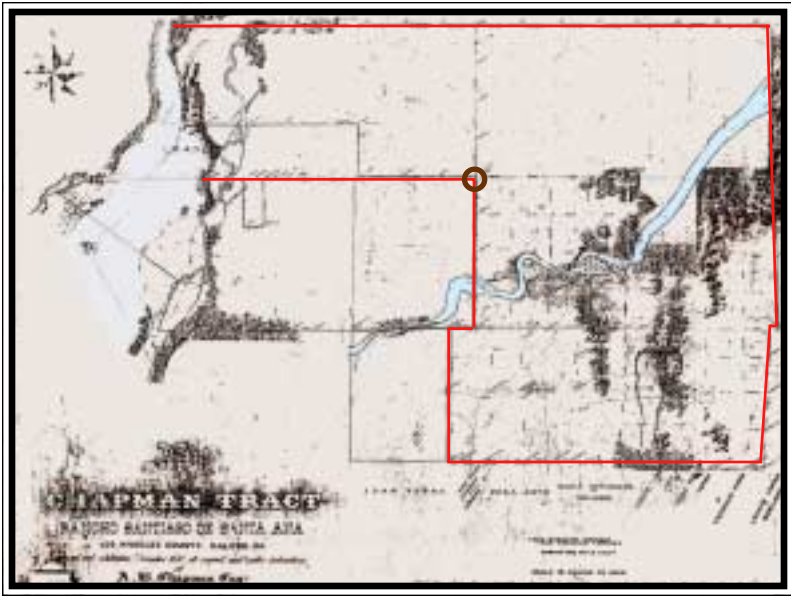
*It was the month of July, 1871. The ditch was eight or nine miles long. Any person had a right to buy the water and irrigate his lands. I own land bordering on the Santa Ana River and on the Santiago Ranch. I owned the Stearns tract and became the owner of it before I built my ditch.*

*I think the ditch now extends down to Santa Ana. The town of Orange is located partly on the Stearns tract and partly on the Chapman tract. The town of Tustin is upon the tract marked Strafford and Tustin, containing 1,359 acres.*

*I may overestimate it. I cannot tell how many acres of land were irrigated in 1877, but I suppose not less than 5,000. The town site of Orange was laid off in 1870 or 1871 by Captain Glassell and myself. I was the father of Orange ...*



## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*Alfred B. Chapman Tract Map, 1870 — Gary Granville*

Chapman and Glassell received land in trade for their legal services to the Yorba family and had purchase much more than what is seen on the Chapman Tract Map. As well, they received some 3,000 acres of Costa Mesa.

A wooden stake, driven into the ground in July of 1871 marked the center of a new town soon to be called Orange. William T. Glassell, brother to one of the town's founders, surveyed the land into 25 x 50 foot lots. The town at that time was but eight square blocks — now designated as the Plaza Historic District. In 1875, eight dedicated lots formed the town *Plaza Square*, measuring 292 by 330 feet.

First known as Richland, the town was then established in 1871 by Alfred Beck Chapman and Andrew Glassell; William was the real estate agent. There is a plaque placed the county Historic Commission in the south west curve of the Plaza as Site of First Building in Orange.

## *American Lands*

Note that the plaque has been moved many times; it's correct location should be on the South West corner of Chapman Ave. at The Plaza. Today, the square mile surrounding The Plaza, is the third largest architectural historic district in America.

At this same time, the grandson of Juan Pablo Peralta Ramón Peralta built his adobe casa in 1871 about a mile from his Father's town of Santa Ana Arriba. The site has a plaque by the Orange Historic Committee as the Peralta Adobe and is located at the corner of Santa Ana Canyon Rd. and Fairmont Blvd. in Anahim Hills.



*Ramon Peralta Adobe Casa*



*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



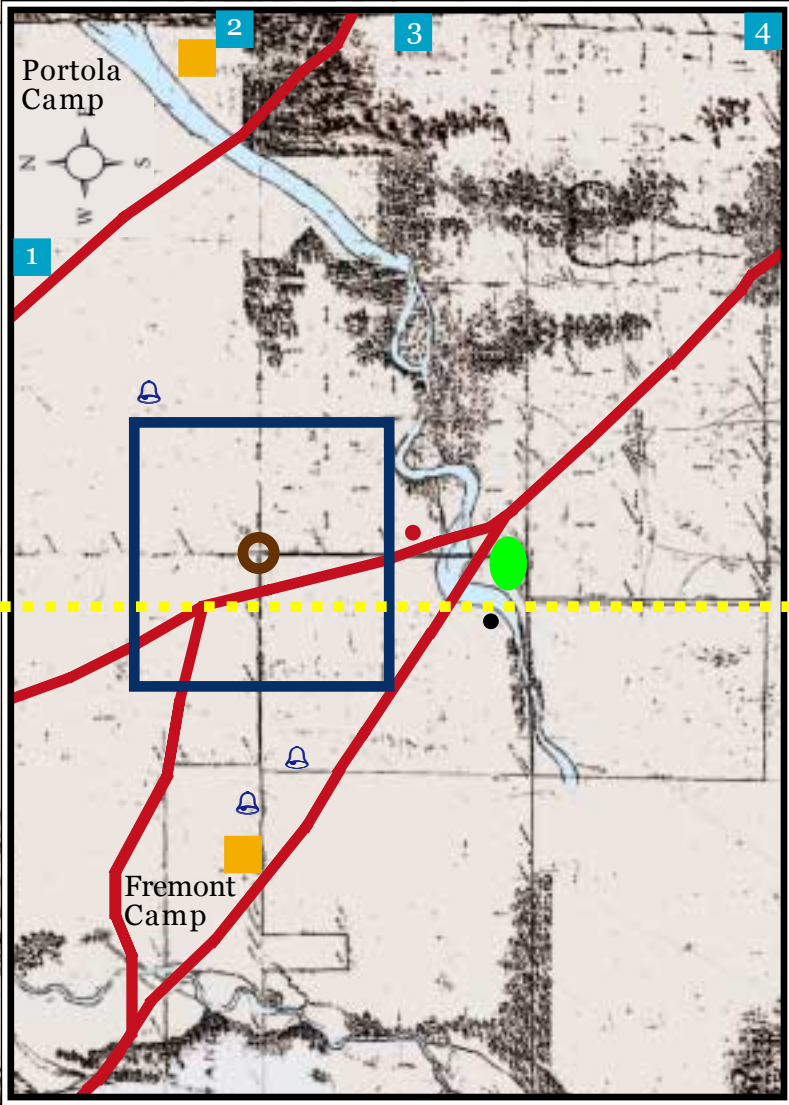
*American Lands*



*Santiago Creek within the Rancho*

# Rancho Lands: All About Orange

to Los Angeles  
to Mission San Gabriel  
to the Yorba Hacienda Santa Ana Viejo



Alfred B. Chapman Tract Map, 1870 — Gary Granville

- KEY:**
- |   |               |                     |
|---|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Mountain View | (St. James & Olive  |
| 2 | McPherson     | are further north.) |
| 3 | El Modena     |                     |
| 4 | Fairview      |                     |

Red Dot — Oldest Tree, Black — dot Cammonball, Brown circle — Plaza, Green — Houtkangna, Yellow — Railroad





*Orange— 1924c*

## **Chapter 5**

### *Towns of Orange*

**A**side the three towns of Santa Ana, (Abajo, Viejo & Arriba) from where that city gets its name today, six other towns were founded within what is now called Orange.

Fairhaven (1874), Olive (1880), Mountain View (1880), McPherson (1886), St. James (1887) and El Modena (1887) were all once within the area of the Orange boundaries.

Still, of all those above, Orange was first (or third if you count Anaheim in 1857 and Santa Ana in 1869.) Yet within the boundaries of Orange these six communities were either absorbed, changed their name or simply disappeared.

The towns of Orange today, Olive, Mountain View, St. James and El Modena are marked by plaques from the Historic Committee. The others by street names only.



### FAIRHAVEN

At the South central area of Orange is the site of the town of Fairhaven, begun by the good Reverend HH Messenger. He was an Episcopalian Minister who wanted to take advantage of the climate here in 1874. Planning a tropical agrarian community on the gentle slopes of the Tustin Hills proved folly as the high desert winds, thin soil and no water district, doomed the community.

Located around the intersection of Hewes St. and Fairhaven Ave. with the back drop of Panorama Heights, it was an idellic place for anything but tropical fruit. Thousands of planted pineapple and banana shoots died quickly and within the year, the reverend left for his native homeland of Summit Mississippi.

By the 1880s he was a part of the Diocese of Mississippi, in charge of three churches: St. Stephens (16) in Hazlehurst, Christ (40) in Summit and The Redeemer (20) in Magnolia. All were no more than 50 miles apart. There is nothing to denote Fairhaven today but the road — nor a photograph — but the road and cemetery carry the name.

## *Towns of Orange*



*Olive — 1912*

### OLIVE

Where the Santa Ana River emerges from its canyon in Orange County, it veers around Burruel Point before heading south to the ocean. Olive tress once covered this high overlook and gave the name to the new town of Olive Heights in 1880.

When the railway passed close to the hills, a road was built next to it called Orange-Olive Road. Olive grew slowly, averaging a population of about 300 people. In 1882, the three story Flower & Feed Mill, started by Thomas Dillin. The power to drive the mill came from a diversion channel from the Santa Ana River. The mill burned in 1889 and after rebuilding, operated until 1932.

A post office was established in 1890 and the town's name was changed to Olive. Part of the town was incorporated in to Orange in the 1960s. Olive sits today on Burruel Point with it's original church and a few older homes. The site of the Olive Mill is marked by a plaque from our Orange Historic Committee, in Eisenhower Park up the trail near the creek.



## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

### ST. JAMES

Least known is the town of St. James. Named after Santiago Mountain (Saint Iago) St. James came — and went — in 1888. During the boom years, 1887 marked the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad. William Holabird, promoter, investor and real estate speculator, successfully started two other towns: Coronado Beach in San Diego County and Clairmont in Los Angeles County. He was not so fortunate with St. James.

With great fanfare and excitement, the development of St. James opened with land sales. Planned to be an agricultural town, St. James had access to the railroad with a station coming the next year in Orange. Also of importance, a gran mill already build it Olive and plenty of water — or so everyone believed.

Over \$8,000 in sales were reported on that first day, but the boom soon dwindled. Also, the farseeing promoters had failed to set up a water district, leaving the farmers to fend for themselves. Without an abundance of water, the town soon faded. Citrus groves soon took over the townsite because in 1892, the irrigation tunnel through Olive brought the much needed water. St. James was located on Orange-Olive Road at East St. James Ave. A plaque by the Orange Historic Committee, was in Peralta Middle School, now a sport center.



*Location of St. James*

## *Towns of Orange*



*Mountain View School — 1919*

### MOUNTAIN VIEW

Formed as a school district in 1880, Mountain View was an agricultural community, north of the town of Orange. The two-room Victorian Schoolhouse, built in 1883 came with dual chimneys and a central bell tower.

Adding a post office in 1910 and with a town of Mountain View already in the San Francisco Bay area, the name was changed to Villa Park. The school became a part of Orange Unified in 1954 and the city incorporated in 1962 to maintain its rural atmosphere.

Citrus was the primary crop for the area, the old lemon packing house remained next to the civic center for years. Eventually zoned for large lots and wide streets, Villa Park has but 2,000 homes. The town is marked by a plaque from our Orange Historic Committee at the school.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*McPherson Packing House*

### McPHERSON

The McPherson Brothers began their little hamlet in 1872 with 220 acres a couple of miles east of Orange, raising raisins. Not 15 years later there were a dozen buildings including a packing house.

The Post Office came in 1886 with the formal town of McPherson the following year. 1888 brought the Southern Pacific Railroad — and 1889 brought the grape blight which destroyed every crop. The land boom of the 1880s ended as well and the Post Office finally closed in 1900.

A plaque from our Orange Historic Committee is in McPherson Magnet School on Palmyra Ave. at Prospect St.



*The Town of McPherson — 1888*

## *Towns of Orange*



*El Modena Friends Church*

### EL MODENA

Most known is perhaps El Modena which has a varied history yet is still on the map today. Of course so is Hollywood and both are actually boroughs of the cities of which they are in. El Modena is within Orange

Modena (named for a city in Italy) was first on the map in 1886 when a group of Quakers (Friends Church) founded the little town. A church, school and hotel were built and a college was planned.

The Post Office was named Earlham (after a Quaker College in the East) because Modena was too close to Madera (town up north). Later the name was changed back to Modena with 'El' in front to make El Modena. The blight came, the boom died, the hotel burned down and the college was never built. The church still stands on Chapman Ave. at Earlham St. in the lot of a restaurant. The town is marked by a plaque from our Orange Historic Committee at the church.

## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

The towns of Orange, including the original three Spanish towns of Santa Ana, are now all nestled within the City of Orange, save Santa Ana Aribba in Anahiem Hills, and Santa Ana Abajo, within the Santa Ana of today. Of course Mountain View (now Villa Park) is it's own city yet still the Orange of today, surrounds it.

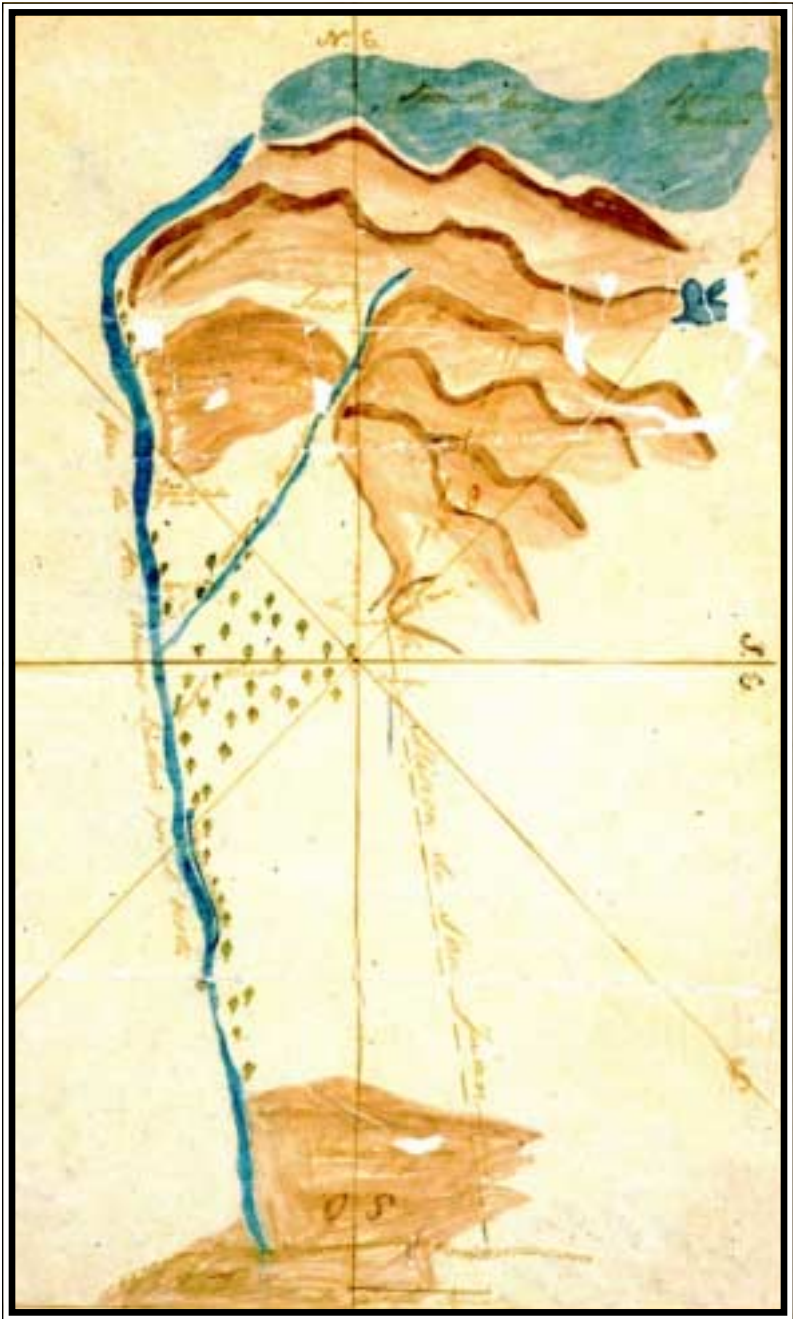
All of these towns plus Anahiem Hills, Tustin, Costa Mesa and parts of Santa Ana and Newport Beach — are all on the original Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana.

Note that all if not most of the Spanish Ranchos had a Sainted name associated with it — ours has two. Of the two-dozen Ranchos within Orange County today, the only Spanish Rancho entirely within the county — is Santiago.

The Spanish Missions gave California a structure but the ranchos gave it an economy. The vast Rancho Santiago then gave birth to a dozen towns and today seven cities, all within North Orange County — the center of the largest market region in America — and the third largest market in the world.



## Towns of Orange



*Diseno of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana, 1801 — Eddie Grijalva*



*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



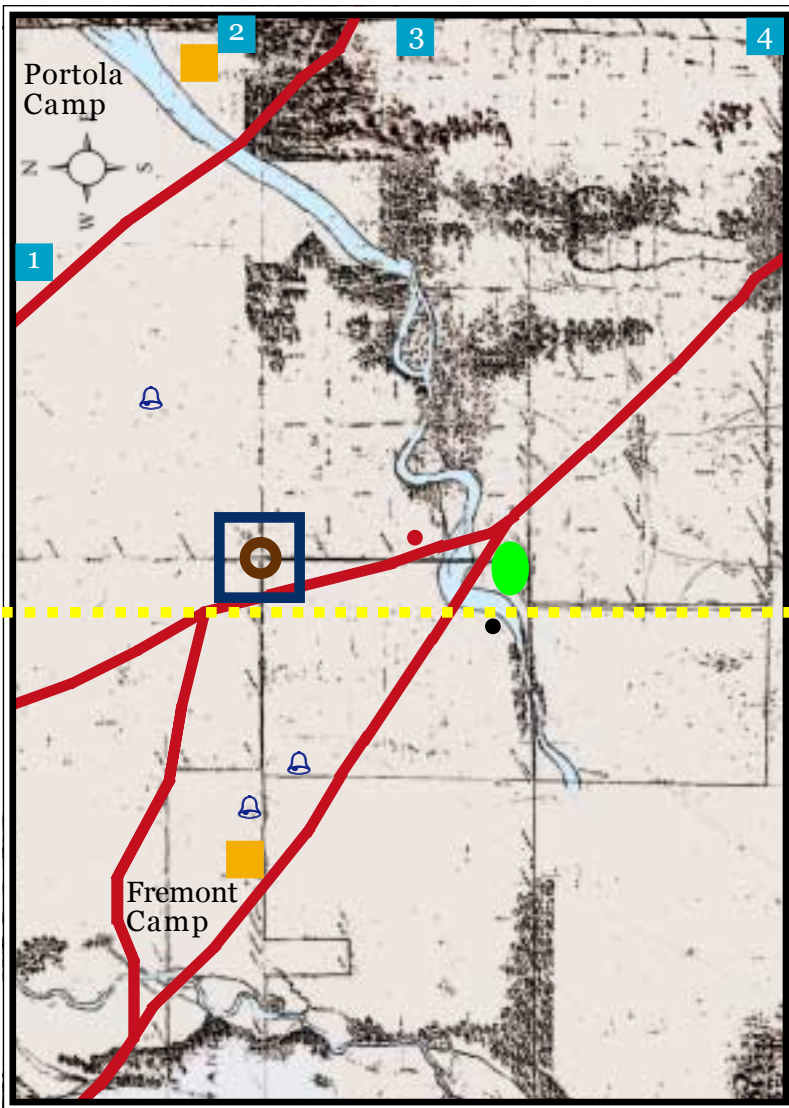
*Towns of Orange*



*Santiago Creek near McPherson*

# Rancho Lands: All About Orange

to Los Angeles  
to Mission San Gabriel  
to the Yorba Hacienda Santa Ana Viejo



Alfred B. Chapman Tract Map, 1870 — Gary Granville

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Red Dot — Oldest Tree, Black — dot Cannonball, Brown circle — Plaza, Green — Houtkangna, Yellow — Railroad  
Blue Square — Original Town



*Orange Plaza Square — 1888*

## **Epilog**

### *All About Orange — The Town*

**A** wooden stake, driven into the ground in July of 1871 marked the center of a new town soon to be called Orange. William T. Glassell, brother to one of the town's founders, surveyed the land into 25 x 50 foot lots. The town at that time was but eight square blocks — now designated as the Plaza Historic District. In 1875, eight dedicated lots formed the town *Plaza Square*, measuring 292 by 330 feet.

Old Timers call it the Plaza which is a square. New Comers call it the Circle for the drive-around. Yet, the Plaza Park (first park in Orange County) is an Oval. This next chapter in *All About Orange* will be found in the next book in the series (#2), *The Town*.

The oldest tree in Orange is not one of the two Moreton Bay Fig trees, found near Hart Park. One is on Chapman Ave. and the other at the south end of S. Grand St.



## *Rancho Lands: All About Orange*

These trees were planted on March 6 of 1875 by Henri F. Gardner, to celebrate the birth of his first son and to honor his wife.

The oldest tree in Orange is a 1786c natural California Sycamore. *Platanus racemosa* with a 68" girth, a 95' height and a 110' spread. This Sycamore is located at River Ave. and S. Orange St. River Ave. is named for the creek and is the only one way street in Orange — due to the tree.

In the 1940s National Geographic came and determined the age of the tree. The tree has been here since Spanish times.



*All About Orange: The Town*



*California Sycamore Tree on River Ave.*



*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*Santiago Creek in Orange*

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## **Historic Sites In Orange**

**THE NATIVE VILLAGE** The Village is on the south side of Hart Park at the Santiago Creek, called Houtkangna.

**PORTOLA CAMP SITE** Two plaques mark this northern trail of Portola: the first plaque from our local Orange Historic Committee, is located on the east side of Santiago Creek in Yorba Park as the Portola Camp Site.

**EL CAMINO REAL** The trail is marked here by a plaque from our Orange Historic Committee as the El Camino Real and is located at the Olive Elementary School.

**ROUTE OF PORTOLA** A plaque in the Serrano Elementary School, from the Orange Historic Committee, marks the Route of Portola.

**EL CAMINO REAL PARK** That new trail and that portion of it through Orange, is marked today by the El Camino Real Park.

**CAMPSITE OF ANZA** The Anza camp in Orange is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee as the Campsite of Anza.

**EL CAMINO REAL** That trail is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee located in Sycamore Elementary as El Camino Real.

**EL CAMINO BELLS** This road is marked by two official El Camino Real Bells, one is on the west side of Main Street, two blocks south of Chapman Avenue. The other bell is located on the north side of Chapman Avenue, two blocks west of Main Street.

**GRIJALVA ADOBE SITE** The site is marked by a plaque from the Orange County Commission as the Grijalva Adobe Site, near Hewes St. and N. Rancho Santiago Blvd.

**OLD SANTA ANA** The site is marked by a plaque from the State of California as Santa Ana Viejo, on Orange Olive Road between E. Main St. in the Olive area and Lincoln Ave.

**PERALTA** The site is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee as Peralta, in Imperial Elementary School at Imperial Highway and Nohl Ranch Road.

**SANTA ANA ABAJO** Santa Ana Abajo (Lower Santa Ana) in the southwest along the Santa Ana River on this side of Santiago Creek. There is no plaque.

**JOHN C. FREMONT CAMP** The John C. Fremont Camp is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee, on West Chapman Ave. just before Eckhoff St.

**CAMPSITE OF STOCKTON & KEARNEY** Marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee as Campsite of Stockton and Kearney.

**YORBA HACIENDA** The Yorba Hacienda site overlooked the location of the old town and sat on the hill at Olive Elementary School today. There is no plaque.

**ROBBERS PEAK** Robbers Peak is above Anaheim Hills Elementary School, yet can be reached with a short walk.

**RAFAEL PERALTA** Rafael Peralta, built his casa adobe in the town of Santa Ana Arriba. There is no plaque.

**CARLTON CAMP** The Carlton Camp along the east side of the river in Orange near Lincoln Ave. is the only major camp not yet marked.

**SEELEY STAGE** The Seeley Stage Line is marked by a plaque from the Historic Committee inside the northwest gate of Anaheim Stadium.

**ST. JAMES** A plaque by the Orange Historic Committee, was in Peralta Middle School, now a sport center.

**McPHERSON** A plaque by the Orange Historic Committee is in McPherson School on Palmyra Ave. at Prospect St.

# **Historic Artifacts Of Orange**

IN THE ORANGE LIBRARY & HISTORY CENTER  
(OL&HC)

A COG STONE from the Native American period.

Dan Snow and Family

HAND-WROUGHT HORSESHOES from the Portola  
Camp Site near Grijalva Park.

Eddie Grijalva and Family

A HAND WROUGHT FIVE-TINED SPUR from the  
Grijalva Adobe site. Eddie Grijalva and Family

A WOODEN SADDLE FRAME from the Las Flores  
Rancho.

Eddie Grijalva and Family

A LARGE HORSESHOE from the Grijalva field below the  
Adobe Casa. Eddie Grijalva and Family

A SPANISH CANNONBALL from the crossing at Santiago  
Creek. The Paragon Agency

THE SANCTUS BELL from the roots of an Orange Tree  
on Walnut near an old trail. Robert Pargee, Jr.

THE CHEST OF GOLD COINS from the bend of the old  
road in Santiago Oaks Regional Park. Not Donated.

CIVIL WAR ERA CANNONBALL from San Jose Creek.  
(This was donated to the Redlands Library.)

The Orange Library and History Center is located at  
407 E. Chapman Ave. — four blocks East of The Plaza.

All of the above artifacts were donated with the assistance of  
The Paragon Agency, Publishers.

## **Historic Plaque Doners**

The Orange Historic Committee was formed for the National Bicentennial of 1976 as the Bicentennial Committee. Following are the organizations that donated each of the plaques:

PORTOLA CAMP SITE	Orange Civic Organization
EL CAMINO REAL	Orange/Villa Park Kiwanis
ROUTE OF PORTOLA	Serrano/Cerro Villa Schools
EL CAMINO REAL PARK	— no plaque —
CAMPSITE OF ANZA	Orange Jaycees
EL CAMINO REAL	Portola PFSO & Sycamore PTA
EL CAMINO BELLS	Woman's Club of Orange
GRIJALVA ADOBE SITE	County Historic Commission
OLD SANTA ANA	California State Historic Monument
PERALTA	Orange Rotary Anns
SANTA ANA ABAJO	— no plaque —
FREMONT CAMP	Orange Suburbia Kiwanis
STOCKTON CAMP	Canyon Womens/Girl Scouts
YORBA HACIENDA	— no plaque —
ROBBERS PEAK	— no plaque —
RAFAEL PERALTA	— no plaque —
CARLTON CAMP	— no plaque —
SEELEY STAGE	Western Thrift and Loan
VILLA PARK SCHOOL	Villa Park 4-H Club
ST. JAMES	Peralta ASB & PFO Students
McPHERSON	McPherson ASB
FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH	Cosmopolitian Club



*On the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana*

## Colophon

This book is set in Georgia. Georgia is a transitional serif typeface designed in 1993 by Matthew Carter for the Microsoft Corporation. It was created for clarity on a computer monitor even at small sizes, and has a relatively large x-height. Named for a tabloid headline found in the state of Georgia, this typestyle got its name. Georgia is a registered trademark of Microsoft.

The cover is set in Goudy. Frederick W. Goudy designed Goudy Old Style — a Garalde typeface — in 1915 for American Type Founders. It was his 25th typeface. One of the most popular typefaces ever produced it is used for both text and display work. Most recognizable for it's diamond shape dots on letters and punctuation as well as the ears and bases on specific letters.

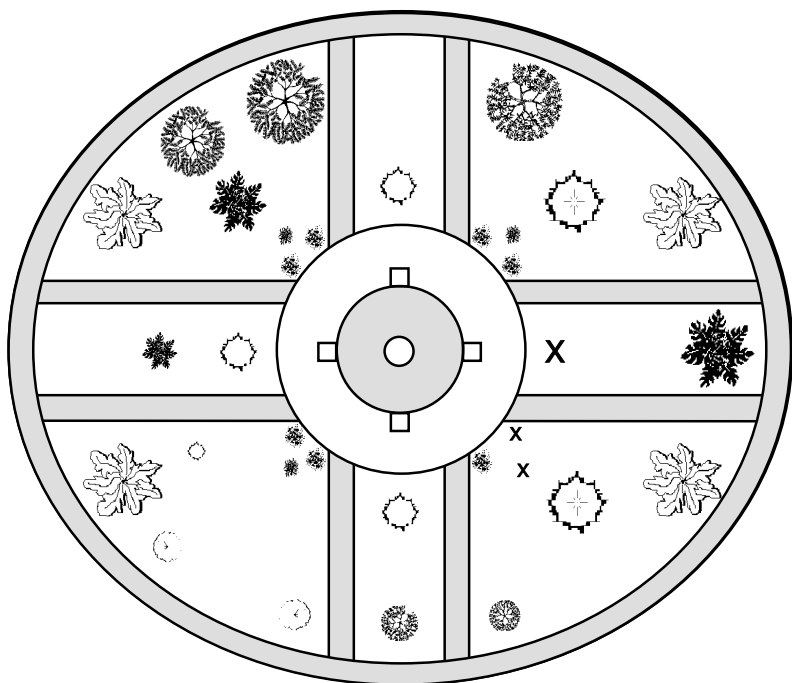


The logo of The Paragon Agency Publishers, is the edge of a book, impressed with an American Flag of 13 stars. It is taken from the first American Flag flown over California, when this region was Spanish territory. Brought here in 1804, no one knows where the flag is today. Not the usual pattern of a circle for a 13 star flag, the stars were in rows like that of an American flag of modern times.

**[www.SpecialBooks.com](http://www.SpecialBooks.com)**



*Rancho Lands: All About Orange*



*Orange Plaza Park*





*Californio Vaqueros, 1800s*

### **THE RANCHO LANDS: All About Orange**

This edition of All About Orange is about the Rancho Lands that would become the city of Orange. The present city of Orange actually began as a crossroads of what was then Spanish California. Then, the large La Cienaga de las Ranas (*swampland of frogs*), ranged from Tustin toward the historic Santa Ana River and then on to the sea. Because of this, all foot traffic back to Native American times, went through the foothills east of Old Towne Orange.



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