

# GOVERNOR JUAN ALVARADO



Figure 2 Juan Bautista Alvarado  
Governor of Alta California 1836-1837

**Bautista Valentin Alvarado y Vallejo** (February 14, 1809 – July 13, 1882), was a Californio and two-time Governor of Alta California from 1836–37, and 1842–45.

**Born** February 14, 1809  
Monterey, California

**Died** July 13, 1882 (aged 73)  
Rancho San Pablo, California

**Spouse** Dona Martina Castro

After the Bear Flag Revolt (1846) and Mexican-American War (1846-1848), he was offered the governorship, but he declined, instead retiring to his wife Martina's family estate at Rancho San Pablo in 1848.<sup>2</sup> Alvarado did not participate in the California Gold Rush, instead concentrating his efforts at agriculture and business. He opened the Union Hotel on the rancho in 1860, but his businesses were mostly unsuccessful. After Martina's death in 1876, Alvarado wrote his *Historia de California*. He died on his ranch in 1882 and is buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oakland.

Alvarado's adobe house, at the foot of Alvarado Street, in downtown Monterey, survives as a California Historical Landmark.

**Californios** were Spanish-speaking inhabitants of Alta California, first a part of **New Spain**, later of Mexico. This area was later annexed in 1848 by the United States following the **Mexican-American War**.

Californios included both the descendants of European settlers from Spain and Mexico, and also included other European settlers, Mestizos, and local Native Americans who adopted Spanish culture and converted to Christianity. Some white Americans, who settled in California, spoke Spanish, and lived as Mexicans, are also considered Californios.

At first, Spanish and later Mexican officials encouraged people from the northern and western provinces of Mexico—as well as people from other parts of Latin America, most notably Peru and Chile—to settle in California. The United States government did not continue this practice.

Much of Californio society lived at or near the many **Missions**, **presidios** and official **pueblos** which were established in the 18th and 19th centuries. There were 21 Missions under the Roman Catholic church along the fabled route, *El Camino Real*.

Some Americans became honorary Californios due to their early arrival, marriage to Californios, and their adoption of, and adaptation to, Spanish culture and religion. Some wealthy Californio nobles intermarried with the settlers; thus a few prominent families in California may have Spanish or Mexican ancestors.

**Rancho San Pablo** is one of the historic ranchos created by land grants in former Mexican California.

**Adobe** bricks are a natural building material made from sand, clay, water, and some kind of fibrous material (sticks, straw, dung), which is shaped into bricks using frames and dried in the sun. It is similar to cob and mudbrick. Adobe structures are extremely durable and account for the oldest extant buildings on the planet. In dry climates, compared to wooden buildings adobe buildings offer significant advantages due to their greater thermal mass.

Buildings made of sun-dried earth are common in the Middle East, North Africa, south America, southwestern North America, and in Spain.

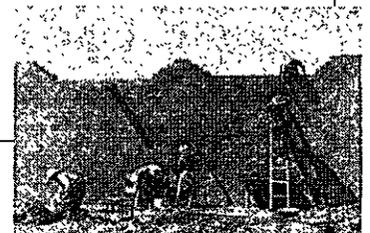
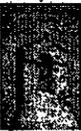


Figure 3 Renewal of the surface coating  
of an adobe wall in Chamisal, New Mexico

<sup>2</sup> A. F. Bray, Rancho San Pablo, Contra Costa Historical Society, December 12, 1936.

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CA Trivia	Question
Spanish CA	
Mexican CA	What is El Camino Real?
American CA	What city was the capital of Alta CA?
	Where can you find or see the Bear Flag?

California	Trivia
<p><b>Three Californias</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Spanish</b> until 1821 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Alta CA</b> – Upper California formed 1804 when province of CA part of New Spain divided into two along line separating Franciscan missions in north from Dominican missions in south</li> <li>○ Southern part – territory of Baja CA</li> <li>○ Two territories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Nueva CA</b> – New CA, Upper CA</li> <li>- <b>Vieja CA</b> – Old CA, Lower CA</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Mexican</b> 1821 - 1847 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>1821 Mexican War of Independence</b></li> <li>○ <b>Alta CA, Nuevo Mexico, Texas</b></li> <li>○ Tough govern new territories – 1000s miles from Mexico City.</li> <li>○ El Presidio de Sonoma established as military outpost in 1836 under General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo to monitor Native Americans and Russian outpost at Fort Ross.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>American</b> 1847 - Present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 13, 1846 US declares war vs. Mexico</li> <li>○ Small Mexican garrison led by Jose Castro</li> <li>○ US Army Captain John C. Fremont enters CA w/60 men Dec. 1845 on way to Oregon, hears of war, began <b>Bear Republic</b>.</li> <li>○ June 15, 1846 30 settlers, mostly US citizens stage revolt, raise Bear Flag of CA republic over Sonoma. Lasts one week.</li> <li>○ US Army (Fremont) take over June 23, 1846.</li> <li>○ CA state flag base don this original <b>Bear Flag</b> and contains words (California Republic).</li> <li>○ Mexico then signed the <b>Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo</b> accepting American sovereignty over California on February 2, 1848.</li> <li>○ <b>Gold</b> discovered in CA, January 1848.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Mexican Governors</b><sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1822-1825: Luis Antonio Argüello (born in San Francisco, he was the first native-born Californian to govern Alta California)</li> <li>• 1825-1831: José María de Echeandía</li> <li>• 1831-1832: Manuel Victoria</li> <li>• 1832: Pío Pico</li> <li>• 1832-1833: Agustín V. Zamorano (north) and José María de Echeandía (south)</li> <li>• 1833-1835: José Figueroa</li> <li>• 1835: José Castro (acting)</li> <li>• 1836: Nicolás Gutiérrez (acting)</li> <li>• 1836: Mariano Chico</li> <li>• 1836: Nicolás Gutiérrez (acting)</li> <li>➔ <b>1836-1837: Juan Bautista Alvarado</b></li> <li>• 1837-1838: Carlos Antonio Carrillo</li> <li>➔ <b>1838-1842: Juan Bautista Alvarado</b></li> <li>• 1842-1845: Manuel Micheltoarena</li> <li>• 1845-1846: Pío Pico</li> <li>• 1846-1847: José María Flores (in opposition to the US in Los Angeles)</li> <li>• 1847: Andrés Pico (in opposition to the United States in Los Angeles)</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 1 Bear Flag at El Presidio de Sonoma or Sonoma Barracks</p>



<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia