

Cordero Family History: Baja California to Alta California, 1700-1850.

By Jonathan Cordero, with William E. Cordero II

Chronology

Miguel Cordero

1706 **Miguel Cordero** born in New Spain.

Harry Crosby. 1994. *Antigua California: Mission and Colony on the Peninsular Frontier, 1697-1768*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 416.

1733 **Miguel Cordero** enlisted at the Presidio at Loreto, Baja California prior to 1733. (1) In the account given by Jaime Bravo, rector of the missions of Nuestra Senora de Loreto, Miguel received a salary of 300 pesos and two rations, which indicated that he was married at the time. (2) Miguel married Angela Nunez, a native of Baja California; she was most likely a member of a tribe in the area of Loreto or north that spoke the Cochimi language, since the Spanish were “at war” with the other Baja California Indians to the south who spoke different languages.

1. Harry Crosby. 1994. *Antigua California: Mission and Colony on the Peninsular Frontier, 1697-1768*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 416.

2. *Archivo General de la Nacion, Californias* 80, 3, ff. 19-14.

1735 **Miguel Cordero** at Loreto, Baja California during the rebellion of Indians in the area.

Archivo General de la Nacion, Californias 80, ff. 33-38.

1742 **Miguel Cordero** remained at Loreto until at least 1742.

Archivo Historico de Baja California Sur, La Paz, Juridicio, doc. 47.

1750 **Mariano Antonio Cordero** was born in San Jose del Cabo, Baja California around the year 1750. (1) His death record, however, indicates that he was born at Loreto, Baja California in 1746. (2) His marriage record of 1777 states that he is from the “real presidio de Loreto de la antigua californiia” as do other records from birth and marriage records. (3) His marriage record of 1816 states that his place of origin was Cabo de San Lucas, Baja California. (4) Mariano had two brothers, Joaquin Ignacio and Francisco who were born in the early 1750s.

1. Information given in 1790 re-enlistment at Santa Barbara.

2. Santa Barbara Presidio Death Register, Record #00218. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

3. Mission Dolores Marriage Register, Record #00001. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

4. Santa Barbara Presidio Marriage Register, Record #00093. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1751 **Miguel Cordero**, along with **Ramon Nicolas Cordero** (most likely a brother or possibly an older son), were stationed at the Real Escuadra del Sur (Royal Squadron of the South) “established at San Jose del Cabo” in 1737, then moved to Todos Santos in 1748. (1, 2)

1. *Archivo General de la Nacion, Californias* 80, no. 442.

2. Harry Crosby. 1994. *Antigua California: Mission and Colony on the Peninsular Frontier, 1697-1768*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 416.

1753 26 October 1753. **Ramon Nicolas Cordero** at Todos Santos with Rivera y Mocada.

Archivo General de la Nacion, Mexico City, Provincas Internas, vol. 007, ff. 68-101.

1754 22 July 1754. **Ramon Nicolas Cordero** at the Loreto Presidio with Fernando de Rivera y Moncada. Ramon Cordero was also involved with the case against Manuel Ocio who was accused of killing and selling cattle that belonged to Mission Loreto.

Archivo General de la Nacion, Mexico City, Provincas Internas, vol. 213, ff. 23-49.

1766 **Miguel Cordero** was retired by 1766. (1) He was literate. (2) Prior to the Gaspar de Portola Expedition of 1769, Miguel Cordero was an integral part of the expulsion of Jesuits in Baja California. Although the expulsion was most likely predestined, Miguel because of his years of service was one of five soldiers who gave declarations to Captain Rivera y Moncada and Lt. Fernandez de Somera on September 16, 1766, regarding the behavior of the Jesuits. (1) Miguel gave his age as 60 and was called literate (1); and his responses to the interrogation were hardly an indictment of any wrong doing by the Jesuits.

1. *Archivo General de la Nacion, Mexico, D.F.*, vol. 7, 108-118 exp. 11

2. Harry Crosby. 1994. *Antigua California: Mission and Colony on the Peninsular Frontier, 1697-1768*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 416.

1767 **Ramon Nicolas Cordero** in California with Manuel Alonso Portugues.

Archivo General de la Nacion, Mexico City, Provincas Internas, vol. 213, ff. 155-166.

Mariano Cordero

1771 **Mariano Antonio Cordero** along with nineteen other soldados de cuera, five cowboys, 60 mules and Captain Rivera y Moncada left the Presidio de Loreto in Baja California on a long arduous journey to the Royal Presidio at San Diego de Alcalá in Alta California. (1) Upon arriving in San Diego, ten men, including **Francisco Cordero** and Mariano Cordero, deserted. "Fages told Paterna to return the deserters, pardoning them but setting certain conditions for their return. Paterna took a signed pardon and the deserters returned under his protection, and he promised they would be kept together. Upon return, Fages immediately assigned each to separate missions. [The] ten deserted again." Upon their return a second time, Paterna requested a license for Francisco Cordero who "proved very faithful." (2) On July 18, 1771, Mariano received his first issuance of supplies in Alta California at the Presidio de San Diego. (1) Mariano was godparent to three California Indians while in San Diego. (3)

1. *Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico, Indiferent, D. Guerra*, legajo 3, tomo 161D.

2. *Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico, Provincias Internas*, vol. 152, ff. 391-404.

3. The Hunting Library Early California Population Project
<<http://missions.huntington.org>>

1773 **Mariano Cordero** remained at San Diego for several years, a soldier in a new world, where the Kumeyaay Indians attacked the mission and presidio on several occasions. Mariano was listed as a padrino (godfather) and soldado de cuera in the baptismal records at Mission San Diego in 1773.

Bautismos hechos desde mediados del año 1771 hasta mediados de 1773 por los PP.
Nuevos Ministros Fr. Franco. Dumetz y Fr. Luis Jaume (Letter 3 April 1773 to Fr. Serra).

Francisco Cordero appears first in the mission records on 28 January 1773 at Mission San Antonio de Padua. He was listed as a soldado de cuera in the California Company. Francisco stood witness for a neophyte from the Quina (Quinada) village, Baltasar Cordero, who apparently admired Francisco enough to take his last name. Baltasar stood as a witness or godparent for numerous neophytes at Mission San Antonio. (1) By March Francisco was at Mission San Carlos Borromeo at Monterey, along with Guillermo Carrillo, where he remained until September. (2)

1. Mission San Antonio de Padua Baptismal Register, Record #00029. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

2. Mission San Carlos Borromeo Baptismal Register, Record #00150. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1775 **Mariano Cordero** is listed in the 1 January 1775 Padron at San Diego.

Bill Mason. 1978. "The Garrisons of San Diego Presidio: 1770-1794." [*The Journal of San Diego History*](#) (Fall), Volume 24, Number 4.

1776 **Mariano Cordero** was at the Presidio of San Carlos Borromeo de Monterey. It was while at the Presidio de Monterey that Mariano met his future wife, **Juana Francisca Pinto**, daughter of Corporal Pablo Pinto. The Pinto family arrived March 10 with the Anza Expedition that departed from the Royal Presidio of San Ignacio de Tubac (present-day southern Arizona) at the Presidio de Monterey on their way to colonize San Francisco. Mariano and Juana exchanged wedding banns on November 28, 1776.

1777 **Mariano Cordero** and **Juana Pinto** were married 7 January 1777 at Mission Dolores. Theirs was the first marriage listed in the book of marriages at Mission Dolores, San Francisco (Libro de Casamientos de San Francisco).

1780 **Joseph Estanislao** (Josef Stanislao) **Cordero** baptized 14 May 1780 at Mission Dolores. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto, parents.

Mission Dolores Baptismal Register, Record #00159. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1781 On October 4, 1781, Jose Moraga at San Francisco listed **Mariano Cordero** as Cabo (Corporal) in a report. (11)

1782 Corporal **Mariano Cordero** placed under arrest for permitting an escape of two thieves, his brother-in-law Marcelo Pinto and Mariano Castro. Corporal Cordero was released after fifteen months in prison.

Moraga's Report, no place to date; Teodoro de Croix order, Arispe, June 7, 1783, *Archivo General de la Nacion*, Ramo de Californias, tomo 71.

1784 **Mariano Cordero** reappears in the records on 2 August 1784 as a witness to a marriage at Mission Dolores but is soon transferred to Santa Clara.

1785 **Mariano Cordero** served as a corporal at Mission Santa Clara as early as January. **Pedro Regalado Cordero** baptized 18 May 1785 at Mission Santa Clara. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto, parents. Mariano Cordero stood as godparent on 29 November 1785 at Mission Dolores.

1786+ **Mariano Cordero**. Testimony given in the case against franciscan missionary Tomas Pena for the murder of several Indians at Mission Santa Clara.

AGN, Vol. 001 ff. 045-122 exp. 4

1787 **Mariano Cordero** was listed as Corporal at Presidio de San Francisco.

Archives of California, LIV, Provincial State Papers, Sacramento, LIV, 24-25.

- 1788 Corporal **Mariano Cordero** stood as a godparent at Mission Dolores.
- 1789 **Mariano Cordero** retired from military service briefly at Santa Barbara.
Benecia Military Records, vol. 18, page 90. (Eldredge copy)
- 1790 **Mariano Cordero** re-enlisted in military at Presidio Santa Barbara (1); he is listed as a sastre (tailor) at Santa Barbara. (2)
1. Benecia Military Records, vol. 18, page 90. (Eldredge copy)
 2. Padron of Santa Barbara, 1790, Eldredge papers, The Bancroft Library, p. 92.
- 1792 **Mariano Cordero** stood as witness to a marriage on 17 May 1792 at the Santa Barbara Presidio.
- Mariano Cordero** (Cavo). Laso de Vega tried and convicted for misappropriation of funds and irresponsible handling of food supplies.
- AZTM, AGN, Vol. 0001 ff. 230-269 exp. 7
- 1795 **Miguel Estanislao Cordero** baptized 8 May 1795 at the Presidio Chapel at Santa Barbara. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto, parents.
- Santa Barbara Presidio Baptismal Register, Record #00128. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*
- 1798 **Jose Domingo Cordero** baptized 10 May 1798 at the Presidio Chapel at Santa Barbara. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto, parents.
- Santa Barbara Presidio Baptismal Register, Record #00172. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*
- 1800 **Juan de Jesus Antonio Cordero** baptized 15 June 1800 at the Presidio Chapel at Santa Barbara. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto, parents.
- Santa Barbara Presidio Baptismal Register, Record #00207. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*
- 1802 **Maria Segunda Cordero** baptized 13 January 1802 at the Presidio Chapel at Santa Barbara. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto, parents. **Mariano Cordero** listed as an invalid.
- Santa Barbara Presidio Baptismal Register, Record #00237. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1803 **Jose Clemente Cordero** baptized 22 November 1803 at the Presidio Chapel at Santa Barbara. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto, parents.

Santa Barbara Presidio Baptismal Register, Record #00272. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1806 **Mariano Cordero** returned to Mission Dolores and stood as godparent for a local neophyte.

Mission Dolores Baptismal Register, Record #03475. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1807 **Mariano Cordero** stood as witness for Joseph Vicente Ortega and Maria Estefana Olivera at Mission Santa Inez.

1808 **Matias Cordero** baptized 25 February 1808 at the Presidio Chapel at Santa Barbara. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto, parents.

Santa Barbara Presidio Baptismal Register, Record #00323. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1814 **Juana Francisca Pinto** died 2 April 1814 at the age of 48.

1816 **Mariano Cordero** married **Maria Gertrudis Juana Lucinda Alvarez** on 30 January 1816. Gertrudis Alvarez, from San Diego, was the daughter of Juan Alvarez and Maria Rudesinda Rodriguez.

1818 **Paulina Maria Cordero** baptized 22 June 1818 at the Santa Barbara Presidio Chapel. Mariano Cordero and Gertrudis Alvarez, parents.

Santa Barbara Presidio Baptismal Register, Record #00536. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1820 **Vicenta Cordero** baptized May 1820 at the Santa Barbara Presidio Chapel. Mariano Cordero and Gertrudis Alvarez, parents. Hilario and Juana Jimenez stood as godparents at the birth. The Jimenez's daughter, Maria Antonio, would eventually marry Mariano's son, Miguel.

Santa Barbara Presidio Baptismal Register, Record #00565. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

1821 **Mariano Cordero** died 20 November 1821 and was buried at Mission Santa Barbara.

(Santa Barbara Burials, (Northrup, II p. 52))

“Fr. Ibarra on another occasion declared that, “though the troops here [at Santa Barbara] are few, if it were in my power, I would take them to Simi, nay, even a little farther, perhaps to Monterey. I am tired of telling them in vain that there is a law which forbids them to have intercourse with the neophytes, and hence that they are not permitted to enter the rancheria or the shops. On the 5th of this month I was notified that a soldier was in the smithy. Many of the Indians have nice handkerchiefs and pretty shirts. The soldiers give them drink.—I refrain from telling you more of what I should tell you in person. The soldiers also let the Indians have horses, and let them do just as they please. I see no difference between these guards and hostile warriors save the different names. The French in Spain used to say: ‘All is ours.’ Here they say, ‘All must be given to us.’ Among them is one **Cordero**. A more appropriate name would be wolf or cat. I presume that the Alfarez has told you about him.” (Fr. Ibarra to De la Guerra, July 11, 1821. “De La Guerra Collection”)

Englehart, Zephyryn. 1916. *Missions and Missionaries of California*. Vol. 2, pp. 230-231.