

Leandra's Lineage: Living Descendants of the San Francisco Peninsula Indians

One year old Xilaite, cuddled by her affectionate mother and serenaded by the trickling waters of Calera Creek, was naïve to the portending events that would soon bring an end to her people and culture. Xilaite was born about a year before to the Portola expedition reached the Bay Area in 1769. At that time the Ramaytushⁱ, the indigenous population who shared a common language and who occupied the San Francisco Peninsula, numbered approximately 1400 persons.ⁱⁱ The last known descendant of the Ramaytush was believed to have died in the 1920s, that is, until the discovery made by Jonathan Cordero who traces his ancestry to Xilaite.ⁱⁱⁱ Little could one year old wide-eyed Xilaite know that she would become grandmother of one of the only known natives of the San Francisco Peninsula to have living descendants in the present—**Leandra Ventura Ramos**.



1. Ohlone Village



2. Map of Ohlone Linguistic Subdivisions

The Ohlone (or Costanoan) have lived in the west, east, and south Bay Area for thousands of years. The Ramaytush, a subdivision of the Ohlone, lived on the San Francisco Peninsula and were divided into several independent tribes, one of which was the Aramai. The Aramai were situated on the east side of the San Francisco Peninsula near modern day Pacifica. They were divided into two primary villages. Timigtac, on Calera Creek, was the smaller village nearer to Rockaway Beach, while Pruristac was located just to the south in the San Pedro Valley. The Aramai were one of the first tribes to be brought in the Mission Dolores community and its outstation at San Pedro y San Pablo.

The first of the Aramai to be baptized at Mission Dolores beginning in 1777 were its younger members; however, the majority of its members were baptized between 1783 and 1786. According to Randy Milliken et al., “[b]y 1801 all of the native San Francisco Peninsula people had joined Mission Dolores.”^{iv} As the result of disease and

Ohlone

- Ramaytush
 - Aramai
 - Timigtac
 - Pruristac

other factors related to missionization, approximately 80% of the Aramai population had died by 1800. The death rates were the same for the Ramaytush in general. By 1834 “only 37 descendants of the original San Francisco Peninsula Indians”^v were living at Mission Dolores, and by 1842 that number dwindled to about 15 persons.^{vi}

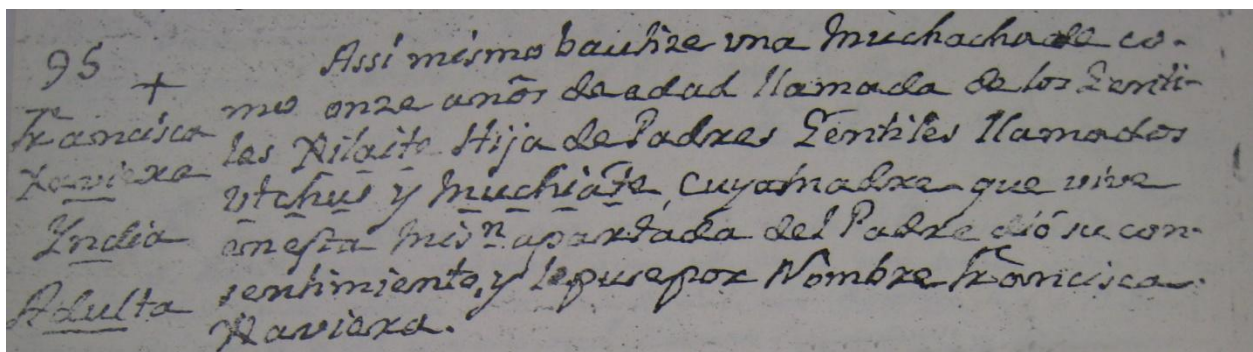


Coffres de danse des habitans de la Californie.

3. Ohlone Dance Headdress, Louis Choris, 1816

Spanish first arrived. Their son, Enchequis, was living at Pruristac with his wife and four children. Utchús and Muchiáte’s two daughters, Xilaite and Puctzim, lived at Timigtac. Xilaite and Puctzim were baptized together at the age of 11 and 9, respectively, at Mission Dolores on 7 February 1779. Xilaite was given the Spanish name Francisca Xaviera and Puctzim was named Augustina.^{vii} It was not uncommon for children to be baptized before their parents. The children most likely lived at Timigtac with their parents and made frequent visits to Mission Dolores. Within a year Xilaite married her first husband, Bruno. Theirs was only the twenty-fifth marriage at Mission Dolores. Puctzim married in 1783, by which time both parents had been baptized, and the entire family was most likely living at the mission or its outstation in San Pedro Valley.

Of the Aramai and Ramaytush more generally, at least one family is known to have living descendants in the present: Utchús and Muchiáte from Timigtac. Utchús was from the tiny village of Timigtac near Calera Creek in present day Pacifica. At the time of the arrival of the Spanish in 1769, the Village at Timigtac numbered only about 10 persons. Muchiáte was from the Ureburu village just east over Sweeny Ridge in present day San Bruno. Utchús was about 46 years old and Muchiáte about 37 when the



4. Francisca Xaviera Baptismal Record

Xilaite’s second marriage was to Joseph Ramos on 31 October 1783 at Mission Dolores.^{viii} Theirs was the first recorded marriage at Mission Dolores between gent de razón and the indigenous population. Joseph Ramos was baptized 17 July 1731 at San Antonio, Singuilucan, Hidalgo, Nueva España, although his family was from nearby Valle de Tulancingo. He was a

bachelor blacksmith at Mission Dolores who, beginning in 1776, traveled from Vera Cruz to San Blas and eventually arrived in San Francisco in 1779.^{ix} Xilaite and Joseph Ramos had only one child, Pablo Antonio Ramos, who was born on 25 January 1785 and was baptized at Mission Dolores five days later.^x Jose Ramos died a few months later in June 1785, and thereafter Pablo Antonio lived with his native mother and step-father, Urbano, from San Mateo. Though half Spanish, Pablo was classified by the padres as a neophyte from that point forward.

Pablo Antonio Ramos first married Rurucsmain on 15 December 1804 at Mission Dolores. She was the 14 year old Saclan daughter of Jopu and Yassapame. Rurucsmain died just two years later in 1806; they had no children.

Skipping ahead, Pablo Antonio's third marriage was to Barbara Motus from the Omiomi tribelet (Coast Miwok) north of the San Francisco Peninsula. The couple had five children. All three daughters, the earliest born in 1820, died by 1826. The two sons, Jose de la Trinidad and Jose Antonio Ramon, along with their parents, do not appear in any records after 1829. Certainly it is possible that either son married and had children, but there is no evidence to support that possibility.

Pablo Antonio's second marriage was to Ocissa, daughter of Cacnucché and Copitate from the Saclan tribe east of the Oakland Hills in present day Moraga and Lafayette. Cacnucché, which translates specifically to "Peregrin Falcon", was not married to Copitate but to another Saclan woman named, Ssacnem. Copitate, on the other hand, married Ylupaché on 18 December 1794 but of course they had been together prior to this marriage. Ocissa was born about 1789 to Copitate and Cacnuché, but at the time of Ocissa's baptism in 1794 Copitate was married to Ylupaché. Copitate is the maternal ancestor of Maria Leandra Ventura Ramos, and her mtDNA markers can be linked to Copitate and the Saclan tribe in Lafayette or Moraga.

Pablo Antonio Ramos was married to Ocissa at Mission Dolores on 30 October 1807. They had two children: Ursula Hilariona, who died at three years of age, and **Maria Leandra Ventura Ramos**^{xi} who was baptized 14 March 1811 at Mission Dolores.^{xii} *She is one of the only known descendants of the indigenous people of the San Francisco Peninsula to have living descendants in the present.* Her immediate descendants are listed below.

Leandra Ramos married Jose Rafael Robles at Mission San Francisco Solano on 7 January 1825.^{xiii} Rafael Robles was a soldier at Branciforte at Santa Cruz who was sent out to survey land on occasion.^{xiv} Leandra and Rafael had three children and eventually settled in the village at Branciforte in Santa Cruz. While their only son died in 1840, both daughters married and had children. Rafael went into the army and discipline induced in him a sober conduct. (Rowland)

1. **Maria Francisca (Maria de Jesus) Robles** was born in 1825 at San Francisco; she married Jose de Jesus Sebastian Soria.

Children

- Maria del Refugio (born in 1843; married in 1860 to Antonio Vargas Dutra; 12 children)
- Maria Teresa (born in 1845; married to Blas Weeks; 1 child)

Pablo Andronico (born in 1847; married to Maria Luisa Garcia; 8 children)
Jose Blas (born in 1849; married to Catherine Contreras; 4 children)

Leandra's first child, Maria Francisca Robles was renamed Maria de Jesus shortly after birth. She had four children with Jose de Jesus Sebastian Soria, the eldest of whom was Maria del Refugio Robles. She married Antonio Dutra de Vargas, a Portuguese farm laborer, on 1 December 1857 at Santa Cruz. The couple had several children, one of whom was Anna Dutra. On 5 January 1885 at Santa Cruz, Anna married Italian fisherman Giacomo "James" Marco



Buero. In October of 1887 James Buero caught an eight foot long, one thousand pound sea turtle off the coast of Capitola. He struggled with the giant all night until help arrived in the morning. It was said to have been "the largest of its species that has ever been caught off the coast."^{xv} Anna Dutra and James Buero had eleven children, one of whom was Anna Buero.

2. **Maria Juliana del Carmen Robles** was born in 1835 at Santa Cruz; she married Angelo Martinez.

Children

Maria Leonora (baptized 12 August 1855 at Mission Santa Clara; died in 1856)
Facundo (baptized 9 March 1857 at Mission Santa Clara)

3. **Jose Gregorio Robles** was born in 1837 and died in 1840.

After the death of Rafael Robles during the small pox outbreak of 1838, **Leandra** was remarried to Eugenio Antonio Soto 20 May 1839 at Santa Cruz.^{xvi} **Leandra** and Eugenio had six children, of whom at least two daughters are known to have had children.

4. **Maria Leandra de la Cruz (Elena) Soto** was baptized in 1839 at Santa Cruz and has no known children.
5. **Maria de la Asencion Soto** was born in 1842 at Mission Santa Cruz. She was not married but had one child with Marcus Chaboya of Pleasanton.

Children

Arcadia Chaboya (born in 1877 at Pleasanton; married Jesus Mosqueda; 11 children)

Leandra's fifth child, Maria de la Asencion Soto, had one child with Marcus Chaboya. Arcadia "Carrie" Chaboya was born 12 January 1877 in Pleasanton and later moved to San Luis Obispo in 1886. Carrie had eleven children, and, at the time of her death in 1950, she had thirty-five grandchildren and twenty-six great-grandchildren.^{xvii}



Arcadia Chaboya, 1914



Frances Valencia, 1914

Carrie's eldest daughter, Frances Valencia, was born on 19 October 1892 at San Luis Obispo.^{xviii} Frances Valencia married William Salvador Cordero on 2 May 1914 at Santa Barbara; they had five children. Interestingly, the founders of the Cordero family in Alta California, Mariano Cordero and Juana Francisca Pinto, were the first couple ever married at Mission Dolores and would have been acquainted with Frances

Valencia's Aramai ancestors. Mariano Cordero and Juana Pinto were married on 7 January 1777 and remained in San Francisco until at least 1784.^{xix} Five generations later, the families were reunited in the marriage of Frances Valencia (g-g-granddaughter of Francisca Xaviera) and William Cordero (g-g-grandson of Mariano Cordero). Frances Valencia and William Cordero are Jonathan Cordero's great-grandparents.

6. Maria Rosalia Soto was born in 1845 at Mission Santa Cruz and married Robert Evans on 26 August 1859 at San Mateo.

Children

- William Evans (no children)
- Joseph Evans (no children)
- Eugene Evans (no children)
- Robert Evans (no children)
- Celia Evans (no children)
- Mary G. Evans (married to Fulton Kneedler; no children)
- Rosalia Evans (born 6 March 1868; married to Gottfried Mueller; 2 children)
- Leonora Evans (born about 1871; married to Henry Stein; one adopted child)
- Charlotte Evans (born in 1873; married to Richard Waits; 9 Children)



Irene and Rosalia Evans Mueller, 1918

Leandra's sixth child, Rosalia Soto, married Robert Evans from Wales on 26 August 1859 in San Mateo, California. They owned a farm in San Mateo near the Soto family ranch. The couple had nine children. One of their daughters, Rosalia Evans, married Gottfried Mueller from St. Francis, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Though Gottfried's parents begged him to become a priest, he moved to California in the late 1800s and worked as a carpenter. He met Rose at a dance, married, and their son, Arthur, was born there in 1891. Jobs

were scarce and the family moved to Beloit, Wisconsin near Gottfried's brother, brother, Charles. The couple lived in Wisconsin and had two children, Arthur and Irene. Both married, but only Arthur has living descendants.

7. **Maria Petra del Espiritu Santo Soto** was baptized in 1847 in Santa Clara. She died and was buried in 1857 at Santa Cruz.
8. **Jose Ignacio Soto** was baptized in 1850 at Mission Santa Clara; he has no known children.
9. **Pio Francisco Soto** was baptized in 1853 at Mission Santa Clara; he has no known children.

Until recently, it was believed that the last known descendant of the Ramaytush died in the 1920s. In other words, the last known descendant of the approximately 1400 indigenous people who lived San Francisco Peninsula in 1769 had died—an entire people and culture, it was believed, had passed. The discovery of the descendants of the Timigtac, from perhaps the smallest of all the Ramaytush villages, offers a slight reprise amidst the tragedy that befell so many California Indians.

“It is my hope that this narrative re-generates interest in preserving the legacy of the very few who managed to survive that we might remember the very many who passed so long ago.”

Jonathan Cordero

Illustrations and Tables

1. Ohlone Village.
<<http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.scu.edu/cas/environmentalstudies/ulistac>>
2. Map of Ohlone Linguistic Subdivisions.
<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5f/Ohlone_villages.png/300px-Ohlone_villages.png>
3. Ohlone Dance Headdress, Louis Choris, 1816.
<<http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://img15.imageshack.us/img15/2626/ohlone2.jpg>>
4. Francisca Xaviera Birth Record. Baptismal record for Francisca Xaviera, 7 January 1779, Baptismal Register of Mission San Francisco de Asis, SFD:00095. Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library. Used with permission.

Notes

ⁱ Also known as the San Francisco Peninsula Costanoans.

ⁱⁱ Richard L. Levy, “Costanoan Internal Relationships.” (Archaeological Research Facility, Berkeley, 1976).

ⁱⁱⁱ Randall Milliken et al., “Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and Their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today,” (Oakland, CA, Archaeological and Historical Consultants, 2009), 2.

^{iv} Randall Milliken et al., “Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and Their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today,” (Oakland, CA, Archaeological and Historical Consultants, 2009), 2.

^v Randall Milliken et al., "Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and Their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today," (Oakland, CA, Archaeological and Historical Consultants, 2009), 2.

^{vi} "The San Francisco Census (1842)." < <http://www.sfgenealogy.com/spanish/cen1842.htm>>

^{vii} Baptismal record for Francisca Xaviera, 7 January 1779, Baptismal Register of Mission San Francisco de Asis, SFD:00095 and 00096. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.* Puctzim died in 1786, only three years after her marriage to Jutquis. She had no children

^{viii} Marriage record for Francisca Xaviera, 31 October 1783, Marriage Register of Mission San Francisco de Asis, SFD:00065. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.* This was Xilaite's second marriage.

^{ix} Mardith Schuetz-Miller, "Biofile of Building Artisans who Worked on the Northern Spanish Borderlands of New Spain and Early Mexico," http://home.nps.gov/applications/tuma/Building_Artisans_of_Northern_New_Spain.doc.

^x Baptismal record for Pablo Antonio Ramos, 30 January 1785, Baptismal Register of Mission San Francisco de Asis, SFD:00410. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

^{xi} Marriage record for Pablo Antonio Ramos, 30 October 1807, Marriage Register of Mission San Francisco de Asis, SFD:01099. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

^{xii} Baptismal record for Maria Leandra Bentura Ramos, 14 March 1811, Baptismal Register of Mission San Francisco de Asis, SFD:04179. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

^{xiii} Marriage record for Leandra Ramos, 7 January 1825, Marriage Register of Mission San Francisco Solano, SFS:00018. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

^{xiv} Henry Albert Willem van Coenen Torchiana, *The Story of Mission Santa Cruz.* (San Francisco: Paul Elder & Company, 1933), 342.

^{xv} "A Monster Turtle." *San Jose Mercury News*, 14 October 1887.

^{xvi} Marriage record for Leandra Ramos, 20 May 1839, Marriage Register of Mission Santa Cruz, SFD:00835. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.*

^{xvii} "Carrie Mosqueda Dies Suddenly," San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune, December 11, 1950.

^{xviii} Baptismal Record for Arcadia Chaboya, 23 May 1878, Baptismal Register of Mission San Jose, number 1668, page 22.

^{xix} Marriage Record for Mariano Antonio Cordero, 7 January 1777, Marriage Register of Mission San Francisco de Asis, SFD:00001. *The Huntington Library, Early California Population Project Database, 2006.* 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.