



PUEBLO LAS JUNTAS

Researched by Stanley A Lucero

“Las Juntas was one of the very first settlements in the San Joaquin Valley.” (Clough & Secrest 1984)

I'm guessing Las Juntas was settled before 1810 (S. Lucero)

Location of Las Juntas

(Clough & Secrest 1984)

- Between present day Firebaugh and Mendota
- At junction of San Joaquin River and the Fresno Slough
- All that remains of Pueblo Las Juntas is a “lone grave on the prairie for a little girl”

Ash trees

- Two large ash trees on banks of San Joaquin River at Las Juntas (Hoover 1958)
- Pueblo Las Juntas also called Fresno due to two large ash trees (Hernandez 2000)
- Another settlement by Tranquility also called Fresno City (Hoover 1958)

North of Mendota / SE of Firebaugh

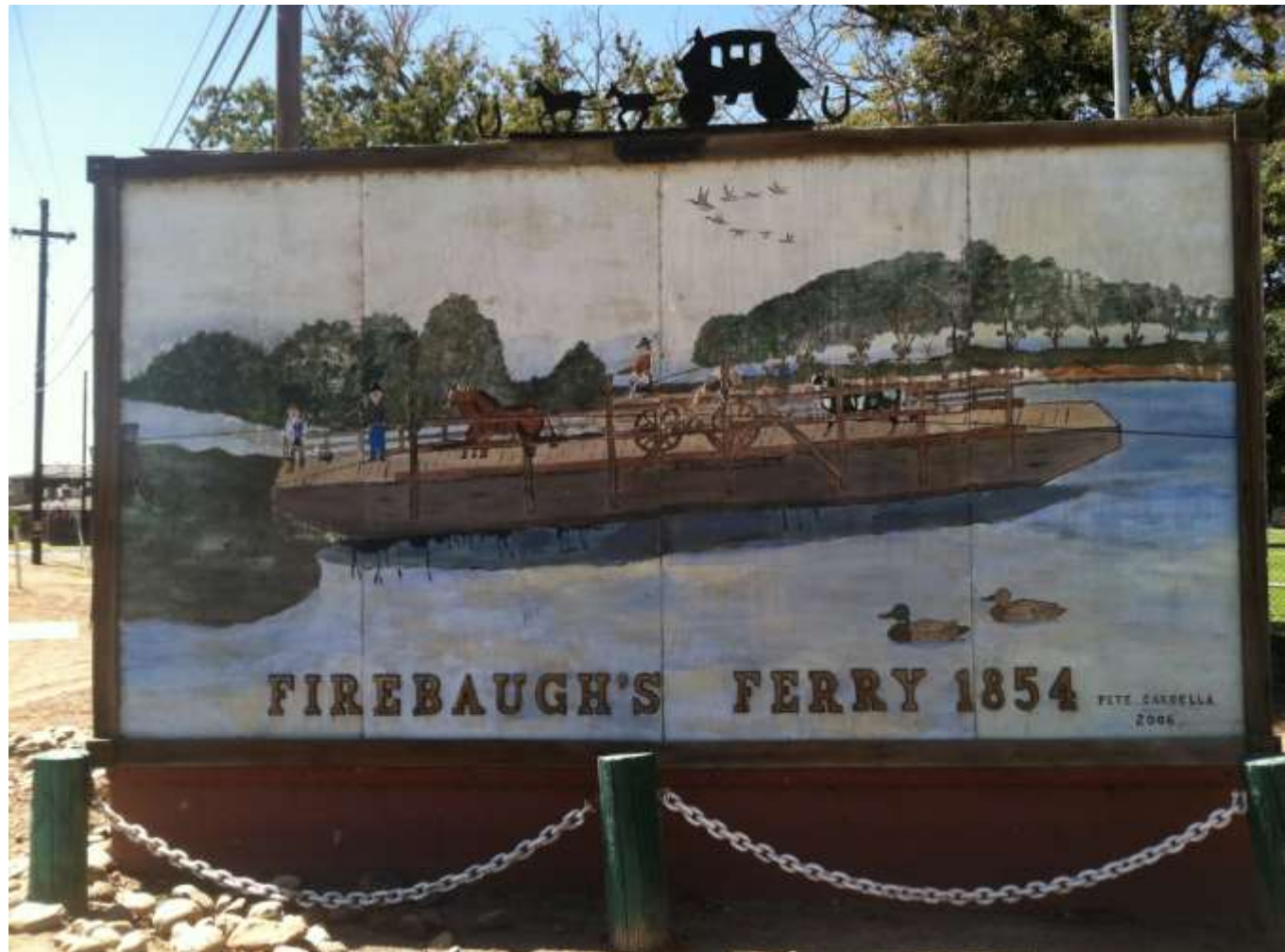




Kawatchwah Indian village



Firebaugh Billboard



Kerman Billboard



Steamboat Alta

(City of Fresno 1984)

- Fresno City was the terminal point for river boats
- 1862 steamboat Alta mired in the San Jose slough during summer 120 degree July heat

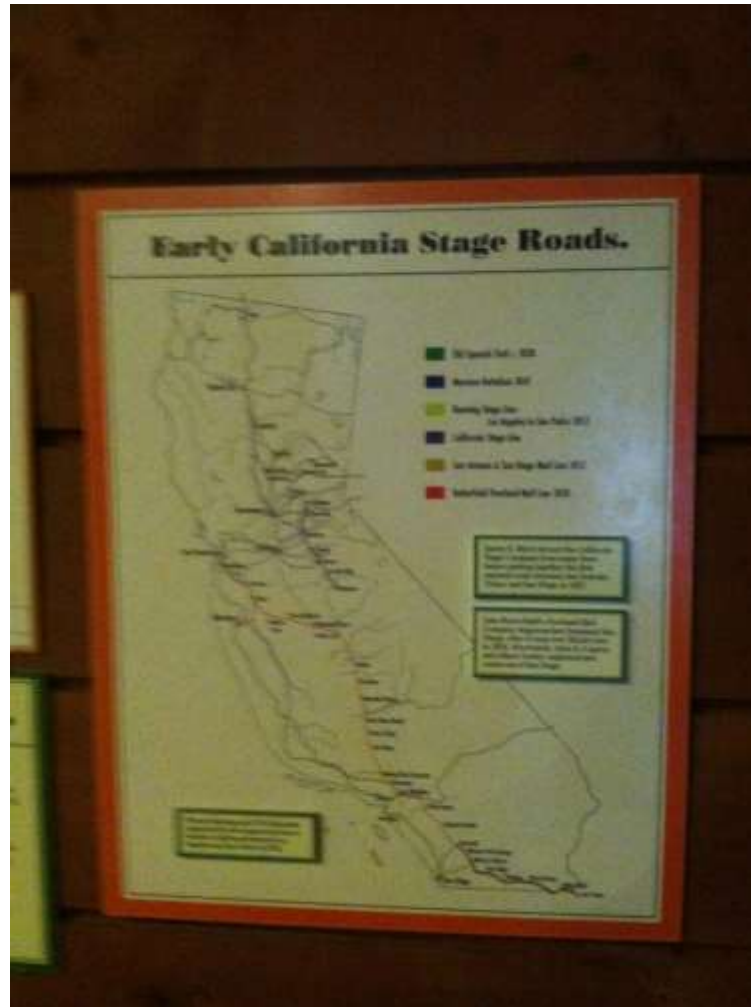


Butterfield Overland Stage

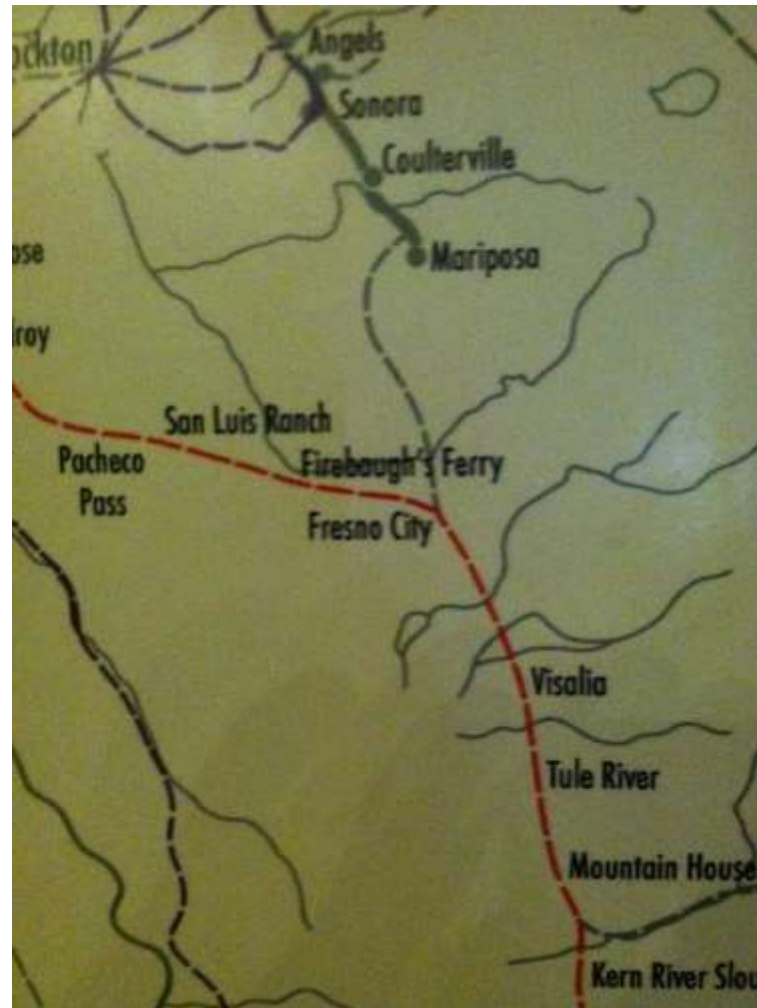
- Often stopped at Las Juntas (Hoover 1958)
- A stop for the transcontinental Butterfield stage line between 1857 and 1860 (City of Fresno 1984)



Early California Stage Roads I



Early California Stage Roads 2



From San Diego Old Town



“American” description

- Meeting place for fugitives
(Hoover 1958)
- Horse stealing, gambling, drinking and murder
- Joaquin Murieta and Tiburcio Vasquez obtained supplies from La Junta
- Safe from pursuit of American officers



Joaquin Murrieta

<http://www.cocohistory.com/essays-murrieta.html>

- Born in Sonora to Joaquin and Rosalia Murrieta
- Mother was previously married to a man named Carrillo
- He married Rosa Feliz from Vayoreca
- Claudio Feliz, Reyes Feliz & Jesus Feliz: brothers of Rosa Feliz
- Jesus Murrieta
- Warmed the bed of Ana Benitez in Los Angeles. Ana was from New Mexico.
- Harry Love (State Ranger) claimed to have killed Joaquin in 1853 and displayed his head in a bottle of alcohol.
- Jesus Feliz settled in Bakersfield and died in 1910

Tiburcio Vasquez

(Robinson - no date)

- Born August 11, 1835 Monterey
- 1852 Tiburico and Anastacio Garcia fled following the death of Constable William Hardmount
- Members of Gang: Tomas Redondo – Procopio or Red-Handed Dick, Juan Soto, Clodovio Chavez, Lebrado Corona, Abon Leiva and wife Rosaria (age 25 in 1873 from San Jose)
- Tiburcia had an affair with Rosaria. Turned in by Abon Leiva.
- Tiburcio hanged in San Jose March 19, 1875

F. F. Latta interviewed the following who knew about Las Juntas [1936]



- Theodora Arredondo from Madera
- J. J. Lopez from Bakersfield

Statement of Theodora Arredondo of Madera (Latta 1936)

“In 1850 my husband brought me to Las Juntas where Firebaugh is now. We came from San Pedro over the old road. We came [on] horseback, but just about a year before we came a party came in with a carreta. About ten people who lived at Las Juntas claimed to have come in with carretas over the old road. One of these carretas stayed at Las Juntas. It was washed away in the big flood in 1862 when the steamboat came along and saved many people.”

Arredondo – page 2

- “While we were living at Las Juntas my husband took me to Contra Costa. We went [by] horseback along the foothills. The old Los Angeles road went that way. A trail led from Las Juntas to Panoche Creek and joined the Los Angeles trail there. It was a real old road. I believe it was in 1852 that we went that way.”

Arredondo – page 3

- The old men and women at Las Juntas and along the foothills had known the old road and had traveled over it many years. There was a man at Las Juntas with grandchildren in 1850. He claimed to have come in over the road before he was married. I believe it had been used at least 50 years when I first came over it.”

Jose Jesus Lopez



- Majordomo of El Rancho Tejon 1885-1939
- Related to families at Pueblo de las Juntas
- Employed over a dozen members of Joaquin Murrieta's gang

Statement of J. J. Lopez of Bakersfield (Latta 1936)

- “As a small child, as early as 1860, I traveled over all the old road between San Pedro and Elizabeth Lake. When I was grown I traveled it as far north as Las Juntas on the San Joaquin River. My father had made a number of trips into the San Joaquin Valley with carretas and saddle animals and by 1840 was quite familiar with it as far north as San Emigdio.”

Families who lived in Las Juntas

(Clough & Secrest 1984)

- Pedro Aguirre
- Ambrosio Arias
- Francisco Cariponto
- Juliano Higuera
- Juan Liviano
- Juan Lopez
- Juan Mendez
- Nocha Morales
[killed about 1874 by Theodore Moreno]
- Juan Salazar
- Don Jesus Santamaria
- Gregorio Ynigo

Families who lived in Las Juntas

Frank F. Latta

- Ambosio Urrias & wife Matilde Ynigo
- Antonio Herrera
- Antonio Lopez, wife and 2 sons
- Antonio Martinez
- Antonio Villegas
- Chappo Mesa
- Cholo Martinez
- Claudio Acevedo
- Gregorio Guisaldo
- Gregorio Ynigo and his wife Teodora Martinez
- Indian Joe [Jose, El Indio]
- Jose Francisco Caravantes
- Jose Ribera & wife Matilde Ynigo
- Jose S. Arredondo, his wife Teodora Martinez & stepdaughter Matilde Ynigo
- Juan Maria Lopez [Orejas], Indian wife & son Wacho
- Juan Mendez
- Juan Salgado
- Julio Ramon Higuera
- Lorenzo Melendez
- Manuel Quiroz
- Pablo Gutierrez
- Pedro Gonzalez

Las Juntas families forced to move

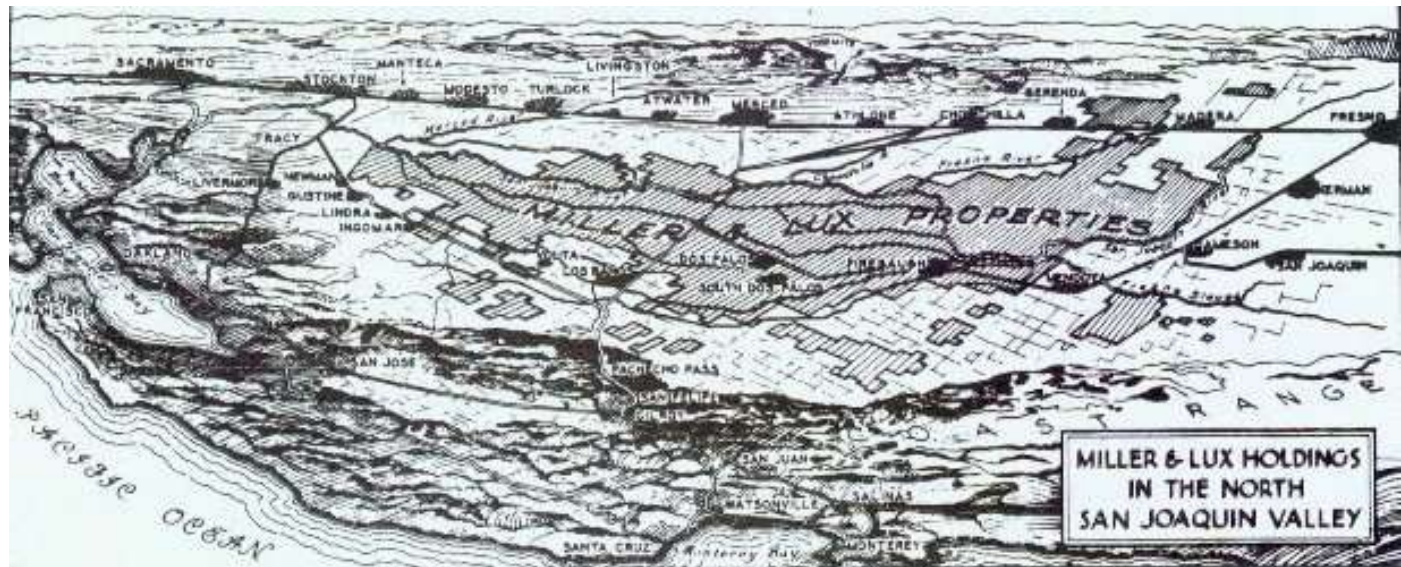
(Clough & Secrest 1984)

- 1879 Las Juntas townsite purchased by San Joaquin and Kings River Canal Company (owned by Miller & Lux)
- Firebaugh merchant Myer offered lots for one dollar
- About 200 people from Las Juntas moved to Firebaugh
- Most of the Las Juntas refugees were employees of Miller & Lux

Miller & Lux – Mexican Land Grants

(Igler 2001)

- “By the 1870s, former Mexican land grants constituted over half of Miller & Lux’s 300,000 acres in California.” [page 59]



Miller & Lux holdings in the north San Joaquin Valley. (From Garden of the Sun by Wallace Smith. Copyright 1939 by Lymanhouse, Los Angeles. Courtesy of the Bancroft Library.)

Miller and Lux [Iglesias 2001]

- Firebaugh Division
- Ferdinand Salvador – long term employee 1885-1889 [p 126]
- Rafael Cuen – father sold his land and by 1880 Miller & Lux owned the land
- Rafael Cuen was vaquero boss for Miller & Lux for four decades [pp 127-128]

Jose S and Theodora Arredondo

- Came to Las Juntas in 1850 from San Pedro
- 1880 Living in Borden, Fresno, CA
- 1900 Living in Madera, Madera, CA
- 1910 Living on N Street in Madera
- Jose Arredondo registered as voter in Madera from age 66-75; Republican
- Jose was born in Chile. Theodora was born in Mexico
- Theodora died around 1931 at age 102 in Madera.

Pedro Ignacio Aguirre and Audelia Melendrez

- Pedro naturalized 1865 in Mariposa Court
- Pedro registered 1872 as a merchant in Borden
- Children: Pedro, Narcisa, Victor, Audelia, Amelia, and Guadalupe.
- Daughter Narcisa (Nancy) born in Borden, Fresno, California in 1875
- Son Victor born in Liberty, Kings, California 1878. He married Bessie Black from California about 1900
- Children of Victor Benjamin Aguirre and Bessie Black: Harold, Victor, Joel, Orvel, Thomas, Melvell, Raymond, and Dalna
- Pedro and family living in Borden, Fresno, California in 1880

Borboa

I am a native of Firebaugh, whose great grandfather, Escolastico Borboa, lived and was married in Las Juntas before being relocated to Firebaugh. Many of the members of the Borboa family were buried in Las Juntas and later moved to the Firebaugh cemetery.

William J. Bertolani, Jr.

Aug. 10, 2013

Lopez

My 3rd great grandfather, Antonio Lopez, had just sold some wild mustangs to some of Joaquin Murrieta's men the day before the battle. He was camped near Tres Dedo's (3 fingered Jack's) camp when the battle took place. He got up early and was hunting rabbits for breakfast before he headed home to his wife and children in Pueblo de Las Juntas when Harry Love and his rangers came upon his encampment. He and another man, Jose Maria Ochovo, were captured during the battle. Antonio was tied on his horse (even his feet were tied beneath the horse's belly). During the trek to Fort Miller, Antonio's horse became entangled in the swamp grass and both horse and rider drowned. Friends and neighbors found him still tied to his horse the next day. He was buried on the banks of the slough near where the old San Juan School used to be. I have documents and historical family accounts to these events. Family accounts record Joaquin Murrieta visited the family to pay his respects after the battle. Gifts were exchanged that remain in the family today.

Terri Smiley - June 3, 2011

Can you help?

- I want to rewrite the history of Pueblo Las Juntas from the point of view of the descendants of the families who lived there.
- Contact me if you know someone who has family stories about Pueblo Las Juntas.

Refer to my website for updated
information



Residents of Pueblo de las Juntas
1810-1879

<http://www.lucerito.net/PueblodeLasJuntas.htm>

Bibliography

- California's Geographic Names. Durham, David I. Word Dancer Press, Clovis, California,.
- El Camino Viejo a Los Angeles. Latta, F. F. Kern County Historical Society, Bakersfield, California, May 1836.
- Fresno Centennial 1885-1995. City of Fresno. Centennial Prelude Committee, 1984.
- Fresno County – The Pioneer Years from the beginning to 1900. Clough, Charles W. and Secrest, William B. Jr. Fresno Panorama West Books, 1984.
- Joaquin Murrieta and His Horse Gangs. Latta, Frank F; Bear State Books, Santa Clara, 1980.
- Joaquin Murrieta: Literary Fiction or Historical Fact? Mero, William.
<http://www.cocohistory.com/essays-murrieta.html>
- Historic Spots in California. Hoover, Mildred Brooke; Rensch, Hero Eugene; Rensch, Ethel Grace; and Abeloe, William N. Stanford University Press, 1958.
- Industrial Cowboys. Ingler, David. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 2001.
- Mendota. A city in the central San Joaquin Valley. Hernandez, Robert. Mendota 1-5 Program, 2000.
- Ranchos of California. Cowan, Robert G. Historical Society of Southern California, Los Angeles, 1977.
- The History of James' Fresno Ranch.
- Tiburcio Vasquez in Southern California. The Bandit's Last Hurrah. Robinson, John W. The California Territorial Quarterly. <http://www.californiahistory.com/sample.html>

Contact me

- Stanley A Lucero
- 559-661-0510
- Webpage: www.lucero.net
- Email: stanley.lucero@comcast.net
- Madera, CA