

DE ANZA, JUAN BAUTISTA

(Translation)

Biographical data on **Juan Bautista de Anza**

Thousands of **Mexicans** do not know of the feats of the great explorer and colonizer, **Military Governor of Sonora, founder of the present metropolis and port of San Francisco, California, Juan Bautista de Anza**, whose **strong personality** was so clearly outlined when he assumed the governorship of the Province of **New Mexico**, on appointment by Charles III of Spain at the end of the eighteenth century.

This distinguished **Sonoran** was born in **Fronteras** in **1735**. His **father** was Captain of the Presidio of **Fronteras** and Provisional Governor of the State of **Sonora**.

Don **Juan Bautista de Anza** started his **military career** in **1752**, enlisting as a volunteer against **Apache raids**, and attained the grade of lieutenant in **1758**. In the same year, in **July**, he assisted in the campaign against the **Apaches** in **Gila valley**, and earned, for his **services**, an increase in rank to **captain**, being also named at the same time **Commandant** of the Presidio of **Tubac**. He **started** numerous effective **campaigns against the Apaches**, who were the eternal frontier **enemies**, and stifled an **uprising** of more than **3,000 Indians**.

He inherited a desire from his ancestors to open a route to **California**, and, under the influence of the missionary **Garces**, he took the leadership of an expedition to the **Pacific coast**, in order to open communication between **Sonora and Upper California**. He received the **appropriate permission** on

January 8, 1774, leaving at the head of 34 men. After an exploration of the Yuma desert, where he suffered untold hardships, he finally arrived in Monterey, California, on the 8th of April of that year.

On September 29, 1775 he led a new expedition which left from San Miguel de Horcasitas, founding and colonizing San Francisco, California.

During his stay in the city of Mexico, he became acquainted with Don Teodoro de Croix, nephew of the Marquis de Croix, Viceroy of New Spain, who had just been named General Commandant of the Provincial Internas de Occidente, and he, after Juan returned from California, gave him charge of the armed forces in Sonora, a post which he filled until 1777, when Charles III, under date of February 10 of that year, honored him with the post of Governor of New Mexico.

He governed New Mexico with the diligence and energy which were characteristic of him, distinguishing himself above all else in the persecution of the savage Indian tribes who inhabited those regions: Comanches, Utes, Navajos, Apaches, etc., and his service roll shows that he took part in more than 100 engagements. In these skirmishes he killed more than 30 chiefs and one general, Toribio Narityante, alias "green horn"; but the skilled diplomacy which he used in order to placate other tribes, causes his figure to loom even larger; he had conversations with the great Comanche chief Ecuaracapa, who surrendered conditionally in order to enjoy a happy state of well-being and progress.

Anza opened the first road between Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, and Arizpe, the capital of Sonora, where he arrived on December 18, 1780 on the inauguration trip.

Don de Croix was soon promoted to Viceroy of Peru; his successor Felipe de Neve insidiously gave a bad report to the king of the actions of Anza as

Governor of **New Mexico**; but **Neve's** successor, **Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola**, denied those **charges**, and sent in a report praising **de Ansa**.

He died in **Arizpe**, which was capital of the **Provincial Internas de Occidente** on December 19, 1788, and is buried in the church there which is called **Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion**.

Descendants of that distinguished person are still living in our **State**, mostly in **San Miguel de Horcasitas**; **Ramon** and **Julian S. Garcia**, well known people of this **capital** are descendants of this notable **man**. (pp. 180-182)

Biographical information about General **Ignacio Pesqueira**

Of all the governors and public men which **Sonora** has had, no one is more popular than the illustrious person whom I am now describing.

General Ignacio Pesqueira was born on **December 16, 1820**, in **Arizpe**, at that time the capital of the provinces of **Sonora** and **Sinaloa**, and died at his hacienda of **Bacanuchi** on **January 4, 1886**.

His ancestors were well known persons of the old **Sonoran capital**, particularly the **Hon. Mrs. Petra Garcia de Pesqueira**, mother of the general.

At an early age he was sent over to **Seville, Spain**, living there for some time, and then going on to **Paris** to continue a commercial career.

Being in **Seville** a short time after the death of **Ferdinand VII**, he affiliated with the cause of liberty as proclaimed by his student comrades, and took active part in the democratic movements which were started in **Andalusia**.

He returned from Europe at the early age of 18, arriving in Mexico full of **enthusiasm**, seeing that country fighting between two diametrically opposed **ideas**. The one was attempting to reintroduce the spirit of the twelfth **century**, and the other represented the liberal **spirit** of the **nineteenth**.

He affiliated himself with the **latter**, and thus opened the doors to a glorious **future**.

He was initiated to war with a good general **Urrea**, whose biography also should be included in the catalog of illustrious men of **Mexico**.

He attracted the attention of the Governor of the State by the fearlessness and skill with which he tracked down the **Apaches**, who were ravaging our **soil**, and was named by him Colonel Inspector of the **National** Guard on the **Frontier**. Well known for his liberal principles and ascendant **patriotism**, he was elected Deputy to the State **Legislature**. He was occupied at that post when the **pronunciamento** was **issued**, by the **gandarist party**, which put the Governor Jose de **Aguilar** in **prison**. **Pesqueira**, in **favor** of **legality**, entered the army on the side of executive **power**, and heightened the struggle between the **parties**. He occupied the capital of the state and chased the revolvers away.

In the resulting **readjustment** **Pesqueira** was elected proprietary governor **with** great acclaim by **everyone**.

After the revolt of **Comonfort**, **Juarez** was the essence of justice itself and the rightful one to be elected by the **country**. **Pesqueira** supported him spontaneously and **actively**, in order to defend the Constitution of '57, which was being vigorously attacked by the old army along with the **clerical group**.

Pesqueira, struggling with all sorts of **obstacles**, organized the **campaign** of **Sinaloa**, which had been in the district of the **reactionaries**. On April 3rd he took the port of **Mazatlan** after a very bloody and drawn-out **battle**. He was rewarded for this glorious day by being made **Constitutional** Governor of **Sonora**, Provisional Governor of **Sinaloa**, and General in Chief of the forces of both territories plus the Territory of Lower **California**.

He **returned** to Sonora because of political and military problems which required his **presence**, since his enemies had incited **the** various tribes to revolt and **plundering**. At a point known as "**Las Guasimas**" he escaped being captured by **his opponents**, saving the old soldier Jose **Montijo** at the same time **with a great deal of difficulty**.

On April 15, 1861 he went from **Hermosillo** to **Esteves**, *where* the **reactionary** group had established **itself**.

Even though Sonora was a great **distance** from the war **zone** at the time of the war of French **Intervention**, he did not wish to miss the honor of being represented in the Republican Army **which** was advancing to **fight**, and so **Pesqueira** organized a contingent of 1,000 men who marched in two **sections**, reaching **Guaymas** in July 1862. The Colonels Garcia Morales and Gabriel **Corella** went along with **him**.

The **governor** appointed by Maximilian attempted to enlist **Pesqueira's** support and offered him the governorship of the **territory** of **Sonora**, but those propositions were patriotically and energetically **refused**.

It would take many pages to **relate** the interesting life of this illustrious son of **Sonora**. I will be satisfied **to** say that in the troubled times when he **governed**, he knew **well** how to defend national **honor**. In the short

intervals of peace he was an active supporter of public **education**, hiring the **well** qualified professor **Leocadio Salcedo**, who started our high school in 1863.

After retiring to **private** life at his hacienda of **Bacanuchi**, he died on **January 4, 1886.** (pp. 304-307)

[Translated from Compendio de Historia del Estado de Senora, pp. 180-182, 304-307, by A.C.Schwarting, February 27, 1939.]

(Translation)

Forgotten **Frontiers**, Record facing p. 365.

The Colonel Don Juan **Baptista de Anza**, 48 years of **age**, his country the province of **Sonora**, his rank **noble**, his health **good**, his services and circumstances those which he **mentions**:

Date of entry into various types of service :	: day : month : year :			Length of service		
	Years	months	days	Years	months	days
Volunteer	2	7	0			
First Lieutenant	4	5	6			
Captain	14	9	27			
Lieutenant Colonel	7	4	16			
Colonel	1	10	11			
Governor and Commander of the province of New Mexico	[not known]					
Total service to the end of December 1783:	31	1	0			

Regiments where he has served.

In the provinces of **Fronteras**, **Tubac**, **Terrenate**, and **Horcacitas** in the province of **Sonora** and in **Santa Fe of New Mexico**.

Expeditions and engagements in which he was **present**.

I have been in continuous war all this period as described **here**. Expeditions were entrusted to me and power according to my higher **ranks**, as I state here. In **the first action** which I commanded we killed **114** of the **enemy**, taking **535 persons prisoners**, with **2,273 cavalry**. I pacified the **Papaga** nation of more than **3,000 rebels**, killing **their chief** and a greater number than I reported under the orders of my **chiefs**. I took part in the **Seris** expedition in the

[*Sanis ?*]

Province of Sonora in which I was wounded, as well as two other times previously. I offered myself at my own expense as a volunteer with 20 soldiers to open the way from the said province to that of new California, which I verified in a second trip to colonize and take possession of the port of San Francisco. I obtained the military command of the said ^[Mexican] province of Sonora for which by royal and superior order I opened the way on account of my position in which I undertook two expeditions against the Comanche nation, succeeding in the first in giving death to their most famous and ancient ^[ruler] ruler, with 5 of their captains, 44 more and 73 prisoners of both sexes, preceding this with the destruction of 120 of their settlements [rancherias], and in the last destruction in the present year, 23 of these enemies.

Anza

[February 28, 1939.]