

OTERO,

SABINO

61

OTERO, SABINO, born at Tubac in Pimaria Alta, Sonora, Mexico, December 29, 1846; son of Manuel Otero (1810-65) and Maria Clara Otero; his great grandfather obtained a lot in Tubac and a tract of farming land about a mile north of the town by a deed signed on January 10, 1789, by Lieutenant Nicolas de la Erran, Commander of the Company of Pimas of Tubac, which, as translated into English, in part reads:

WHEREAS, the resident, Torrivo de Otero, has presented himself to me, petitioning for a house lot on which to establish himself in this Presidio, for the purpose of pursuing his calling as a farmer, and in consideration of the benefit resulting from the establishment of industrious settlers, such as the petitioner, who will cultivate the soil, thereby furnishing a supply of grain which, in some seasons, has to be brought a long distance;

I, THEREFORE, by authority conferred on me by the King (of Spain), grant to the said Torrivo de Otero, and donate to him, as a first settler, perpetually, forever, and with right of inheritance to him and his children and descendants, a lot on which to build his house, on the lower side of this Presidio, in the direction of the south, with a front to the north of twenty varas; and a tract of land for cultivation, distant from the presidio about one-eighth of a league, since only at that point is found the little water that runs in the river, and he having made there his irrigating ditch; I grant him, also, in the name of His Majesty (whom God preserve), four farming lots of land, the measurement of the same to be made from south to north, and from east to west four hundred varas (yards).

It being well understood that the said Torrivo de Otero is required to keep arms and horses, and to be ever ready to defend the country against the enemies thereof, when he is called upon so to do, the grantee being also required to plant upon said land fruit trees, or other kinds that may be of some utility.

And the said Torrivo de Otero being informed of the foregoing, I took him by the hand and gave him possession of said lands, he, according to custom, scattering earth and stone sand, pulling up herbage.

As a youth he was sent to Santa Fe to the only school then conducted by the Catholic Clergy in what is now Arizona and New Mexico where he acquired

a fair education; upon the death of his father he became the head of the family consisting of his mother, his brothers Fernando and Teofilo, his sisters Francisca (Mrs. Ramon Comoduran), Mercedes (Mrs. Antonio Comoduran), Manuela (Mrs. Louis Quesse), Elena (Mrs. _____), Gabriela (1849-1905) (who became a Nun in 1877 and as Sister Clara, was a teacher in St. Josephs Academy), Ana Maria((Mrs. _____)) and his nieces Anna Marie Comoduran (Mrs. Eugene Coenen) and Brijida Comoduran (Mrs. Anthony Coenen) whose father was killed by the Apaches.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1860, with his parents at Tubac and again with them in the Territorial Census, 1864, at Tucson, occupation, Clerk; according to the 1870 Census he had returned to Tubac, occupation, Farmer, property valued at \$5,000; the Weekly Arizonan of July 24, 1869, printed the following:

INDIANS: On the 15th inst., a band of Indians made a descent upon the herd of Sabino Otero, near the Palo Parado ranch, six miles from Tubac. The attack was so sudden that the herder was taken entirely by surprise and killed. In consequence of the vicinity of the herd to the Palo Parado ranch -- which is occupied by about eighty people -- the Vandals could find only sufficient time to escape, which they did empty-handed save the clothes of the murdered man which they stripped from his body and carried off.

He was a good manager both as a farmer and as a stockman and prospered so that he could afford to travel abroad as stated in this item from the Arizona Weekly Star of September 26, 1878:

Sabino Otero, of Tubac, arrived from the Paris (International) exhibition last week, having been absent from the Territory for several months. He has seen many grand sights, on his trip, and now knows more of-the world, but is content to remain at home which he considers the best place after all.

James H. McClintock, the Arizona historian, states that for a number of years he engaged in hauling freight-to Arizona army posts but Apache attacks caused him such losses that he disposed of his freighting outfit and used the proceeds to buy a herd of cattle from Texas; subsequent Indian depredations against his cattle led him to make an arrangement to graze them in Sonora which he did for five years; became a member of the Society of Arizona Pioneers, February 7, 1888; at the time of his death the Tucson Citizen gave an account of his life and activities from which the following is quoted:

"Sabino Otero, one of the oldest native sons of Southern Arizona, passed away at 6 o'clock this morning at his borne at 219 South Main Street in Tucson, where he had lived for nearly fifty years.

"Manuel Otero, his father, died when Sabino was 19, leaving him at the head of a family of 12 children, when Sabino raised. He outlived all of these save one brother, Teofilo Otero. Sabino Otero was the father of the whole flock. He said that he never married because he had too many responsibilities. After raising the large family which his father left him, he raised his nephews and nieces and when they had grown up raised grand-nephews and grand-nieces and at the time of his death their children, comprising the fourth generation, were living at his home.

"Sabino Otero devoted his attention to farming the grant which he inherited and lands to the south below the Tumacacori mission. He farmed lands at Buzani across the line. He used to travel at night to escape the renegade Apaches. They made serious inroad on his stock at times.

"In 1881 he began to give his entire attention to the cattle business and at the time of his death had large herds grazing near Tubac, on-the east and west side of the Baboquivari mountains and in the Santa Rosa valley.

"Mr. Otero has always been a very charitable man. He was a patron of the Sisters of St. Joseph, not only here in Tucson but in Phoenix, Prescott and Los Angeles. He practically build the Catholic Church at Tubac and was a heavy contributor to churches built in this diocese."

Died at Tucson, Pima County, Arizona, January 22, 1914, aged 67;
buried Holy Hope Cemetery, Tucson.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

47th Congress, 1st Session, Senate Executive Document, No. 81, January 30, 1882,
Rancho de Otero and House Lot.

McClintock, J.H. - Arizona, The Youngest State, 1916, Vol. 3, p. 681.

Arizona Pioneers Historical Society - Membership book and minutes, March 1, 1914.

The Weekly Arizonan, Tucson, July 24, 1869.

The Arizona Weekly Tucson, September 26, 1878.

The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, January 23, 1914, p. 8, col. 1, (obituary) and
August 30, 1942.

The Tucson Citizen, January 22, 1914, p. 2, col. 1, (obituary).