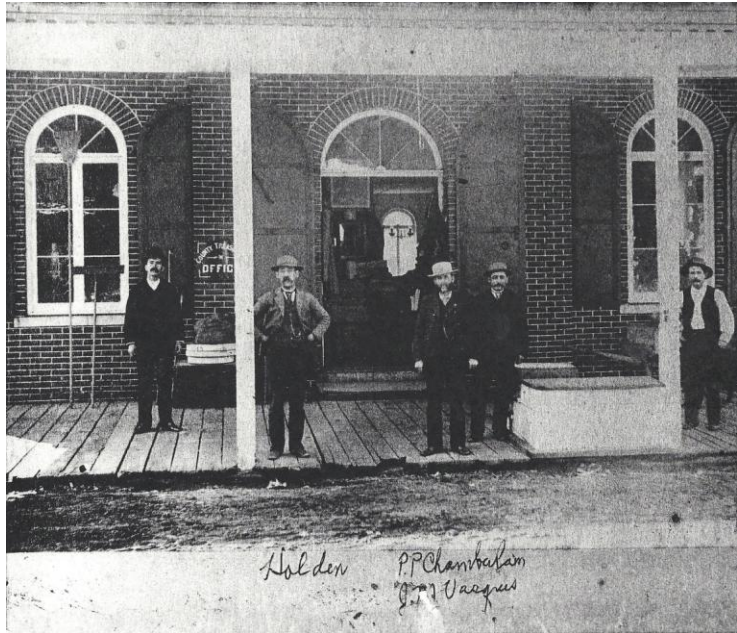


Jesus and Emily Vasques

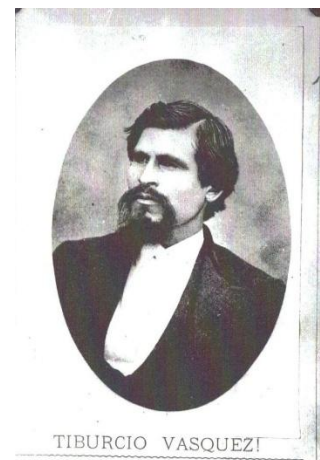
By: John Edmonds

There are some people who are very well liked and highly respected that are not well known because they do their jobs quietly, thoroughly and with sobering dignity. They rarely do things that bring them to public attention and shy away from personal praise. Such a man was Jesus Vasques. He was independently wealthy but never showed his wealth, he drove a buckboard for John Diller and the only good picture we have of him shows him standing in front of the Diller store with William Holder and P.P. Chamberlain who purchased the store on Main Street from Diller.



Jesus is the man standing on the right of the three men standing in front of the store. The photo was taken by James Van Court and is part of the Van Court collection at the Redwood City Public Library

Jesus was a rather small man who was born in Half Moon Bay on September 13, 1860. His father was Jose Maria (Joseph) Vasques and his mother was Maria De Los Reyes Bernal. Jesus was a cousin of Tiburcio Vasquez the Robin Hoodized bandit that was born in Monterey where he was educated and learned to read and write. After his education he became involved in fights which led him to a life of crime throughout California and a great deal of notoriety. However, Tiburcio Vasquez was Jesus cousin, he was not involved in the life of the young man.



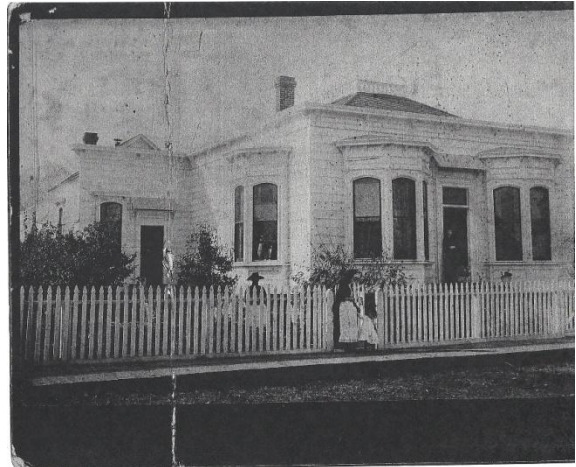
The San Mateo County Gazette wrote on Saturday April 18, 1863 that Jesus' grandfather "Tiburcio, Vasquez was sitting in a saloon in Half Moon Bay on the Wednesday before. He had been led to the window seat to

Jesus and Emily Vasques

play cards and was just about to start when a shot crashed through the window and into Tiburcio which ended his life. Deputy Sheriff Keith was in town and made an arrest of the individual who led him to the window to be assonated. A manhunt began for two more men who were involved in the murder.

Jose Tiburcio Vasquez was born in San Jose and was a well know member of the military unit at the San Francisco Presidio. It is for this reason that he was granted the 7750 acres that ran from Pilarcitos Creek in Spanishtown north to Media Creek in El Granada and from the ocean 2.5 miles up the mountain. The ranch was called, "Corral De Tierra" and was confirmed by the State of California on December 13, 1854.

Thus, Jesus Maria Amacus Vasquez was born on the coast side where he spent his early life and where he was educated. Jesus moved to Redwood City early in his adult life and came to work for J.V. Diller and then P.P. Chamberlain in the store on Main Street. He remained in his position for the rest of his life and was 33 years old when he passed on 29th 1893.



Winter House, 702 Stambaugh Street RWC

Emily Vasquez, originally Emily Winter, married Jesus in Redwood City just a few years before he died. The family lived at 702 Stambaugh Street. Emily was a native of England and met Jesus at the Methodist Church where she had been worshipping for a number of years. Jesus Vasquez became a Methodist and enjoyed a short but wonderful life in that church.



Pablo Vasquez in Half Moon Bay

Emily Winter came to Redwood City in the mid 1870s with a substantial family. When she passed away on March 25, 1944 she was 81 years of age. She was buried beside her husband in Union Cemetery.

Jesus uncle, Pablo Vasquez, was probably his closest friend on the Coast and a person he spent a great deal of time with in his early years. Pablo was the fifth son of Jose Tiburcio

Jesus and Emily Vasques

Vasquez and one of the few people who bothered to make a record of what life was like in those early days on the coast.

Pablo wrote that the adobe houses were built by a band on Indians, brought up from Tulare County by Francisco Berrlleza, who erected them by contract. The Indians made the sun-dried adobe bricks by digging a wide hole in the ground mixing grass (straw) with water, clay and adobe soil. They then trampled the mixture until it was well combined. Molds were made of wood cut from trees and the bricks were set out in the sun to bake. Often the grass for these molds had to be trampled by horses to make it fine enough for making bricks.

The doors and windows of the adobes were made by a white man named George White who was the carpenter for the entire coast region. Wooden porches were built along the entire front of the buildings and wooden verandas were built up so that people could lean on them. They were also tied them when the horses were being broken for riding. They were also used to tie up horses and years after, when autos had replaced horses, the grooves in the wood were still deep and visible. Rose bushes were planted against the porch and veranda and were still present years after, even after the house had disappeared.

Pablo said his father used to make jerked beef and sell that along with hides and tallow in San Francisco. He made the tallow by driving four stakes into the ground and stretch a cow hide between them so that it would sag in the middle. He would then fill it with melted tallow; and when it became hard he would wrap the hide around it and pack it off along with the beef and hides to San Francisco. A close watch had to be kept for grizzly bears as they would be there

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

State of California, }
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO. } ss.

These presents are to authorize and license any Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Superior Court, Justice of the Peace, Priest or Minister of the Gospel of any denomination, to solemnize, within said County the marriage of J. M. Vasques, native of California, aged 27 years, resident of Redwood City, County of San Mateo, State of California; and Miss Emily M. Winter, native of England, aged 24 years, resident of Redwood City, County of San Mateo, State of California. Said parties being of sufficient age to be capable of contracting marriage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Superior Court of said County this 2^d day of Sept A. D. 1889

J. H. Johnston
County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the Superior Court
in and for said San Mateo County.

By C. E. Kerens
Deputy Clerk.

Marriage Certificate.

State of California, }
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO. } ss.

I hereby certify that I believe the facts stated in the above license to be true, and that, upon due inquiry, there appears to be no legal impediment to the marriage of said J. M. Vasques and Emily M. Winter that said parties were joined in marriage by me, on the 2^d day of Sept A. D. 1889 in Redwood City said County and State; that James H. Winter a resident of San Francisco County of San Francisco, State of California and Elizabeth M. Winter a resident of Redwood City, County of San Mateo State of California, were present as witnesses of said ceremony.

Jesus and Emily Vasques

especially if they left too early in the morning. “ It wasn’t safe to go out after 4 o’clock in the afternoon” because of the bears.

The coastsiders primary source of income was their herds of stock which were carefully nurtured on the perennially grassy meadows of the coast. The people also grew beans, corn, pumpkins and other squashes and some root vegetables. The corn was used to make bread by grounding it in a “metate” bowl and boiling it in lime water then making it into tortillas.