Anza Expedition of 1776

The Peralta Family Legacy

Luís María Peralta was just 17 when he and his family set off for the Bay Area in September 1775, from the town of Tubac, Mexico (then in New Spain, now in Arizona near the Mexican border). His family joined other military families on an expedition sent north to strengthen Spain’s claim to Upper California, under the command of Juan Bautista de Anza. The group included people of American Indian, Spanish, African, and mestizo origin. A scouting party passed just east of this park location on March 31, 1776.

In 1820, shortly before Mexican Independence from Spain, Luis received a grant of 44,800 acres of East Bay land. To establish the claim, Peralta family members and Native American laborers constructed an adobe house where the park is today. Peralta’s house was the first non-Indian dwelling in the Oakland area.

Here on the land where seven modern cities now stand, they built up a cattle ranch with a workforce of local Indians and Mexicans like themselves, but who did not own land. Many people lived here and felt a bond to the land, both intimate and profound.

Visit the Peralta House Museum of History and Community to learn the stories of the Peraltas, and many others in this history, and to see historic objects and touchable replicas. Tour hours posted at the door.

Welcome to the homeland of the Jalquin/Ygin, an Ohlone/Bay Miwok-speaking tribe.