

**Corrido de Joaquín Murrieta Part I:**

I am not American  
but English I understand  
I learned it with my brother  
forwards and backwards.  
I make any Anglo  
tremble at my feet.

When I was barely a child  
I was left an orphan.  
No one gave me a bit of affection,  
They killed my brother,  
and some cowards  
killed my wife Carmelita.

I came from Hermosillo  
in search of gold and riches.  
I defended the poor and simple  
Indian with fierceness.  
And the sheriffs puta good price  
on my head.

From greedy rich,  
I took away their money.  
with the humble and the poor,  
I took off my hat.  
Oh, what unjust laws  
to label me an outlaw.

Murrieta doesn't like  
to be falsely accused.  
I come to avenge my wife,  
and I say again,  
how they made my lovely Carmelita  
suffer so much.

I entered many a saloon,  
punishing Anglos.  
"You must be the captain  
who killed my brother.  
You found him unarmed,  
proud Anglo."

**Part 2**

My career started  
from a troubling circumstance.  
When I reached seven hundred  
[deaths]  
my name then was feared.  
When I got to twelve hundred  
my name terrified others.

I am the one who dominates  
even African lions.  
That's why I set out  
to kill Anglos.  
My destiny is no other.  
Beware, country men!

Pistols and daggers  
are mere toys for me.  
Bullet and stab wounds,  
hearty laughter for me.  
Now with their means cut off  
here they scatter in fear.

I'm neither Chilean nor a foreigner  
to this land I tread.  
California belongs to Mexico  
because God wished it so.  
And in my stitched sarape  
I carry my baptismal certificate.

How beautiful California is  
with its streets aligned,  
where Murrieta passed by  
with his well-trained troops,  
with his pistol loaded  
and his silver-plated saddle.

Me I have traveled in California  
around the year '50 [1850]  
with my silver-plated saddle  
and my pistol loaded.  
I am that Mexican  
known as Joaquín Murrieta.

***Bustamante's Decree, 6 April 1830.*** In 1828, General Manuel Mier y Terán was commissioned by President Guadalupe Victoria as early as 1827 to help in negotiating the boundary between the Republic of Mexico and the United States of the north and determine the situation in the colonies in more detail after the Fredonian Rebellion. He was the head of a scientific commission spending most of the time in Nacogdoches in 1828 gathering data for a boundary survey. Teran described the condition in Texas to President Victoria:

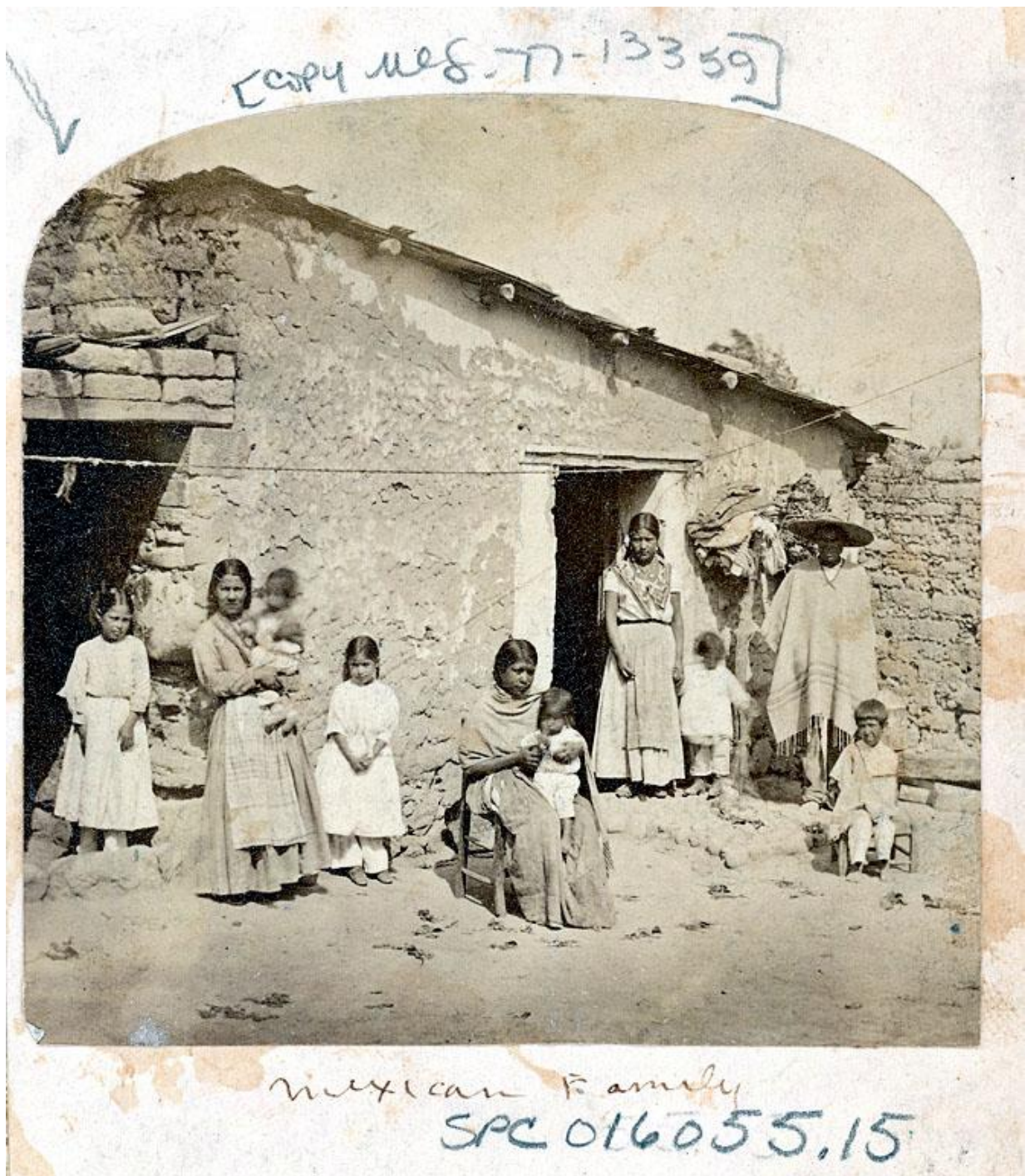
"The whole population here is a mixture of strange and incoherent parts without parallel in our federation; numerous tribes of Indians, now at peace, but armed and at any moment ready for war, whose steps toward civilization should be taken under the close supervision of a strong and intelligent government; colonists of another people, more aggressive and better informed than the Mexican inhabitants, but also more shrewd and unruly; among these foreigners are fugitives from justice, honest laborers, vagabonds and criminals, but honorable and dishonorable alike travel with their political constitution in their pockets, demanding the privileges, authority, and officers which such a constitution guarantees. Added to this motley mixture were the slaves beginning to learn the favorable intent of the Mexican law toward their unfortunate condition and held with an iron hand to keep them in a state of subjection. The Mexican natives were poor and ignorant, and the local civil officers venal and corrupt; and the colonists, imagining that they were typical, despised all Mexicans. The incoming stream of new settlers was unceasing; and the first news of them came by discovering them on land which they had already long occupied; the old inhabitants would then set up a claim of doubtful validity, a law suit would ensue, and the alcalde had a chance to come out with some money."

<http://www.tamu.edu/faculty/ccbn/dewitt/consultations1.htm>



<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/taylor/pages/01605503.htm>

A Mexican village



<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/taylor/pages/01605515.htm>



<http://www.archives.gov/research/american-west/images/096.jpg>

[A family group poses with dog, Indian domestic, and young children](#) outside a log cabin in New Mexico Territory, ca. 1895. 111-SC-89608