

from a February 1936 issue of the Petaluma Courier about local history:

Letter from General Vallejo:

Sonoma, May 16, 1889

Miss N. L. Denman
Petaluma

Dear Miss Denman:

Your letter of the 13th inst. reached me safely, and at your request will narrate some interesting facts concerning the "Old Adobe," three or four miles east of Petaluma.

I built the house in 1834 to 1844, and it was of immense proportions owing to its having different departments for factories and warehouse. I made blankets enough to supply over 2,000 Indians, also carpets and a coarse material used by them for their wearing apparel. A large tannery also where we manufactured shoes for the troops and vaqueros. Also a blacksmith-shop for making saddles, bridles, spurs, and many other things required by the horsemen. I have a blanket still in my possession made there, and although in constant use is in perfect condition.

My harvest productions were so large that my storehouses were literally over-filled every year. In 1843 my wheat and barley crop amounted to 72,000 Spanish bushels. My plow-men were ONLY 200 men. Corn about 5,000 Spanish bushels besides a superabundance of all the grains of daily use such as beans, peas, lentils, and vegetables of all kinds. All their products were stored in different departments of this large house, besides giving freely to the Indians who lived in the surrounding country, and in peace with me. A large number of hides were preserved every year, also tallow, lard and dried meat to sell to the "Yankees." In our wing of the house upstairs I lived with my family when in Petaluma. The South Front was 250 feet and formed a large square, it having an immense court yard inside where every morning the laborers met to call the roll before dispersing for their various occupations.

The house was two stories high, and very solid, made of adobe and timber brought by oxen from the redwoods, and planed for use by the old fashioned saw by four Conocas (my servants), brought from the Sandwich Islands by Capt. Cooper, my brother-in-law.

It had wide corridors inside and outside, some of which were carpeted with our own made carpets. Mr. Fowler, father of Mr. Henry Fowler of Napa, was the last carpenter who worked at my old house. I sold it to Mr. White about twenty years ago for \$25,000. It was NEVER attacked by the Indians. When I was taken prisoner by the Bear Flag party, this house was filled with what I have already mentioned, and they disposed of everything. The meaning of the word "Petaluma" signifies in the Indian language, "a beautiful panorama seen in a great declivity from all points."

Hoping this reaches you in time and gives you a full detail of the "Old Adobe" is the sincere wish of

Yours very truly,

M. G. Vallejo