



PHOTOGRAPHER: unidentified

SITTER: **GENERAL MARIANO GUADALUPE**

VALLEJO (1808-1890)

DATE: 1850's or early 1860's

FORMAT: photographic reprint

SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY HERITAGE COLLECTION

As a Californio military commander, politician and rancher, Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo was a principal figure in the history of the early development of the state of California. He was born in Monterey to a prominent Spanish family in 1807, and through family ties, brilliance, self-will and determination, rose through the ranks of the Mexican government, was hailed as the Commandant General of the "Free State of Alta California," survived the famous "Bear Flag Revolt" and, after pledging his Allegiance to the United States, was elected to the first session of the State Senate in 1850.

Information about General Vallejo and his relation to Petaluma can be found throughout the museum. See the information about the Petaluma Adobe provided in the adjacent text box. Make certain to visit the display dedicated to him upstairs in the east gallery and to view the sculptured portrait busts of him and his wife prominently displayed downstairs on either side of the staircase. Additionally, watch for references throughout the exhibit to his relationship with other Petaluma pioneers.

Many portraits exist of the General, and most are official and formal. The portrait shown here is a far more casual and personal rendition of this important man. You can see him here with his signature mutton chops and favored "hand in vest" gesture which is commonly interpreted as, "manly boldness tempered with modesty." He wears a fine sack coat with a velvet top lapel and a stiff, straw, summer hat with flat crown, broad, dark ribbon and slightly curled brim. The hat the General is wearing is decidedly too small for his head, and this, along with his jaunty facial expression, makes one wonder if he is jesting.

Paula Freund, 2017