Francisco Romero

By Claire Coleman

Francisco Romero was born in 1822 in San Agustín del Tucson, Sonora, Mexico. He married Victoriana Ocoboa and lived in Tucson with his family for most of his life. He was a scout for the Mexican army in the 1850s and built a house in what is now downtown Tucson. After serving in the Mexican army, Fransisco became a rancher and bought and sold land. Francisco and Victoriana are remembered as pioneer citizens of Tucson.

The Romeros also owned agricultural fields on the floodplain of the Santa Cruz River to the west. They built the ranch in what became Catalina State Park. They built this ranch to help manage a cattle herd. Their main ranch house was at the same site as the Hohokam settlement many years before. Remains of both the Romero ranch house and the downtown house have been found and studied. They found foundations, fire places, and lots more.

Francisco's family had many challenges in those early times of Tucson. One of their greatest challenges was trying to protect themselves and their cattle from the Apache indians. At night the Apache Indians would come and steal Francisco's cattle. Each morning Francisco would have to chase and fight them so that he could get his cattle back. He had guns but the Indians shot bows and arrows at him. He got hurt a lot and had many scars. Eventually the Romero family had to give up on raising cattle because it was too hard to keep the Apaches away. It would have been so hard to battle the Apache Indians every day to keep their cattle. Every cow that was lost was money and food for the Romeros.

Another challenge they had was that it was much harder in those days to get food and water. They had to grow their own crops and find their own water. They also had to build their own houses and make their own clothes. In the ruins of their downtown house, archeologists found the base of an horno. An horno is an outside oven used to cook food. It was too hot to cook inside. They did not have air conditioning like we have today. These challenges made it more difficult to live.

In conclusion, Francisco's family was an important part of Tucson history. He and Victoriana faced many challenges in those days but helped to grow and settle Tucson. The ruins of their homes here give us clues to what life was like back then. They worked hard to survive and protect their family and animals. For these reasons, the Romeros are pioneer citizens of Tucson.

Works Cited

"In the Mountain Shadows." *Archaeology Southwest*, www.archaeologysouthwest.org/product/asw27-1/.

Posted on September 28, 2018. "A Tale of Two Parks: Desert Archaeology Field Journal." *Desert Archaeology, Inc. | Full-Service Cultural Resources Management*, 12 June 2019, desert.com/two-parks/.

"Trails." *Catalina State Park*, azstateparks.com/catalina/things-to-do/trails.