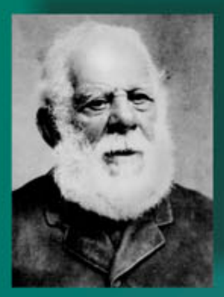
Migration and Settlement of the Pico Family



Born 200 years ago on May 5, 1801, Pio de Jesus Pico is a symbol of migration, multi-ethnic heritage and the rebirth of Latinos in California government. Known for being the last Governor of Mexican California, Pico was instrumental in the economic development of Southern California after statehood.

Pio Pico's ancestry has been traced to the 17th century, and reveals an ethnic mix of European, Native American and African American peoples. Originating in Italy, the Pico family immigrated to Spain and then Mexico. In 1775, Pico's parents, Jose Maria Pico and Maria Estaquilla Lopez migrated to Pueblo de Los Angeles. After Pio Pico was born, his family moved south, where his father served as a sergeant at the Presidio de San Diego.