

## California Biographies

Transcribed by Peggy Hooper

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## Source:

History of the state of California and biographical record of the San Joaquin Valley, California. An historical story of the state's marvelous growth from its earliest settlement to the present time.

Prof. James Miller Guinn , A. M.

The Chapman Publishing Co., Chicago 1905

Notes: Missing Page: 865-866,983-984,1175-1176

DOMINGO GASTAMBIDE has proven himself one of the successful and enterprising pioneers of Merced county, in whose veins flows the blood of the Latin races. On the paternal side he is of Spanish ancestry. His birth occurred in France in 1843, and his early training was gained on a small farm near Sare. His father, Baptiste Gastambide, moved across the border upon starting out upon his independent life, and there married Maria Elisalda, a native of France, who bore him several children, the oldest of whom is Domingo.

The first event out of the ordinary in the life of Domingo Gastambide was his immigration to America in 1862. Coming at once to California he engaged in the butcher business in the mines at Almaden. Prices were high and business was good, and a year later he removed to Monterey county and began herding sheep. Two years later he began a sheep business of his own in Monterey county, and at the end of eighteen months came to the west side of Merced county and engaged in the sheep business in the foothills, since which time his name has been identified with sheep raising, and he has been one of the most extensive and successful in this line in the county. In 1877 he entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, added to the tract from time to time, and now has fourteen hundred acres in his home ranch five miles from Los Banos. Here he established a camp in the early days. Each year has witnessed improvements on his place, which is devoted entirely to sheep and grain raising. Besides, he owns twenty-two hundred acres in the foothills, on Ortigalito creek, and at times has three to four thousand sheep. Years of practical experience have made him one of the best posted and most scientific farmers and sheep raisers in this part of the state, and his advice and counsel regarding these important resources invariably receive the attention due his sound judgment and self-earned success.

The Gastambide home is commodious, well furnished throughout, and with due regard for the comfort and convenience of the happy family under its roof. In San Francisco Mr. Gastambide married Maria Etchevery, who was born in France, and by this marriage four children have been born : Pedro, Maria, Annie and Bertha. Mr. Gastambide ranges his sympathies on the side of Republicanism, and votes that ticket with care and discretion. He is a member of and generous contributor to the Catholic Church at Volta.