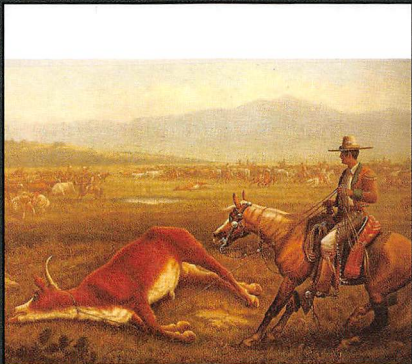




American Latino Heritage



VAQUEROS

VAQUEROS

“Vaquero” means “cowboy” in Spanish, and vaqueros were the first cowboys. The cowboy tradition is originally Spanish. Ranchers brought over horsemen and cattle herders and also taught the native peoples their methodology. These native people were Mexicans of indigenous and/or mestizo (Spanish and indigenous) descent. The first vaqueros came to California in 1687 with Jesuit priest, Eusebio Kino. Even today, some cowboys still call themselves “buckaroo”, which probably originated from vaquero.