

JOE AND RAMONA MILLER CALIFORNIA LAND GRANT COLLECTION

1810 - 1957

FINDING AID

The Sherman Library
614 Dahlia Avenue
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
(949) 673-1880

Administrative Information

Extent: 1 document box.

Date Span: 1810-1957.

Provenance: The collection was donated to the Sherman Library by Joe and Ramona Miller on March 31, 2001.

Citation information: [identification of item], Folder [#], Box [#], Joe and Ramona Miller California Land Grant Collection, Sherman Library, Corona del Mar, California.

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Historical Note

Following the end of the U.S.-Mexico War, the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, and the entry of California into the union in 1850, the United States Land Commission proceeded to evaluate and review all extant land ownership titles in the state. Because many California ranchos had been granted to individuals before 1850, the Land Commission found itself reviewing over eight hundred Mexican-era land grant claims concerning private ownership of the ranchos in California to determine their boundaries and title under the United States government.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of legal documents, correspondence, affidavits, petitions, maps and related materials concerning the review of several Mexican and Spanish land grant claims in California in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The three ranchos represented in the collection are: Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana (Orange County, Calif.), Rancho Lomas de Santiago (Orange County, Calif.), and Rancho Arroyo Seco (Sacramento County, Calif.). Many of the documents in the collection are photostatic copies of materials from the General Land Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the originals are likely in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration.

<u>Rancho Name and Location</u>	<u>Grant Date Grantor & Size</u>	<u>Grantee(s)</u>	<u>Claimant(s) and Date</u>	<u>Result</u>
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Santiago de Santa Ana (Orange County)	Granted by Arrillago, July 1, 1810 (17 leagues)	Antonio Yorba and Juan Pablo Peralta	Bernardo, Theodosio and Ramon Yorba et al., Nov. 9, 1852	Patent issued Dec. 21, 1883 for 78,941.49 acres
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Lomas de Santiago (Orange County)	Granted by Pico, May 26, 1846	Theodosio Yorba	Theodosio Yorba, Oct. 26, 1852	Patent issued Feb. 1, 1868 for 47,226.61 acres
Arroyo Seco (Sacramento County)	Granted by Alvarado, May 6, 1841	Theodosio Yorba	Andres Pico, Nov. 1, 1852; replaced by J. Moremoss, H.W. Carpenter, Edward F. Beal, and Herman Wholer, Nov. 29, 1862	Patent issued April 29, 1865 for 48,857.52 acres

The portion of the collection related to Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana concerns the rancho's boundary bordering Rancho las Bolsas to the north due to the change in the course of the Santa Ana River and includes copies of testimonies concerning the property's history. The materials related to Andres Pico's Rancho Arroyo Seco concern a portion of the property awarded as a bounty land grant by the United States government to Hezekiah H. Gear, who later sold it to De Witt C. Cowan.

The collection also contains a small group of ephemera related to land ownership in California (deeds and other printed materials) and also scattered receipts, checks, and a stock certificate.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series:

- I. California rancho land grant claims
 - A. Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana (Orange County, Calif.)
 - B. Rancho Lomas de Santiago (Orange County, Calif.)
 - C. Rancho Arroyo Seco (Sacramento County, Calif.)
- II. Ephemera

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
I.		California rancho land grant claims	
1	1	United States. Dept. of the Interior. General Land Office - Land grant claim no. 470, Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana	1810-1927

(includes some photostats)

1	2	United States. Dept. of the Interior. General Land Office - Land grant claim no. 470, Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana - Map (photostat)	1852
1	3	United States. Dept. of the Interior. General Land Office - Land grant claim no. 578, Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana (photostat)	1882
1	4	Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana - Maps	1883 & 1920
1	5	Rancho Las Bolsas - Maps (photostats)	1834 & 1868
1	6	Will of Antonio Yorba (photostat)	1824-1825
1	7	United States. Dept. of the Interior. General Land Office - Land grant claim no. 421, Rancho Lomas de Santiago (photostats)	1846-1867
1	8	United States. Dept. of the Interior. General Land Office - Land grant claim no. 421, Rancho Lomas de Santiago - Maps (photostats)	1853
1	9	United States. Dept. of the Interior. General Land Office - Land grant claim no. 444, Rancho Arroyo Seco (includes some photostats)	1852-1935, n.d.
1	10	United States. Dept. of the Interior. Office of the Commissioner of Pensions - Bounty land grant to Hezekiah H. Gear and sale to De Witt C. Cowan (photographs and negatives of documents)	1855-1857
1	11	Correspondence - Rancho Arroyo Seco grant claim	1924-1957
1	12	Newspaper excerpts (typewritten) - Rancho Arroyo Seco grant claim	1840-1858
1	13	Newspaper article: "Judge M'Allister's Opinion in the Arroyo Seco Case," <i>Sacramento Daily Union</i> , May 3, 1860 (photostat)	1860

II. Ephemera

1	14	Checks	1861-1874
1	15	Deeds	1887-1901
1	16	Poll tax receipts (4) - Sierra County, Calif.	1862-1863
1	17	Receipts	1866
1	18	Stock certificate - The Yellow Jacket Silver Mining Co. (Gold Hill, Nev.)	1882
1	19	Morrow, William W. <i>Spanish and Mexican Private Land Grants</i> (San Francisco & Los Angeles: Bancroft-Whitney Company, 1923)	1923
1	20	<i>Californian</i> , Mar. 15, 1848 (facsimile of newspaper from San Francisco, Calif.)	1848
1	env.	Artifact: metal key	n.d.

Subjects

Cowan, De Witt C.
Gear, Hezekiah H.
Peralta, Juan Pablo.
Pico, Andres, 1810-1876.
Riley, Portia A.
Riley, Spurgeon V.
Yorba, José Antonio, 1746-1825.
Yorba, Theodosio.

Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana (Calif.)
Rancho las Bolsas (Calif.)
Rancho Lomas de Santiago (Calif.)
Rancho Arroyo Seco (Sacramento County, Calif.)

United States. General Land Office.
United States. Commission for Ascertaining and Settling Private Land Claims in California.

Land grants - California - Orange County.
Land grants - California - Sacramento County.
Land titles - California - Orange County.
Land titles - California - Sacramento County.
Ranchos - California - History.

References

- Bowman, J.N. *Index of the Spanish-Mexican Private Land Grant Records and Cases of California* [Microfilm]. Berkeley, Calif.: Bancroft Library, 1958.
[copy of microfilm available in Sherman Library - in Director's office]
- Cowan, Robert Granniss. *Ranchos of California: A List of Spanish Concessions, 1775-1822 and Mexican Grants, 1822-1846*. Fresno, CA: Academy Library Guild, 1956.
[Sherman Library call number: HD 211 C2 C874]
- Meadows, Don. *Orange County under Spain, Mexico and the United States*. [Los Angeles: Dawson's Book Shop, 1966]. [Sherman Library call number: F 868 ZO.304 M482]
- United States. Dept. of the Interior. General Land Office. *Decisions of the Department of the Interior and General Land Office in Cases Related to the Public Lands from July, 1881, to June, 1883*. Volume 1. Revised edition. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1887. Pages 213-223. [Sherman Library call number: HD 181 G4 v. 1 1887]