

FREDERICK THOMAS PERRIS SURVEY FIELD BOOKS

1856 - 1857

FINDING AID

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

Administrative Information

Extent: 4 volumes.

Date Span: 1856-1857.

Provenance: The collection was donated to the Sherman Library by Dean Painter in September 1983, January 14 and May 3, 1984 and June 26, 1985.

Citation information: [identification of item], Folder [#], Box [#], Frederick Thomas Perris Survey Field Books, Sherman Library, Corona del Mar, California.

Processed by: Jennifer L. Martinez, August 2006.

Biographical Note

Frederick Thomas Perris (1837-1916) was born in England, raised in Australia, trained as a civil engineer, and moved to the Pacific Coast of the United States in 1853. He served as Deputy United States Mineral Surveyor for the U.S. Government and for the State of California. In 1858 he became a U.S. citizen and in 1863 became Territorial Surveyor for Utah Territory's northeastern portions. A businessman in Salt Lake City, Utah, for many years, he relocated to San Bernardino in 1874 and later served as City Engineer and County Surveyor. He later worked for the California Southern Railway Company as Chief Engineer and Superintendent of Construction and drove the first passenger train into San Bernardino in 1883. The city of Perris, California, and its accompanying Perris Boulevard, were named in his honor.

Historical Note

The Jurupa Rancho, located along the Santa Ana River in northwestern Riverside and southwestern San Bernardino Counties, California, was owned by Juan Bandini, who received the property as a land grant from Juan Bautista Alvarado in 1838. Bandini sold a portion of his property to Benjamin Davis Wilson in 1843, and Wilson in turn sold his land to Louis Robidoux in 1847. In 1859, Bandini's remaining portion of the rancho went to Abel Stearns, and this part of the property was renamed the Stearns Rancho.

After 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. Two different patents were granted for Rancho Jurupa by the Land Commission: Abel Stearns received a patent for 32,259.16 acres in 1879 (which today spans modern day Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, due to the creation of Riverside County in 1893), and Louis Robidoux received a patent for 6,7499.99 acres in 1876 for his portion of the rancho.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of four leather-bound field books used by Frederick Thomas Perris in the course of surveying lands in San Bernardino County, California, in 1856 and 1857. Filled with pencil notes, measurements, calculations and sketches, the content of the field books appears to focus primarily on the Jurupa Rancho and surrounding areas, including Mill Creek. The surveys may have been conducted for rancho owners Bandini and Robidoux to formalize the boundaries between the properties, as both men's names are mentioned in a few of the volumes.

Container List

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
Volume 1	[Survey field book,] B1 Jurupa	1856
Volume 2	[Survey field book,] subdivision & Jurupa	1856
Volume 3	[Survey field book,] Mill Creek & Jurupa	1856
Volume 4	[Survey field book,] Oct. 1857	1857

Subjects

Bandini, Juan, 1800-1859.

Perris, Frederick Thomas, 1837-1916.

Robidoux, Louis, 1796-1868.

Mill Creek (San Bernardino County, Calif.) - History - 19th century - Sources.

Mill Creek (San Bernardino County, Calif.) - Surveys.

Rancho Jurupa (Calif.) - History - 19th century - Sources.

Rancho Jurupa (Calif.) - Surveys.

Land grants - California - Riverside County.

Land grants - California - San Bernardino County.

Ranchos - California - Riverside County - History - 19th century - Sources.

Ranchos - California - Riverside County - Surveys.

Ranchos - California - San Bernardino County - History - 19th century - Sources.

Ranchos - California - San Bernardino County - Surveys.

References

Beattie, George William and Helen Pruitt Beattie. *Heritage of the Valley: San Bernardino's First Century*. Pasadena, Calif.: San Pasqual Press, 1939.

[Sherman Library call number: F 868 S194 B5 B369]

- Brown, John, Jr. and James Boyd. *History of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties*. Chicago: Western Historical Association, 1922.
[Sherman Library call number: F 868 S194 B5 B878 v. 1-3]
- 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]
- Kurtz, Don. *Robidoux Rancho on the Jurupa, 1842-1972: A History of Rubidoux and the Jurupa Area*. Riverside: Riverside Press, 1972.
[Sherman Library call number: F 868 R622 K97]
- Young, Oliver K. *Historical Book of Memories Commemorating City of Perris Golden Anniversary...*Perris, Calif.: Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce, [1961].
[Sherman Library call number: F 868 P458 Y74]