A Year in the Life of a Spanish Colonial Pueblo, San Joseï de Guadalupe in 1809: Official Correspondence

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A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A SPANISH COLONIAL PUEBLO
SAN JOSÉ DE GUADALUPE IN 1809
OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE
Research Manuscript Series, No. 9
1998

on the Cultural and Natural History of Santa Clara

Santa Clara University
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With the assistance of
Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz

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FOREWORD

In 1809 Spain had been in the New World for 317 years and in Mexico for 290 years. By 1809 Alta California had been known to the Spanish for 267 years. The year 1809 also marked the fortieth anniversary of the Spanish occupation of Alta California and the thirty-second anniversary of the founding of its first civilian pueblo, San José de Guadalupe. From language, laws, and customs, to architecture, economics and religion this tiny community, some 2,000 miles from Mexico City, the seat of the Vice Royalty of New Spain, and nearly 7,000 miles from Iberia, was inexorably tied to the cultural and historical legacy of the larger Spanish colonial world.

Now, for the first time in 150 years, one year of the official correspondence of the first Spanish pueblo in Alta California is available for a new generation of scholars who seek to understand civilian life on the borderlands of the first truly global early modern empire. The following pages provide insights into all aspects of life on this agrarian frontier from grazing and water rights (Documents 7, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21) to the timing of harvesting and threshing (Document 18). From them we learn how city officials were chosen (Document 1) and of justice regarding allegations of robbery and rape (Document 10), and of what would be called today child abuse (Documents 13, 17). Here, too, is evidence of this community’s links to the Spanish metropole. Less than a year before Mexico would explode in the first spasm of independence under the leadership of Fr. Miguel Hidalgo, the Viceroy called upon San José and the other communities of New Spain to support with prayers and money the liberation of Spain from the clutches of Napoleonic France, and in turn the restoration of the monarchy of Fernando VII (Document 9).

The Research Manuscript Series on the Cultural and Natural History of Santa Clara is proud to publish this work as its ninth number. Under the direction of Santa Clara University Professors Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz, four students majoring in Spanish--Diane Lambert, Naomi Reinhart, Ludivina Russell, and Gregory Von Herzen--learned about nineteenth century paleography and the history of Spain and one of its most remote outposts San José de Guadalupe. This manuscript also represents a collaboration between Santa Clara University and the San Jose Historical Museum Archives. When Archivist Leslie Masunaga first spoke with me about this collection in the fall of 1997, I immediately recognized its potential for yielding new insights into life on the Alta California frontier and for providing students a hands-on learning situation. I also know that the individual who needed to spearhead this project were my colleagues Rose Marie Beebe and Bob Senkewicz. Their masterful translation of Antonio María Osio’s The History of Alta California (1996) had set a new standard for Borderlands scholarship. Today, as the reader will realize, we are all richer for their guidance of this project.

On behalf of The Research Manuscript Series I would like to thank Dean Peter Facione and the College of Arts and Sciences for their financial support of this publication through the “Grants for the Common Good” program. We are also indebted to Fr. Steve Privett, S. J., Provost; Don Dodson, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and University Planning; and Professor George Giacomini, Assistant to the President for their on-going support of the Series.

Russell K. Skowronek, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Editor Research Manuscript Series
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
PREFACE

Founded in 1777 as El Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe, the City of San Jose was the first civil settlement established in Alta California under Spanish dominion. Today, little remains of the City’s first 73 years of Spanish-Mexican existence: an adobe, a few archeological remains buried beneath buildings and parking lots, and the greatly reduced plaza, once the center of the pueblo’s activities. What is not seen and rarely thought of is the legacy from this period: the plat of the city; the names of places and streets; relationships to other governmental, civic, and religious institutions; and underlying customs and laws which make San Jose and California different from the culture of the eastern United States.

One of the few remainders of this seminal period are the archival papers housed at the San Jose Historical Museum in Kelley Park, managed by the History Museums of San Jose. Known as the Pueblo Papers or the Spanish-Mexican Archives, these documents span the founding of the second pueblo site in 1797 until the admission of California to statehood in 1850. These documents delineate the ayuntamiento or municipal government activities, capturing the official governmental rule colored with patriarchal concern. The primary official, the Alcalde, served as the magistrate, governor, and “town father,” and his interests reflected not only the official viewpoint, but the particulars of the town, its citizens, and its role as a Spanish settlement.

The Pueblo Papers have been part of the City of San Jose’s archives since the city’s incorporation in 1850. In the 1930s, as a WPA project, a selected number of documents were translated. In the 1950s, the papers were microfilmed and a copy was made from which an abstracted index was created. In the last two years, with the assistance of the Hispanic Genealogy Society of Santa Clara County, notably Patsy Castro Ludwig and José Pantoja, the original papers have been reorganized and the index corrected. As the next part of this project, the transcription and translation of these documents began.

This project continues to be a challenge because of the inherent difficulties not only of translating from one language to another, but from one time period to another. Just in the discussions of individual terms we have learned much about the culture of nineteenth century California. As this project continues to evolve, we have sought to involve others in the translation work. Through contact with Dr. Russell Skowronek of Santa Clara University, Professors Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz offered their students an opportunity to assist in the translation of documents. The results of this project, the transcription and translation of the documents for the year 1809, has literally brought San Jose’s history to life. Thanks to these translations, we can begin to understand an important period of local history so long inaccessible to most of us.

Leslie Masunaga, Archivist
History Museums of San Jose

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Blume, Joanna M.

Czosek, Virginia C.

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1994 A River Ran Through It...The Cultural Ecology of the Santa Clara Valley Riparian Zone. Research Manuscript Series on the Cultural and Natural History of Santa Clara, No. 3, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA.

Schick, Grant William
1994 The Ohlone and the Oak Woodlands: Cultural Adaptations in the Santa Clara Valley. Research Manuscript Series on the Cultural and Natural History of Santa Clara, No. 4, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA.

Yasin, Nader

Raimundo, Amy
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Harris, Samantha, Jennifer Geddes, Kate Hahn, Diane Chonette, and Russell Skowronek
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Garcia, Lorie

Lambert, Diane, Naomi Reinhart, Ludivina Russell, and Gregory Von Herzen
1998 A Year in the Life of a Spanish Colonial Pueblo: San José de Guadalupe in 1809. Research Manuscript Series on the Cultural and Natural History of Santa Clara, No. 9, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The translations of these documents are the result of an interdisciplinary course entitled "Translation of Historical Documents" which the four of us took at Santa Clara University from January through March 1998. The course was team-taught by Professors Rose Marie Beebe of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and Robert M. Senkewicz of the Department of History. Professors Beebe and Senkewicz perused the index to the Spanish and Mexican era documents contained in the official City of San Jose Archives, which are housed at the San Jose Historical Museum. They obtained photocopies of the 1809 documents from the Museum. We would like to express our appreciation to Leslie Masunaga of the Museum for photocopying the material and for her support of this project.

When we first examined the documents we found ourselves staring at what seemed to us to be a random collection of squiggly lines in faded black ink. As we gradually acclimated ourselves to the different handwriting styles, we found ourselves able to decipher Spanish words, then Spanish phrases, then entire Spanish sentences. We came to realize that the people of that time wrote phrases according to how they sounded and so there were many words that ran together or that broke in the middle. Word breaks were not based on a consistent form of syllabication, but more on where the writer happened to be when he reached the end of a line or page. Words were often spelled phonetically and letters might be interchanged to reflect the usage of the time. For example, a word presently spelled in Spanish with a "g" might have been spelled with an "x." And, since paper was scarce, abbreviations were regularly used to conserve space. We have attempted to transcribe the documents exactly as we found them so that those who know Spanish can see how the language was used in this corner of the Hispanic world almost two centuries ago.

Gradually we turned the lines and swirls into documents we could read. Each of us tried our hand at creating a transcription for each of the documents. We came together each week to compare, contrast, and fill in the gaps for one another until we had constructed an authoritative Spanish version of each document. Then we divided the documents and each of us offered a first draft of the translation of that document to the group. Every week we would go over what we had done so as to correct and improve, as a team, the efforts of each of us. We would often debate the many different nuances of various words until we arrived at a consensus of a reasonable translation for each of the documents.

We would like to express our gratitude to Professor Russell Skowronek of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Santa Clara University for his support and for arranging for the publication of this work in The Research Manuscript Series on the Cultural and Natural History of Santa Clara.

Diane Lambert
Naomi Reinhart
Ludivina Russell
Gregory Von Herzen
INTRODUCTION

Colonial Spain was not able to establish a permanent settlement in the more remote regions of its northwestern frontier until over a century and three quarters after the conquest of Mexico City in 1521. It was not until the seventeenth century was almost over—in 1697—that a foothold on the eastern shore of what we now call Baja California was established. Named Loreto by the Italian Jesuits who founded it, the settlement soon became home to the two institutions which spearheaded the Spanish expansion into the Californias: the mission and the presidio. These two entities, one religious and the other military, directed the Spanish enterprise in Baja California through the eighteenth century.

However, when Spain decided to expand its settlements northward of the peninsula to the area called Alta (Upper) California, it soon found that it needed a third type of institution to assist it in the colonization efforts. This third institution, neither religious nor military, but civil in nature, was the pueblo. In the succinct formulation of the Franciscan missionary Fr. Francisco Palou, the "pueblo" was to be "employed in the raising of every kind of grain and crops, so that all the presidios might be provided from them" (Garr 1976:94).

San José de Guadalupe was the first pueblo founded in Alta California. A party from San Francisco, led by José Joaquín Moraga, established the pueblo near the eastern bank of the Guadalupe River on November 29, 1777. Lands were formally distributed in 1783 and in that same year the first municipal elections were held. But the site proved to be too close to the banks of the river and frequent flooding led to the relocation of the town to a place farther from the river in 1797. Another distribution of lands was held in the following year. The population grew in an erratic fashion; there were 80 inhabitants in 1790, 165 in 1800, but only about 125 in 1810. True to the design of its origin, San José was an agricultural community. It soon became one of the major sources of food for the two adjoining presidios, San Francisco to the north and Monterey, the capital of Alta California, to the south. During the Spanish era, the phrase “San Francisco” referred to the presidio, which was located near the Golden Gate. The American city of San Francisco developed out of a later nearby Mexican commercial settlement called Yerba Buena, which was located on a cove fronting San Francisco Bay.

The correspondence that follows give a cross section of life in this important pueblo. We have used the rich collection of documents housed at the San Jose Historical Museum in Kelly Park. We chose to translate the documents for the year 1809 precisely because it seemed to be a "normal year." The letters deal with the realities of everyday life in Spanish frontier California—the relationships between Spanish and Indians, children and parents, missions, presidios and pueblos. They deal with elections, harvests, the price of goods, and military discipline. We are reminded that Alta California was part of a large world empire, as we read about events in Spain and France. The first document we encounter, a letter from the comandante at Monterey to one of his subordinates in San José, is about local politics and the transport of corn. The last document, a listing of residents and their harvests, gives us a glimpse into the lives of ordinary people and their concerns two hundred years ago. All the documents insist on one thing that is important never to forget: before it became Silicon Valley, before it became the "Valley of Heart's Delight," the Santa Clara Valley was Indian and Hispanic. We are the heirs of an incredibly rich cultural and linguistic heritage. We neglect it at the price of our own impoverishment.

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Llame Vm. por otro las Huelvas que solicito en las orillas del arroyo del Coyote.

Tosef Sarier, sirvete licencia, puede y Vm. ningún incombustible pasarse durante las Aguas ala Casa de Camino, quiero decir orugas de ello este y Vm. noticen algunas cosa que le impida.

Dígo que a Vm. mío a Edon rey, 2 de Octubre de 1603.

[Signature]
S’. Comisionado del Pueblo

Debuelbo a Vm el oficio que pasó al Alcalde Jose Mª Martinez pª qª nombrase dos sugetos qª exerciesen los empleos de justicia en el presente año decretado afin deqª acontinuã°n de dho oficio me proponga dho Alcalde y los Rexidores pasados, los sugetos idoneos qª considere aproposito. Ynformandome V. acontinuazªn del mismo lo qª considere sobre la nueva eleccion qª considere sobre la nueva eleccion qª se haga poniendo correo al efecto: para aprobar Yo al qª considere mejor en servicio de ambas Magestades.

Es en mi poder el Padron de ese Pueblo e Ynventario de existencias

Dentro de poco embiare la recua aconducir el Mais del Diesmo y el delos Veznos y con la noticia qª Vm mede del entregado dare orden al Hav do. pª qª le remita el dinero.

Dios guc e Vm. mª aª.
Monterey, 4 de Enero de 1809

Jose Mª Estudillo

Señor Comisionado del Pueblo

I am returning to you the official communication that was sent to Alcalde José María Martínez to nominate two people for this year’s positions. The Alcalde should propose names of

1A comisionado was someone who had received a commission from a higher authority to perform a certain task. In the Alta California pueblos, the governor usually appointed a comisionado, first to insure that the elected officials were performing their assigned tasks, and also to exercise a general control of the pueblo lands. In San José, the early elected officials did not get along well with each other, and charges of corruption and chicanery filled the air. Governor Pedro Fages appointed Corporal José Domínguez as comisionado in 1785, but he died before being able to assume his duties. To replace him, Fages chose Ignacio Vallejo, who began his service on July 18, 1795. The comisionado in 1809 was Luis Peralta (see footnote #14) (Bancroft 1884-1890:1:478-479).

2José María Martínez was born in Topago, Sonora, Mexico around 1755. He served in the military at Monterey and San Francisco before settling in San José in 1794. He served as alcalde there in 1797 and 1806. He was married to María Josefa García. He died in 1819 (Bancroft 1884-1890:4:734; Northrop 1987:2:160-161). An alcalde was the chief magistrate in charge of a region, in this case, the chief executive officer of a pueblo. He possessed a combination of executive and judicial authority.
people that he and the former *regidores* consider qualified for the positions. Subsequently, you will inform me as to your opinion concerning the new election and you will send me the results by mail immediately so that I can approve the one whom I consider best suited to serve both majesties.

I have in my possession the census of the *Pueblo* and the inventory of effects. Very soon I will send the pack animals to transport the corn for the tithe as well as the corn from the neighbors. As soon as I receive news from you regarding what was collected, I will order the paymaster to reimburse you.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, January 4, 1809

José María Estudillo

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Document #2

Sor. Comis**do** del Pueblo

Llame Vm a Sra. Maria Ysabel Talamantes muger del Ynvalido Toribio Martinez, y digale demiparte qe le estimare de amorosam^e^ licencia asu hijo Juan Maria p^e^ q^e^ tome la Plaza de Soldado (por ser mozo que estimo) en esta Comp^e^, pues su Padre melo franquea con la condicion deq^e^ sea agosto de su Madre. Aviseme Vm. de su respuesta.

Entregue Vm. el adjunto oficio al Miliciano Jose Ant^o^ Higuera, quien tiene ya pase p^e^ Soldado de esta Compañía, y al tiempo q^e^ cruce por ay el Sarg^o^ de Artilleria Manuel Gomez le presentará al Vecino Fran^o^ Gonzalez p^e^ q^e^ le tome la filiacion en la Milicia en reemplazo de Higuera.

Dios gue. a V. m^e^ a^e^.
Monterey, 5 de Enero de 1809

Jose M^e^. Estudillo

---

3*Regidores* were members of the town council, or *ayuntamiento*.

4This was a common phrase used to refer to the Spanish monarchy. "Both" refers to the union of the crowns of León and Castilla, which created modern Spain. Fernando II of Aragón and Isabel I of Castilla unified "both majesties" in 1479.

5José María Estudillo was born in Spain in 1772 and came to America in 1787. He served at Loreto from 1796 to 1806, when he was transferred to Monterey. He served at that *presidio*, often as *comandante*, until 1827, when he was appointed captain at San Diego. He was married to Gertrudis Horcasitas. He died in 1830 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:542).
Senor Comisionado del Pueblo

Call upon Señora María Isabel Talamantes, the wife of the inválido\(^6\) Toribio Martínez, and tell her on my behalf that I would be deeply privileged to grant permission to her son, Juan María, to accept the position of soldier in this company. He is a young man whom I respect.\(^7\) His father will allow it if it is agreeable to his mother. Inform me of her response.

Deliver the attached report to the militiaman, José Antonio Higuera, who already has a soldier’s pass for this company.\(^8\) As soon as Artillery Sergeant Manuel Gómez passes by there he will present it to the settler, Francisco González, who will join the ranks of the militia in place of Higuera.\(^9\)

God keep you many years.
Monterey, January 5, 1809

José María Estudillo

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\(^6\) An inválido was a soldier who was retired either because of age or injuries.

\(^7\) María Ysabel Talamantes, daughter of Nicolás Talamantes and Martina Durán, was born around 1760 in Rosario, Sonora, Mexico. She married José Antonio Basilio Parra in 1780 at Rosario, and they came to California the next year. After Parra died she married Toribio Martínez Guzmán in 1784. He was born around 1750 in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Their son Juan María was born in 1793. He married Francisca María García in 1818 (Northrop 1987:2:118-119, 203).

\(^8\) José Antonio Higuera, the son of José Manuel Higuera and María Antonia Arredonda, was born in 1787 in San José. He was married to María Ambrosia Pacheco (Bancroft 1884-1890:3:784; Northrop 1987:2:125).

\(^9\) Manuel Gómez was an artillery soldier from Mexico who served at Monterey and San Francisco. He was promoted to lieutenant for his efforts to protect Monterey from the privateer Hipólito Bouchard in 1818. He married María del Rosario Estudillo, daughter of José María Estudillo, in 1811. After she died, he returned to Mexico in 1822 (Osio 1996:325; Northrop 1987:2:84). Francisco González was a settler at San José in the 1790s, and served as regidor in 1803. He was married to María Tomasa Peralta, daughter of Pedro Regalado Peralta and María del Carmen Grijalva. (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:760; Northrop 1987:1:249-250).
Mui señor mio por allarme tan ansiano, y lleno de asidentes tanto lló como mi esposa mebeo presisado molestar la atension de Vmd. a fin de qe Vmd. me conseda el qe mi yjo duerm en mi casa, y no en la guardia para el fin de qe nos socorra en al guna cosa qe senos pueda ofreser de parte de noche qe no podemos nosotros salir estará con tanta sugesion como si estubiera debajo de sentinelas es fabor qe espero de su notoria caridad.

D. gue. a Vmd. m. a.  
S. Jose, 2 de Henero de 1809  
Su menor subdito qe B.S.M.  

Jose Antonio Asebes

Monterey 11 de Enero de 1809  
El Comisionado del Pueblo permitira baya adormir a su casa el hijo de Jose Ant° Acebes las noches qe no este de Guardia

Estudillo

Señor Comandante Don José María Estudillo

My dear sir:  
Since my wife and I are prone to accidents, I find it necessary to impose upon you. Since we cannot go out, would Your Grace permit my son to sleep at my home and not in the guardhouse so that he can help us during the night, in any way he can. He will be as attentive as if he were on sentry duty. Because your good will is renowned, I hope that you will grant me this favor.

God keep you many years.  
San José, January 2, 1809  
Your most humble servant who kisses your hand,  
José Antonio Acebes

---

José Antonio Quitero Acebes was born about 1740 at Valle del Bartolomé, Durango, Mexico. He married María Feliciana Cortez. With their six children, they arrived in Alta California with the Anza party in 1776. He settled in San José and was granted the Salinas Rancho in the 1790s. He died in 1820 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:687; Northrop 1987:1:2-3).
Monterey, January 11, 1809

The *Comisionado del Pueblo* allows the son of José Antonio Acebes to sleep in his home the nights he is not on guard duty.

Estudillo

God keep you many years.

In the *presidio* of Monterey

**Document #4**

Al Comis° del Pueblo

Con el oficio de Vm. de 7 del corr° qe sirve de informe, es en mi poder al nombram° q° hicieron de Alcalde de Marcos Chaboya y de Regidores Antonio Soto y Juan Altamirano y no haviendo me conformado con la eleccion de Alcalde he nombrado al Vecino Ygnacio Castro y aprobadlo a los Regidores, cuyo nombramiento es adjunto p° q° dandolos Vm a reconocer selo entregue adho Alcalde aquien le prevendra semepresente aluego q° concluya su siembra.

Dios g°. a Vm. m°. a°.

Monterey, 11 de Enero de 1809

Jose M°. Estudillo

Comisionado del Pueblo

I have in my possession your official communication dated the 7th of this month which reports the nomination of Marcos Chaboya as *Alcalde* and Antonio Soto and Juan Altamirano as *Regidores.* I do not agree with the choice for *Alcalde* and I therefore have appointed the townsman Ygnacio Castro. I have approved the *Regidores,* whose appointment is attached.

---

11Marcos Chabolla was a Spanish soldier who served as a corporal and settled at San Francisco before 1800. He was *alcalde* there in 1796-1797. He was married to Teresa Bernal. He died in 1809 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:756). Antonio Soto was a settler at San José from before 1800. He served as *regidor* there in 1809-1810, and as *alcalde* in 1818. He died in 1818 (Bancroft 1884-1890:5:728-729). Juan Altamirano served as *regidor* at San José in 1809. He was married to Cesaria Agustina Amesquita. He died in 1811 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:692; Northrop 1987:1:35).

12Ignacio Castro, the son of Joaquin Ysidro Castro and Maria Martina Botiller, was born around 1755 in Sinaloa, Mexico. He was a soldier at San Francisco from around 1780. He settled in San José in 1786 and was appointed *alcalde* in 1799, 1804, 1809, and 1810. He was married to María Barbara Pacheco. He was one of two soldiers who drowned in 1817 as they attempted to
Inform them quickly and give the attached appointment to said Alcalde. Instruct him to prepare to meet with me as soon as he finishes his planting.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, January 11, 1809
José María Estudillo

Document #5

Sor. Tenle. y Comle. Dn. Josef Estudillo

Con todo rendimiento ocurro a la piedad de Vm. en solitud que me aga el favor permitir que mi hijo Antonio duerma en mi casa; el principal motivo que tengo para molestar a Vm. en este asunto es ayarme con poca salud de lo que dunda algunas besees ser necesario su madre se levante de noche a socorrer alguna necesidad, de donde le ha sobrevenido un asidente como de antes en la cavresa, lo segundo, Sor. que considero que mi hijo esta mas seguro de cualesquiera alerto, a mi lado que en la Guardia.

Con la prudencia que Vm. acostumbra dispense las molestias de este mas umilde subdito

Q.S.M.B.

Dios Guarde a Vm. mío. a.
Pueblo S. Josef, Enero 12 de 1809
B. L. M. de Vm. su menor Subdío.

Antonio Buelna

Señor Teniente y Comandante Don Josef Estudillo

With total humility I appeal to your pious nature in asking that you grant me the favor of allowing my son Antonio to sleep at my home. The principle motive that I have for bothering you about this matter is that I find myself in poor health, which at times makes it necessary for his mother to get up in the middle of the night for something that is needed. Consequently, she has had another accident in which she hit her head and her mind is not always clear. Second, Sir, I consider my son to be more ready for any crisis at my side than at the guardhouse.

With your customary wisdom, pardon the annoyances of this most humble servant who kisses your hand.

God keep you many years.
Pueblo of San José, January 12, 1809
Your most humble servant kisses your hand.

ford a swollen stream while carrying the mails (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:751; Northrop 1987:1:98).
Document #6

Señor Comisionado del Pueblo

La Requa aconducir el Maíz del Diezmo, y Posito, y el que dejó de S. Clara.

El Soldado Francisco García entregará a V. ciento y cincuenta pesos que pague el Maíz que mande a VM. embargar. Si faltase dinero avise al Havilitado que le embriara más.

Haga Vm. no se detenga a la Requa.

Dios gué a V. m'. a'.

Monterey, 13 de enero de 1809

Jose M'. Estudillo

Document #7

Señor Sargento Luis Peralta

Los RR PPa de la Misión de S. José de Guadalupe me hacen presión el daño que hacen los ganados de ese Pueblo y que an avisado a los vecinos que si quiera las reses todos los días más les rompen las cercas las lleven y maten condescendiendo en que le ganado queda para no aumentar disgustos siendo así que les hace perjuicio a los pastos.

---

13 Antonio Buelna was born around 1754 in Sinaloa, Mexico. He joined the military and arrived in California before 1780. He served in the Soledad escotla (mission guard) and was granted Rancho Cañada de Huerta near Monterey in the 1790s. He settled in San José in the late 1790s and served as a teacher in both Monterey and San José. He was married to María Ana Antonia Tapia. He died in 1821 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:735; Northrop 1987:1:81-82; 2:279).
Que la respuesta que an dado dhos vecinos ha sido qe la Mision mate las reses qe se encuentren dentro de las cercas con la precisa obligacion de reintegrar asus duefios.

Me añaden dhos PP° qe no combienen en semejante reintegro respeto a la grave vejacion qe sufren y alo que an respondido qe todas las reses qe se encuentren dentro de las milpas, o potrero, o se mataran luego, o se dexaran morir encerradas en la precisa inteligencia de qe la Mision no admite el reintegro qe pretendren los vecinos.

Enterado V. de esto y de qe dhos Pl° me piden mi parecer sobre el asunto debo prevenirle al qe mi parecer en el asunto es la misma practica qe se sigue en toda N.E. y es la siguiente, qe el duefio debe cuidar de dia su terreno y desde qe se pone el sol hasta qe salga debe cuidar y responder de su ganado tambien el duefio, y asi durante este tiempo si se lo matan o le encierran; no se le admite reclamo ni queixa alguna, a mas debo advertirle a V. qe el ganado qe se avitua romper cercas se exceptua de semejante reglas.

Esto supuesto qe esta misma noticia de mi parecer doy alos RR° para su inteligencia y Gobierno y a V. le prevento qe haga saber de ese vecindario de qe no se les reintegrara el ganado que se les mate dentro de la cerca o se encierre y se muera en los corrales y qe no se les admite tampoco queixa alguna en el particular.

Dios gue. a V. m°. a°.
Monterey, 28 de Enero 1809
Jose Joaq° de Arrillaga

Sargento Luis Peralta

The Reverend Fathers of Mission San José de Guadalupe have brought to my attention the damage caused by the livestock at that town. They have warned the townspeople that if the cattle continue to damage the fences on a daily basis, they will be confiscated and killed. They will, however, permit the livestock that is already in the field to remain, so as not to increase tensions, even though the animals are damaging the pasture land.

The townspeople responded that the owners should definitely be reimbursed for any cattle

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14Luis Peralta was born about 1760 in Tubac, Sonora, Mexico. His parents were Gabriel Antonio Peralta and Francisca Xaviera Valenzuela. Luis accompanied them to Alta California on the Anza expedition in 1776, and they were in the group of original colonists in San José the next year. Luis enlisted in the military in 1782 and served at San Francisco, Mission San José, and San José. He served as comisionado of San José from 1807 to 1822. He retired from the military in 1826, and served in various roles at San José through the 1830s. He was granted Rancho San Antonio in the east bay in 1820. He was married to Maria Loreto Alviso. He died in 1851. The Peralta home is still standing and may be visited in San Jose. It is part of the San Jose Historical Museum (Bancroft 1884-1890:4:772-773; Northrop 1987:1:248-249).
found within the fences which the mission should kill. The Reverend Fathers have told me that they are not in agreement with the proposed reimbursement. They say that they are suffering serious losses and that any cattle they find in the corn fields or pasture lands either will be killed immediately or penned up and left to die. But they are adamant that the Mission will not pay the reimbursement that the townspeople have proposed.

You have been informed of this and of the fact that the Reverend Fathers have requested my opinion on the matter. I must instruct you that my position is the same as the practice that is followed in all New Spain, namely that the owner should take care of his land during the day and that from sunset to sunrise the owner should take care of and be accountable for his livestock. If during this time the cattle are penned up or killed, no claim or complaint whatsoever will be accepted. I also should warn you that the cattle that habitually break fences are exempt from similar rules. I am giving the same notice of my position on this matter to the Reverend Fathers for their information and management. It is your duty to let the townspeople know that they will not be reimbursed for cattle that are killed within the fenced area or that die penned up in the corrals. No complaint regarding this matter will be accepted from them either.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, January 28, 1809

José Joaquín de Arrillaga

Document #8

Comisionado del Pueblo de San José

En virtud de haver estado en Camino hasta la fha no he podido contextar a V. asu Esquela oficio del proximo pasado Enero en que me trata delas nobedades ocurridas, con la Mision en San Jose, con los Ganados en ese vecindario, tengo dado parte al Gefe, y ala primera nobedad que hayga, me dara V. cuenta p* q* el Sr. Gov* providencie lo q* halle p' combeniente.

Remito a V. las manos en papel p* los asuntos del R1 Servicio.

El soldado q* lleva esta carta cruzu h* la Mision en S* Clara a entregar la adjunta y una nabaja corta plumas al R.P. Fr. Jose Viader, se debolbera quando su Rev* lo despache.

Diga V. al Alcalde Ygn. Castro q* si tiene lugar y vuenam* puede venir, lo aguardo

José Joaquín de Arrillaga was born at Aya, Guipuzcoa, Spain, in 1750. He entered the army at an early age and served in northern Mexico and Texas in the 1780s and 1790s. He was appointed lieutenant governor of the Californias in 1783 and served as interim governor from 1792-1794. In 1804, when the governments of Alta and Baja California were separated, he was appointed the first governor of Alta California. He served in that position until his death in 1814 (Osio 1996:317).
manana en esta misión pues pasado manana me retiro para el Presidio.

Dios gue. a V. mª. aª.
San Juan Bautista, 14 de febrero de 1809

José Mª Estudillo
Rª Servicio

Comisionado del Pueblo de San José

Since I have been traveling until today, I have not been able to answer your official communication from this past January, in which you inform me of the latest events concerning Mission San José and the livestock in that area. I have notified the Jefe and when something new develops you are to inform me that the Señor Gobernador can take measures he deems appropriate.

I place in your hands the document regarding matters of the Royal Service.

The soldier who is carrying this letter will travel up to Mission Santa Clara to deliver the enclosed and a knife for cutting quills to Reverend Father José Viader. The soldier will return when his Reverence tells him to.

Tell Alcalde Ygnacio Castro that if he is able and willing to come, I will wait for him tomorrow at this mission since, on the day after that, I will head for the presidio.

God keep you many years.
San Juan Bautista, February 14, 1809

José María Estudillo
Royal Service

Document #9

Acompaño a V. el ofisio y la Proclama que el eselenz Sª Virrey de N. España nos ha dirigido y circulado en todos sus dominios la qª le ynstruira del ynfelis estado en qª se haya N. Amanzª Monarca y señor Natural Rey de las espanes e Yndias Dº Fernanª 7º. Por la perfidia del mayor traydor del universo qª con la capa de sumas yntimo Amigo y Aleado en un comvite se apodero de su R. Persona. Este es Napoleón 1º emperador yntroso de los franseses quien

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16José Viader was born in 1765 in Catalonia, Spain. He became a Franciscan in 1788 and arrived in Alta California in 1796. He spent the next 33 years at Mission Santa Clara. He served as superior there from 1830 to 1833, when he returned to Spain (Geiger 1969:263-265).
ayandose apoderado de Nuestro amado soberano Rey Padres y demas personas Rª, los forso a
Renunsiar la Corona de españa e Yndias a su favor.

Pero yegada la notisia a nuestra nasion, y conosido el cauteloso y vil Proseder del ynfame
emperador napoleon, se ha levantado en masa formando Poderosos exersitos Para sacar a
Nuestro adorado Fernando de su Poder a fuera de Armas, jurando de no dejarlas hasta
consegirolo. Dios y su santissima Madre Patrona de las Espanas e Yndias ha protegido tan santo fin
como se ha dematrado. Ya aviendo destruido Nuestro exersito siento setentamil franseses, qª con
capa de aliansa estavan dentro de espana cuando se Resivieron estas notisias, bino la ( ) de estar
para entrar en la francia Nuestros ejersitos y esperamos resultados como dise el eselentisimo Sº
Virrey; Nosotros no Podemos ayudar a nuestros hermanos con las Armas por la grande distancia
pero sí con un donativo para ayudar de Pagar las tropas que estan derramando su sangre; y este
que sea aquel que nuestras fuersas y amor a la madre Patria, Religion y soberano, nos dicte.

A cuyo efecto juntaran V ms al Alcalde y Regidores y les lera este mi oficio, el de su
eselensº y Proclama, e ynmediatams pasaran con ( ) justisias a la Guarda y mandara juntar todo el
vesindario ynclusos los milisianos e ynvalidos y Publicamente les lera los mismos, hesortandolos
como mejor les Paresca. A fin de que Contribuyan Con lo que gusten bien en dinero, Arina, mays
o frijol que disiendo heyos aqueyo qe Pagaran al tiempo de las cosechas, se dara orden qª Por esta
avilitasion se le supla el valor de lo qª ofrescan. Formaran V ms una lista espesificando Cada
yndividuo lo qª ofrescan de Donativo y duplicado me la rremitieran firmada por V ms y las
justisias Para Remitirselas a su eselencia segun manda.

Deste ofisio, del de su exelencia, y Proclama, sacara V m Copia Para ese Archivo. Y
acontinuasº de cada uno de estos pondra V m la costansia de averlas Publicado, y me lo devolvera
el Comisionado de la Villa de Bransiforte Con la mayor prontitud.

Dº g. a V ms mª aº
Monterey, 26 de Febrero, 1809
José Mª Estudillo

Es copia

Luis Peralta

Levantada en masa la valerosa Nasion espanola a tomando sobre si el Glorioso y nesesario
empeno de Recovrar la sagrada Persona de Nuestra Rey y Sª natural el Sª Dº Fernando 7º. Con
sacriligia, y alevosameº a recazado entre sus amados vasayos por la traydora mano del perfido
emperador de los franseses para consumar el orroroso designio de husurpar la corona qª la
Providensia divina, los derechos de la sangre, y la unanime vos de los Pueblos Pusieron sobre sus
caticolics, piadosas, y agustas sienes.

El trastorno qª hivan a padeser los templos, con sus ministros y sus tesoros, la tranquilida
de todos los vasayos y sus Propiedades; y hultimamente la suave legislasion qª nos Govierna no
son solamente bisibles, a sí como heran y nevitables, sino Transendentales también a estas Americas para donde se disponía ya a transitar las escuadras enemigas con el objeto de sojuzgarlas, y cuando la varrera que se opuesta a tantos males son los Robustos Pechos de nuestros hermanos de la Península quienes con las Armas en las manos han elegido morir haces que consentir el oprobio de la nación entera, nosotros que no podemos auxiliarlos con nuestras personas, estamos sin duda en la yndispensable obligación de aserlo no solo con nuestros votos al S. D. fuerte y poderoso en las vataynas para que bendiga sus operaciones, sino con nuestros caudales y cuantos socorros podamos ministrarles, pue que no desfayescan en la defensa de una causa la más justa que se lea en las páginas de la historia.

Heyos harán patente también nuestros esfuerzos al universo. Pendiente a ora de cuales son en vista de la distancia que nos separa de nuestros afligidos Padres, de nuestras madres viudas, y de nuestros pequeños hermanos abandonados a la desolación y a la miseria, y en esta atension estoy yntimamente persuadido a que en ninguna ocasión como en esta, pues no se ha presentado otra que nos ynterese más por nuestra Religion santa, por nuestro Rey contristado y amante, y por nosotros mismos se esforsara V a contribuir con toda la cantidad que le sea posible por via de donativo o con frutos presiosos a falta de numerario, cumpliendo o emulando las generosas ofertas que se hisieron y aseteron en este Real Palasio en la junta celebrada el día 9 de Agosto próximo anterior en la ynteligensia de que desde a ora queda avierta una subscripción para hir anotando las sumas que subsesivamente se coleten, y los sugetos que la Resivan quienes las enterarn en las cajas Generales, de esta capital, o en las de la provinsias de sus Respetivos distritos a cuyo fin dirijo las ordenes oportunas, esperando me de V aviso de la obblasion que le digte su Religiosida, fidelidad y Patriotismo.

Dios Guarde a V. mío. a.
Mexico, 3 de Octubre de 1808
Garivay

Proclama

Señor Comandante del Presidio de Monterey

A todos los avitantes de esta Nuestra ciudad, D. Pedro Garivay Mariscal de campo de los Reales ejersitos, virrey Governador y Capitan General de esta N. E. Presidente de su Real audiencia Superintendente General.

I send you the official document and the proclamation that his Excellency the Viceroy of New Spain has sent to us and circulated throughout his domain relating the sad state of affairs of our beloved monarch, the rightful king of Spain and the Indies, Don Fernando VII. Pretending

17Fernando VII (1784-1833) became king of Spain upon the abdication of his father, Carlos IV, in 1808. He soon lost the crown to Napoleon's brother Joseph, but he regained it in 1813. He spent the rest of his reign attempting to re-establish the power of the monarchy. Under his rule, Spain lost its New World colonies.
to be his closest friend and ally, the greatest traitor in the universe seized his Royal Highness at a feast. This man is Emperor Napoleon I, the French intruder. When he seized our beloved King, the Royal family, and others who were present, he forced them to renounce the crown of Spain and the Indies in favor of him. When the news of the cunning, vile behavior of the infamous Emperor Napoleon reached our nation, the people rose up and formed powerful armies to fight to free our beloved Fernando, vowing not to give up until his freedom had been attained. It has been shown that God and the Holy Mother, Patroness of Spain and the Indies, have protected such a holy endeavor. For, our army already has defeated 170,000 French soldiers who were in Spain under the pretense of alliance when this news became public. His Excellency the Viceroy reports that our troops are prepared to invade France and we are waiting the outcome.

We cannot assist our brothers in their fight due to the great distance that separates us. However, we can donate money to help pay the troops who are shedding their blood. The Viceroy suggests that this is the most forceful way we can demonstrate our love for our motherland, religion and sovereign.

With this goal in mind, assemble the Alcalde and the Regidores and read them my official communication, the one from His Excellency, and the Proclamation. Immediately after, have the officials instruct the guards to bring all the townspeople together, even the militiamen and inválidos, and read the same documents to them. Encourage them as best you can to donate as much as possible, whether in money, flour, corn, or beans. Those who say they will pay later, at harvest time, must provide the habilitación with a declaration of the amount of their donation. Prepare a list specifying the person’s name and what is being donated. Make a copy and send me the original list, signed by you and the officials, which I then will send to His Excellency, as he has so ordered.

Make a copy for the Archives of His Excellency’s communication, my communication and the Proclamation. Attach to each document proof that it has been made public. Have the comisionado of the Villa of Branciforte return the documents to me straightaway.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, February 26, 1809
José María Estudillo

This is a copy.
Luis Peralta

The courageous Spanish nation rose up en masse to undertake the glorious and necessary endeavor of liberating our sacred and rightful King, Señor Don Fernando VII. With irreverence and treachery, the traitorous hand of the perfidious French Emperor seized the King like prey from his beloved subjects. His horrendous plan was to usurp the crown that had been placed

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18The habilitación is the headquarters of the habitado--the quartermaster or paymaster.
upon the brow of our venerable, pious, Catholic monarch by Divine Providence, rights of accession, and the unanimous voice of the people.

The upheaval that was to affect many branches of government, their ministers and treasuries, the tranquility of the citizens and their lands, and ultimately, the reasonable laws that govern us, was not only apparent and inevitable but also loomed over the Americas. Enemy squadrons already were preparing to travel there with the goal of conquering them. The defense against so many evils has been the strength and bravery of our peninsular brothers, who, bearing arms, have chosen death before the dishonor of the entire nation. Although we cannot physically come to their aid, we have the undeniable obligation to do so not only with prayers to our Lord God, who being strong and powerful in battle will bless their operations, but also with our money and any other assistance we can provide so that they will remain strong in their defense of one of the most just causes that will be read about in the pages of history.

They also will make our efforts known to the universe. At issue now is what we can contribute, due to the distance that separates us from our grieving fathers, our widowed mothers, and our young brothers, who are defenseless against misery and despair. In view of this I am strongly convinced that never before have we been presented with a matter of such dire consequence to our Holy Religion, our sad, beloved King, and ourselves. Make every effort to contribute all you can by way of monetary donations. If you lack money, you may contribute instead any useful produce of the earth. Thus you will equal or rival the generous donations that were made and accepted at this Royal Palace at the meeting that took place last August 9. Let it be understood that as of now, an account book will remain open to record what is collected. Those who receive the donations should deposit them in the general collection boxes here in the capital or in the provinces of their respective districts. I issue the appropriate orders with this goal in mind and await news of your donation in the name of religion, fidelity, and patriotism.

God keep you many years.
Mexico, October 3, 1808
Garivay

Proclamation

Señor Comandante del Presidio de Monterey

To all inhabitants of our city, Don Pedro Garivay, Field Marshal of the Royal Armies, Viceroy, Governor, and Captain General of New Spain, President of his Royal Audience, Supertintendent General.

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19Pedro Garibay, the senior military officer in New Spain, became interim viceroy when Viceroy José de Iturrigaray returned to Spain in 1808. He served until the next year.
Al Comisionado del Pueblo

En virtud del oficio de V. del día de ayer quedo enterado de averse aprendido aun Yndio huido de la Mision de Sª. Clara llamado Secundino (segº. me dice el Miliciano Buelna) aquien tenia Vm. encargado pª. aver hecho varios robos de noche en ese Pueblo.

Avergue V. con la muger de Joaqº. Buelna si es el mismo q° quiso forsarla, y aviseme.

Ynmediatamº. me remitira Vm a dho Yndio con un Ynvalido, un Miliciano, y un vecino, y este Puede ser el mismo marido de la muger: encargando al Ynvalido qº asu llegada a S. Juan averigue con la muger de Vazques si es el mismo Yndio qº quiso forsarla pª qº el me de parte.

La adjunta carta pª el Comandº. de Sª. Franº. hagala V. cruzar luego luego.

Sovre la manutezª. de los Yndios qº caigan presos en ese Pueblo devo decirle a Vm. debia ser de cuenta dela Mision, pº si esta no lo facilita no ay de donde, y asi qº se mantengan sin comer hº qº mueran.

Dios gue. a V. mº. aº.
Monterey, 3 de Mayo de 1809
José María Estudillo

Comisionado del Pueblo

By virtue of your official communication dated yesterday, I am informed that a fugitive Indian from Mission Santa Clara, named Secundino (according to what militiaman Buelna tells me) has been apprehended and that you have charged him with committing several robberies in that town at night.

Find out from the wife of Joaquín Buelna20 whether this is the same person who tried to rape her and let me know.

Immediately send the Indian with an inválido, a militiaman and a townsman. The latter can be the woman’s husband. Tell the inválido that upon his arrival at San Juan he should check with the wife of Vásquez to see if it is the same Indian who tried to rape her so that he can inform

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20Joaquín Buelna was a son of Antonio Buelna and María Ana Antonia Tapia. He served as comisionado at Branciforte in 1818 and was a teacher in San José in 1821. He was granted Rancho Sayante in 1833, and held a series of municipal offices in Branciforte during the 1830s. He was married to María Guadalupe Rodríguez (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:735; Northrop 1987:1:82).
You shall send the attached letter to the Comandante of San Francisco straightaway.\footnote{The comandante at the San Francisco presidio was Luis Antonio Argüello. He was born in San Francisco in 1784. His father, José Darío Argüello, was then serving with the military at the Santa Bárbara presidio. Luis entered the military at an early age and quickly rose through the ranks. A cadet in 1799, he became a lieutenant in 1806 and comandante in the same year. He was selected as the first governor of Mexican California in 1822 and he held that post until 1825. He died in 1830 (Bancroft 1884-1890:3:9-13).}

With regard to the care of the Indians who are taken prisoner in that town, I must insist that it is the responsibility of the Mission to provide for them. However, if the Mission does not do so, no one else will and they will be held prisoner without food until they die.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, May 3, 1809
José María Estudillo

Document #11

Comisionado del Pueblo
Puede Vm. racionar a los Ynvalidos de este presidio arazon de 12r de cigaros mensales.

Dios gñ a V. mñ. a³.
Mis³ de Sñ Juan B³a, 11 de Mayo de 1809
Jose M³ Estudillo

Document #12

Comisionado del Pueblo
You may supply the inválidos of this presidio with a ration of twelve reales worth of cigars per month.

God keep you many years.
Mission San Juan Bautista, May 11, 1809
José María Estudillo

El vecino Tiburcio Vazquez seme ha presentado diciendo aversele quitado el agua, y negadosele despues de averla pedido, habiendo contribuido al trabajo o trabajos de la comunidad,
porlo qe prevengo a V. me informe sobre este particular.

Asimismo me ha hecho presente qe el Alcalde puso preso aun hijo suyo por aver matado una res orejana estando el ausente, tambien informeme V. sobre lo que precedio.

Dios g° a V. m°. a°.
Monterey, 14 de Junio de 1809
Jose M°. Estudillo

Comisionado del Pueblo

The townsman, Tiburcio Vásquez, has appeared before me saying that his water has been taken away from him. He says that, even though he has contributed his labor to the community, he was denied the water when he asked for it. I instruct you to inform me regarding this matter.

In like manner he has made me aware of the fact that the Alcalde arrested his son for having slaughtered a young steer while he was away. Inform me, also, of what transpired.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, June 14, 1809
José María Estudillo

Document #13

Señor Sargento Luis Peralta

Por el oficio de V° de 29 de Ag° anterior quedo enterado del arresto qe hizo, al vecino Gabriel Amesquita, quien ya esta en este Presidio y solo me resta decirle este particular que me informe si el yndio que persibio el robo, con sintio en la entrega dela mujer.

Esta vien dispuesto p° V° sobre el nombramiento depersonas para que cuiden de las Labores y sobre la repunancia que V° me indica en algunos Yndividuos obre con rigurocidad al cumplim° delas Orns. queles comunique sin exetuar persona alguna en la comunidad y alque falte quando le toque omanifieste alguna repunancia inmediatam° procedera V° asu castigo, poniendo de su C° uno que haga lo que el iba hacer y me dara V° parte por correo que desu C°

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22Tiburcio Vásquez was born about 1755 in Guadalajara, Mexico. He came with his parents to Alta California with the Anza expedition in 1776. He settled in San José in 1783, and served as alcalde in 1802 and 1807, as a sindico (a public attorney or advocate/representative of a mission) in 1824. He was married to Ana María Antonia Bojórquez. He died in 1827 (Bancroft 1884-1890:5:760-761; Northrop 1987:2:315-317; Osio 1996:347).
bendra aquí paradeterminar yo ensu vista el mayor castigo.

Sobre lo que Vd me dice de los Bueyes dela Micion no digo nada porque no tengo luz por los p'es.

El año de 806 hallándose el actual Sor Gov'

Sobre 10 que v: me dice de los Bueyes dela Micion no digo nada porque no tengo luz por los pes.

El ano de 806 hallandose el actual Sor Gov' en esa Jurisdicion apreciencia del Sargento

Avien senalar Dho Gefe, por limites entre Dho Pueblo y Micion, una loma que esta pare el sur,

del Rancho queera de Josef Larios, y me acuerdo quelos pes se comprometieron hacer un ballado

desde la punta de dha loma, asta el primer esterizo. Como no me dice Vd si el paraje de las

calaveras esta en esa loma o pegada al Rancho queera de Larios, no puedo declarar aquien

pertenece el paraje donde tienen los ganados los pes de la Micion de Sª Clara, loque hara Vd

enprimera occasion.

Esta muy bien que de la banda del Rios, se haya extraído la cavallada que tenia ese

vecindario por pertenecer el Sitio ala Mic'on.

El hijo del Alferes graduado don Pedro Amador, se haya eneste Presidio y no quiere hir

con su Padre motibo ala mala vida que dicele da su madrastra.

Dios g'es a Vd m't. a's.

Monterey, 15 de Septiembre de 1809

Jose Mª Estudillo

P. D.

Digale Vm. al Ynv do Toribio Guzman le entregue las cedulas de ynvalidos q' tiene y me

las remitira Vm. en primera occasion.

Vale

Estudillo

By your letter of last August 29th, I am informed of the arrest of the townsman Gabriel

Amesquita, who is already in this Presidio. I only need to ask you in this matter to inform me if

the Indian who participated in the robbery consented to return the woman.

The arrangement you made about the appointment of people to take care of the labors is

fine. With those who resist, work rigorously to carry out the orders that I gave everyone in the

community without exception. If anyone does not work when it is his turn or demonstrates any

resistance, punish him immediately and assign one of your company to take his place. Send me a

note about this right away. Then send the resister, so that I can personally give him the most

severe punishment.

Regarding what you tell me about the oxen of the Mission, I say nothing because I have
not been enlightened by the Padres.

In 1806 the present Sr. Gobernador, together with the late sergeant Macario de Castro and the Alcalde of the Pueblo (I do not remember his name) tried to put an end to the disputes between the townspeople and Mission San José regarding land ownership. The jefe properly designated a hill that lies to the south of the Rancho that belonged to Josef Larios as the boundary between the Pueblo and the Mission. I remember that the Fathers agreed to put a fence from the top of that hill to the first estuary. Since you have not told me whether the Place of the Skulls is on that hill or adjacent to the Rancho of Larios, I cannot declare who owns the place where the Fathers from Mission Santa Clara keep their livestock. Let me know the location as soon as possible.

It is very good that the town’s horses have been removed from the riverside, since that site belongs to the Mission.

The son of graduado Alférez don Pedro Amador, is in this Presidio and does not want to go with his father. He claims that life with his stepmother is bad.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, September 15, 1809
José María Estudillo

P.S. Tell the inválido Toribio Guzmán to give you the inválido certifications that he has, and send them to me as soon as possible.

Regards.

Estudillo

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23Calaveras (Skulls) Peak, Valley, and Creek are all located a bit to the north and east of present day Milpitas. The Peak is now known as Monument Peak (Gudde 1969:47).

24Pedro Amador was born around 1739 in Cocula, Jalisco, Mexico. He enlisted in the military in 1764 and served as a sergeant at Loreto. He participated in the expedition to Alta California in 1769. He left the military in 1773, but returned in the following year and served again at Loreto. He went to Santa Barbara in 1784 and was appointed sergeant at San Francisco in 1787. He was married first to María de la Luz Ruiz and then María Ramona Noriega. He spent the last years of his life retired in San José, where he died in 1824 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:584-585; Northrop 1987:1:30; 2:48). "Graduado" denoted a temporary rank, much like the term "brevet."
Comisionado del Pueblo

Por el oficio de Vm. de 18 del presente quedo enterado de aver pasado a reconocer la Loma q° señalo el Sor Governador por limites entre la Mision de S. Jose y Pueblo, y que tirando la linea desde ella h° la punta del esterito, queda el parage de las calaveras de la parte del pueblo; sin embargo no mande Vm. se llebe allá ningun Ganado, ni caballada hasta mi orden, pues con esta fha pido informe a los R° P° para en su vista determinar y con esto evitar litigios.

Dios g°. a Vm. m°. a°.
Monterey, 25 de Sep° de 1809
Jose M° Estudillo

Comisionado del Pueblo

By means of your official document of the 18th of the current month, I am informed that the hill designated by the Señor Gobernador has come to be recognized as the boundary between Mission San José and the Pueblo, and that by extending the line from the hill to the tip of the estuary, the Place of the Skulls belongs to the Pueblo. However, do not order any livestock or horses to be taken there until I give the order. Today I have asked the Reverend Fathers to report on the matter as well. By including their point of view I hope to avoid disputes.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, September 25, 1809
José María Estudillo

Document #15

Señor Sargento Luis Peralta

Debuelbo a Vd la cedula y certificacion de ynvalido de Toribio Gusman a quien le prebendra Vd inmediatamente y sin perdida de tiempo, se traslade con su familia a recidir en la Villa de Branciforte que es su destino.

Dios guarde a Vd m°. a°.
Monterey, 25 de Septiembre de 1809
Jose M° Estudillo
Señor Sargento Luis Peralta

I return to you the official document and certification of retirement for Toribio Guzmán, whom you will instruct immediately, without wasting time, to move with his family to live in the Villa of Branciforte, which is his post.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, September 25, 1809
José María Estudillo

Document #16

Sor. Sarg‘° Luis Peralta

Puede V° poner la Huerta que solicita en la orilla del arroyo del Coyote.

Josef Larios, si tiene lisencia y V° ningun incombieniente puede pasarse durame las Aguas ala casa de Cantua, quiero decir si gusta de ello y V° no tiene alguna cosa que le impida.

Dios gue. V°. m°. a°.
Monterey, 2 de Octubre de 1809
Jose M° Estudillo

Señor Sargento Luis Peralta

You may plant the orchard that you request on the bank of Coyote creek. If Josef Larios obtains permission and you have no objection, the water can be diverted to the home of Cantua.  

25 Toribio Guzmán was the same man as Toribio Martínez Guzmán, the husband of María Ysabel Talamantes. See footnote #7.

26 The Villa of Branciforte, near Mission Santa Cruz, was founded in 1797. It was projected to be the third pueblo in Alta California, after San José and Los Angeles. It never succeeded.

27 José María Larios, the son of Juan Larios and Juana de la Villa, was born around 1765 in Zapotlán, Guadalajara, Mexico. He married María Juliana Linares, daughter of Ygnacio Linares and María Gertrudis Rivas, at Mission Santa Clara in 1790. After her death in 1812, he married María Eusebio Alvarez, daughter of Juan Alvarez and María Bernarda Silvas. He was killed by a grizzly bear in 1818 (Bancroft 1884-1890:4:705; Northrop 1987:2:137-138).

28 Ignacio Cantua was born about 1740 at Navajoa, Río Yaqui, Sonora, Mexico. He married María Gertrudis Castillo, a native of Real de Santa Ana, Baja California, Mexico, in
But this is only if he agrees and you have no objection.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, October 2, 1809

José María Estudillo

Document #17

Señor Comisionado del Pueblo:

Ynformeme Vm todo quanto sepa sobre el trato qe la mujer del Alferes graduado Pedro Amador le da asu entenado e hijo de este Jose Mª y aun el Padre mismo por lo qe le dice su mujer.

Como pª tomar qualquier providª es necesario oir alas partes, he pedido informe alos Padres de S. Jose sobre la representazª de ese Vecindario, y hasta qe vea lo qe dicen, no puedo ni se puede determinar: todo esto no huviera sucedido si quando los Padres tubieron en el parage qe actualmente litigian las Borregas huviese el vecindario hecho esta representazª.

Dios gue. a V. mª. aª.
Monterey, 3 de Oct. de 1809
Jose Mª Estudillo

1773. They settled in San José in the 1790s, but also spent time around San Juan Bautista and Monterey (Bancroft 1884-1890:1:716; Northrop 1987:2:43-44).
Señor Sargento Luis Peralta:

Acabo de saber que tres Yndividuos han lebantado lla su cosecha de Mais, y hasta la presente no me ha dicho Vm nada por lo que le prevengo que de estos y de los que subsecivam te fuesen levantando las cosechas de Mais y frijol, les baya tomando una razon exacta de lo q^ le levanten advirtiendoles que no dispongan de un grano siquiera del Mais y frijol hasta que yo habise a Vm en bista de la nota q^ p^ extraordinario me remitira Vm.

Prevenga Vm al vesino Fran^o Castro, y a los que lla tienen levantado su mais, que inmediatam te procedan a secarlo y desgranar y que el dia 26 del corriente sin falta ni pretesto alguno han de estar aqui con todo el que puedan conducir a quienes se les pagara su flete segun corresp da. Esta orden hara Vm que se cumpla siendo responsable de su falta.

Dios gue. a Vm. m. a.
Monterey 14 de Octubre de 1809
Jose Mª Estudillo

Señor Sargento Luis Peralta

I have just found out that three people already have harvested their corn crops and to this date you have not told me anything. For that reason I am instructing you to take an exact account of what these individuals have harvested, as well as what those who soon will be harvesting their corn and beans. Warn them not to distribute one single grain of corn or any beans until I advise you, after I receive the urgent dispatch that you will send me.

Instruct the townsman Francisco Castro^29 and those who already have harvested their corn to proceed immediately to dry it and sort out the grains. On the 26th of this month, without fail or excuses whatsoever, they are to appear here with as much corn as they can transport. They will be reimbursed accordingly for the cost of transportation. You will ensure that this order is carried out and you will be held responsible if this does not come to pass.

God keep you many years.

^29Francisco Castro was, of course, not an uncommon name, and identifying this particular individual is difficult. This man is probably the same man who was chosen alcalde in a disputed election in 1822, and Bancroft suspected that that man may have been the well known Francisco Maria Castro. He was the son of Joaquín Ysidro Castro and María Martina Botiller, was born in Sinaloa, Mexico, in 1775. He served as a soldier in the artillery and as a corporal, and eventually settled in San Francisco. He served as alcalde there in 1800 and on the diputación in 1822. He was granted Rancho San Pablo in 1823. He was married to María Gabriela Berreyesa. He died in 1831 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:604, 750).
Monterey, October 14, 1809
José María Estudillo

Document #19

Señor Comisionado del Pueblo

En vista del informe qe me ha dado Vº en 29 del qº finaliza en qº el R.P. Fr. Narciso Duran Mº dela Mision de S. Jose, no se conformo con la Loma qe Vms Ie manifestaron ser la señalada por el actual Sor Governador dela Provincia, y delos qe me tiene hechos del parage delas calaberas ser tan necesario en la actualidad pº mantener los Bueyes del trabajo de ese vecindario, y pertenecer al Pueblo, le prevengo qe puede Vº poner luego dha Bueyada en el parage, y la caballada manera del servicio interin nueva resoluzion para qe salgan los ganados que tiene la Mision.

Si necesario fuese pº algun motibo qe Vº prevea puede mandar al vecindario se custodie por el mismo.

Dios Guarde a V. mº. aº.
Monterey, 31 de Oct de 1809
Jose Mº Estudillo

Señor Comisionado del Pueblo

In the report you have given me, dated the 29th of last month, Reverend Father Narciso Durán, Minister of Mission San José, did not concur that the hill that you showed him was the one designated by the present Señor Gobernador of the province, or that the Place of the Skulls is presently a very necessary grazing spot for the work oxen from the vicinity, or that it belongs to the Pueblo. I advise you that you can place said oxen and the military horses at the Place of the Skulls temporarily until another solution is found to remove the Mission livestock.

If you should find it necessary, for whatever reason, you can order the townspeople to keep watch themselves.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, October 31, 1809
José María Estudillo

30Father Narciso Durán was born in 1776 at Castellón de Ampurias in Catalonia, Spain. He was assigned to Mission San José in 1806 and served as president of the missions from 1825 to 1827. At San José he organized the neophytes into a choir and composed a good deal of liturgical music. He left San José in 1833 and lived at Mission Santa Bárbara until his death in 1845 (Geiger 1969:68-75).
Document #20

S' Comisionado del Pueblo

En virtud del oficio de Vm. de 7 del corriente en qe aun existen los Ganados de la Mision en el parage de las calaveras y de otro qe me ha pasado el R.P. Fr. Narciso Duran en qe me dice protecta no sacarlos, le prevengo a Vm. qe inmediatam' se traslade a dho sitio con la gente suficiente de ese pueblo, y proceda a sacar dhos Ganados, e introduzca el de los poblanos, y vecinos, haciendo por su parte lo posible asostener esta providencia.

Ha hecho Vm mui mal en remitirme su oficio, y el de dho Padre p' un Ynvalido qe traia cargas, pues ha tardado quatro dias en el camino, y asi le prevengo qe sus oficios, y los demas vengan otra vez p' extraordinario qe pondrá al efecto hasta el presidio.

Dios gue. a V. m<s>. a<ss>.  
Monterey, 12 de Nov<re> de 1809  
Jose Mª Estudillo

Señor Comisionado del Pueblo

Your official communication of the 7th of the current month, informs me that the livestock from the mission are still at the Place of the Skulls. In another document sent to me by Reverend Father Narciso Durán, he protests that he does not want to remove the animals. I instruct you to go immediately to said location with enough people from that town and proceed to remove said livestock and replace them with the animals that belong to the settlers and townspeople. Do all you can to ensure the success of these measures.

It was a bad decision on your part to send me your official communication as well as that of the priest by way of an inválido who was transporting goods, because he was delayed on the route four days. I therefore instruct you to send your documents and any others by urgent dispatch which will take them directly to the presidio.

God keep you many years.  
Monterey, November 12, 1809  
José María Estudillo

Document #21

S' Com<do>. del Pueblo de S. Jose

Quedo enterado p' el parte de V. de 14 del corriente de haver pasado a las calaveras y sacado el Ganado Chichiguo qe le quedaba ala Mis<ss> de S. Jose.
Mantenga V. la Guardia q' ha puesto o custodia de la bueyada y cavallado de ese vecindario en dho paraje h"a q' yo abise aquíen dara la ordn de estar ala mira p' en caso de q' los P' de S' Jose pretendan hir a echar los ganados del vecindario y poner los suyos como me han dhlo ecutaran afín de q' en caso de querer hacerlo, nolo consienta, e inmediatam' medara V. abiso de ellos o de cualquier novedad q' ocurra.

Dios gue. a V. m'. a'.
Monterey, 18 de Nov'm de 1809
Jose Mª Estudillo

Señor Comisionado del Pueblo de San José

I have been informed by your report of the 14th of the current month that you have gone to the Place of the Skulls and have removed the Chichigua livestock that belonged to Mission San José.

Maintain the guards that you have put in place, or keep a watchful eye on the oxen and horses from that vicinity that are at said location. I will let you know whom I will order to be on the lookout in case the priests at San José attempt to remove the livestock that belong to the town and replace them with their own, as they have told me they will do. If they try to do this, do not allow it. Notify me immediately if this or anything new should happen.

God keep you many years.
Monterey, November 18, 1809
José María Estudillo

Signatures of José María Estudillo and Luis Peralta

31Chichiguas was a rancho near San Juan Bautista which was granted to Rafael González after secularization in 1835 (Bancroft 1884-1890:3:679).
Relación de lo colectado de diezmo en el Referido Año de 1809

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Suma | 102 | 27 ½ | 7 ½   | 7q 4½ | 79  | 320 | 0     | 8      |

Notas: Se remiten 9q 4 7/16 en dinero de los esquilmos, 1q 6 7/16 que rindieron los pollos, todo lo demás queda hesistente.

Pueblo de S. Jose  30 de Novº de 1809
Luis Peralta

-27-
Report of the tithes collected during the year 1809

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from San Francisco

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Total 102 27 ½ 7 ½ 7q 4q 79 320 0 8

Note: 9 quintales and 4 reales in cash were reimbursed from the surplus and 1 quintal and 6 reales for the chickens. Everything else remains on hand.⁴⁴

Pueblo of San José, November 30, 1809

Luis Peralta

-28-
32 **José Dioniso Bernal** was born around 1764 at Villa de Sinaloa, Mexico. He was married to María Manuela Mesa (Northrop 1987:1:65, 204).

33 **Juan María Ruiz** was one of a group of six people who apparently had been planning in 1801 to move to La Brea, near San Juan Bautista. The plan, however, came to naught. He was married to Jacinta Dávalos (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:171; Northrop 1987:2:41).

34 **Claudio Alvires** settled in San José around 1780 and served as *regidor* in 1785 and 1805 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:694).

35 **Dolores Mesa** settled in San José in the 1790s, and served as *regidor* there in 1806. He was another of the group which apparently planned to settle in La Brea in 1801 (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:171; 4:739).

36 **Nicolás Mesa** was born in 1777. He served as *regidor* in San José in 1805 (Bancroft 1884-1890:4:739; Northrop 1987:1:205).

37 **Francisco Valencia** was born about 1768 in Guadalupe, Zacatecas, Mexico. His parents were José Manuel Valencia and María de la Luz Muñoz. He was married to María Victoria Higuera. He served as *regidor* at San José in 1802 (Bancroft 1884-1890:5:754; Northrop 1987:2:293).

38 **José Francisco Marcos Sevilla** was married in 1809 to Juana María Josefa Saez, the widow of José Antonio Sánchez. At the time, he himself was a widower (Northrop 1987:1:269).

39 **Miguel Pacheco** was a member of the military company at San Francisco in 1790, and settled as an *inválido* in San José in 1797. He was married to María Josefa Sánchez (Bancroft 1884-1890:4:764).

40 **Bartolomé Ignacio Pacheco** was a soldier at San Francisco from 1790. He retired there in 1819. He was married to María Francisca Soto (Bancroft 1884-1890:4:763; Northrop 1987:2:125, 201).

41 **José Ramón Bojórquez** served in the mission guard at Santa Clara in 1777, and as an *inválido* at San José from 1790 to 1821. He was married to María Francisca Romero (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:723; Northrop 1987:2:315).

42 **Justo Altamirano** settled at San Francisco in the 1790s (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:692).

43 **José Joaquín Bernal** was a San Francisco soldier who served at Santa Cruz in the 1790s. He was married to María Josefa Daría Sánchez (Bancroft 1884-1890:2:717; Northrop 1987:2:293).
The monetary unit of Spanish America was the 

*peso*. Eight *reales* equaled one *peso*; 96 *granos* of silver equaled one *peso*. In the first half of the nineteenth century, a *peso* was roughly equivalent to one U.S. dollar and two Russian rubles. Units of weight revolved around the Spanish *libra* (pound) and the *arroba* (25 *libras*). Abbreviations used in Document #22: 

$al=almud$ (½ *fanega*, a *fanega* is equivalent to 1.6 bushels); 
$q=quintal$ (100 *libras* or 25 *arrobas*); 
$r=arroba$ (25 *libras*) (Barnes 1981:66-75; Osio 1996:345-6).
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Garr, Daniel  

Gudde, Erwin G.  

Northrop, Marie E.  

Osio, Antonio Maria  