CASE NO.
430
NORTHERN DISTRICT

RANCHO LAS CRUCES GRANT

VINCENTE CORDERO
CLAIMANT

LAND CASE 430 ND pgs.369

FEB 1 1963

FEB 4 1963

JUL 15 1985

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Ex B

United States District Court District of California

In the matter of the petition of Vincente Cordero et al for confirmation of Las Cruces Rancho &c

Exhibit "B" accompanying petition for confirmation -

Filed October 11th: AD 1879.
Southard Hoffman Clerk U.S. District Court Districk of California
By J. D. Grimwood Deputy Clerk

For Certificate hereto by the County Recorder of Santa Barbara County - see End of Abstract

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(Certified)

Abstract of Title of the Rancho Las Cruces

All that certain Tract of land situate and being in the County of Santa Barbara in the State of California, called and known as The Rancho Las Cruces, being the same which was granted by the Mexican Government of California to Miguel Cordero; - extending from the Rancho La Laguna (which is part of the Rancho Nuestra Senora del Refugio) on the South, to the Rancho Santa Rosa on the North, - and from the Rancho San Julian on the West, to the Rancho Nojoqui and Cuchilla de Nojoqui and also to the Sierra, on the East:
Containing two square leagues of land.

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Miguel Cordero, the original grantee from the Mexican Government, of the Rancho Las Cruces, died in the peaceable possession thereof, in the month of March 1851, intestate, leaving surviving him his widow Maria Antonia Jimenez de Cordero, and their nine children, as follows:

I. Vicente.
II. José Antonio
III. Ysabel
IV. Salvador.
V. Miguel
VI. Juan
VII. Jose Jesus
VIII. Gregoria
IX. Jose Antonio (2nd) sometimes called Jesus Antonio, a minor.

The widow Maria Antonia Jimenez de Cordero died intestate in the year 1857, never having again married.

The property being vested in the nine children above named in equal proportions, the nine shares though undivided, will be treated separately in this Abstract, and each will be traced to its present ownership.

II. Share of Vicente

This share has never been disposed of or transfered by Vicente Cordero, and its legal title still remains vested in him as originally inherited.

He is in possession and occupation of his share of the property, and resides, as he has done continuously from the death of his Father Miguel Cordero, in his own house at Las Cruces.

II. All of this share vested in Vicente Cordero.

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W.H. Stark
of Jose
Antonio

Jose Antonio Cordero & wife To Juan de Jesus Cordero	Deed, dated Nov. 6. 1854. Recorded Nov. 6. 1854 Book B.

deeds page 108. Cons.ⁿ $350.00
Conveys - undivided half of all right by
descent from his Father, Miguel decᵈ
in Rancho Las Cruces.
Duly acknowledged by both Grantors
before J. Carrillo, Dist. Judge.

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Jose Antonio Cordero & wife To Juan de Jesus Cordero.	Deed, dated March 27. 1858. Recorded March 27. 1858 B. Deeds

page 761. Cons.ⁿ $350.00.
Releases and quit claims all
right from his Father in Las
Cruces, reserving all rights by
inheritance from his mother.
Note: his mother, widow of Miguel
decᵈ died in 1857 intestate.
Duly acknowledged by both grantors
before Eugene Lies, County Clerk.

(over)

Jose Antonio Cordero & wife To Maria Antonia Valenzuela de Cordero.	Deed, dated June 12. 1869. Recorded June 15. 1869. III Deeds page 211.

Cons $ 500.00

Grants, releases and quitclaims, all right in Las Cruces and specially all right derived from Mother.

Duly acknowledged by both Grantors before J. J. de la Guerra Notary Pub.

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Juan de Jesus Cordero To Maria Antonia Valenzuela de Cordero	Deed, dated April 12. 1869. Recorded April 13. 1869 III Deeds page 93.

Cons $ 1.

Grants, releases & quit claims all his right, title & interest in Las Cruces.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before J. J. de la Guerra, Notary Pub.

III. All of this share vested in Maria Antonia Valenzuela de Cordero.

III Share

III Share of Isabel

Isabel Cordero, married Cloris (or Cleotho) Valenzuela; she died at her residence on Las Cruces in October 1874, intestate, leaving surviving her, eight children, all at that time, minors, namely:

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2/3.

2/3

Refugio, daughter; since became of age.
Felipa " still a minor
Maria Antonia " " " "
Concepcion " " " "
Gertrudis " " " "
Micaela " " " "
Eugenio, son " " "
Juan " son who died in 1877 while still a minor and unmarried, and whose interest passed to the other seven children Civil Code § 1386. sub 7.

Name of the children of Isabel Cordero married.

1/3 And, decedent's husband Cloris Valenzuela.

By the law of succession, Civil Code § 1386. sub. 1. two thirds of Isabel's share became vested in the seven children now living, and, one third in

the husband, Clovis Va-
-lenzuela.
No conveyances of the
children's interests have been
made; the husband has
conveyed.

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Clovis Valenzuela
To
William W. Hollister
Albert Dibblee &
Thomas B. Dibblee

Deed, dated Nov.
18. 1876.
Recorded Nov. 18. 1876.
Q. deeds page 570.
Cons. $500 00/100

Grants, and conveys
the undivided one quarter part of the
undivided one ninth share in Las
Cruces, being a portion of the same
which the interited from his wife
Isabel dec'd.
To hold &c. to W. W. Hollister 1/2 of
the interest conveyed. To Albert
Dibblee 1/4 and to Thos. B. Dibblee
1/4 of interest conveyed.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor
before S. P. Stone, County Clerk.

Clovis Valenzuela	Deed, dated Oct. 20.
To	1877. Recorded
William W. Hollister	Oct 22. 1877. S. Hoods
Albert Dibblee &	page 223.
Thomas B. Dibblee	Cons. $ 700.00

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Sells and conveys all the right title and interest in Las Cruces which was inherited or succeeded to by Grantor from his wife Isabel, deceased. To hold &c. to Grantees in same proportions as in last deed.

(1/3) Duly acknowledged by Grantor, before N. Judart, Notary Pub.

III This share vested 2/3 in the seven surviving children of Isabel Cordero de Valenzuela, dec'd.
1/3 in William W. Hollister
One half thereof.
{Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee} each one fourth thereof.

IV. Share of Salvador.

Salvador Corders & wife To Pedro P. Massini	Deed, dated Nov. 3. 1858. Recorded Nov. 4. 1858. C. Deeds Page 114.

Cons $ 1.
Sells and conveys all right, title & interest in Rancho Las Cruces.
Duly acknowledged by both Grantors before A. Palmer y Mesa, Justice of Peace.

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Pedro P. Massini To George W. Corbiss	Deed, dated March 9. 1863. Recorded March 9. 1863. Deeds D. page 150

Cons. $ 450.00
Released and quit claims all right, title & interest in Rancho Las Cruces.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. A. Thompson County Clerk.

George W. Corbiss & Lucretia A. Corbiss his wife.
Died both on same day, at their residence on Las Cruces, intestate and without children. Henry Carnes was duly appointed by Probate Court Administrator of Estate of both

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decedents, and qualified.-
Inventory filed march 31. 1864.
shows one undivided 1/9 share
Las Cruces.
Administrator filed petition Oct.
31. 1865. for order sale of this
share.
Probate Court orders sale
(order dated Dec 8. 1865) of
all right, title & interest of
decedents in Rancho Las
Cruces.
Administrator reports sale to
Charles E. Kuse in trust for
creditors of Estate, for sum
of $700.00/100
On due proof of publication
of notice, and Chas Fackald
Attorney for minor heirs & absentees
interested, appearing and consenting
in writing, Probate Court con-
firms sale and orders Administra-
tor to execute conveyance to
Charles E. Kuse, Trustee as
above.
Order confirmation dated Feb. 16.
1866.
Recorded Book A. Miscellaneous
page 446. May 25. 1866.

George W. Corbiss & wife By Henry Carnes, Administrator To Charles E. Huse, Trustee &c,	Deed, dated May 5. 1866 Recorded May 7. 1866 Deeds H. page 327. Consn $ 7,500.00

After reciting the proceedings and steps taken, the sale, confirmation &c, and order that Administrator convey &c, Grants, bargains, sells and conveys all the title & interest of the above mentioned Geo. W. Corbiss & wife in Rancho Las Cruces to Charles E. Huse Trustee as aforesaid. Duly acknowledged by Administrator, before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk

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Charles E. Huse Trustee for creditors of Estate of Geo. W. Corbiss & Lucretia A. Corbiss, decd To Thomas B. Dibblee.	Deed, dated April 15. 1868. Recorded April 15. 1868. Deeds H. page 548. Consn $ 800.00

Grants, bargains and sells all the right, title and interest of Grantor, acquired by deed of the Administrator of foregoing Estate, in one undivided one ninth part of Rancho Las Cruces. Duly

acknowledged by Grantor, before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

Thomas B. Dibblee To William W. Hollister	Deed, dated Oct. 29. 1868. Recorded Nov. 18. 1868. Deeds G. page 455. Cons^{n} $1. and other considerations. Grants and conveys one undivided half of that fractional interest in Rancho Las Cruces which was acquired by Deed of Charles E. Huse, Trustee (See last Deed Dated 15. 1868. duly acknowledged by Grantor, before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

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Thomas B. Dibblee To Albert Dibblee.	Deed, dated Oct. 29. 1868. Recorded Novr 18. 1868. Deeds G. page 453. Cons.^{n} $1. and other considerations; Grants and conveys one ~~undivided~~ Fourth of fractional interest in Las Cruces acquired as above from C. E. Huse, Trustee &c, by Deed dated April 15. 1868 Duly acknowledged by Grantor, before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

IV. All this shave vested in William W. Hollister (one half thereof.)
Albert Dibblee and (each one fourth
Thomas B. Dibblee (thereof).

V. Shave

V. Share of Miguel.

Miguel Cordero To Josefa Lowreyro	Deed, dated May 25. 1865. Recorded May 25. 1865. Deeds H. page 17.

Cons. in $ 210.00/100

Releases and quit claims all right, title and interest in Rancho Las Cruces.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. Cooley, Justice of the Peace.

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Josefa Lowreyro To Andrew Flying.	Deed, dated July 20. 1865. Recorded July 22. 1865. Deeds H. page 84. Cons in $325.00/100.

Releases and quit claims all right, title and interest which she had purchased of Miguel Cordero, in Rancho Las Cruces.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

Andrew Flyling To Stephen D. Williams	Deed, dated Oct. 30. 1867. Recorded Oct. 30. 1867. Deeds H. page 130. Cons in

$ 600.00/100

Releases and quit claims all right, title and interest in Rancho Las Cruces, purchased by Grantor, as above.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

S. D. Williams
To
Miguel Smith

Deed, dated July 16. 1868.
Recorded July 17. 1868 at
30 minutes past 12. M.
in book G. of deeds page 216.
Consn $4.537.100
Conveys undivided half of Grantors
interest in Rancho Las Cruces, "the
interest hereby conveyed being 1.295
acres" (also 1.167 sheep).
duly acknowledged by Grantor before
F. J. Maguire, County Judge.
Note: the area above mentioned is over-
estimated, probably because some owners
were in the habit of calling Las Cruces
a "three league Rancho", whereas it
was but two leagues. The interests
owned by S. D. Williams just
previous to the above conveyance last
set forth - were the one whole share of
Miguel, and the one fourth of share
of Jose Antonio (1/2 int.) the minor -
though he subsequently acquired half
of share of Jose Jesus, and the whole
of share of Juan, as shown else
-where in this abstract.-

Miguel Smith, the grantee there
-upon mortgaged the same back
to S. D. Williams.

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Miguel Smith, Mortg. dated July 16.

to S. D. Williams.

Satisfied of record on Margin of Record of original Mortg. (B. Mortg. p. 92) – Cancelled May 6. 1869

Miguel Smith
To
S. D. Williams
} Mortg. dated July 16. 1868. Recorded July 17. 1868. B Mortgs. page 92. To secure $1537.00 on 1st July 1869 & Int.

Duly acknowledged by Mortgagor before F. J. Maguire, County Judge.

S. D. Williams
To
A. Bascom Williams
} Assignment, dated 17. July 1868. Recorded July 17. 1868.

Assignments of Mortgs. Book A. page 40. Cons. $1500. Sells, assigns & transfers absolutely the above Mortg. by Smith on Los Cruces Interests. – also the note therein mentioned: also a certain contract as to sheep.

Duly acknowledged by assignor before F. J. Maguire, Co. Judge.

By S. D. Williams last above mentioned deed to Miguel Smith, one half of the share of Miguel (along with half of one fourth of share of Jose Antonio (2nd) the Minor) was conveyed: the other half of the same interests, passed by the following deed:

S. D. Williams
To
Alfred Bascom Williams
} deed, dated July 17. 1868. Recorded July 17. 1868. 45 min. past 1. P. M. Book G. Deeds page 225. Cons. $10.00

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Releases and quit claims all right & interest of Grantor in Las Cruces, being one undivided half of interest purchased from "Flying, Peire & T. B. Dibblee" (Note, the mention of Interest from T. B. Dibblee was error, and being in anticipation of conveyance to S. D. Williams by T. B. Dibblee, was inoperative as to that interest, which was not conveyed to S. D. Williams until Aug. 27. 1868. But P. D. W. after acquiring this made separate conveyance thereof to Smith & H. B. Williams. See share of Jose Jesus).

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. J. Maguire County Judge.

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Miguel Smith To H. Bascom Williams	Deed, dated May 24. 1875. Recorded June 21. 1875. Book P. of Deeds Page 7. Cons $1.00

Grants and conveys all right & interest of Grantor in Rancho Las Cruces.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before Wm N. McGraw Notary Public,

Marin County, Cal. May 24. 1875.

Marin County, Cal. May 24. 1875.

A. B. Williams thus acquired all of share of Miguel Cordero, (along with 1/4 of share of Jose Antonio, the minor).

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A. Bascom Williams To William W. Hollister Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee	Deed, dated May 25. 1876. Recorded May 26. 1876. Book Q. deeds page 151.

Ans no 8.133.

Conveys all the undivided two and three quarters ninth parts, being "11/36" of all the Rancho Los Cruces; to vest 1/2 of the same in W. W. Hollister, the other half in Albert Dibblee and ~~—~~ Thomas B. Dibblee.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before A. L. Cooper, Notary Public.

The whole share of Miguel was conveyed by this deed (the other interests conveyed by it were one whole share of Juan; one half share of Jose Jesus; and one quarter share of Jose Antonio (2nd) the minor; for

chain of title to these latter named interests, see elsewhere in this abstract.)

VI. All of this share vested in William W. Hollister (one half thereof) Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee each one fourth thereof.

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VII Share

VII Share of Juan.

Juan Cordero & wife To Jose Jesus Cordero	Deed, dated March 26th 1858. Recorded March 26. 1858. Deed B. page 772 Cons $ 500 00/100

Sell and convey all their right & interest in Rancho Las Cruces which either Grantor had by inheritance &c from Miguel Cordero or from his widow Maria Antonia Jimeney de Cordero, both deceased.

Duly acknowledged by both Grantors before Eugene Lies, County Recorder.

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Jose Jesus Cordero To E. B. Williams	Deed, dated Aug 3. 1859. Recorded Aug 3. 1859. Book E. deed page 305. Cons $ 500 00/100

Sells and conveys all right & title in Rancho Las Cruces which the Grantor acquired from Juan Cordero & wife by last above deed.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before C.E. Cook, County Clerk.

E. B. Williams, being a widower, died May 6. 1864. intestate, leaving only child & heir at law Anita Williams then a minor aged over 7 years, daughter of himself & deceased wife Maria Refugio Ortiz.

W. R. Williams was appointed administrator by Probate Court of Santa Barbara, but on 19 January 1866 this appointment was revoked and Henry Cosner was duly appointed administrator and qualified.

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Inventory shows Estate owns one undivided one ninth part of Rancho Las Cruces.

Anita Williams the sole heir of E. B. Williams and to whom descended his right and interest in Las Cruces, the debts of the Estate having been settled out of his personal property; and who became of age prior to 28th December 1874. as appears by proceedings in Probate Court, in above Estate.- on the last mentioned day conveyed her right in Las Cruces acquired from her Father E. B. Williams:

Anita Williams To S. D. Williams	Deed, dated Dec 28. 1874. Recorded Dec. 28. 1874. Book N. page 355. Cons $ 7.000 00/100

Conveys all the undivided 1/9 part of Rancho Las Cruces, the interest conveyed having been acquired by inheritance from her Father E. B. Williams, dec'd. duly acknowledged by Grantor before M. P. Stowe, County Clerk.

S. D. Williams	Deed, dated April

A. P. Howe, County Clerk.

J. D. Williams
To
A. B. Williams

Deed, dated April 6. 1875. Recorded April 16. 1875. Book N. of Deeds page 603. Cons $7.000/100

Sells and conveys all the undivided one ninth part of Rancho Las Cruces; the interest having been acquired by Grantor, by deed from Anita Williams.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor April 7. 1875. before Charles W. Dana, County Clerk, San Luis Obispo, Cal.

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A. Bascom Williams
To
William W. Hollister,
Albert Dibblee and
Thomas B. Dibblee

Deed, dated May 25. 1876. Recorded May 26. 1876. Book Q Deeds page 161. Cons $8.133/100

Conveys all the undivided two and three quarters ninth parts, being 11/36ths of all the Rancho Las Cruces; to vest 1/2 of the same in W. W. Hollister, and the other half in Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee.

This conveys the whole share of Juan (together with the other interests acquired

as shown in this abstract, namely one whole share of Miguel; one half share of Jose Jesus; and one quarter share of Jose Antonio (2nd) the minor).
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before A. S. Cooper, Notary Public.

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Anita M. Williams To W. W. Hollister, Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee	Deed, dated May 25. 1876. Recorded May 26. 1876. Book Q. Deeds page 153.

Consn $1.00
Releases and quit claims all right and interest in Rancho Las Cruces; also in dwelling & improvements.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before A. S. Cooper, Notary Public

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VII. All of this share vested in { William W. Hollister (one half thereof) / Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee (each one fourth thereof) }.

VIII. Share of Jose Jesus

V

Jose Jesus Cordero To Miguel de la Guerra	Deed, dated Nov. 30. 1861. Recorded Nov. 30 1861. Book C. Deeds page 598. Cons $700.00

Releases and quit claims all grantors right, title and interest in Rancho Las Cruces excepting his right and interest in the house & garden.

(Note. This was the house of his late Father; being adobe and dilapidated, the grantor soon afterwards abandoned the house and removed from the Rancho, and has ever since lived elsewhere; the house crumbled to the ground and entirely disappeared many years ago.)

Deed duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

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Miguel de la Guerra To Bonifacio German	Deed, dated April 8. 1863. Recorded April 8. 1863. Book D. Deeds page 174. Cons $1.00.

Sells and conveys undivided One half of the part of Rancho Las Cruces bought by him from José Jesus Cordero

Nov. 30. 1861. Book C. pp. 598-599.
duly acknowledged by Grantor
before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

Bonifacio German by Sheriff of Santa Barbara County To Ramon Gonzalez	Deed, dated March 29. 1875. Recorded April 1. 1875. Book N. of Deeds page 552.

Cons.a Tax Sale (taxes delinquent &c)
Recites the various details required
by law in Deeds on Tax Sales and
among them, the sale of the premises
to Benigno Gutierrez for delinquent
taxes of fiscal year ending June
30. 1874. subject to redemption; and
that no redemption had been made
and time therefor had expired, &c.
Recites assign.t by Gutierrez to Gonza-
-les.

duly acknowledged by N. A. Covarru-
-bias Sheriff & Tax Collector of County
of Santa Barbara, before H. S.
Cooper, Notary Pub.

The following data relate to
the foregoing conveyance:
Extract from Assessment Book of
County of Santa Barbara fiscal
year 1873-74.

"German, Bonafacio. - Land in Los

year 1873-74.

"German, Bonafacio. - Land in Los Cruces Rancho, 3rd Township being 1/2 of 1/9 interest in said Rancho, containing 500 acres, valued at $1.000.00 Personal Property $900.00 - total $1900.00 Total tax $26.60"

N. A. Covarrubias Tax Collector &c To Benigno Gutierrez. } Certif. of Tax Sale, Feb. 24/74. Recorded March 9. 1874. Book B. Certif of Sale page 152.

Certifies the various steps required by law, and of Sale on 24th Feb. 1874. at auction to Benigno Gutierrez for above mentioned taxes, which with costs amounted to $33.43/100 &c, &c.

Benigno Gutierrez To Ramon Gonzalez } Assignment of Tax Coll. Certif. on file in Tax Collector's office, Santa Barbara. Referred to in above Deed.

Note. The Grantee from the Tax Collector, and those claiming under him as below set forth, by virtue of Tax Collector's Deed, entered into possession under this title, and have so continued to the present time.

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Ramon Gonzalez To Antonio Arrellanes	deed, dated June 14. 1876. Recorded June 21. 1876. Book Q. deeds page 236. Cons $1.00

Conveys the one half of one ninth interest in Rancho Las Cruces, containing five hundred acres being the interest formerly owned by Bonifacio Serrano, and acquired by deed of Sheriff & Tax Collector dated 29 March 1875.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor June 14. 1876. before H. Judart, Not. Pub.

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Antonio Arrellanes To Candelaria H. Arrellanes.	deed, dated Dec. 2. 1877. Recorded Dec. 13th 1877. Book S deeds page 312.

In consideration of love and affection which he has for his wife Candelaria H. Arrellanes, and for other considerations. - Grantor conveys all his right, title and interest, being the half of one ninth part in the Rancho Las Cruces (also certain live stock &c) containing more or less 500 acres being the same interest conveyed by Ramon Gonzalez by deed June 14. 1876.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor Dec. 2. 1877 before H. Judart, Notary Pub.

(1/2)

The above half of share of Jose

The above half of share of Jose Jesus having been traced, the disposition of the other half is shown as follows:

Miguel de la Guerra To Thomas B. Dibblee	Deed, dated Nov. 11. 1867. Recorded Nov. 11. 1867. Book F.

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Deeds page 148. Cons $300.00/100.
Grants, sells and conveys all his right & interest in Las Cruces.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before A. M. de la Guerra, Notary Public.

Thomas B. Dibblee To Stephen D. Williams	Deed, dated Aug 27. 1868. Recorded Sept. 7. 1868 Book G.

Deeds page 386. Cons $300.00/100
Releases and quit claims all that right and interest in Rancho Las Cruces which was conveyed to Grantor by Deed of Miguel de la Guerra Nov. 11. 1867.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. J. Maguire, County Judge.

Stephen D. Williams To A. B. Williams & Miguel Smith	Deed, dated Sept. 3. 1868. Recorded Sept.

75. 1868. Book G. Deeds page 388
Cons ~~$~~ $10 00/100
Conveys grantors right & interest in
Las Cruces which was conveyed by
Thos B. Dibble (undivided 1/18)
each grantee taking by this conveyance.
1/36 of the Rancho.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before
F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

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Miguel Smith To A. B. Williams	Deed, dated Aug 29. 1874 Recorded Sept. 7. 1874. Book M. Deeds page

567 Cons ~~$~~ $1 00/100
Releases and quit claims all his
right and interest in Rancho Las
Cruces, which interest was conveyed
by Thomas B. Dibble to J. D. Williams
by Deed Aug. 27. 1868. The interest here
by conveyed being one undivided one
eighteenth.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor Aug.
29. 1874 before W. F. McGrew,
Notary Public, Marin County, Cal.

A. Bascom Williams To William W. Bollister, Albert Dibble and Thomas B. Dibble	Deed, dated May 25. 1876. Recorded, May 26. 1876. Book

Q. deeds page 151 Cons ~~$~~ $8.133 00/100

Q. deed page 151 Cons. $8.133 0/100
Conveys all the undivided two and three quarters ninth parts, being "1/36" of all the Rancho Las Cabras; to vest, 1/2 of the same in W. W. Hollister, and the other half in Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee.

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Duly acknowledged by Grantor before A. D. Cooper, Not. Pub.

(1/2) This conveys one half of share of Jose Jesus (the other interests, as elsewhere shown in this abstract, being one whole share of Juana, one whole share of Miguel, and one quarter share of Jose Antonio (2nd the minor).

VIII. This share vested 1/2 in Candelaria H. Arrellanes dependent upon validity of tax levy & proceedings thereunder to divest title of Bonafacio German.

1/2 in { William W. Hollister (one half thereof.)
{ Albert Dibblee & Thomas B. Dibblee } (each one fourth thereof)

VIII II. Stan of Gregorio v

Gregorio Cordero To Vicente Cordero	Deed, dated Feby 18. 1857. Recorded Feb. 18. 1857. Book A. Deeds page 18.

Cons^{n} $ 700 $^{00}/_{100}$

Sells and conveys all his right & interest in Rancho Las Cruces, also all right which he may have in anywhich of the Estate of Miguel Cordero dec^{d}

Duly acknowledged before J. W. Burroughs, County Recorder.

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Vicente Cordero To Gregorio Cordero.	Deed, dated July 29. 1853. Recorded Aug. 3. 1853. Book A. Deeds page 203

Cons^{n} $ 175 $^{00}/_{100}$

Assigns & transfers all the right & interest acquired by last named deed. Duly acknowledged before J. W. Burroughs, County ~~Recorder~~ Clerk.

Gregorio Cordero by Sheriff To James J. Kyle.	Deed dated January 30. 1855. Recorded January 30. 1855. Book B deeds page 144.

Recites that by virtue of execution by R. G. Glenn J. P. of 7th Township dated Nov. 8. 1853 in suit of David Randall vs Gregorio Cordero,

Sheriff levied on Decr 15. 1853 and sold January 15. 1854 to James J. Ryle, all right & interest of Gregorio Cordero in Rancho Las Cruces (being his undivided interest in said Rancho) for $ 170. and no redemption, and time therefor expired - Skff. gives this deed.-

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duly acknowledged by R. Heath Skff. before G. D. Fisher, County Clerk.

Transcript of above judgment recorded Decr 4. 1854 in Book A. of Transcripts, page 11.

Gregorio Cordero & wife To S. B. Brinkerhoff	deed, March 6. 1858. Recorded March 6. 1858. Book B deeds page 736. Cons $ 800.00

Grants, bargains and sells all right & interest in Las Cruces &c,
duly acknowledged by Grantor before Chas Fernald, County Judge.

Gregorio Cordero To S. B. Brinkerhoff	deed, dated March 26. 1858. Recorded March 26. 1858.

Book B deeds page 768 Cons $ 100.00
Sells and conveys all this right, title & interest to and in all property

real & personal which he has or may

real & personal, which he has or may have as heir of Miguel Cordero or as heir of Maria Antonia Jimeney &c, duly acknowledged by Grantor before R. G. Glenn, Justice of Peace.

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Samuel B. Brinkerhoff & James J. Kyle To Guillermo Abadie.	deed, dated Aug. 24. 1858. Recorded Aug 25. 1858. Book C.

page 95. Cons $ 675.00
Release and quit claim all Grantor's right, title & interest in Rancho Las Cruces.
Duly acknowledged by both Grantors before Chas. E. Cook, County Clerk.

Guillermo Abadie To Dominque, Juan & Magdelin Abadie	deed, dated July 30. 1860. Recorded July 31st. 1860. Book C. Deeds

page 475. Cons $ 1.00
Bargains, sells and conveys to Grantees, "~~Abadie~~ ~~Grantor~~" all his right & interest in Rancho Las Cruces (and other property)
duly acknowledged by Grantor before Chas. E. Cook, County Clerk.

✓	D. Abadie, Jean Abadie & Marcelin Abadie To Pierre Barron, Jean Barron and Jean Pene	Deed, dated January 11. 1863. Recorded Feby 11. 1863. D. Deeds Page 151 Cons in $1.000 00/100

Release and quit claim all grantors right and interest in Rancho Las Cruces,

Duly acknowledged by all grantors before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

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✓	Jean Pene To Pierre Barron & Jean Barron	Deed, dated Oct. 13. 1864. Recorded Oct 13. 1864 at 10 o P.M. D. Deeds Page 367. Cons in $300.00/100

Releases & quit claims all his right & interest in Las Cruces "being part of an undivided part of said Rancho sold to the party of the first part & others the 11st day of January 1863 (see last deed) Duly acknowledged by grantor before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

Pierre Barron & Jean Barron thus became owners of all of Gre-gorio's share. On the same day with the last named conveyance, they

conveyed to Jean Pierre 1/4 of share of

conveyed to Jean Pierre 1/4 of share of Jose Antonio, minor, which share they had previously acquired retaining 3/4. The whole share of Gregoria (along with 3/4 share of Jose Aubd° minor) was subsequently conveyed and passed by the following deeds in other part of this abstract mentioned:

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Pierre Barron & Jean P. Barron To George A. McCracken	Deed, dated Sept. 20. 1869. Recorded Sept 21. 1869. Book G. Deeds, page 737. Cons ~ $3.000/100. Sell and convey all their right & interest in Las Cruces Rancho. Duly acknowledged by Pierre in person, and by Jean P. by Pierre his Atty. by virtue of Power of Atty. elsewhere set forth, before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk. (For this Power &c. see "Share of Jose Antonio, minor".)
George A. McCracken To William D. Rowlinson	Deed, dated Dec. 17. 1869. Recorded Dec. 18 1869. Book H. Deeds page 454. Cons ~ $2.000/100 Sells and conveys one undivided

half of Grantors undivided interest
in Las Cruces Rancho.
This conveys half of Gregorio's
share (and also half of 3/4
share of Jose Auto.° Minor)
Duly acknowledged by Grantor, before
F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

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William D. Rowlinson To O. D. Metcalf & A. J. Divamore.	Deed, dated June 11. 1870. Recorded June 11. 1870. Book I Deeds, page 58. Cons.n $ 2000.00

Grants & conveys his undivided interest
in Las Cruces "containing 1/2 of 1 3/4
mints."
Duly acknowledged by Grantor before
J. N. Kincaid Not. Pub.
By this deed each grantee acquired
1/4 of Gregorio's share (along
with 1/4 of 3/4 of Minor's share).
A. J. Divamore died in possession
thereof, intestate. Thereupon this
1/4 of Gregorio's share (with other
interest) descended to his Widow
Emily E. Divamore (and who is
administratrix) still unmarried, and
to his children, namely Fannie E.;
Irwin W.; Brodey T.; Thomas L.;

Albert; and Sarah Divamore,

Albert; and Sarah Rinsmore,
These children being minors a
Guardian, B. F. Rinsmore, was
appointed by Probate Court of Santa
Barbara; and on 1st May 1874
after proper steps therefor, that
Court authorized Guardian to sell
the children's interest in Las
Cruces; but no sale has as yet
been made.

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Inventory on file in above Estate
shows undivided Interest in Las
Cruces.

This one Fourth of Gregorio's
share (along with 1/4 of 3/4 of
minor's share - see "Share of Jose
Antonio, Minor") remains vested
in Widow & children of A. J.
Rinsmore, as above. (1/4)

A similar interest in Gregorio's
share (and in that of the minor)
owned by O. D. Metcalf, was convey-
ed by him as follows:

O. D. Metcalf To William W. Hollister	deed, dated Feb. 22 1879. Recorded Feb. 23rd. 1879.

Book II Deeds, Page 478. Cruces

$1685.00/100

Conveys all his right & interest in Las Cruces Rancho.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before C. A. Thompson, Notary Public.

(1/4)

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One half (in the two separate parts last mentioned) of Gregorio's share having been traced, the disposition of the remaining half is here shown:

George A. McCracken
To
James M. Short

Deed, dated April 22. 1870. Recorded May 12. 1870. Deeds H. page 172. Cons $7.000.00/100

Sells & conveys all of one undivided half of this undivided interest in Las Cruces, "the same being one half of one and three fourths ninths (1 3/4 ninths) of that Rancho" (This is half of Gregorio's, and half of 3/4 of Jose Anto.° Minor's shares)

(1/2)

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

VIII. This share vested 1/2 in James M. Short
1/4 in Widow & children above named of Aug. J. Divmore Dec.d
1/4 in William H. Hollister.

IX. Share

1/2 Share of José Antonio (2)

Sometimes called Jesus Antonio, a minor

Jose Antonio Cordero (2nd of this name) A minor by J. Emile Gourt, his Guardian To Pierre Barron & Jean Barron

Deed, dated Oct. 29. 1861. Recorded Oct 30. 1861. Deed Book C. page 587. Cons $400 00/100

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Recites Proceedings in Probate Court for order of sale &c.

Sale by auction to Pierre & Jean Barron &c., &c., and conveys all the right, title & interest of Jose Antonio Cordero, a minor in and to the Rancho Las Cruces.

Duly acknowledged by J. E. Gourt guardian of Jose Antonio Cordero, Oct. 30. 1861 before Chas E. Crook County Clerk.

The following are data relating to the foregoing conveyance:

This child was commonly called Antonio — was at times called Jesus Antonio, at others Jose Antonio (though he had a Brother much older than himself and already of age, of the latter name) and seems before arriving of age, and still afterwards, to have been

generally called Jose Antonio; and in this name proceedings in the Probate Court were taken - and subsequently (March 1878) he executed a quit claim deed in the same name: See deed below set forth, which is by him, to Jas. M. Short & others.

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In the Probate Court, Santa Barbara County.

In the matter of the Estate &c. Guardian-ships of Jose Antonio Cordero, minor

1861 June 11. On petition of minor, J. Emile Gout was appointed Guardian after requisite proceedings, and execution of proper Bond by him. Bond filed same day & approved and Inventory shows that the minor owns 1/9 Rancho Las Cruces.

On Aug. 28. 1861 an order was made by Probate Court directing the Guardian to sell the minor's real estate &c., which after due notice having been given was sold at public auction Oct. 24. 1861; and all right, title & interest of the said minor Jose Antonio Cordero of and in the

Rancho Las Cruces, said interest

Antonio Cordero of and in the Rancho Las Cruces, said interest being the undivided one ninth of said Rancho was sold to Pierre & Jean Barron for $400.00 This sale was confirmed by Probate Court Nov.r 20. 1861.

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Pierre Barron &
Jean P. Barron
To
Jean Pine

Deed dated Oct. 13. 1864. Recorded Oct 13. 1864 at 1. P.M. Book D. Deeds page 365. Cons.n $100.00 Releases and quit claims all the two Grantors right and interest in and to a fourth part of a certain tract &c, such fourth part being an undivided part of the aforesaid Rancho Las Cruces sold to them &c, as in above mentioned deed recorded in Book C. of Deeds page 587 (deed of Jose Antonio, minor by J. E. Gout Guardian) Duly acknowledged by Pierre Barron in person, and by Jean Barron by S. Barron his Atty. before F. A. Thompson County Clerk.

J. P. Barron
To
Pierre Barron

Power of Attorney, Dated April 20. 1863. Recorded May 1. 1863. Book A. Powers of Atty. page 84.

appoints Pierre Barron his lawful atty to take possession of all lands &c and to grant, bargain, sell & convey same &c, Duly acknowl'd. before W. C. Parker, Notary, San Fran^co. (Revocation of Power, dated Sept. 8. 1870. Recorded same day, H. Powers Atty. 191)

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Note. This last deed conveys One fourth of the share acquired from Jose Antonio Minor: the disposition of this 1/4 will be shown first, and afterwards that of the remaining 3/4.

Jean Pena To S. D. Williams	Deed, dated Nov. 18. 1867. Recorded Nov. 21. 1867. Book H. Deeds page 193. Cons^n $150.00.

Grants and conveys all right and interest in Las Cruces acquired by deed of Pierre and Jean Barron, recorded Book D. of Deeds page 365.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. Cooley Justice P. Santa Barbara.

This one fourth of a childs share joined with other interests acquired by S. D. Williams previous to July 16. 1868.

Williams previous to July 16. 1868. (as shown in this abstract) was by him conveyed by the following deeds &c.,

S. D. Williams To Miguel Smith	deed, dated July 16. 1868. Recorded July 17. 1868 30 min. past 12. m. Book G. Deeds page 226 Consid^{n} $4.537.^{00}. Conveys undivided half of Grantors interest in Rancho Las Cruces, "the interest hereby conveyed being 1.295 acres" (also 1.167 sheep). Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. J. Maguire County Judge.

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The Grantee making the following Mortg. on same property:

Miguel Smith To S. D. Williams	Mortg. dated July 16. 1868. Recorded July 17. 1868. B. Mortg^{s} page 92. To secure $1537.^{00} on 1st July 1869 & Int. Duly acknowledged by Mortgagor before F. J. Maguire, County Judge.

Released in margin of Record of this Mortg. Book B. Mortgages p. 92. Released May 6. 1869

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J. D. Williams
To
Alfred Bascom Williams

} Assignment, dated 17. July 1868. Recorded July 17. 1868. Assignments of Mortg.s Book A. page 40. Cons.n $1500.

Sells, assigns & absolutely transfers the above Mortg. by Smith on Las Cruces interests. Also, the note therein mentioned; also, a certain contract as to sheep &c.

Duly acknowledged by Assignor before F. J. Maguire, Co. Judge.

By the last mentioned deed J. D. Williams conveyed one half of all his interests at that time, to Smith: i, e, ½ of his one fourth of Jose Antonio the minor, and ½ of his share of Neignel: the other half he conveyed by the following:

J. D. Williams
To
Alfred Bascom Williams

Deed, dated July 17. 1868. Recorded July 17. 1868. at 45. min. past 1. P. M. Book G. Deeds Page 225. Cons.n $10.00/100

Releases and quit claims all right & interest of grantor in Las Cruces, being one undivided half of interest purchased from "D. Flying, Jene, &

purchased from A. Flying, Jesse, & T. B. Dibble" (Note: it was error and inoperative as to any interest from T. B. Dibble; that interest was not conveyed to D. D. Williams until Aug 27. 1868 but D. D. W. afterwards made separate deed for this part to Smith & A. B. Williams. See Share of Jose Jesus.) duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. J. Maguire, County Judge.

Miguel Smith To A Bascom Williams	Deed, dated May 24. 1875. Recorded June 21. 1875.

Book P. of deeds, page 7. Cons $1 0/100 Grants and conveys all right & interest of Grantor in Rancho Las Cruces.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before Wm M. McGlew, Notary Public, Marin County.

A. B. Williams thus acquired the 1/4 of Minors share & also all of share of Miguel Cordero by last two deeds.

A. Bascom Williams To William W. Hollister, Albert Dibble & Thomas B. Dibble	Deed, dated May 25. 1876. Recorded May 26. 1876. Book Q, deeds page 151. Cons $ 8.133 0/100

Conveys undivided 2 3/4 which parts being 11/36 ths of all Rancho Las Cabezas; 1/2 of the same to vest in W. W. Hollister, and the other 1/2 in Albert Kibbler, and Thos. B. Dibblee. This includes 1/4 of minors share with other lots above mentioned. Duly acknowledged by Grantor, before A. S. Cooper, Not. Pub.

(1/4)

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One fourth of this share has thus been traced to present owners. The remaining 3/4 of this share of Jose Antonio, minor, acquired by Pierre and Jean Barron was disposed of by them as follows: (along with a separate interest, viz: the whole share of Gregorio, which they had acquired as set forth in other parts of this abstract)

P. Barron & Jean P. Barron
To
George A. McCracken

Deed, dated Sept 20. 1869. Recorded Sept 21. 1869 Book G. Deeds page 737. Cons in $3.000 00

Sell and convey all their right & interest in Rancho Las Cabezas. Duly acknowledged by both Grantors

J. P. Barron by his atty. P. Barron

J. P. Barron by his atty. P. Barron by Power of atty. above set forth) before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk

This 3/4 share (along with other interest as above) is next divided as follows:

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George A. McCracken
To
William D. Rowlinson.

Deed, dated Dec. 17. 1869. Recorded Dec. 18. 1869. Book H. Deeds page 454. Cons $ 7.000.00

Sells and conveys one undivided half of Grantors undivided interests in Las Cruces. This conveys half of the 3/4 share of Jose Anto. Minor, consequently 3/8 of 1/9 or 6/16 of 1/9 - along with half of Grantors other interest hereinafter described.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

This half of 3/4 of Jose Antonio, Minors share will be traced first:

William D. Rowlinson
To
O. D. Metcalf and A. J. Divanovic.

Deed, dated June 11. 1870. Recorded June 11. 1870. Book

I. deed page 58, Cons = $ 2.000 00
Grants and conveys all his undivided
interests in Rancho Los Cruces.
containing one half of One and three fourths Ninths of said Ranchos.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor
before J. A. Kincaid, Not. Pub.
By this deed there became
vested in each Grantee, along
with other interest, 1/4 of 3/4
of share of Jose Auto.; minor.
A. J. Dinsmore died intestate, in
possession of this interest, (1/4
of 3/4 of this share) besides his
other interest, which descended
to and is still held by his
widow and 6 children as follows,
all of them still living and the
widow still unmarried:

Emily E. Dinsmore his widow (Administratrix)

Fannie E.
Irwin W.
Bradbury T.
Thomas L.
Albert
Sarah

Children of A. J. Dinsmore dec'd

Letters testamentary
were granted by Probate Court
Santa Barbara, and the widow
appointed Administratrix. And on

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March 12. 1874 B. T. Dinsmore

March 12. 1874 B. F. Dinsmore was appointed Guardian of the children above named; on May 1. 1874 Probate Court, after usual steps, authorized Guardian to sell the children's interest. But no sale thereof has as yet been made.

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Inventory filed in Estate of A. J. Dinsmore, dec^{d}, shows "an undivided interest in Rancho Las Cruces, number of acres unknown."

(1/4 of 3/4) Note. By the last above deed it will be seen that besides other interests, 1/4 of 3/4 of share of Jose Antonio, the minor, vests in above named Heirs.

O. D. Metcalf (Grantee along with A. J. Dinsmore from Wm. D. Robinson, of the half of 3/4 of a share (Metcalf's part being 1/4 of 3/4 of a share) has disposed of his interest, which includes the above, and some other, as follows:

O. D. Metcalf	Deed dated Feb.
Do	22. 1879.
William W. Kolbister	Recorded Feb. 23.

1879. Book III deeds page 478.

Cons.n $1685.00
Conveys all his right & interest
in Las Cruces Rancho.
Duly acknowledged by Grantor
before E. A. Thompson, Notary
Pub.

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PAGE
(1/4 of 3/4)

By above deed of Rowlinson,
O. D. Metcalf owned 1/4 of 3/4
of share of Jose Antonio, Minor,
besides other interests, and
which now became vested in
W. W. Hollister.

Having traced one half of the
3/4 share of Jose Antonio, minor,
as acquired by Geo. A. McCracken,
the other half of this 3/4 share
will now be traced, as follows:

George A. McCracken
To
James M. Short.

Deed, dated
April 22. 1870.
Recorded May
12. 1870 Book M. Deeds Page
672. Cons.n $2.000.00
Sells and conveys all of one un-
~~divided half~~ of his undivided interest - the same being one half
~~of said~~ of 1/4 of 3/4 parts of
the Rancho Las Cruces. (This
is the half of 3/4 share of Jose

Antonio, minor and half of another

Antonio, minor, and half of another share, - Gregorio.)
(1/2 of 3/4) duly acknowledged by Grantor before F. A. Thompson, County Clerk.

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The above mentioned Jose Antonio whose share while a minor had been sold by his Guardian by order of Probate Court and sale approved, as above, executed the following, after arriving of age:

Jose Antonio Cordero To J. M. Short, O. D. Metcalf, E. Divemore widow: F. E. I. H. T. L. A & S Divemore, children of A. J. Divemore, dec'd	Deed, dated March 1878. Recorded March 13. 1878. Book D. Deeds, page 480. Cons $15.00/100

Releases and quit claims all his right & interest in Las Cruces, undivided 1/2 to J. M. Short; undivided 1/4 to O. D. Metcalf; and to Widow & heirs of A. J. Divemore, dec'd.

Duly acknowledged by Grantor before Elwin S. Hall, Not. Public, Santa Barbara, March 11. 1878.

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IIX. All of this share (of Jose Antonio, the minor) vested as follows:

3/4 { James M. Short one half thereof
Widow & children (above named) of Aug. J. Divemore dec'd, one fourth thereof
William M. Hollister one fourth thereof }

To

1/4 { William M. Hollister one half thereof.
Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee } each one fourth thereof.

By the foregoing it will be seen that the final

By the foregoing it will be seen that the final disposition of the nine original shares is as follows:

	Original owner	Present owner		Full shares.
II.	Vicente	Vicente Cordero		1.
III.	Jose Antonio	Maria Antonia Valenzuela de Cordero.		1.
IIII.	Isabel	(7) Surviving children of Isabel Cordero	2/3.	1.
		W. W. Hollister and A. & T. B. Dibblee, jointly.	1/3	
IV.	Salvador.	W. W. Hollister and A. & T. B. Dibblee, jointly		1.
V.	Miguel	W. W. Hollister & A. & T. B. Dibblee, jointly		1.
VI.	Juan	W. W. Hollister & A. & T. B. Dibblee, jointly		1.
VIII.	Jose Jesus	W. W. Hollister & A. & T. B. Dibblee, jointly	1/2.	1.
		Candelaria H. Arrellanes	1/2.	
VIIII.	Gregorio	James M. Short	1/2.	1.
		Heirs of A. J. Dinsmore, dec'd	1/4	
		W. W. Hollister, separately	1/4	
IIX	Jose Antonio (7th minor)	James M. Short	1/2 of 3/4	1.
		Heirs of A. J. Dinsmore dec'd	1/4 of 3/4	3/4.
		W. W. Hollister, separately	1/4 of 3/4	
		W. W. Hollister and A. & T. B. Dibblee, jointly	1/4.	
		Whole number of Shares		9.

See Summary, next leaf.

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Summary of Present Ownership.

To show clearly the fractional interests, each of the original nine shares will be here supposed to be divided into 48 parts, making $9 \times 48 = 432$ parts in the whole, the owners and their interests being as follows:

Four Leagues and Thirty Seconds of the Atascosa Ranch.

48	Vicente Cordero $\frac{48}{432}$ equivalent to	1 share
48	Maria Antonia Valenzuela de Cordero	1 share
217	William W. Hollister, Albert Dibblee & Thomas B. Dibblee (of this, W. W. Hollister owns $\frac{1}{2}$ and A. & T. B. Dibblee each $\frac{1}{4}$)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ shares $\frac{196}{432}$
	William W. Hollister, separately	$\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ shares $\frac{21}{432}$ (217)
37	Children (7) of Isabel Cordero de Valenzuela	$\frac{2}{3}$ of 1 share
24	Candelaria M. Arellanes (This subject to validity of Tax Sale & Proceedings)	$\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 share
21	Heirs of Estate of Augustus J. Driscoll dec'd	$\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ shares
42	James M. Short	$\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ shares

Whole Ranch 432

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State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss.

I, Jo B. Wenting, County Clerk of the County of Santa Barbara, and Ex-officio County Recorder of the said County - do hereby certify: That I have caused careful examination to be made of the Records of my office for conveyances and other Transfers, Instruments and proceedings, relating to or affecting the title of the certain "Lands situated in Santa Barbara County, California known as the Rancho Las Cruces"

That the foregoing Abstract correctly sets forth all the various Deeds and other Instruments and proceedings of record constituting the title of the said Rancho, as appears by the said records; and also correctly shows the various Claimants to the said lands who derain title thereto through the original Mexican Grantee of said Rancho, - as appears by the Records of my office aforesaid.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal, this 16th day of September A. D. 1879.

Jo. B. Wenting
County Recorder

No: 430

Land Register N.D. p 370

U.S. District Court
West of California

In re petition
of
Vincente Cordero et al
for Confirmation of
"Las Cruces Rancho"

Exhibit "B" accompanying
petition

Filed October 11th 1879.

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Exhibits.

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U. S. Land Office
Los Angeles, Calw.,
March 1876,

I, Alfred James, Register of said office do hereby certify that there is no claim of record of any kind, by any person to the following described lands, to wit:-

Description of Tract	Sec	Town'p	Range	Meridian
SW1/4 of SW1/4	2	5 S	32 W	SBM
Lots 1 & 2 & SE1/4	5	"	"	"
NE1/4, E1/2 of SE1/4	8	"	"	"
Lot 4 & NW1/4 of SE1/4	"	"	"	"
Lots 1. 2. 3 & 4	17	"	"	"
E1/2 of NE1/4, NE1/4 of SE1/4	"	"	"	"
Lots 1. 2 & 3	20	"	"	"
W1/2 of NW1/4, SE1/4 of NW1/4	11	"	"	"
SW1/4 & SW1/4 of SE1/4	"	"	"	"
All of Sections 3. 4. 9. 10	—	"	"	"
14. 15. 16. 21, 22 & 23	—	"	"	"

And I further certify that the plat thereof was filed in this office on the 2" day of March 1874

Alfred James
Register

This certificate is given for correction of a certificate issued this day in favor of [illegible] claim application, filed March 2nd 1876 and amended this 2nd day of March 1876 for [illegible] Sec 2 T 5 S R 32 W SBM

United States Land Office,

ALFRED JAMES,
Register.

J. W. HAVERSTICK,
Receiver.

Los Angeles, Cal., January 11th 1869

Messrs Moulan & Hyde
No 504 Jackson St
San Francisco

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Gentlemen

I hereby certify that the following described Land is free from all claim, as shown by the records of this office, to wit;

SW¼ of SW¼	Sec 2	T 5 S.	Range 32 W	S.B.M.		
Lots 1 & 2 & SE¼	"	"	"	"	"	"
NE¼ & E½ of SE¼	"	Sec 8	"	"	"	"
NW¼ of SE¼ & Lot 4	"	"	"	"	"	"
Lots 1. 2. 3 & 4	"	Sec " 17	"	"	"	"
E½ of NE¼ & NE¼ of SE¼	"	"	"	"	"	"
Lots 1. 2 & 3	"	Sec " 20	"	"	"	"
W½ of NW¼ & SE¼ of NW¼	Sec 11	T 5 S.	"	"	"	"
SW¼ & SW¼ of SE¼	"	"	"	"	"	"
All of Sections 3. 4. 9 & 10		"	"	"	"	"

ALFRED JAMES,
Register.

J. W. HAVERSTICK,
Receiver.

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Los Angeles, Cal., 187 9

All of Sections 14. 15. 16. 21. 22 and 23 in T. 5 N. of Range 32 W. S.B.M.

Note Sections 14. 15. 22. 23 " 5 " " "

E. ½ and SW ¼ of " 16 " " " " "

and N. ½ and SE ¼ " " 21 " " " " "

reserved from

and that the Plat of said Township was filed in this Office June 28. 1873 and on March 2. 1874

Respectfully

Alfred James

Register.

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Note. The certificate of Alfred Sames, Register of the U.S. Land Office at Los Angeles, certifying that there is no claim to any of the Lands of the part of the Rancho Las Cruces which lies in that District, was returned to that Office for the correction of a clerical error. The certificate will be forwarded in a few days, to be attached to this page.

H. G. ROLLINS, Register.
DUNCAN McNEE, Clerk.
CHAS. H. CHAMBERLAIN, Receiver.

All letters etc., pertaining to the business of the office should be addressed to the "U. S. Land office, Post Office Box No. 2223."
Be particular to describe the land you write about. by Section or parts of Section, Township and range.

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U. S. Land Office,

506 JACKSON STREET,
(UP STAIRS)

San Francisco, Cal, Jany 26th 1876

I hereby certify that there is no claim of any kind to any portion of the public land described as the S½ of S½ Sec 27, NE¼ of NE¼, S½ of NE¼ & SE¼ Sec 33 all of Sec 34 & all of Sec 35, Lot 4, S½ of SW¼ & SW¼ of SE¼ of Sec 26 T. 6 N R 3 W M.D.B.M. and I further certify that the township plat was filed in this office August 8, 1872

H. G. Rollins
Register

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Espediente

Promovido por el Ciudadano Miguel Cordero en pretencion del paraje nombrado las Cruces.

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Sor. Gobernador

Miguel Cordero de este vecinidad ante V.S. con el respeto devido y conforme a mi dro. combengo, digo; que con el objeto de dedicarme al interesante ramo de la agricultura p.r hallarme poseedor de algun numero de viens de campo tengo presente q.e para este fin conforme á las leyes de colonizacion debo de dirijir me a V.E. como lo hago en solicitud del paraje nombrado las Cruces; este terreno aunque ha pertenecido a la ex-mission de Sta. Ines, se halla a la fha. desocupado, y el citado establecimiento no lo necesita, por tal motivo lo creo colonizable y sin otro impedim.to q impidiera su adjudicacion. Mi edad abanzada; mis mentos contraidos á el Serv.o de las Armas, y otros muy notorios, son los que me impelen dirijir esta espe-

dentacion acompañada con el

correspondiente diseño.

Por tanto, á V. S. suplico se sirva acceder como pido en que recevré gracia admitiendo esta en papel comun por no haber del sello correspondiente

Jurando lo necesario.

Santa Barbara, mayo 2. de 1837

A ruego del interesado

José de la Guerra y Carrillo

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Sta Barbara, mayo 7. de 1837.

Aprueme el Y. Ayuntamiento de esta municipalidad, si el interesado en esta instancia obtiene todas los requisitos legales p.a ser atendido en su solicitud; si el terreno q.e pretende puede adjudicarse en colonizacion conforme a la ley

Evacuadas estos informes volvera el espediente al Juzgado p.a su resolucion

Alvarado.

Y. A.

La comision a quien V. S. se ha servido confiar p.a que dictamine sobre el Espediente que forma la solicitud del Cno. Miguel Cordero en peticion del parage nombrado las Cruces en

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observancia del decreto del Gobno de
ftha. 10 de Mayo, dispone, q.e el interesado
obtenga todos los requisitos legales, para
ser atendido en la solicitud; que el
terreno que pretende se halla cubierto de
bienes del mismo solicitantes, y en estado
de adjudicarse en colonizacion, conforme
a la ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824 y Reg-
lamento de 21 de Noviembre de 1828, pues, aunque
se ha cenido por la Peticionaria de la
Expedicion de Sta Ynes, se halla a
la vez sin la ocupacion necesaria de
dha. edificion, y por consiguiente, en
estado de adjudicarse conforme a las
leyes citadas.

El que representa es Ciudno mexi-
cano avecindado, tiene buena conducta
y bienes con que poblarlo. Por lo
que se hace acreedor á ser amparado
por la ley, y por las consideraciones
del Gobno a quien representa. Por
tanto ofrece la Cesion a la eleva-
cion de V. S. la siguiente proposicion.

Puede el Gobno adjudicar al
Cno Miguel Ruiz el Paraje nom
brado las Cruces

Santa Barbara, Mayo 10. de 1837.

Pablo Vanegas Santiago Burke

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En sesion de hoy aprobó el Y. A. la proposicion del Declarante anteceduente cuelva el Expediente al Gobno pa. Su resolucion, ut Supra.

Diego Alvarez.

A falta del Secretario

Ramon Valdez.

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Sta Barbara Mayo 11. de 1837.

Vista la Peticion con que da principio este Expediente; el informe del Y. A. y todo lo q. ver convenio de conformidad con lo dispuesto pr. ~~Leyes~~ las Leyes y reglamentos de la materia, se declara al Dno Miguel Cordero dueno en propiedad del terreno conocido con el nombre de las Cruces, demarcado en el Diseño que acompano a Su Solicitud, y bajo los linderos que en el se expresan, sujetandose a las Condiciones que previene la ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824. y reglamento de 21 de Noviembre de 1828 Selese el Despacho correspondiente; y tomese razon en el libro respectivo y dirijase este Expte. a la Exma Diputacion pr. su debida aprobacion, en cuyo caso el interesado a quien se hara saber este Acuerdo presentará nuevamente Su titulo pa. q. se le revalide. Asi el Sor.

D. Juan B. Alvarado Gobernador Intº
del Estado, Presidente de la Exma
Diputacion del mismo lo decretó, mandó
y firmó de que doy fé
Juan B. Alvarado
Victor Prudon,
Srio Intº

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En la sesion de tenemos valdios impuesta
del Expediente promovido por el Ciudadano
Miguel Cordero en solicitud del Parage
nombrado las Cruces, no encontrando in-
conveniente alguna para que se conceda
conforme a su peticion, por lo que
la Comision remite a la deliberacion
de V.E. los siguientes proposiciones.
1ª Se concede al Ciudadano Miguel Cor-
dero el Parage nombrado las Cruces por
llenar los requisitos que previene la ley
de 18 de Agosto de 1824 y el Artº del
Reglamento de 21 de Octubre de 1828.
Santa Barbara, Mayo 18, de 1837
José R. Estrada. Francisco J. Alvarado

Santa Barbara, Mayo 18. de 1837
En sesion de hoy se le dispensaron
los tramites de la proposicion del decla-
men que antecede y fue aprobada
por mayoria absoluta de votos

5

Antonio Buelna
Rest.
Dá el Mg. Covarrubias
Rio.

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Posesión Judicial en favor de Dn Miguel Cordero del Paraje nombrado las Cruces.

Sr. Alcalde 1º de Sta Barbara Miguel Cordero vecino de este punto ante la justificacion de V. Compuesto y dgo. q. habiendo obtenido la concesión en propiedad del terreno conocido con el nombre de las Cruces, por justo titulo expedido en mi favor por el Supr. Gobno Departamental, a V. Suplico, se sirva darme la posesion judicial de dicho con arreglo a dho titulo y diseño respectivo cuyos documentos, acompaño devolviendose dentro esta instancia en papel comun por no haber del sello que corresponde; Pero no procedan de malicia

Sta Barbara, Octbre 30 de 1845
Miguel Cordero.

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Sta Barbara, Octbre 31 de 1845

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Procédase

En virtud del antecedente Solicitud ^
por mi el presente Alcalde á la medida
medida denalamiento de linderos y
posesión jurídica del terreno de las
Cruces, que Solicita el interesado en
este expediente con arreglo a los docimen-
tos que acompaña; denalando para acudir
lo el Día dos del pres.mo Nov.re para lo
que se citarán con rotulos de emplazando
a los Colindantes; Así lo proveí el Alcalde
1.o lo mandé acuerdo y firmé, actuando
por carencia con testigos de asistencia
por falta de Escribano nacional y Público
de que Doy fé

Nicolas A. Dorr.

Asst.a Asst.a
Raym.do Cornelo José Mª Ortega

En la fecha presente. Don Miguel Cordero
se le notificó el Auto q.e antecede q.
de el enterado dijo, que hoye y se
da por citado ante mi lo firmó, y los de mi
asst.a; Doy fé-

Nicolas A. Dorr

Asst.a Asst.a
Raym.do Cornelo. José Mª Ortega.

7. En la misma fha. se libraron los
rotulos q.e manda ~~se manda~~ el Juez

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firmado, y para q.e conste por delegencia lo rubrique

(Rubrica)

En el Rancho de las Cruces a los dos dias del mes de Nob.re de mil ochocientos cuenta y cinco, en cumplimiento de la citada a los Colindantes del expresado Rancho, concurrio Don Raym.do Cornelio, el Mayordomo de S. Juliana, Gregorio Lopez, por Don Jose Arteaga y D. Fran.co Lota, y citadas de q.e se habia procedido a la medicion, señalamiento de linderos y posesion en favor de dho. Cabeza, dejaron quedar entendidos y para constancia lo firmaron con migo y los de mi asist.a de que doy fe

Nicolas A. Dau

Asst.a
Raym.do Cornelio
Fran.co Lota

Asst.a
Jose Ma. Arteaga
Gregorio Lopez.

En seguida yo, el Juez de estos Autos nombro por medidor en la presente posesion a los Ciudadanos Manuel Dominguez, y el Acalde Benedicto Quiones sobre la aceptacion y juramento prodeseran el desempeño de su encargo, y para constancia lo firmo con delegencia

8

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proveido y para que conste por diligencia lo rubrique

(Rubrica)

En el Rancho de las Cruces a los dos dias del mes de Nobre de mil ochocientos cuarenta y cinco en cumplim.to de la citā librada a los colindantes del espresado Rancho, concurrio D. Raym.do Carrillo el Mayordomo de S. Julian Gregorio Lopez, por Don José Noriega y D. Juan.co Cota y entendidas de que se habia a proseder a la medicion señalam.to de linderos y posesion en favor de Migl. Cordero, dejeron quedar entendidos y para constancia lo firmaron conmigo y los de mi asst.a de que Doy fé-

Nicolas A. Den

Asst.a
Raym.do Carrillo
Juan.co Cota

Asist.a
José M. Ortega
Gregorio Lopez

En seguida yo el Juez de estos Autos nombro por medidor en la presente posesion a los Ciudadano Manuel Dominguez y el Neofito Venedito quienes prebia la asceptacion y juramento, procederan al desempeño

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~~de su encargo y para constancia~~
~~lo pongo por diligencia~~ q= firmo
con los de mi asist.a de que doy fe.-

Nicolas A. Den

Asist.a Asist.a
Raym.do Carrillo José M. Ortega

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En la fecha yen el espresado
Rancho se les notifico el auto q=
antecede al Ciudadano Manuel Dominguez
y neofito Vendito y entendidos de el
dijeron q= aseptan y aseptaban dho
encargo de medidores y juraron por
Dios Nro. Sr. y una Señal de Cruz
de usarlo fielmente y legalmente
á todo su leal saber y entender sin
dolo ni fraude contra persona alguna
y lo signaron con una cruz por
no saber escribir ante me y los
de mi asist.a de que doy fé.-

Nicolas A. Den.-

Asist.a Asist.a
Raym.do Carrillo José M. Ortega
Man.l Dominguez + Vendito +

Yn contiente yo el referido Alcalde
mandé traer á mi presencia un
cordel de mecate y reata con que
se an de medir las tierras de dho.

Rancho y q= los medidores lo midan de a cincuenta varas, lo que firmo con los de mi asistencia, doy fé-

Nicolas A. Den

Asist.ª Asist.ª

Raym.do Carrillo José M.a Ortega

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En segunda y en presencia de mi el expresado Alcalde, los medidores mencunados tomame un cordel compuesto de reata y mecate y con una vara de medir usual mejicana midieron cincuenta varas para hacer la repetida medicion y para que const.e lo rubrique-

(Rubrica)

En la misma fha- siendo como las nueve de la mañana, en el espresado Rancho yo dho. Alcalde para proseder a la medicion de tierra que se han de hacer a D. Miguel Cordero, mande a los medidores nombrados se pongan dichas de su casa, y puestos en dicho lugar se comenso la medida tendiendo el cordel rumbo al <u>oeste</u> hasta el lindero de D. Francisco Cota, y se midieron dos cientos cordeles de a cincuenta varas, en segunda se prosiguio la medida desde el Portezuelo de San

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Julian, hasta la cuchilla de Hojoqui, y de esta Rancho al sur a la Puerta de la Gabiota y se midieron cien cordeles de á cincuenta varas por lo que declaron Dhos. medidores tener el espresado Rancho de la Cruz dos leguas de largo y una de ancho acompañado a este Espediente el diseño que figura el terreno mencionado y para constancia lo firme por ante con los testigos de mi asistª de qe doy fé.

Nicolas A. Den

Asistª
Raymdo Carrillo

Asistª
José M. Ortega.

En el referido Rancho de las Cruces y en el mismo dia, mes y año Dn. Miguel Cordero vesino del Puerto de Sta. Barbara, acompañando del Alcalde y testigos de Asistª de estos autos, dijo; que habiendose medido las tierras de este Rancho segun consta en el auto anterior, tomaba y toma la heredera y corporal posecion de Dhas. tierras medidas pues le pertenesen por justo titulo que obtiene de la concesion qe de ellas le hiso el Supor Gobno del Departamento entró y

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pasó por ellas arrancó Urbes esparcio
punados de tierra rompio ramas de los
arboles é hiso otras demostraciones
y actos de posesion en señal q.e la
q.e dejó tomado de dicha tierras y yo
dicho Alcalde mandé que desde
entonces lo tubieran y reconocieran
por berdadero Señor y posedor de ella.

De todo lo espuesto pedis
dicho D. Miguel Cordero que para
memoria en lo benedero y conservacion
de sus derechos le fuese estendido por
mí el espedido Alcalde una constancia
y lo firmo, y los de mi asist.a de
que doy fé.

Nicolas A. Dor.

Asst.a
Raymundo Canelo

Asst.a
Jose M.a Ortega

13.

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Office of the Surveyor-General,

Of the United States, for California.

I, **JAS. T. STRATTON**, Surveyor-General of the United States for the State of California, and as such, having in my office, and in my charge and custody, a portion of the Archives of the former Spanish and Mexican Territory, or Department of Upper California, as also the papers of the late Board of Commissioners to ascertain and settle the private land claims in California; by virtue of the power vested in me by law, **Do Hereby Certify**, that the 12 preceding, and hereunto annexed pages, ~~of tracing paper~~ numbered from one to 12 inclusive, exhibit a true, full and correct copy of the original.

Expediente of the Grant to Miguel Cordero of the Rancho of Las Cruces together with the record of juridical possession thereof and that Expediente is numbered and entered on the Diseño Index, "No 137"

and now on file in this office, and in my custody; that I have carefully compared the same with said original, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and caused my Seal of Office to be affixed, at the City of San Francisco, this 2 day of Feby 1876.

Jas T Stratton

U. S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL, FOR CALIFORNIA.

Rancho of
Las Encas

Grant to
Miguel Cordero

Copy of
Original Expedente

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Proceedings
Instituted by the citizen Miguel
Cordero petitioning for the place named
Las Cruces -

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To His Excellency, the Governor -

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I, Miguel Cordero, of this vicinity, before
Your Excellency, with due respect, appear
and say: - That being desirous of devoting
myself to agriculture, since I am the
owner of considerable amount of stock,
and being aware, that under the laws of
colonization, I must apply to Your Honor,
as I do asking for a grant of the place
named "las Cruces;" this tract of land
although it has belonged to the ex-
-mission of Santa Ines, is at present
unoccupied, and the said Mission does
not need the same, wherefore I think
that the same is in a condition to be
colonized, and I think there is nothing
to prevent the said place from being
granted -

My old age, and the military
services I have given to the country,
impels me to make this petition to
Your Honor -

Wherefore, I pray Your Honor

Wbe pleased to grant my petition admitting this on common paper for want of sealed paper -

Santa Barbara, May 2d 1837

At the request of the petitioner

José de la Guerra y Carrillo

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Santa Barbara, May 4th 1837 -

Let the Illustrious Ayuntamiento of this Municipality report, if the petitioner herein, possesses such as entitle him to be heard on his petition; if the land he petitions for, can be granted in colonization -

And when these proceedings shall have been taken, let this espidiente be returned to the governor for its determination -

Alvarado

To the Illustrious Ayuntamiento

The Committee, to which was referred the petition of Miguel Cordero, for the place of las Cruces, in obedience to the decree of the 10th of May, have the honor to report, That the petitioner possesses such requisites as entitle him to be heard on his petition; that the land for which he petitions, is

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occupied by the stock that he owns, and that the same is in a condition to be granted in colonization, under the law of the 18th of August 1824 and the Regulations of the 21st of November 1828; for although this place has been considered as belonging to the Mission of Santa Ines, this Mission does not now occupy the same, wherefore it is in a condition to be granted under said laws; That the petitioner is a mexican citizen; a man of good character and has the means necessary to stock said place. Wherefore the committee offer for the consideration of your Honor the foregoing proposition—

That the Government can adjudicate to the citizen Miguel Cordero the place named "Las Cruces".

Santa Barbara May 15th 1837

Pablo Vanegas Santiago Burk.

In the session of to day, the Illustrious Ayuntamiento approved the foregoing report and ordered the Espediente to be returned to the Governor for his determination

Date as above

Diego Olivera

In the absence of the Secretary
Ramon Valdez.

Santa Barbara May 11th 1837

In view of the petition with which this Espediente commences; the Report of the Illustrious Ayuntamiento, with all other matters necessary to be considered, in accordance with the laws and regulations on the subject, the citizen Miguel Cordero is declared owner in property of the tract of land known by the name of las Cruces, as the same is shown by the accompanying map (diseño), and with the boundaries set forth; subject to the conditions of the law of the 18th of August 1824, and the Regulations of the 21st of November 1828. Let the corresponding title issue; let registry be made thereof in the corresponding book, and let this Espediente be directed to the Most Excellent Deputation for its approval, and in case the same be approved, the interested party, who shall be notified of the same shall present his title anew, that the same may be revalidated

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Thus I, the Señor Don Juan B. Alvarado Governor ad interim of the State, and President of the Most Excellent Deputation, thus ordered decreed and signed, to which I certify -

Juan B. Alvarado

Victor Prudon

Secy ad interim.

The Committee on vacant lands, having examined the espediente instituted by the Citizen Miguel Cordero, petitioning for the place named "Las Cruces," find no objection to the making of said concession; Wherefore the committee by submitting for the consideration of your Excellency, the following proposition -

1st There is conceded to the citizen Miguel Cordero, the place named "Las Cruces," since he possesses such requisites as are demanded by the law of the 18th of August 1824, and article 5th of the Regulations of the 21st of November 1828.

Santa Barbara May 18th 1837

José R. Estrada -

Francisco J. Alvarado

Santa Barbara May 15th 1837
In the session of the day,
the foregoing report was approved
Antonio Buelna,
José Mª Covarrubias

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1845

Juridical possession in favor of Don Miguel Cordero of the place named "las Cruces"

To the 1st Alcalde of Santa Barbara
I Miguel Cordero, a resident of this place before Your Honor, respectfully represent; that having obtained the concession of the place known by the name of Las Cruces, by a just title, issued to me by the Departmental Government, I pray Your Honor to give me juridical possession of said place in accordance with the respective title and diseño; being pleased to admit this petition on common paper for want of the corresponding sealed paper, making the necessary oath.
Santa Barbara, Oct. 30th 1845

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Miguel Cordero

Santa Barbara, Oct. 31st 1845

In compliance with the foregoing petition, I the present Alcalde shall proceed to the measurement and giving juridical possession of the land of Las Cruces, as asked for by the petitioner in this Espediente, in accordance with the documents accompanying the same, appointing for this purpose the 25th day of November next, that the adjoining land owners may be summoned to appear and be present on that occasion; Thus I the 1st Alcalde ordered, decreed and signed, with the assisting witnesses, with whom I act in the absence of a Notary public, to which I attest

Nicolas A Den

Asst. Asst.

Raymundo Carrillo José Mª Ortega

At the same date, Don Miguel Cordero being present, he was notified of the foregoing order which he said he heard and admitted citation signing with me and the assisting witnesses, to which

I certify

Nicolas A Den -

Asst -
Raymundo Carrillo

Asst -
José M. Ortega

At the same date the citations were issued as directed in the foregoing order, in witness whereof I sign with my rubric

(Rubric)

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On the Rancho of Las "Cruces" on the 2d day of the month of November 1845 in compliance with the citations issued appeared the citizens Solindantes of this Rancho, Don Raymundo Carrillo the Mayordomo of San Julian, Gregorio Lopez for Don José Noriega and Don Francisco Cota, and being informed that I was going to measure the Rancho of Miguel Borders, they said that they understood the same signing with me and the assisting witnesses, to which I certify -

Nicolas A. Den -

Assist
Raymundo Carrillo

Assist
José M. Ortega

8 Whereupon, I the Judge appointed as

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measurers the citizen Manuel Dominguez and the neophyte Vendito, who after having accepted said appointment and made the necessary oath shall proceed to the discharge of their duty, in witness whereof I sign with the assisting witnesses

Nicolas A. Den

Asst. Asst.

Raymundo Carrillo José M. Ortega

At the same date and on the said Rancho, the citizen Manuel Dominguez and the neophyte Vendeto were notified of their appointment as measurers, whereupon they said that they accepted said appointment making the necessary oath that they would discharge their duty as such measurers legally and faithfully according to the best of their understanding and ability, with out fraud or deceit against any one whatever, making the sign of the cross because they could not write, to which I attest

Nicolas A Den

Asst Asst.

Raymundo Carrillo José M. Ortega

Manl Dominguez + Vendito +

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Whereupon, I, the said Alcalde, ordered a cord to be brought into my presence, with which to measure said lands, and that the measurers should measure the same to the length of fifty varas, signing with the assisting witnesses, to which I attest -

Nicolas A Den -

Asst - Asst -

Raymundo Carrillo, José Mª Ortega

Whereupon in my presence the said measurers, took a cord and with a vara of the usual mexican measure they measured off fifty varas for the purpose of making the said measure - ments.

In witness whereof, I sign with my rubric -

(Rubric)

At the same date, it being about nine O'clock in the morning, on the said Rancho, I, the said Alcalde, for the purpose of proceeding to the measurement of the lands of Miguel Cordero, I ordered the measurers to place themselves to the back of the house (of Cordero) and being at that

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place, the measurements were commenced by running the line to the West as far as the boundaries of Francisco Cota, to which point were measured two hundred cords of fifty varas; whereupon the measurements were continued from the Portezuelo of San Julian as far as the Cuchilla of Nojoqui, and from this point, to the South as far as the Puerta of Gabiota to which point were measured one hundred cords of fifty varas. Whereupon the said measurers said that the said Rancho was two leagues in length and one league in width, as shown by the diseño in the Espediente

In witness whereof, I sign with the assisting witnesses

Nicolas A. Den -

Asst. Asst.

Raymundo Carrillo José M. Ortega

On the said Rancho of Las Cruces, and on the same day, month and year Don Miguel Cordero, a resident of the Port of Santa Barbara, in company with the Alcalde and the assisting witnesses, he said; that the lands of this Rancho

having been measured, as shown by the foregoing proceedings, he took the true and corporal possession of the said lands, since they belonged to him by the just title which was issued to him by the Superior Govern-

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-ment of the Department, he entered upon and passed over said lands pulling up herbage, and scattering handfulls of earth, breaking branches of trees and making other demonstrations as a sign of the possession which he said he took of said land; whereupon I, the said Alcalde ordered that from that time forth, he should be consider-ed as the owner and possessor of the same.

Of all of which the said Miguel Cordero asked a testimony for the future security of his rights, which I the said Alcalde gave signing the same with the assisting witnesses

Nicolas A Den

Asst
Raymundo Carrillo

Asst
José Ma Ortega

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I, R. C. Hopkins, being duly sworn, depose and say; That, I am familiar with the Spanish language, and with the laws, usages and customs of the Governments of Spain and Mexico, in making grants of land in California, which familiarity has been acquired by many years of experience as Keeper of the Spanish Archives in the Office of the U. S. Surveyor General for California, which archives contain the original records of grants of land, made by the said Spanish and Mexican Governments of California.

I further certify, that the foregoing is a correct translation of an original record of a grant of land made by the Governor of California, to one Miguel Cordero of a place or Rancho called "Las Cruces"

I further certify, that I am familiar with the handwriting and signatures found in the original document, of which the foregoing is a translation; that I have carefully examined said handwritings and signatures, and that the same are genuine and that the same record of grant and of juridical possession, accompanying

the same, are in every respect genuine documents, and that said documents constitute what would have been considered a perfect grant under the Mexican Government of California

And I further certify that I am familiar with the section of country in which said tract of land is located, and that the boundaries of the same can, without difficulty, be ascertained from the calls of the title papers, and the diseño or map accompanying the same—

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R. C. Hopkins.

Subscribed ~~and~~ sworn to before me this 2d of February A.D. 1876

J. A. Robinson
U.S. Commissioner

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Rancho of ND

Las Cruces

Granted to

Miguel Enders

Translation

of

Original Expte

Filed in U.S. District Court
District of California October
11th 1879.
Southard Hoffman Clerk
By H. D. Grimwood
Deputy Clerk.

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In the U.S. District Court
in and for the District of California.

To the Hon Ogden Hoffman
Judge of said Court

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Now come Vincente Cordero, W. W. Hollister, Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee, and present this their petition and claim for certain lands situated in Santa Barbara County, California, known as the Rancho "Las Cruces" which petition and claim is made by authority of the Act of Congress passed June 19th 1878, entitled "An Act to authorize the claimants to certain lands in Santa Barbara County, California to submit their claim to the United States District Court for that State for adjudication", of which Act a true copy is herewith filed and marked Ex "A" and made a part of this petition.

That in accordance with said Act your petitioners respectfully represent.

That they are claimants and owners of said rancho to the extent of Two Hundred and Sixty Five shares out of a total of Four hundred and ~~and~~ Thirty-Two shares, the remaining One hundred and Sixty seven shares being held and owned by various parties as will more fully appear by the accompanying abstract of title marked Ex "B" which abstract is made a part of this petition.

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That this petition is presented by Vincente Cordero, W. W. Hollister, Albert Dibblee and Thomas B. Dibblee on behalf of themselves and of their Co-owners.

That all of the interests or ownerships in said Rancho are undivided.

That petitioners and their Co-owners deraign title to said lands through Miguel Cordero, the original Grantee of said Rancho.

That on the 2nd of May 1837, said Miguel Cordero petitioned the Governor of California for a grant of the place known as Las Cruces, which petition received due

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consideration from the Government, was favorably reported on by the proper Committees, approved by the Departmental Assembly, and a formal grant made to him of said lands by the Governor in the same month.

That as early as the year 1833, said Bordero had entered into possession of the lands so petitioned for and granted to him, and in 1845, he received "Juridical possession" that is to say he was formally placed in possession thereof by the proper officers authorized to do so by Mexican Laws, and in accordance with the decree.

That he died in May 1851 a few days after the passage of the Act of March 3rd 1851, leaving a widow and nine children, who were ignorant of the English language or of the laws and customs of americans, and especially of the requirements of said Act of March 3rd 1851, that all claimants to Mexican or Spanish Grants should present their claims to the Board of Land Commissioners,

within a certain limited time from that date, and consequently the claim for the confirmation of the said Grant of "Las Cruces" was never presented to the Board of Land Commissioners and the claimants to said Rancho were without remedy at Law therein until the passage of the said Act of June 19th 1878. That the claim of the original grantee was good and valid under Mexican Laws relating to such cases.

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That the lands so granted to Miguel Cordero are shown upon the accompanying sketch marked Ex "C" which map or sketch is made a part of this petition, and that the area thereof does not exceed Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight acres.

That there are not now nor have there ever been any valid claims existing to said lands or any part thereof under the pre emption or homestead laws of the United States.

That there are not now nor ever have been any persons in

possession of any portion of said lands under valid claims under the pre emption homestead or other laws of the United States. That there are no person or persons claiming said lands or any portion thereof under any title or claim of title whatsoever, but on the contrary all of said lands are in the quiet and exclusive possession of the petitioners and Co-owners, who derive title from said Miguel Cordero, and consequently there are no person or persons entitled to receive releases from said claimants as provided for by the said Act of June 19th 1878.

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Wherefore your petitioners pray for a decree from your honorable Court confirming the claim of petitioners and their Co-owners to the lands herein petitioned for and for such other general and special relief as there may be in the premises.

L. W. Pratt

Attorney for Plaintiffs
and Petitioners

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Public No. 125

An Act to authorize the claim-
=ants to certain lands in Santa
Barbara County California, to submit
their claim to the United States
District Court for that State for
adjudication.

Be it enacted by the Senate
and House of Representatives
of the United States of America
in Congress Assembled.

That the claimants to lands
situated in Santa Barbara County,
California, known as the Rancho
Las Cruces, who reraign title through
the original Mexican grantee of
said rancho, are hereby permitted
and authorized to present their
claim to said lands to the district
court of the United States for the
District of California for examin-
=ation; and if upon the hearing of
said case, it shall appear to said
Court that the claim of the original
grantee was good and valid under

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Mexican Laws relating to such cases, the said Court shall by decree confirm said claim: Provided, That no lands be confirmed to said claimants by said Act exceeding in area Eight Thousand eight Hundred and eighty-eight acres nor any lands to which there are any valid claims existing under the pre-emption or homestead laws of the United States at the date of the passage of this act; nor shall any decree of confirmation affect any valid adverse right of any other person or persons, or give to the confirmees, or any of them, any claim upon the United States for compensation for any lands such confirmees may lose by reason of pre emption or homestead claims or adverse rights as aforesaid: Provided further, that said claimants before filing their claim shall execute releases to any persons who may be in possession of any portion of said lands, under valid claims under the pre-emption, homestead or other

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laws of the United States at the date of the passage of this Act to the portions of said lands so held respectively; and before rendering a decree of confirmation the said Court shall ascertain that said releases have been duly executed.

Sec 2. That in case said claim is rejected by said Court then said claimants are hereby granted the right to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States within the time and in the manner now provided by law in like cases. The said Courts in the examination of the claims presented by any person under this Act, shall be governed, so far as applicable by the provisions of the Act passed March Third Anno Domini Eighteen hundred and fifty ~~four~~ one, entitled "An Act to ascertain and settle private land claims in the State of California"

Sec 3- That the United States Surveyor General for California is

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hereby directed, upon the filing in his office by said claimants of a certified copy of a final decree of confirmation, under the provisions of this Act, to cause said claim to be surveyed as other claims of like nature are now surveyed under existing laws; and upon the approval of said survey by the Commissioner of the General Land Office a patent shall issue to said claimants in the usual form.

Approved June 19, 1878

Department of State
February 25th 1879

A true Copy
[Signed] Worthington A. Brown
Chief Clerk

No: 430.
Land Register N.D. p 570

In the U.S. District
Court for the
District of California

Petition of Vicente Cordero
W. H. Hollister
et al
for Confirmation
of Las Cruces Rancho
under special act of
Congress dated
June 19, 1878.

Filed October 11th A.D. 1879
Southard Hoffman Clerk
By S. D. Grimwood
Deputy Clerk

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Service by
copy acknowledged
this 11- day of
October 1879.
Hollister Reade
& Story

PAGE.

In the District Court of the United States of America District of California

In the matter of the petition of Vicente Cordero. W. W. Hollister et als for confirmation of Las Cruces Rancho under a special act of Congress. dated June 19 1878

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The United States by its attorney denies the validity of the title set out in the petition of the said petitioners and prays that the said title be declared to be invalid

Philip Teare
U. S. District Attorney
for California.

Case 430

Land Register Vol. 2 p. 530

In the U.S. District Court
for the district of Cal

Petition of Vicente
Cordero W. H. Hollister
et als for confirmation
of Las Veruces Rancho
under special act of
Congress dated June 19
1878

Answer of the
United States

Filed October 23d 1879
Southard Hoffman
Clerk
By J. D. Grimwood
Deputy Clerk.

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In the matter of the
petition of
Vincente Lorders et al
for Confirmation of
Las Cruces Rancho

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~~Decree~~ This matter was this day brought on for hearing on the report of Mr Commissioner Hoffman to whom the same was heretofore referred to take the proofs and testimony herein, which report was filed this day. And after hearing J.C. Bates Esq. Attorney for the Claimants and W. E. Lovett Esq. Apistant U.S. Atty and it appearing from the admissions of the said Apistant U.S. Attorney that the proofs are ample and sufficient, and ~~the Attorney for the~~ the said Apistant U.S. attorney consenting to the signing and entering of the decree now presented by the Attorney for the Claimants it is ordered ~~that~~ said decree of Confirmation ~~as prayed be and the same is hereby~~ be signed and entered and that the Map Marked Exhibit "C" and heretofore filed herein be attached to and made part of said decree. And thereupon the final decree of Confirmation ~~herein~~ was was duly signed in open Court.

430.

Land Case =

U.S. District Court
Dist of California

Mre Petition of
Vincente Cordero et al
for Confirmation of
Las Cruces Rancho

Draft order for Decree

Aug 31 st, A.D. 1880

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In the District Court of the
United States in and for the
~~Northern~~ District of California

Present
The Hon. Ogden Hoffman

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Vicente Cordero
Wm W. Hollister
Albert Dibblee
Thomas B. Dibblee, et'als
Petitioners

Claiming under the special Act of Congress
of the United States approved June 19 1878
entitled "An Act to authorize the claim-
"ants to certain Lands in Santa Barbara
"County, California to submit their claim
"to the United States District Court for that
"State for adjudication"

vs

The United States

This cause came on regularly to be heard this
day upon the petition of said Vicente Cordero
Wm W. Hollister, Albert Dibblee and Thomas

B. Dibblee et als, claiming the lands described in their petition on file herein, under the provisions of the special Act of Congress therein before named, and known as the "Las Cruces" Rancho, in Santa Barbara County, California, J. C. Bates Esq. appearing for said petitioners, and Wm. E. Dovett Esq appearing for the United States, and it being shown to the satisfaction of this Court, from the oral and documentary proof submitted that the petitioners in this case deraign title through the original Mexican Grantee of said Rancho, Miguel Cordero, and that the claim of the original Grantee was good and valid under Mexican laws relating to such cases, and that the lands claimed in this case do not exceed in area eight thousand, eight hundred and eighty eight (8888) acres, and that on the date of the passage of the said Act of Congress (June 14 1878) there were no valid claims existing under the pre-emption or homestead laws of the United States to said lands or any part thereof, and that on said date

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there were no persons in possession of any portion of said lands under valid claims, under the preemption, Homestead or other laws of the United States, and all and singular the law and the premises being by the Court here understood and fully considered,

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Whereupon, It is by the Court hereby ordered, adjudged and decreed,

That the claim of the said petitioners, who deraign title from Miguel Cordero, the original Mexican Grantee is good and valid and the same is hereby confirmed and allowed.

The lands of which confirmation is hereby made are known as the "Las Cruces", situated in Santa Barbara County and are bounded and described as follows:—

On the South by that portion of the Rancho Nuestra Señora del Refugio which is known as the "La Gaviota."

On the West by the Rancho San Julian;

On the North by the Rancho Santa Rosa;

On the East by the Rancho Nojoqui, and the cuchilla or ridge of Nojoqui; and

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on the South East by a range of mountains; not to exceed within said limits an area of eight thousand, eight hundred and eighty eight (8888) acres, reference being had to a survey of said Rancho Las Cruces, made by W. N. Norway, as deliniated upon a plat filed in this case marked Exhibit "C" hereto annexed and made a part of this decree.

Done in open Court this 31 day of August A. D. 1880

Ogden Hoffman
District Judge

No: 430 ND
Land Register N.D. p: 520.

In the District Court
of the United States
in and for the ~~Northern~~
District of California

Vicente Cordero
et als
vs
The United States

Final Decree

Filed August 31st: A.D. 1880
Southard Hoffman Clerk
By R.D. Grimwood
Deputy Clerk.

Entered in Bk. 2 Judgments &
Decrees at page 301

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United States District Court
District of California

Petition of Vicente Cedros
W W Hollister et al,
for Confirmation of Las Cruces
Rancho -
Under Act of Congress June 19th 1878

San Francisco December 11th 1879 -
Present J.C. Bates Atty for Petitioners
W.L. Lovell Asst U.S. Atty for Interests

Thomas B Dibble was duly sworn
and deposed as follows -

2 What is your name Age residence
and occupation

Ans My age is 66. My name Thomas B
Dibble - Residence Santa Barbara
Occupation Wool Dealer -

2 Are you one of the Petitioners in this
matter

Ans I am I am one of the claimants -

2 Are you familiar with the premises
described in the Petition

Ans I am for over 16 years

2 What have been your opportunities for learning the condition of the land described in the petition — with reference to condition — possession occupation & ownership & claimants of the same — State fully —

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Ans

From the year 1863 to 1869 on the Rancho Lompoc which has about 2 hours distant from Las Cruces, and from 1869 to the present time ~~to~~ on the Rancho San Julian which adjoins Las Cruces I have been engaged in the sheep business & have resided on the first two named Ranchos — more or less of every year since 1863 — And have been in the constant habit of passing through the Rancho Las Cruces & have frequently been over every part of it — during all that time I have been well acquainted with all of the owners of Las Cruces — the land described in this petition with many residents upon it, their dwelling places & occupations

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The Rancho with the exception of a few small spots is occupied and used wholey for paying purposes -
All of the lands claimed in the Rancho from time above mentioned (1837) to present time - have been and is the sole possession and occupation of the successors in interest - of the original Rancho Miguel Cordero deceased -
During all that time there has been no other Claimant - nor any settlement or Squatter on any part of the lands -

2 Has there been any question or dispute between the Claimants themselves as to the title or possession of these lands - known as Las Cruces -

Ans There is none there has been - & I should have known had there been any - I am thoroughly with the title

2 Are you familiar with the title & the present ownership of the Rancho - if so give the name of owners

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2 I am thoroughly familiar with the title to said property carefully investigated at several times. The present ownership is as follows, viz Ticente Cardenas -

Maria Antonia Valenzuela de Cardenas
William W Hollister
Albert Dibble
Thomas B Dibble
Heirs of Isabel Cardenas de Valenzuela
Heirs of Candelaria N Arballares
Heirs of Bonifacio German
Heirs of Augustus J Dinsmore (deceased)
James M Short -

All of whom hold an undivided ownership

2 Is there any questions as to the rights of the above claimants as between themselves -

Ans None that I know of

2 Are you familiar enough with the Rancho Las Cruces (as claims by claimants here in) to give the boundaries - being on the land -

Ans I am -

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2 Have you had or caused any survey to be made - or has any survey been made of the Las Aneas Rancho

Ans I have not caused any survey to be made, but one has been made -

2 When & by whom was that survey made

Ans About five 57 years ago a survey of the Rancho was made by Wm N Norway - without any connection with me - but for some owners in the Rancho -

2 Who was Wm N Norway -

Ans Then for many years County Surveyor for Santa Barbara County now and for many years past - Deputy U.S. Surveyor -

2 Do you know how many of the boundary lines of this Rancho Mr. Norway has run, on the ground -

Ans I believe he has run all of them with the exception of the E. line - He sectionized all Township 5 and 6 N - Range 32 West San Bernardino Base & Meridian, as shown

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by the Official Township Plats — in which two Townships all the lands of Las Cruces are situated —
Many of these lines runs through the Rancho —

2 Please state the boundaries of Rancho Las Cruces —

Ans — In general terms — the Rancho extends from the San Julian Rancho on the west to the Cachilla or Ridge of Hojoqui and Rancho Hojoqui —
What is called the Cachilla or Ridge of the Hojoqui is a Ridge of Hills running about N. N.W. — parallel or nearly so, to the Eastern line of the Rancho San Julian & distant about 3 miles thereform — and this last-described boundary is the East boundary of the Las Cruces
1 The Northern boundary runs along the Rancho Santa Rosa — formerly belonging to Francisco Colata deceased — & strikes Eastern across & along Government-Land to the Western boundary of said Rancho Hojoqui

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The Southern boundary is that portion of Rancho Nuestra Senora del Refugio - called Rancho La Goleta
The South Eastern boundary is the North Western Slope of Rough Mountain
The length of the Rancho North & South is about 5 miles ~~or 6~~ & its width East & West about 3 miles

Q Do you know about many acres is contained within these boundaries

Ans within the boundaries claimed in these proceedings and described the area as computed by the said W.H. Norway Surveyor was 8872 acres - as near as I recollect. I know it is less than 8888 acres -

Exhibit "B" was shown to witness

Q Are you familiar with Exhibit B? (Refers to Petition)

Ans I am.

Q Is it correct

Ans It is -

Q Are the interests in said Rancho Las Cruces - divided or undivided

Ans Undivided

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2 From whom do the Petitioners & them & owners derive derive their title

Ans All of them from Miguel Cadena deceased - the original grantee & solely from him -

2 Do you Know Are you familiar with Exhibit "C" filed with it herein

Ans I am.

2 Do the red lines on Exhibit "C" correctly describe the boundaries of Las Cruces -

Ans The painted red lines correctly represent the said boundaries

2 Have the Claimants & their Ancestors always maintained their possession to the lands as indicated & represented by Exhibit "C"

Ans From 1863 to the present time I know that they have done so - & they have used and occupied all the land contained within the lines & they alone have done so -

2 Which ones if any of these Claimants are now living upon & occupying these lands

Ans Decendants - Sons of Miguel Cadena

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3

the partes is & has been since since
1862 & my knowledge living at the
time and of his father at Las Cruces
Maria Antonia Valenzuela de Cedeno
the family - some of whom are
married & Leave families are
living on the Rancho -
The family of Candelaria & Arellanes
and some of the Children of Isabel
Cedeno de Valenzuela & their
husband, are living there &

Further hearing was continued until
tomorrow December 12th 1879 at 9.30 Am

December 12th 1879
Present W. Lovell Esq - U.S. Atty - and
F. A. Hyde Esq Representing Wm J. C. Bates,
& Thomas B. Doolee Esq

2 What is the meaning of the word Las Cruces
& Why was that name applied to this Rancho
Ans - Las Cruces means "the Crosses" The
application, as I understand it, is - Where
the ridges or hills cross one another,
in this Rancho there is a Ridge

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running along the North side of San Julian towards the East - Continuing more or less to the Rancho Nojoqui which is intersected by a ridge on the West side of Las Cruces - Cooping it - running to Santa Rosa - and on the East side of Las Cruces by the ridge known as La cuchilla de Nojoqui which runs in a general North North West direction - of the which continuing nearly North and joining the West boundary of Rancho Nojoqui as patented It is the cooping of these ridges which gives the name to the Rancho - as I understand it.

2 Are you familiar with the diseño or Map of said Rancho - which forms part of the Expediente in this case

Ans I am

Filing was shown a Certified Copy of the diseño found among the papers files in Clerks Office U.S. Dist Court Dist Cal Oct 11 1870 in this proceeding

2 Do you recognize this having as a

Copy of the Original descend —

Objected to by the U.S. Atty on the ground that it is secondary & incompetent,

Ans I recognize it so far as my recollection goes not ~~being~~ having the Original before me - but being familiar with it.

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I recollect & recognize distinctly the principal points of topography & the land marks.

Q Upon said map two points marked "A" State what points those are

Ans They are as designated on the descend was Hills of Santa Rosa

Q Refer to Exhibit - "C" & designate those points thereon -

Ans Points out on Exhibit - "C" two spots One being near the SW Cor of Sec 24 & the other being near the NW Cor of Sec 27 in Township 6 N R 32 W

Q State what point or object - is represented by the letter "B" on said descend.

Ans It designates the Canon coming from Rancho San Julian

Q Please designate that point on Exhibit "C"

Ans. Witness here points the locality on Exhibit "C" in Section 16 - 5 N R 32 West - Where is designated the word "Field" on the N side of the Canon & on the South side the words "Isabel Cruces de Valenzuela"

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Q What point is it that is designated on said desend ~~as Exhibit~~ by Witness "D"

Ans It is the mouth Canon leading to the Port or Landing of the "Jacola"

Q Please designate said point on Ex "C"

Ans Witness here points out on Exhibit "C" a spot on the South line of Sec 21 ~~Sec~~ Township 5 N Range 32 West - Where the Las Cruces Creek crosses the line of Ranch "La Jacola" near the spot marked "Field" Which Witness explains to be enclosed by a fence of Redwood poles on the East side of the Creek road -

Q Upon the said desend there appears to be a Canon running nearly the entire length thereof - please state

What name that bears on the ground
Ans Canada de Las Cuces — it is
Sometimes called, also, "Juan Cordero
Canon"

Q State what the point marked "O"
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on said desens is.
Ans It is the Canada or valley coming
from the ridge of the Mojqui

Q Please designate that Canada on
Exhibit "C"
Ans Witness has designated the Canada
Mojqui which runs from a point
in section 11 to a point in sec 16
When it joins the Canada las cuces

Q What points are designated on the
desens by letters "E"
Ans Mesky hills

Q Who has paid the taxes on this
Rancho since you first knew
it —
Ans The family of Miguel Cordero & their
successors & owners of the land at the
time.

Mr. Lovett & Atty Objects to much of
the above questions and answers
as refer to the quantity & boundaries

of the Las Cruces Rancho - as being
incompetent - Secondary

Cross Examination by W Elliott Esq
Asst U.S. Attorney

Q Are you a Practical Surveyor
or Civil Engineer

Ans I am not

Q Do you know of your own personal
knowledge that the map marked
Exhibit "C" corresponds exactly
with the Act of Judicial possession
in the Expediente of Las Cruces Rancho

Ans I cannot say that it corresponds
exactly for the reason that exact
lines as boundaries were not defined
by judicial possession - but from
my familiarity with the ground & the
clear identification & meaning of the
judicial possession, as I understand
it, it does correspond
I think the topography Land marks
correspond remarkably well -

Thomas B Dibble

Subscribed & Sworn to before me
this 12th day of December A.D. 1849 Leonard Stoffregen
Comr

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United States District Court
District of California

Petition of Ricuti Cooper
Wm Hollister et al.
for confirmation of Las Cruces Rancho.
Under Act of Congress June 14 1858

Monday January 12th 1880
Present - W. Hyde for claimants and
W.E. Lovett Asst. U.S. Atty for U.S.
and witnesses -

W.H. Norway was duly sworn & deposed as follows -
Reside in Santa Barbara and am a Surveyor by occupation.
2 When did you first become acquainted with the tract of land known as Las Cruces
Ans About the year 1866.
2 What have been your facilities for knowing said Rancho, its boundaries & stones -
Ans I have made various Surveys officially as U.S. Deputy Surveyor and privately of all the adjoining Ranches as

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well as a Jurat survey made of this Ranch for one of the then owners I have been well acquainted at all times from 1886 with the owners of Las Animas -

Q In what year did you make this survey of Las Animas From what data.

Ans About 1870 Correct as I can remember - I made it from having in my possession a copy of diseño - furnished me by the US Surveyor General

Bishop has asked to look at Map marked Exhibit "C S.H." State what that represents

Ans That represents a survey I made of "Las Animas" in surveying the surrounding Ranches. I also ran all of the lines on the Jurat.

Q Does the survey as made by you & depicted = lines on said plat - include more than 8800 acres.

Ans It does not

Q Are you familiar with the diseño in the Expediente of said Rancho -

Ans I am

Q Is it or is it not a faithful map

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3

Am of the County it is supposed Represent-
It is one of the more perfect ranch of any
Ranch in the State
I have had occasion daily to
examine many of them & done-
know of one that represents the
County which it purports to do as
well as this one does

2 Look at said deseno, Calif. Copy
attached to the Petition files herein,
& point out on Exhibit "C" the location
of the point marked "aa" at the
upper end of said deseno - & then
state that point come on Exc "C SX."

Am Bring point out on Exc C the red
line on the northern boundary of
Las Cruces & the green line on southern
boundary of the Santa Rosa as
corresponding to "aa" on the deseno

2 Point out on Exhibit - C the location
of the point "B" as shown on deseno

Ans Bring point out. the junctions of
the Canada St Julian the Canada
Najoqui & Canada Las Angeles in
Sec 16 Township 5 North Range 32
West S.B.M.

4

2 Point out on Exhibit "C" SN the places marked "E" on the draw-

Ans Witness designates on Ex C the red line marking the Eastern boundary of Las Cruces - & also the red line marking the Western boundary of "Las Cruces"

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2 Witness was here shown a certified copy of the record of Judicial possession found in the Expediente of this Land- and attached to the Petition filed herein from which I read as follows -

" At the same date it being about
" 9 O'clock in the morning on the said
" Rancho I the said alcalde for the
1 purpose of proceeding to the measurement
" of the Lands by Miguel Cordero I
4 ordered the measurers to place
4 themselves at the back of the house
" of Cordero" Please designate on Ex
C the location of that house as it existed at that time

Ans Witness here designates the house marked on Exhibit "C" Isabel Cordero. Dec 16.

2 I now read on - "The measurements
" were commenced by running the line to
4 the West- as far as the boundaries

5

" of Francisco Cota which point was
" measured 200 rods of Fifty Varas "
State what you understand by this
measurement —

Ans 430 ND PAGE 130

The measurement should have been described as running North instead of West - and it is so shown on the diseño - In the crude ideas of measurement at that time such mistakes were frequently made - The Francisco "Cota" named was at that time the owner of the San Rosa Rancho -

The distance as given by the measurement would be something like 5 Miles & corresponds with the Northern boundary as laid down on Exhibit "C"

2 Question from the said Baker
" Whereupon the measurements were
" continued from the Portezuelo of San
" Julian as far as the Cuchilla of
" Najoque" Who is the Portezuelo —

Ans The Portezuelo is a Pass in the mountain, an opening or divide between two walls making points on the Portezuelo as being in line by on the local

boundary of Las Cruces "East-
boundary of Rancho San Julian
2 When would that measurement-
just reach go to
Ans It would go across the Ranch
& the Eastern boundary of the Ranch
as shown on Exc C SN.
& Cochillo means the summit of
a range of mountains. In this case
it means the ~~same~~ a range of hills
dividing the Valley of Majoque that
of Las Cruces.
2 Does said Sahibel C correctly represent
the location of Cochillo de Majoque
Ans It does.
2 I again read from the record of
Lindsaie possession
"And from this point to the South
" as far as the Punto of Gabiota to
" which point was measured One
" hundred Cords of 50 Varas".
State what you understand by said
measurement
Ans. From this measurement as given
it would appear that the last line
has commenced from Cochillo Majoque

7

at a point on said Cahuilla in the
11 marked Francisco Arduo from
thence run to about what is now
the South line of Sec 21 on the Las
Animas creek. which also forms
the North line of Rancho Sabobba
The land Pueta of Sabobba means
a pass of or entrance to the Las
Animas.

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2 From your acquaintance with the
County do you think that the
Assess Record of Syndicate possess
is sufficiently clear & definite: so that
any surveyor of Ordinary ability
could locate & survey the said land
therefrom

Ans Yes the Assess is very perfect-
2 How often since 1868 have you
been on the Las Animas Rancho
Ans I have been there frequently
2 Were there on the 19th day of June 1878
any Persons in possession of any
portion of the lands designated upon
Exh "C" as being within the Bounds
of Las Animas, except the part claimed
themselves or those holding under them

Ans Thru were none claiming adversely to the Rancho title

2 Do thru at present any person claiming adversely to the Rancho claimants in this case

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Ans I cannot answer for the present time positively but can say positively that a year ago there were none

2 Have you ever known of any person claiming any portion of the Rancho adversely to the Rancho Claimants

Ans I never have - The had has always been respected as being a good title

2 What is the total value of the improvements owned & put upon said Rancho by the said claimants

Ans It is accepted as a stock Rancho the improvements are worth say about $5000 -

2 Are you familiar with the Spanish Land in Cal -

Ans I am certain portions of them I have made official surveys & examinations of titles of land

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9

2 Are you familiar with the process required by Mexican Law to obtain title of land?

Ans I am

2 Without considering the Mexican & French- Thiel claim to this land & the Board of Land Commissioners What is your opinion as to its validity- & the regularity of the proceedings before the Mexican Government-

Ans I consider it a perfect- fraud- & title & it is so universally believed.

2 Have you any interest- in this Land

Ans None whatever -

The Ats Objects to so much of the foregoing questions and answers as refer to the process required by Mexican Law to obtain title of land & to the boundaries & quantity of land comprised in the Act- of Juridical possession - as being incompetent & secondary

W.H. Norvell

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United States District Court
District of California

Petition of Francis Cadero
Wm Hollister et als
for Confirmation of Las Cruces
Rancho
Under Act of Congress June 14th 1858

San Francisco March 8th 1880
Present W Hoult Asst US Atty
FH Hyde for Petitioner
Hildreth & Tuttle

Wm J A Forbes appears from the
Office of the Surveyor Genl of the US
for California as Custodian &c
the Original Expediente of Las Cruces
Wm Forbes was duly sworn as
Interpreter
Juan B Alvarado being duly
sworn deposed as follows
My name is Juan B Alvarado
My age is 71 & Justice in San
Pablo Contra Costa County

2

2 In the year 1834 - did you Occupy any Official position under the Mexican Govmt - if so - what-

Ans Yes I was the Political Chief of Calo

2 As such Political Chief what powers had you in the matter of granting the Public Lands -

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Ans The powers given by Mexican the Colonization laws to grant Public Lands -

It is admitted by Mr Lovell for the Ld. that Juan B Alvarado was the Political Chief that he had all the powers granted by the Laws of Mexico to make grants of land of the public domain -

2 As such Political Chief did you have the power to grant Lands as a reward for important Services rendered the Govmt

Ans Yes Sir -

2 Did you know Miguel Avila

Ans Yes -

2 Do you remember the circumstance of a grant made by you to him at that time

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3

Ans Yes

2 In consequence of what has that
fraud made to him

Ans In giving him the title Stocks into
Consideration the fact that he had
been an Old Soldier that done
fraud-Lewis & Tim Tumley

2 What Lands were then passed to
him by you -

Ans Los Cuces it seems to me

2 Now present to you the original
Expediente of the ~~Lands~~ fraud of
Lands perpetuity & have been
made by you & Miguel Cortes -
please examine the same
& tell if they are genuine

Ans Yes in this Expediente is genuine
in all its parts

2 Look at the title page thereof &
marked page No "1" & tell in whose
handwriting it is

Ans It is my writing

2 Look at page No 2 & whose handwriting
is that in - the "marginal Note"

Ans It is in the handwriting of Victor Cardenas
my Secretary

Q. Look at the Signature to said Mayorale Decree & state if that is your genuine Signature

Ans. Yes Sir it is my Signature

Q. Look at the Decree of Concession on page No "7" & state if the Signature there is yours -

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Ans. Yes that is my Signature

Q. It appears by the Expediente that Miguel Cordero had previously & that time viz in 1835 received a grant of the same Lands from Mariano Chico then Political Chief how do you account for the fact that he should have again applied to you for & received a second grant after the lands having been granted by your predecessor

Ans. My Conclusion is that Miguel Cordero presented a Petition asking for the Land & not knowing whether the Expediente had been Completed, the Record remained in Monterey & Mariano Chico left the County suddenly - Miguel Cordero afterwards made a petition to me for the same Land

Which I granted

Q. Are you conversant with the legal proceedings necessary to obtain a valid perfect grant under the Mexican laws.

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Ans Yes.

Q What is the first step required

Ans The petition of the interested party

Q Was such petition made in due form by Miguel Cardis in this case

Ans Yes.

Q What is the second step necessary

Ans A Map - diseño

Q What such Map or diseno finished in this case

Ans Yes.

Q What was the next step

Ans. The reports that the Political Chief of the Jurisdiction should procure to be taken concerning the land & the petitioner himself --

Q Was such a report made in this case

Ans Yes - Whatever appears in the Expediente I thought necessary & do not think any thing else necessary

Q What was the next step required after this information – the Governor issued the fiat

A Was such a fiat issued in this case according to law

Q Yes Sir

A What was the next step necessary

Ans ~~It would~~ The Expedients would be forwarded to the departmental Authority for approval

Q Was that done in this case

Ans It seems to me that it was

Q And was the fiat approved by the departmental Authority

Ans Yes –

Q What was the next step necessary

Ans As a general thing Judicial powers has given

Q Was that done in this case

Ans Yes Sir

Q Have you detailed all the steps necessary to make a perfect title

Ans Yes Sir

Q Have you carefully examined the Expedients now before you

Ans Yes Sir

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7

Q Have you had much experience in the matter of Land grants from the Mexican Government-

Ans Yes Sir

Q Have you ever seen a more perfect grant - than this grant of Las Cruces -

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Ans This is as perfect as any other one can be, with the difference that some may contain more circlestances than others

Cross Examination by W Lovell Esq Asst U.S. Attorney

Q Please look at the petition in the Expediente of 1837 Tell me who it is signed by

Ans ~~Jose de Leon~~ Jose Adela Guerra y Carrillo who signed for the petitioners

Q Look at that portion of the Expediente containing a letter addressed to the Alcalde at Santa Barbara dated Oct 30 1845 Tell me who it is signed by

Ans It is signed in the name of Miguel Cordero

Q How do you account for the petition being signed by another party for

8

Miguel Cardes in 1837 & the document addressed to the Alcalde Santa Barbara in 1845 being signed by Miguel Cardes

Ans. It was a general custom in the County that other persons did not know how to write - & other persons would sometimes write the name of the party sometimes write their own name as by request of the party

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2 Please look de the Espediente of Santa Gertrudes & have been made by you on the 11th May 1837 & State if you find a name that preceding that of Miguel Cardes and erased then do you account for that

Ans. This is a mistake of the Secretary who made a mistake in thinking of Cardes the person - it is a clerical error & nothing else because I know the person for Lepulveda never petitioned for land in the jurisdiction that I know of

9 Do you Know of your own knowledge ~~who is~~ in whose possession this Espediente was between May 11 1837 & the 22d day of January 1872

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Q When it Expects Shall been Deposited
in the Office of the U.S. Surveyor General
for California

Ans I dont know

Q Look at the Joint Expediency Shall
been made in 1838 The Whose name
is Signed to the Petition there

Ans Miguel Cedros

Q Does it appear Shall been signed by
himself or by some one else at his
request

Ans It doesnt Say at his request
they omited putting that — as
Said before Sometimes it has put
as at request Sometimes it hasnt

Q If a person Cannot write ought he not
to Sign the Petition himself

Ans If he Cannot write he Cannot do so —
but if he come sick or had any
other impediment — Another person
Could do it for him

Ans Please look at the Expediente of
1835 on page 11 — State whether
you find your Signature there
Dated Augt 9th 1836

Ans. Yes Sir it is my Signature

2 What is that Signature Attached to

Ans. It is the Official of the Departmental Assembly

2 Did you sign that in an Official Capacity? If so in what capacity

Ans Yes Sir I did I was the President

2 If you signed that as President of the Dept[l] Assembly in Aug[t] 1836, did you not know on May 11 1837 that Miguel Ordeno ~~already~~ there had a grant confirmed or approved by the Dept[l] Assembly

Ans I may not have remembered that a grant had been made to Miguel Ordeno in early times - the grant was made in Santa Barbara & there was no record & no Remonstrant Secretary & in some me of that grant had been made

2 Had you power under the laws & usages to make a grant of land for a tract already granted ten months previous by the Judge[s] 10 months before

Ans Yes In the present case I acted because the grantee had not secured

11

His papers by some negligence

2 Sir have stated in your direct exam
inations that you had power & make
grants for Military services & for the
purposes of Aboriginal & Apocallens
and that you made this grant in
1837 took into Consideration that
Original Orders had been an Old
Order — please look at Expedents
of 1837 & state whether it is recited
in any portion of any thing in
relation to Military services

Ans Here it is on page 3 — which says
"My advanced age my merits
"Attracted in the Service of the
"Army — besides these circumstances, the
"Commendation
"made to me by my Officers"

2 Please look at the grant made by
you in May 1837 & see if you find
any reference made to Military
Services or for what particular
purpose the grants is made

Ans It is not so expressed in the grant but
it was entered by me personally

2 When were the Public Record of
Land grants on 11th May 1837 — a-

the time you made the Sand to
Miguel Cordero
Ans They lone in Monterey
2 Was it a custom to make Land
Sands at a distance from the
Anchors, as far as Sta Barbara
is from Monterey
Ans Yes sir I did it - the custom
established was that Land make
Sands from any place where there
was found & consequently Sands
were made by me from Los Angeles
to Sta Barbara & the Places the
Sands have been confirmed by
the U.S. Court.

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2 Was there any Law Juick under the
Mexican Colonization Laws of 1824
or any other Mexican Law passed
Authority
since for making Sands of Land
at a distance from the Public
Anchors & the records of Sands
made.
Ans The Law does not Specify that Circumstance
Redirect by Mr. Hyde
2 Was there any provision of Law
that prevented you from making a

Grant of land from any place
you maybe - Choose to
Ans There was nothing to prohibit me

Juan B. Thirard

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Subscribed sworn to before me this 8th day of March
1880 - Richard H Truman
Comp US Land-Office Cal

Jh Forbes Jr was duly sworn & deposed
as follows -

2 Are you the present Custodian of
the Original Expediente - embracing
the two grants of 1835 & 1839 to
Miguel Ordeno of the lands known
as Las Cruces -

Ans Yes Sir -

2 What is your occupation

Ans I am employed in the U.S. Surveyor
Generals Office in Cal^a in the
Dept of the Spanish Archives

2 Are the papers now in your possession
the same papers that were pre-
sented to Juan B Alvarado
upon which his testimony was
taken

Ans Yes Sir They are the same

2 From whence did you obtain the said papers.

Ans From the files of Expedients in the Archives of the Surveyor Genl of the U.S. for Cal.a

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2 Under what authority did you appear here a Custodian of these papers

Ans Under the authority of the Surveyor Genl for Cal. who appointed me Custodian & bring them here.

2 Are you familiar with the proceedings required under Mexican Laws to make a perfect grant of land

Ans I think I am

2 Have you examined the Expedients of Las Cruces now in your possession

Ans I have

2 In your opinion have all of the steps been taken that were required under Mexican Laws in the matter of said Land

Ans All except the issuance of the grant

2 What do you find relative to the issuance

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of the Grant

Ans. The Grant does not appear to be in the Expediente

Cross Examined by Wilmot Kitchell Esq

2 Please read the concluding portion of what purports to be the Grant made by Gov Alvarado May 11th 1837 - Commencing after the figures 1828 - "Let the corresponding title

Witness reads "issue & let note be taken of the same
" in the corresponding book & this
" Expediente forwarded to the most
" excellent Deputation for its superior
" approval - in which case the interested
" party having knowledge of the decree
" will present his title anew for confir-
" mation"

2 You have stated in your direct examination that you understood the steps necessary to procure title under Mexican laws - please state now if it is not your opinion that this Expediente should have been left at the Governor so that he might issue title to the land embraced therein

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Ans My Opinion is that the title was issued as it appears that the grant made was opposed by the Territorial Deputation but that no Copy of the Same was attached to the Expediente.

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2 Please look at the Concluding portion of this Grant, The Spanish, Read from there down in English

Interpreter reads "So I Agnor Don Juan B Alvarado Governor ad interim of the State and Presidio of the most Excellent Deputation of the Same Ordered Decreed & Signed & Which I attest"

Signed Juan B Alvarado
Victor Prudhon Secy

Redirect=

2 Do not the papers in the case demonstrate conclusively that a grant was made by Gov Alvarado & Imperial Cordova of the Lands known as Las Animas

Ans Yes Sir

2 Wherein Said Papers do you find the Grant referred to

Ans In Several Places reference is made

17

to the Same-

J. Alexander Forbes Jr.

Subscribed Sum to before me this 8th day
of March 1850 Lovilland Hoffman
Comp US Circ Dist Cal

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It is admitted on the part of the U.S.
that a reference to the Expediente of
Ingnacio Coduco is found in Jimeno
Casey's in Drakes Compilation there
referred to as an Expediente never
having been submitted to the Land Comrs.
That is to say the part of 1838—

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United States District Court -
District of California

Petition of Vicente Cordero
vs Hollister et al
for Confirmation of Las Cruces Rancho.
Under Act of Congress June 19th 1858

San Francisco June 22d 1880 -

Present Wm Coote Asst US Attorney -
and Wm Hyde for Claimant - and Interpreter

J Alexander Forbes being duly sworn
deposed as follows -

2 Are you the same J Alexander Forbes
who has previously appeared as a
witness in this case

Ans Yes sir -

2 In your former testimony you state
that the Expediente of this Rancho
produced by you at that time was
regular and perfect - except that
the Original plan was missing -
Since that time have you made
any search in the Archives Juris

Office for that Original paint, and
if so, with what success
Ans. I have made a search for the paint-
I have found it.
2 When did you find it
Ans I found it among some loose papers
relating to all kinds of matters -
2 Have you said Original paint in your
custody - if so - produce it
Ans Yes sir I have it here -
paint was exhibited to the Asst. U.S.
Attorney - Who made no Objections to the
paint -
2 You stand on your former examination
that you were employed in the Archive
Dept of the Ast Surveyor Genls Office -
do you still retain that position
Ans Yes sir I do
2 Is the Original document which you
have just produced a part of the
record of said Office
Ans Yes sir It is one of the papers
contained in a book of "Documents deposited"
2 This document appears by endorsement
to have been deposited by Eugene Leis
in behalf of the Claimants

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3

Was it customary when a grant was made by the Mexican Government to deliver a copy of the grant & the grantees

Ans Sometimes the Original grant would be delivered & the grantees together with a certified copy of the grant and the approval by the Departmental Assembly — leaving always — or nearly always a copy of the proceedings in the Archives of the Juzgado —

Ans Sometimes the grant alone would be delivered & the party — in order that they might present the same and obtain the Juridical possession of the land granted

2 It would appear from that in this case — the Original grant was delivered & the grantee

Ans Yes sir

2 Was it been customary for the grantees of the different grants & deposit them grants in the Surveyor Generals Office

Ans In nearly all the cases that have presented to the Land Commission

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the Original Plans were presented by the Claimants - and in other Claims which were not presented the Original documents - Whether Plans or Record of proceedings were deposited in the Surveyor Genals Office

Q From the time of the delivery of such Original Plans & the Plantes under the Mexican Govmt - up to the time that petitions for confirmations were made & the Board of Land Commissioners, or United States in the Office of the U.S. Surveyor General, Who were the proper Custodians of said Original Plans

Ans The Original Plantes or his successors

2 Are you well acquainted with the Signature of Juan B Alvarado -

Witness has shown the Plan - and asked if that was the Signature of Alvarado -

Ans I am well acquainted with Signature of Juan B Alvarado and recognise it as his attached to the Plan -

2 Are you acquainted with the Signature of Victor Prudon Secretary of the Departmental Assembly

5

Cr Lane

2 Is that his genuine Signature on said paper

Ans The original of the Defendants Affidavit is in his hand writing and the Signature is genuine

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Cross Examined by Asst. Dist Atty Lovell

2 Mr State in your direct examination that in this case the Original paper has delivered to the parties — do you find any thing in the Original paper or in the Expedients concerning that

Ans I have said that the paper was delivered to the parties — because that was done in nearly every Concession that has made and also because in the Decree of Concession, dated May 11th 1837, in Expedient — and 1837 the Governor Orders that the parties & the interested party —

2 Is that all that you can find in reference to the delivery of the paper — either in the Original paper — or in the Expedients

6

Ans That is all + Coupled with the fact that the paul was presented by the claimant, I consider as sufficient proof that the paul was delivered as ordered by the Governor —

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Q You have spoken, in your direct-Examination, of the appeal by the Departmental Assembly — the appeal being by the Excellentissima Deputation as shown by the paul — do I understand by that, that the terms Excellentissima Deputation and Departmental Assembly are convertible terms — meaning One and the same body

Ans Yes Sir — At one time there was a Territorial Deputation and at another time Departmental Assembly both had the same powers and the only diffence was in the name

Q Please look at the body of the appeal by the Excellentissima Deputation & to the signature of Francisco J Alvarado attached thereto & state whether it appears to you to be written by Alvarado or by Pendon

Ans It is written by Pendon

7

2 Do I understand that the ~~Signature~~ names
of Francisco J Alvarado and José
R Estrada are also in the hand
writing of Sandoval -

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Ans The Original Appeal of the
Territorial Deputation or of the
Departmental Assembly was never
or scarcely ever written on the paper
itself - but on the record of proceedings
and immediately thereafter an
authentic Copy of the same would
be made, writed on the same paper
or annexed to the paper, as is the
case here - and the same delivered
to the Parties

2 This Action then of the Territorial
Assembly on this point is called for
& by Victor Prudon as Secy ad
interim -

Ans It is, and by the Governor

J. Alexander Forbes Jr.

Jno C Hyde for Claimant - Offers in evidence

"Ex 1 Hyde" 1 Traced Copy of the Expediente in Case No 68 - being the grant & Original Corres in 1835. Said Copy being Certified by the U.S. Surveyor General Cal^a

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"Ex 2 Hyde" 2 Traced Copy of the Expediente in case No 137 being the grant of 1837 to Miguel Cordero. Certified by the U.S. Surveyor General Cal^a

"Ex 3 Hyde" 3 Traced Copy of the Original grant referred to in the testimony of J Alexander Forbes immediately preceding - Certified by U.S. Surveyor General Cal^a

"Ex 4 Hyde" 4 Traced Copy of the record of Juridical Possession of 1845 - of Las Cruces grant & Original Orders Certified by U.S Surveyor Genl Cal^a

Ex 44 Wyde

1845

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B

Seccion Judicial en favor
de D. M. Ellis Cordero del
Paraje Nombrado las Cruzes

Deposited in office of U. S. Sur Genl
by Albert Dibble January 22d 1872
R C. Hopkins
Keeper of Archives.

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S. Alcalde 1.º de S.ta Barbara

Mig.l Cordero Vecino de este Partido ante la justificacion de S.ª Comparezco y Digo q.e habiendo obtenido la concesion en propiedad del Terreno denominado con el nombre de las Cruces por justo titulo espedido en mi favor por el Sup.or Gob.no Departamental de V.S. suplico se sirva darme la posesion Juridica de estilo con arreglo al referido titulo y diseño respectivo, cuyos documentos devidam.te acompaño Sirviendose admitir esta ínt.a en papel comun por no traher del sello q.e corresponde. Sitio no proceder demanda

S.ta Barb.a octu.e 30. de 1845.

Miguel Cordero

1 Pta

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Barsa octa 2. de 1845

En virtud de la antecedente solicitud proceda a poner el presente oficio de la medicion señalamto de linderos y posesion judicial del terreno de las Cruces q.e solicita el interesado en este espediente, con arreglo a los Documtos q.e acompañan señalando para efectuarlo el dia dos del proc.mo Noviembre para lo q.e se citaran con Boletos de compareciendo ante los Colindantes, asi yo el Alcalde lo mandé decreto y firmé actuando por Receptoria con testigos de asist.a por falta de escribano nacional y publico de q.a doy fé

Nicolas A Dem

Asist.a
Raym.do Carrillo

Asist.a
José M.a Ortega

En la Ysla. presente. D Miguel Cox dexo sele notificase el auto q.e antecede y de el entendido dijo q.e le halla y se da por citado y lo firmo conmigo.

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y los de mi asist.a Don Pé

Nicolas A. Den

asist.a
Raym.o Carrillo

Miguel Cordero asist.a

Jose M. Ortega

En la misma Pta. se libraron los Boletos q.e manda el primero proveido, y para q.e conste por diligencia lo rubrigare

En el Rancho de las Cruces alos Dos Dias del mes de Nove de mil Ochocientos Quarenta y tres en Cumplim.to de la cita librada alos Cotitulante del Esperado Rancho Comunero D. Raym.o do Carrillo, el mayordomo de d.n Julian Gregorio Lopez, por D. José Ortega, y D. Francisco Cota, y entendidas de q.e se trata apersonarse alas Medicion señalam.to de linderos, y posesion en fuerza de Dilig.a Cordena, dijeron quedan entendidos y para Constancia lo firmaron Conmigo y los de mi asist.a de q.e Doy fe

asist.a
Raym.o do Carrillo

Nicolas A. Den

asist.a
Jose M. Ortega

Fran.co Cota

Gregorio Lopez

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Seguida yo el Juez de estos Autos nom
bré por Medidores en la presente
posesion a los Ciudadanos Manl Domg.z
y el Neofito Penedito quienes predió
la aceptacion y Juram.to que hicieron
el desempeño de su Encargo y para
Constancia lo pongo por Diligencia
y Firmo con los dem.s Asist.tes de q.n
Doy Fé

Asist.a Nicolas Alden Asist.a
Raym.o de Castillo José M.a Ortega

En la Sta y en el expresado Dia
Mes y Año notifiqué el Auto y Comi-
sion a los Ciudadanos Manuel Domin
guez y Neofito Penedito, y entendi
dos de el dijeron q.e aceptan y a-
ceptaban dho encargo de Medidores
y juraron por Dios N.tro Sr y
una Señal de Cruz de Mandado fiel
y legalm.te actuar en lo q.e sabe y
entender sin dolo ni fraude contra
persona alguna, y lo firmaron con
una Cruz porno Saber escribir m.e
tomi y los de mi asist.a de q.n Doy
Fé.

Asist.a Nicolas Alden Asista
Raym.o de Castillo José M.a Ortega

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Manl Dominguez ∫ Venditos ∫

Incontinenti ya el Jefe de este Alcalde mandó traer ante su presencia un cordel de mecates y reatas con que se anduvo dicho los tierras de dho Rancho y que los medidores nombrados asistan de asistencia Varas 6 q.e firmo con los de mi asist.a doy fé

Nicolas Alt Dem
asistas
asist
Ramon. Camacho. J.
José M.l Ortega

En seguida y en presencia de mi el expresado Alcalde los medidores mencionados tomaron un cordel compuesto de reatas y mecates y con una Vara de media usual Mexicana Midieron sesenta Varas para hacer la referida Medicion y para q.e conste lo rubrigué

En la misma fha siendo como las nueve de la mañana en el expresado Rancho, yo dho Alcalde para proceder á la medicion de tierra q.e se trata hacer q.e d Mag.l Cordero, mandé á los medidores nombrados se pongan detras de

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Se Casa, y puestos en dicho lugar se comenzó la medida teniendo el cordel, Rumbo al Oeste hasta el Arroyo de D Baltasar Cota, y se midieron Docientas cordeles de a Veinte Varas, en seguida se prosiguió la medida de de el Poniente de dicho Arroyo de San Julian hasta la Cuchilla de Majoqui. y de esta Rancho al Sur ala Punta de la Sabiota, y se midieron Sien cordeles de á Veinte Varas cada uno y se hallaron Nueve Mil Quinientas Varas, medidas Como el dicho Rancho de las Cruces Dos Leguas de Largo y una de Ancho Acompañado. a este expediente del Diseño q. se Pide para el Terreno mencionado, y para Constancia lo firme por ante con los testigos de mi Asist.a Dey Dé

Asist.o Nicolas Alden Asist.a
Hayes Ramirez Miguel Ortega

En el referido Rancho de las Cruces y en el mismo día mes y año D. Miguel Cordero Vecino del Pueblo de Stal Paso, de Acompañado del Alcalde y testigos de asist.a de ellos antes dicho q. habiendo medido las Tierras de este Rancho segun consta en el Auto anterior, tomada y toma la Cordelera y Composicion de Dhas. Tierras Medidas

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mes le pertenecen por justo titulo
q.e obtiene dela concesion q.e del
citado le hizo el Sup.or Gob.no del
Departam.to Cuzco y para q.e por ella
amparado tenga posesion pacifica
de tierras Dompes Pennas de los
Arboles é hizo otra de mostrados
y actos de posesion en señal q.e
la q.e dejo tomada de dhas. tierras
y yo Dho. Alcalde mandé q.e &c.
entonces lo tubieran y reconocieran
por legitimo Señor y posedor de
ellas.

Dicho lo espuesto pidio dho.
D. Miq.l Condori q.e para mejor
resguardo de sus Derechos, le fuese estendida p.r
mi el referido Alcalde una con
tancia, y lo firmo conmigo y
los demas asist.es de q.e Doy Fé

Nicolas Ant.o Dem.z Miguel Condori

Asist.e
Ramon Pinedo

Asist.e
Jose M.l Ortega

9.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara

Filed for record
this 7th day of August
A.D. 1860 at 4 O'clock
P.M. by E. R. Williams
& Recorded in Liber
A, of "Miscellaneous"
Records on pages 171.
to 177-

Chas. E. Cook
County Recorder

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Office of the Surveyor-General,

Of the United States, for California.

I, THEO. WAGNER, Surveyor-General of the United States for the State of California, and as such, having in my office, and in my charge and custody, a portion of the Archives of the former Spanish and Mexican Territory, or Department of Upper California, as also the papers of the late Board of Commissioners to ascertain and settle the private land claims in California; by virtue of the power vested in me by law, Do Hereby Certify, that the Nine preceding, and hereunto annexed pages of tracing paper numbered from one to Nine inclusive, exhibit a true, full and correct copy of the original document entitled "1845 Posesion judicial en favor de Dn. Migl Cordero del Rancho nombrado Las Cruces deposited in Office of U.S. Sur. Gen. by Albert Tibbee January 22nd 1872 R. C. Hopkins Keeper of Archives"

and now on file in this office, and in my custody; that I have carefully compared the same with said original, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and caused my Seal of Office to be affixed, at the City of San Francisco, this Thirteenth day of March 1880

Theo Wagner

U. S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL, FOR CALIFORNIA.

U.S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE
MAR 13 1880
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Exp. 3. Hoyos

El Ciudadano Juan Bautista Alvarado, Gobernador del Estado y Presidente de la Excelentisima Diputacion del mismo

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Por Cuanto el Ciudadano Dig. Cordero, ha pretendido para su beneficio personal y el de su familia el terreno conocido con el nombre de los Cruces, dentro de los linderos del Diseño que acompaño á su Solicitud, practicadas previamente todas las diligencias concernientes segun lo dispuesto por las Leyes y Reglamento de la Materia, usando de las facultades que me son conferidas, á nombre de la Nacion Mexicana, he venido en concederle el terreno mensionado declarandole la propiedad de él por las presentes letras, entendiendose dicha Concecion con entera conformidad á las Leyes á reserva de la aprobacion ó desaprobacion de la Excelentisima Diputacion y baxo las condiciones siguientes.

1ª El agraciado ni sus herederos podran dividir ni enagenar el que se le adjudica, imponerle censo, vinculo, fianza hipoteca ni otro gravamen aunque sea por causa piadosa, ni pasarlo á manos

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Muertos.

2ª Podrá cercarlo sin perjudicar las travesías y caminos; lo disfrutará libre y esclusivamente destinandolo al cultivo y usos que le acomode.

3ª Cuando se le conceda la propiedad solicitará del Juez respectivo le dé la posesion Judicial en virtud de este despacho, por el cual se demarcarán sus linderos y pondrán sus mohoneras.

4ª El terreno de que se le hace donacion és puramente el que se espresa en la solicitud del interesado y se demarca en el diseño; y el Juez que lo posecione pasará aviso á este Gobierno del numero de Sitios q Comprehende.

En Consecuencia mando que sirviendole de Titulo el presente y teniendose por firme y valedero, y se tome razon en el libro que corresponda y se entregue al interesado para su Resguardo y demas fines convenientes.

Dado en la Ex Mision de Santa Barbara a 11 de Mayo de 1837.

Juan B. Alvarado

Victor Prudon
Secretario

Sta Barb.a Mayo 18 de 1837.

En

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sesion D- este dia, aprobó la
Cma D/pn el Dictamen de la
Comn de la misma q. á la letra
es como sigue: =" Se concede al
Cº Miguel Cordero, el paraje
nombrado Las Cruces, q. obtener
los requisitos q. previene la ley
de 18 D- Agto de 1824. y el artº 5º
D.l reglamto de 21 D- novbre D- 1828.
= Stª Barbª Mayo 18 D- 1837-
= José R Estrada = Francisco J Alvarado."

Juan B. Alvarado

Victor Trudon
Srio interº

El interesado agregará Sr. Trudon
un pliego de á seis q. conforme á la ley.

V. Trudon

Deposited August 13th 1860 by Eugene Lies in behalf of Dominque Abadie Brothers for their benefit and that of other persons claiming under this grant-

J. W. Dwindle
U.S. Surv. Genl -

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State of California
County of Santa
Barbara

Recorded this 7th day of August A.D. 1860 at 4 o'clock P.M. of said day

E. D. Wilkinson
Recorder

Recorded in Book "A" of Miscellaneous Records on pages 171 & 172.

Thos. E. Cook
County Recorder

Office of the Surveyor-General,

Of the United States, for California.

I, THEO. WAGNER, Surveyor-General of the United States for the State of California, and as such, having in my office, and in my charge and custody, a portion of the Archives of the former Spanish and Mexican Territory, or Department of Upper California, as also the papers of the late Board of Commissioners to ascertain and settle the private land claims in California; by virtue of the power vested in me by law, Do Hereby Certify, that the Four preceding, and hereunto annexed pages of tracing paper numbered from one to four inclusive, exhibit a true, full and correct copy of the original purporting to be the title to Miguel Cordero for the tract of land named Las Cruces, deposited August 13th 1866 by Eugene Sies in behalf of Dominigo Abadie Brothers &c together with endorsement thereon

and now on file in this office, and in my custody; that I have carefully compared the same with said original, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and caused my Seal of Office to be affixed, at the City of San Francisco, this thirteenth day of March 1880

Theo Wagner

U. S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL FOR CALIFORNIA.

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U.S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE
MAR 13 1880
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Exp 2 Hyde 1

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Espediente

Promovido por el Ciudadano Miguel Cordero en pretencion del pampe nombrado las Cruzes.

1837

137-

Sta Barb.ª Mayo
7 de 1837.

Informe el
J.º Ayuntamto de
esta municipalidad
si el interesado en
esta instancia obtiene
todos los requisitos
legales q.e ser
atendida en su
solicitud; si el
terreno q.e pretende
puede adjudicarsele
en colonizacion,
conforme á la ley.

Evacuados estos
informes, volverá el
espd.te al Gobno
de q.e su resolucion.

Muarado

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Or Gobernador

Miguel Cordero de esta ve
cindad ante U.S con el Respeto debi
do y conforme á mi D.o Combe
n.a Dig.o q.e con el objeto de de
dicarme al interesante ramo de
la agricultura p.r hallarme provi
sto por de alguna Numero de Vien
tres de campo tengo presente q.e p.a
este fin conforme á las Leyes de
colonizacion debo de dirijirme
a U.S como lo hago en virtu
d del Paraje nombrado las
Cruzes: este terreno aun q.e
no pertenecia á la Ex.=mision de
sta Mty se halla ahora despo
blado y agitado establecim.to no lo
necesita, por tal motivo lo creo

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PAGE 177

Colonorable y sin Nro impedimento
impidiéra su adjudicion Me doy
abénzada mij merito contenido en
el Sean.to dela Ley Arroy y Nro
muy Notorio con lo q.e me im
pelen á dirijir esta Representación
acompañada con el Documento de Di
seño. Por tanto

A V.S. Suplico se sirva acceder como
pido en q.e Recibire Gracia admi
tiendo esta en papel comun q.e
no Haber del Sello Correspond.te
Jurgando lo Necesario

Ha Habana Mayo 2 de 1837

Antonio del Interesado

José Adela Guerra y
Carrillo

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Y. A.

La amision aquien V.S. Se ha servido Comfian para
que dictamin sobre el expediente que forma la
Solicitud del C.no Miguel Cordero en prencion del
Paraje nombrada las Cruses en observancia del decre
to del Gob.no de Stta 1o. de Mayo. expon; que alle
interesada obtiene todos requisitos legales para ser
atendide en su solicitud, que el terreno que prende
se halla Cubierto de bienes del mismo Solisitante y
en estado de adjudicarse en Colonizacion, Conforme a la
Ley de 18. de agto de 1824 y reglamento de esta
bre de 1828. pues aunque se halla cenido por de la
Pertenencia de la Comision, de Stta ynes, se halla ala
Vez fuera la ocupacion necesaria de dicha Comision
y por consiguiente en estado de adjudicarse Conforme
alos Leyes citadas

Elque representa es C.no Mexicano
no. ameritado tiene buena Conducta y Bienes Conque poblarlo.
por lo que se hace acreedor. a ser amparado por la Ley
y por las consideraciones del Gob.no aquien representa:
por tanto ofrese la comision a la deliveracion de
V.S. la siguiente proposicion

Pide el Gob.no adjudicar al C.no Miguel C
Cordero el paraje nombrado las Cruzes

Sta Barb.a Mayo 10 de
1837

Pablo Vanegas

Santiago Burke

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En sesion de hoy aprobó el y. A. la proposicion
del dictamen antecedente al Cavanda buelva el expe
diente al Gob.o p.a su resolucion

Utrupra

Diego Olivera

a falta del Secretario

Ramon Valdez

Sta Barb.a Mayo 11 de 1837—

Vista la peticion con q.e da principio
Mdo esp.dte el informe del y. A. y todo lo
q.e ver convino; de conformidad con la dispuesto
por las leyes y reglam.tos de la materia, se
declara al C.o Cav.a Propietario, Miguel Cordero
dueño en propiedad del terreno conocido con

el nombre de Las Cruces, demarcado en el diseño q^e acompaño á su solicitud y bajo los linderos q^e en él se expresan, sugetandose á las condiciones q^e previene la ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824, y reglamento de 25 de Nov^re de 1828. Líbrese el despacho correspond^te, tómese razon en el libro respectivo y diríjase este Exped^te á la Exma Diputacion q^e en sabida aprobacion, en cuyo caso el interesado á quien se hará saber este decreto, presentara nuevam^te su título p^a q^e se le revalide. Así el Sor. D. Juan B. Alvarado, Gobernador interino del Estado, y Presidente de la Exma Diputacion del mismo, lo decretó, mandó, y firmó. de q^e doy fé.

Juan B. Alvarado

Victor Prudon
Srio interino

La-

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Comision de Terrenos Baldios Impuesta del Espediente promovido por el Ciudadano Miguel Cordero en solicitud del paraje nombrado las Cruses No encuentra Inconveniente alguno para que se Conceda Consecuentemente (Inconveniente alguno para que se Conceda Consecuente) á su pretencion. por lo que la Concluye poniendo a la deliberacion de V.E. las Siguientes proposiciones.

1ª Se Conceda al Ciudadano Miguel Cordero el paraje Nombrado las Cruses, por obtener los requisitos que previene la ley de 18. de Agosto de 1824 y el artº 5º del Reglamto. de 21. de Nove de 1828.

Sta Barbara Mayo 8 de 1837

José R. Estrada

Franco. J. Alvarado

Sta Barbara Mayo 8 de 1837

En Sesion de hoy se le dispensaron los tramites a la proposicion del dicta men que antecede, y fué aprobada por mayoria absoluta de votos

Antonio Buelna
Pres.te

José Mª Covarrubias
Secrio

Office of the Surveyor-General,

Of the United States, for California.

I, THEO. WAGNER, Surveyor-General of the United States for the State of California, and as such, having in my office, and in my charge and custody, a portion of the Archives of the former Spanish and Mexican Territory, or Department of Upper California, as also the papers of the late Board of Commissioners to ascertain and settle the private land claims in California; by virtue of the power vested in me by law, Do Hereby Certify, that the Eight preceding, and hereunto annexed pages of tracing paper numbered from one to Eight inclusive, exhibit a true, full and correct copy of the original document, entitled "Expediente promovido por el Ciudadano Miguel Orders en protencion del parage nombrado Las Cruzes 1837 137

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and now on file in this office, and in my custody; that I have carefully compared the same with said original, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and caused my Seal of Office to be affixed, at the City of San Francisco, this thirteenth day of March 1880

Theo Wagner

U. S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL FOR CALIFORNIA.

U.S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
MAR 13 1880
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Ey 1. Hyde

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Expediente promovido

por

Miguel Cadero

Solicitando el pasaje nombrado las Olleres

Año de 1835

68 11

SELLO TERCERO DOS REALES.

Habilitado provicionalmente por la Administracion de la Aduana Maritima de Monterrey para los años de mil ocho cientos treinta y custro y mil ocho cientos treinta y cinco.

Figueroa

Rafael Gonzalez

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Monterrei
Agosto 31 de 1835

De conformidad con las leyes i reglamentos de la materia informe el Ayuntamiento de Sta Barbara si el interesado en esta instancia obtiene los requisitos prevenidos p.a ser atendido en su solicitud. Si el terreno q.e pretende esta comprendido en las 20 leguas limitrofes ó diez litorales del q.e es presa la ley de diez i ocho de Agosto de 1824 ni es de regadio temporal ó abrebadero si pertenece á

Or Geje Sup.a Polit.co

Miguel Cordero - Vecino del Pueblo de Sta. Barbara, con el devido Respeto, y como mejor halle lugar ante V.S. se presenta y dice q.e siendo casado y en la actualidad cuenta con dies personas de familia y tener unos cortos viene de campo, y no tener donde tenerlos referidos; pues en este punto son muchos los bienes q.e hay, por la mucha vecindad, y ser muy conto el terreno y no poder tenerlos Reducidos; Le suplico á V.S. tenga la vondad de concederle el conto sitio llamado las Cruses, colindante con el con el Rancho de la Nacion, llamado S.n Julian

El Diceño a este podra decir á V.S. su certedad, p.r solo lo pretende p.a tener dichos viene Recojidos y solo; y de este Modo podra lograr su aumento p.a poder sostener su Crecida

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la propie dad de algun particular, ti sion orporacion, pueblo, con todo lo demas q. crea conducente a ilus trar la materia. Evacuadas estas di ligencias pasara el espediente ál Sitia yor domo de la Mision de Sta Ynes p.a q. esponga lo que le ocurra sobre el particular

familia Por tanto
A V S. Bendidamente pide y suplica tenga esta en concideracion de lo q. Resulta merced y gracia

Stta. Barbara Agto 11 de 1839

Miguel Cordero

El S.r D Jose Castro primer vocal de la Exma Diputacion Territorial i Jefe Politico interino del Territorio de la Alta California asi lo mando decreto i firmo de los dos infrascritos

Jose Castro

Fco Ant.o del Castillo Negrete

Sta Barb.a Diciembre 18 de 1839
En esta fha se dio cuenta al Ayuntam.to con este Espediente y se acordo pasar ala comision de terrenos Baldios

Guerra

SELLO TERCERO DOS REALES.

Habilitado provicionalmente por la Administracion de la Aduana Maritima de Monterrey de la alta California, para los años de mil ochocientos treinta y seis y mil ochocientos treinta y siete
Gutierrez. A. Ramirez.

430 ND
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Y. Ayuntam.to

La Comision de terrenos baldios se ha impuesto del Espediente promovido por Miguel Cordero, solicitando el parage de las Cruces, y encuentra ser un terreno q.e pertenece a la Mision de Santa Ynes, y q.e mantiene en él por temporada el num.o de caballada mansa q.e existe en dha Mision, pero no le hace falta, por tener otros para ser desocupados donde mantenerla, q.e no se halla Comprendido en las 20 leguas limitrofes y sí en las diez litorales q.e espresa la ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824, y q.e es de abrevadero y no de Regadío, q.e la parte de Miguel Cordero q.e lo solicita tiene todos los requisitos q.e previene la ley p.a ser atendido en su solicitud, por lo q.e la Comision Concluye poniendo á la deliberacion del ayuntamiento la Siguiente proposicion. —

Puede Concedersele á Migl.

Cordero el terreno conocido con el nombre de las cruces.

Santa Bba. y Abl. 15 de 1836.

Ant.o Rodrig.z

Santiago Burke

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Sor. Jefe Sup.r Politico

En Cumplimiento del Sup.r decreto marginal de Vs. de ftha. 31. de Agosto de 835. este Ayuntam.to informa á Vs en iguales terminos q.e el antecedente dictamen de la Comision por ser conforme en todas sus partes. —

Santa Barb.a ftha. ut supra

Por ausencia del alcalde Const.c

Fernando Tico

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S.ta Ynes 20. Abril 836.

En contestacion al oficio del S.r Primer Regidor del Ayuntamiento de S.ta Barb.a comisionado p.a evacuar las dilig.s necesarias á fin de concluir el expediente promovido, por el S. Miguel Cordero, quien solicita el pasage llamado las Cruces, perteneciente á esta Mision digo: q. en dicho sitio pace la Caballada comunmente, especialm.te q.do falta pasto en Najaoni, y no es facil retirarla, porq. ya allí tiene su q.rencia, y ponerla en otra parte mas en peligro está, para q. la tomen los Abigeos; pero como el interesado promete no impedir la entrada a la dicha caballada, q.do alla misma se pase de Najaoni, me parece q. si el Govierno lo tiene á bien, se le puede conceder con esta condicion; y de este modo tan lejos esta de perjudicar a la Mision, q. antes es muy util su presencia, p.a impedir robos de caballos.

Se supone q.do q. se solicita es la cañada delas de las cruces.

S.r Josè Joaq.n Ximeno

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SELLO TERCERO DOS REALES
Habilitado provicionalmente por la Administracion de la Aduana Maritima de Monterrey de la alta California, para los años de mil ochocientos treinta y seis y mil ochocientos treinta y siete
Gutierrez
A. Ramirez

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Terrey Julio 12. de 1836.

Vista la peticion con que dá principio éste espediente, el informe del Y. Ayuntamiento de Sta Barbara, el del R. P. Mtro de la mision de Sta Inés, con todo lo demás que estubo presente y vér combino, de conformidad con las leyes y reglamentos de la materia se declára á Miguel Cordero, dueño en propiedad del terreno conocido con el nombre de las Cruces colindante con el Tancho de la nacion nombrado S. Julian sugetandose á las condiciones que se estipularan diríjase éste espediente á la E. Junta Departamental para su deliberacion. El Sr. D. Mariano Chico, Gefe Politico de esta alta California, así lo mandó, decretó y firmó, de lo que certifico.

Mariano Chico

J.n del Castillo Negrete

En.—

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19. de Julio, se mandó pasar á la comision de Colonizacion y terrenos baldios

José Maria Malvonado.

Frio

E. Sor.

La comision de colonizacion á q.n se pasó el esp.te q. forma la concesion del terreno nombrado las cruces q. hizo el S. Jefe Politico al C. Miguel Cordero no encuentra obgecion alg.a q. hacer por estar en todo conforme á la ley de 18. de Ag.to de 1824 y el art. 9. del reglamento de 21. de Nov.e de 1828 en tal virtud. la comision opina á la Deputacion de la E Diputacion la proposicion sig.te

Se aprueva la consecion hecha p.r el S. Jefe Politico en 12 de Julio del presente año al C. Miguel Cordero del terreno nombrado las cruces por estar de entera conformidad con lo prevenido en la ley de 18 de Ag.to de 1824. y el art. 9.º del reglamento de 21. de Nov.e de 1828.

Monterey Agosto 8. de 1836.

Jose Joaquin Gomez

Monterey Agosto 9. de 1836.

En sesion de este dia, aprovó la E. Di-

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putación el dictamen antecedente y su proposición redactada en los términos siguientes.

" Se aprueva la concesión hecha por el S. Gefe Político en 12. de Julio del presente año, al C. Miguel Cordero del terreno nombrado Las cruces, sin quedar sugeto à mas condiciones q. las establecidas por la ley "

Y se acordó pase este expediente al S.r Gefe Político para su conducion

Juan B. Alvarado
Presidte

José Mariano Maldonado.
Secretario

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Office of the Surveyor-General,

Of the United States, for California.

I, THEO. WAGNER, Surveyor-General of the United States for the State of California, and as such, having in my office, and in my charge and custody, a portion of the Archives of the former Spanish and Mexican Territory, or Department of Upper California, as also the papers of the late Board of Commissioners to ascertain and settle the private land claims in California; by virtue of the power vested in me by law, Do Hereby Certify, that the Eleven preceding, and hereunto annexed pages of tracing paper numbered from one to Eleven inclusive, exhibit a true, full and correct copy of the original document Entitled "Expediente promovido por Miguel Cordero solicitando el paraje nombrado Las Cruces Año de 1835 N° 68"

and now on file in this office, and in my custody; that I have carefully compared the same with said original, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and caused my Seal of Office to be affixed, at the City of San Francisco, this Thirteenth day of March 1880

Thos Wagner

U. S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL, FOR CALIFORNIA.

U.S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE
MAR 13 1880
SAN FRANCISCO CAL.

9

Mr F Burke was duly sworn and deposed as follows —

Q What is your age, place of residence & occupation

A Age 40 - Santa Barbara County Occupation Stock raising - formerly freight - Agent of Steamship Company

Q Where were you born

A In town of Santa Barbara -

Q Do you know the place known as Las Cruces - if so how long have you known it

A Yes sir - The first time I was at Las Cruces was 30 years ago -

Q Do you know the point known as Las Cruces point, if so - for how long

A I know it than for 30 years -

Q Do you the boundaries of said point if so, when did you first know the boundaries

A The boundaries I know I knew them very soon after I knew the Ranch

Q How far do you live from the point - How long have you lived there

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Ans I have lived about a mile and three quarters (1¾ mile) from the Southern boundary for about 8 years

2 within what distance from the Ranch have you lived for the past 30 years

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Ans within, with the exception of 5 or 6 years, I have lived within 12 miles

2 During said period about how often you upon this Ranch.

Ans Probably about once a month more or less.

2 In what possession was the land at the time you first became acquainted with it

Ans In possession of Miguel Cordes the Original Grantee.

2 how you well acquainted with Miguel Cordes during his life time

Ans Yes Sir.

2 How often were you at his house

Ans Not many often at the house - tho' I was frequently there

2 What was Miguel Cordes living from the time you first knew him until his death -

Ans He lived in the Settlement called Las Cruces

on the Ranch

2 Where was that settlement situated

Ans It was on what is now known as the County Road - at the junction of the Creeks Sausita - Las Cruces and San Juliano -

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2 What formed the settlement of Las Cruces

Ans Cordero's own family - three houses -

2 In what manner - did Miguel Cordero occupy this Las Cruces land - from the time you first knew it - to the time of his death -

Ans Stock raising -

2 What stock had he

Ans Cattle & horses.

2 What improvement had he on the Ranch - prior to his death

Ans He had a vineyard which still exists fruit trees & some fields of grain - his house he lived in - corral & and some fencing -

2 Did you have occasion from to Cordero's death to know the boundaries of the land he claimed - if so what - were the circumstances that led you

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to Know his Land —

Ans ~~Grass Cattle~~

In those days it was necessary that each Rancho owner should Know the boundaries of the adjoining owners for the Purpose of raising and Rodeoing Cattle

I Know from Miguel Cordero in person and from Common Repute what were the boundaries of his Rancho

I was in the cattle business on a neighboring Rancho & used to ride over on this Rancho after Stray Cattle from my Rancho & those belonging to my brother in Law —

2 Prior to the death of Miguel Cordero did you ever Know or hear of any dispute as to his title to or possession of the Lands thus claimed by him — under the Las Cruces title or did you ever Know of any adverse claim thereto

Ans No Sir I never did

2 State what were the boundaries of the Land thus claimed by Miguel Cordero

as the Rancho La Cuesta

Ans. The Land Known as La Cuesta Rancho - was bounded as follows On the South by the Gaviota Rancho which is part of the Rancho Nuestra Señora del Refugio -
On the West by the San Julian Rancho
On the North by the Santa Rosa Rancho
On the East by a portion of the Coast Range & by the Cachuma Mojoqui Rancho Mojoqui —

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2 Q. Is Miguel Cordero death - Who succeeded to the possession and occupancy of the Rancho -

Ans His own family who are still on the place -

2 Q. In whose possession has that Rancho been from the time of Miguel Cordero death until the present time.

Ans In the possession of his family & their occupants -

2 Q. Is there at present or has there ever been any adverse claimant for any of the Lands known as Las Cuestas Rancho -

Ans No Sir

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2 Was there ever been any person or persons living upon said Rancho or holding possession of under any title or claim of title either from Mexico or the United States - except the Claimants of Las Cruces Rancho

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Ans Is he known any one else who there or have possession

2 If during the last 30 years there had been any controversy respecting the title, or the possession or the occupation of this Rancho would you have known it -

Ans I would have been very likely to have known it - I have been in the neighborhood all the time

2 Do the boundaries of the Las Cruces Rancho as at present claimed conform to the boundaries as claimed by Miguel Cordova during his life time

Ans It is the same boundaries as we recognized in those days

2 Do you know the present Claimants of this land -

Ans Yes I know them all

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Q Iwou show you Exhibit-"C" which purports to be a Map of Las Cuevas Ranchs as claimed — made from a Pricate Survey by W Norway and State if the same correctly represents Las Cuevas Ranch as it was claimed by Miguel Cordova during his life time

Ans Yes Sir it is just as natural as it could be and is correct —

Q Iwou show you a traced copy of the design found in the Expediente of Las Cuevas — State if you are personally acquainted with the Objects designated thereon as "A" "B" "C" "D" "E" "F" —

Ans I know the points marked A B C D E

Q State if all of those Land marks thus noted on the design are to be found upon the plat marked Exhibit-"C"

Ans Yes they are —

Q State whether or not Exhibit-C represents the same trace of Country that is represented on the design

Ans Yes Sir

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2 Have you since the 19th June 1898 which was the date of the act- ting the US Dist Court their last jurisdiction in this case, made any special examination of the lands claimed in this case and designated on Exhibit "C" within the red boundary lines - if so at whose instance and for what purpose did you make said Examination -

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Ans I have made special examination in the first part of July 1898, for the purpose of finding out if there was any Squatters, or parties living on the Ranch claiming & have Squatted there - I went with Mr Norway US Dept Surveyor I went around at that time, the entire boundary of the Ranch I went at the request of Mr Thos Dibble One of the Claimants of the Ranchs -

2 If any person at that time was living upon this Ranch and claiming or holding possession of any portion

of this Ranch adverse to the Ranch
Claimants, would you examination
at that time have been sufficient-
thorough & have shown you that fact
Ans Yes.
430 ND 2 Please State now the result of
PAGE 202 that Examination
Ans I went all around the Ranch
room all the boundaries - there
were no squatters or adverse Claimants
or persons in occupation of the Ranch
the Claimants
2 What members of the Cordes family
are living upon the Rancho now
Ans Vicente Cordes the son of the Original
Grantee - Estanislaus Cordes -
his family - Francisco Cordes and
his family -
Juan Cordes his family
The family of Isabella Cortes
deceased - She was the daughter
of the Original Grantee & Salvador
Cortes a son of Original Grantee

18

Cors Examined by W. Lovell

2 Do you Know of your own knowledge whether the boundaries as laid down on Map "Exhibit C" corresponds with the boundaries (exterior) of the grant as set forth in the act of Juridical possession

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Ans Yes Sir I do

2 Do you Know of your own knowledge who was in the possession and occupancy of the Rancho Las Cruces from the year 1837 to 1847

Ans I do not

M. F. Burke

District Court of the United States for the District of California.

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VS. No.

Be it Remembered, that on this 1st day of July A. D. 1880 at my office in the United States Court Building, in the City of San Francisco, personally appeared before me, A. D. Grimwood a Commissioner, to take acknowledgments of Bail and Affidavits, etc., duly appointed by the Circuit Court of the United States for the Ninth Circuit and District of California, Thomas W. Moore a witness on behalf of the Claimant in the above entitled suit.

F. L. Hyde Esq appeared as Counsel for the Petitioners & Claimants and W. E. Lovett Esq Assistant Ass't Attorney for the United States

And the said Witness, having been by me first cautioned and sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in the cause aforesaid, did thereupon depose and say as follows, that is to say:

Examination in chief by F. L. Hyde

Question:—What is your name, age, occupation and place of residence?

Answer:—My name is Thomas W. Moore; my age is 60 years and upwards; my occupation is a Rancher; and my place of residence is Santa Barbara County

J

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I have lived in Santa Barbara Co over 25 years.

2 Do you know the tract of land granted to Miguel Cordero called Las Cruces

A I do

2 How long have you known it.

A Since 1854.

2 Describe the boundaries of that grant as near as you can.

A It is bounded on the East by the Cuchilla (or ridge) of Nojoqui. On the North by the Santa Rosa grant. On the west by the San Julian Rancho. On the South by the Gaviota Rancho. & South East by the mountains.

2 Who occupied this ranch when you first knew it.

A The family of Miguel Cordero

2 For what purpose.

A They kept stock there, and farmed a little.

2 Since that time how near to that Ranch have you lived?

A When I first knew the grant

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I lived about 8 or 10 miles from it and since then I have lived at Santa Ynez which is about the same distance.

2 Since 1854 have you been well acquainted with that grant and the owners thereof?

A Perfectly.

2 Who has had possession of that Ranch from 1854 to the present time.

A The Cordero family and their grantees. Some of the Cordero family are residing there yet.

2 Since 1854 have you been often upon this Ranch.

A Very often. I was over there looking after my stock, and sometimes travelling through the Ranch to Town.

2 Has there ever been any dispute as to the title of that ranch.

A I never heard of any.

2 Has there ever been any

adverse possession?

A Not that I know of.

Q If any person had gone on that land, and taken possession of any portion thereof adverse to the claim of the grantees between the year 1854 and the present time, would you have known it.

A I think I would. I have been a resident there constantly.

Q Has there ever been any possession of said land adverse to that of the grantees?

A Not that I know of.

Q Who has always paid the taxes on that property.

A When I was a member of the Board of Supervisors I saw that it was assessed to the Condenos.

(No Cross Examination on behalf United States.) T. W. Wood

Subscribed & Sworn to this 1st day of July A.D. 1880 before me N. D. Grimwood

Commissioner U.S. Circuit Court Dist of California

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United States District Court
District of California

Petition of Vicente Cordero et al
for confirmation of Las Cruces Rancho
under Act of Congress June 19th 1858

San Francisco July 7th 1880

Present W. T. Coote for U.S. Atty
F. A. Hyde Counsel for Petitioners
Interpreter
Frederick Cames was duly sworn
as Interpreter.
Vicente Cordero being duly sworn
deposed as follows -
My Age is 55 years - Occupation Rancher
I live on Las Cruces Rancho
2 How long have you lived on Las Cruces
Rancho -
Ans From the time the Rancho was formed
about the year 1834
2 Did you know Miguel Cordero - if so
was he a relative of yours
Ans I knew him - he was my father

2 Do you know the tract of land called Las Cruces

Ans Yes

2 When did your Father Take possession of the land called Las Cruces

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Ans In 1834-

2 When he did he Father build a dwelling house there

Ans Right after he occupied the Ranch

2 When was that dwelling house Situated

Ans Right below where the present house stands--

The Old house was near where two Canyons come in, one from the Rapoza and the other from San Juliano - near where they join the Las Cruces creek

2 How long did your Father continue to reside in that house -

Ans To the day of his death

2 Did his family live there with him

Ans Yes Sir -

2 In 1834 how did your Father occupy this land-

Ans He had cattle & horses on the land

2 In what year did your father die

3

Ans In 1851 -

2 Did your father continue to occupy this Ranch with horses and cattle & the time of his death

Ans Yes sir

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2 How has the Ranch been occupied since his death and by whom

Ans By myself and the heirs of Miguel Cedeno and their parties

2 What improvements did Miguel Cedeno make on this Ranch prior to his death -

Ans Planted Sapotimes - grain corn - fruit trees & made fences.

2 Has there ever been any contest as to the title to this Ranch since your father first took possession in 1834

Ans. Never -

2 Has there ever been any adverse occupation by any person or persons from 1834 to the present time

Ans No -

2 What were the boundaries of the land that you say your father took possession of in 1834 called Las Cuevas

4

Ans. Bounded by by the San Juliain on the
side - on another side by the Mayopis
and on another by the Santa Rosa
Ranches - and also by the Sawsa-
and a Range of mountains on
North North East -

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2 What became of the house Jose
Justo built - on the Ranch in 1834

Ans ~~All destroyed~~ It remained there until
after my fathers death -

2 What became of it then

Ans It fell down about 1886 -

2 Did the Cooks family continue
to live in that house until 1876

Ans Some lived there Some went away

2 Where did the family reside after
the house fell down -

Ans I built a mud house about 10 yds
from the Old One & the family
moved into that house -

2 Have you lived in that house ever
since with your family -

Ans Yes -

2 Do you ~~remember~~ Know What Why the
~~recinded~~ the Juridical possession

of said Rancho

Ans Yes Sir

2 Were you present at the time

Ans Yes.

2 Did your father receive Juridical possession of the same land that you have describes as Rancho Las Cruces?

Ans Yes.

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2 Do you remember what acts were performed at the time of the juridical possession they given

Ans Yes- They began to survey from the Laguna - went as far as San Juliano - then to Cachilla Hapsos then to the boundary Santa Rosa and the Sierra - they put marks on the sticks and trees - then I heard the Alcalde declare my father to be in possession of the land. The Alcalde was Nicholas Den

2 Did you see all the above

Ans Yes I saw it all

2 Who took charge of the Rancho after your fathers death

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6 I did

2 Was the different interests in the land ever been divided -

Ans The land is undivided -

2 Why is it that neither you/self nor you presented your claim to that Land, & the Board of Land Commissions assigned by the Act of March 3d 1851

Ans When we knew that it was necessary to present the claim - the time for the presentation had expired

Cross Examined by Mr Lovell

2 Was there ever been any dispute between you/selves ownership of the Las Cruces Rancho and the adjoining claimants of other Ranchos

Ans None

2 Was any person or persons now squatters or settlers on the Rancho - under the United States Law -

Ans No one

2 Then your/selves claim & possession & the Las Cruces Rancho has been an undisputed one

7

Ans I has.

2 At the time of your fathers death
where were the title papers of
Las Cruces.

Ans I had them at the Ranch

2 Did you fully understand that these
title papers ought to have been
presented to the United State Land
Compsion at that time

Ans Yes I knew something about it,
but did not pay much attention
to it.

2 Was it through your ignorance of
the law that they were not
presented at the first time

Ans That was the real reason

Vicente Cordero

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8

Frederick Carnes being duly sworn deposeds as follows -

My name is Frederick Carnes - I reside in Santa Barbara - My age is 20 years and Occupation Clerk -

2 Did you Know Capt. James W Burke during his last illness

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Ans Yes

2 Is he now living

Ans He is deceased -

2 When did he die

Ans Over a year ago -

2 Have you known Francisco de la Guerra -

~~Ans Yes~~ Ans Don Jose de la Guerra. -

Is he deceased or living - if deceased When did he die -

Ans I Knew him - he is dead and died over two years ago -

2 Have you known Luis T Burton of Santa Barbara who was owner of Rancho Jesus de Maria - if so is he deceased or living - if dead When did he die -

Ans I Knew him - he died over a year ago

Frederick Carnes

9

Counsel for Claimants here offers
his evidence

1 The affidavit of said Captain James
to Burke dated January 18th 1876

2 The affidavit of Francisco de la
Guerra dated January 7th 1876

3 The affidavit of Louis T Burton
dated January 18th 1876 -

Which three affidavits will be
found in the Roll of papers filed
in this case October 11th 1879
the said Roll being all of the papers
that were used before Congress
in support of petition of Claimants
for a Special Act, authorizing them
to present their Claim to the
U.S. Dist Court Dist Col -

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United States District Court -
District of California

Petition of Francis Cardo
for Wm H Hollister et al for
confirmation of Las Cruces Rancho -
under act of Congress June 19 1880

Presume - W. Hyde for claimants -
W. Lovett Esq Asst U.S. Attorney

1 The claimant - Offers Certificate of Alfred
James Register of the Los Angeles Land
District - as to the condition as shown
by his Records of the Lands claimed by
Claimants of Las Cruces -
2 Also Certificate of William L Wheaton
Register of the San Francisco Land District
showing that there is no claim of record
for that portion of the lands embraced
in the Return of Cruces Rancho - falling
within said Land District - -
Referring to Certificate (No 1) Alfred James
to that portion of said Certificate which
reads as follows - "Lot 4 Sec 20 Covered by
4 A. C. S Location" Claimants admit

and that said Lot "4" is no part of the lands embraced in the petition of said Cross claim and is not in any part of the claim of Las Cruces Rancho -

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United States Land Office.
San Francisco. California
August 18. 1880.

I. William R. Wheaton. Register of said Land Office do hereby Certify that the Official Plat of the Survey of Township 6 N.R. 32 West. S.B.M. was filed in this Land Office August 8th 1872. and it was noted thereon that fractional S½ of Sec. 22. Fractional Sections 27. 28. 33 & 35. and Sec. 34 was reported by Deputy Surveyor Wm. H. Norway to include land claimed by the Las Cruces Rancho, a mexican Grant not presented for confirmation, but known to be valid. for which reason said legal subdivisions are suspended from Sale or Entry - And that said Note was cancelled and the land suspended thereby restored Sept. 24. 1873. And I further Certify that the S½ of S½ of Sec. 26. and S½ of S½ of Sec 27 & SE¼. and NE¼ of NE¼ & S½ of NE¼ of Sec 33. and all of Sec.s 34 & 35 were suspended by Commissioner of the General Land Office Feb. 21. 1876. And I do further Certify that the records of this office do not show any claims by pre-emption or homestead to any of the following described lands to wit:-
Lots 2. 3 & 4 - SW¼ of NE¼ - S½ of NW¼ - W½ of SE¼ and SW¼ of Sec 26. S½ - S½ of NE¼ - S½ of NW¼ and Lots 1 & 2 of Sec 27. Lot 1. NE¼ of SE¼. Sec. 28. NE¼ of NE¼ S½ of NE¼ - SE¼ of NW¼ & SE¼ of Sec. 33. All of

Sec. 34. and all of Sec 35. T. 6 N.R. 32 West S.B.M. and that the same appears to be vacant public land. Subject however to the above recited order suspending same from Sale or Entry.

Wm R. Wheaton
Register

Ex Wheaton "2"

U.S. District Court
District of California

In the matter of the
Petition of
Vicente Cordero et al
for confirmation of the
Ranchos Las Cruces

Certificate of Wm R
Wheaton Register of
San Francisco District

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ALFRED JAMES,
REGISTER.

J. W. HAVERSTICK,
RECEIVER.

U. S. Land Office,

Los Angeles, Cal.

July 19th 1879.

I hereby certify that the record condition in this office of the following described lands is as follows to-wit:

T. 6 S. R. 32 W. in San Francisco Land District

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T. 5 S. R 32 W S.B.M.

S.w.¼ of S.w.¼ Sec. 2 free from entry or filing
Fracl. Secs. 3 and 4 unsurveyed
Fracl. E.½ of Secs. 5 and 8 free from entry or filing
W.½ of S.E.¼ Sec 9. and W.½ and S.w.¼ Sec 10 unsurveyed
balance of said Section free from entry or filing
Sec. 11 free from entry or filing
Secs. 14 and 15 and E.½ of S.w.¼ of Sec 16 unsurveyed
balance in 16 and E.½ of of Sec 17 free from entry or filing. Lot 4 Sec 20 covered by A. C. S. Location
balance of said Sec. free from entry or filing
W.½ and S.E.¼ of Sec 21 unsurveyed balance of said Sec. free from entry or filing.

Sections 22 and 23 unsurveyed

Alfred James

Register

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J. W. HAVERSTICK,
RECEIVER.

U. S. Land Office,
Los Angeles, Cal.
.....187

ALFRED JAMES,
REGISTER.

Ex James 1.

U. S. District Court

District of California

In the matter of the petition
of
Vicente Cordero
for confirmation of the
Ranchs
Las Cruces

Certificate of Alfred
James, Register of Los
Angeles District

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At a stated term of the District Court of the United States of America, for the District of California, held at the Court Room, in the City of San Francisco, on Thursday the 11th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

Present:

The Honorable OGDEN HOFFMAN, Judge.

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In the Matter of the petition of Vincente Cordero et al for confirmation of Las Cruces Rancho. } No.

On motion of J C Bates Esq attorney for the petitioners. Wm C Lovett Esq Assistant U S. Attorney on behalf of the United States being present and consenting thereto it is ordered that this matter be and the same is hereby referred to Mr Southard Hoffman a Commissioner of the Circuit Court of the United States for the 9th Circuit and District of California, to take the proofs and testimony herein, and to report the same to this Court with all convenient dispatch.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an original order made and entered in the above entitled action.

Attest my hand and seal of said District Court, this 28 *day of* August *A.D 18*80

Richard W. Zuan *Clerk.*

By ..... *Deputy.*

No. .....

United States District Court,

DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

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Filed *18*

..... *Clerk.*

By ..... *Deputy.*

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United States District Court -
District of California

In the matter of the petition
of Vicente Cordero et al
for confirmation of
Las Cruces Rancho

I Southard Hoffman Commissioner U.S. Circuit
Court District of California to Whom was
referred the above entitled matter, by
Order of Court of December 11 1879, (Copy
of which Order is hereto annexed) Respectfully
Report that I was attended at various
dates by W. Hyde for Claimants Petitioners
and by W. Lovett Asst U.S. Attorney for
the United States - and by Witnesses -
The testimony and proofs by me taken
are hereto annexed -

Southard Hoffman
Commissioner U.S. Circuit Court - Dist Cal

August 28th 1880

J. C. BATES,
434 California St.
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

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In the District Court of the United States of America District of California

In the matter of the Petition of Vincente Cordero W. W. Hollister Albert Dibblee Thomas B. Dibblee for confirmation of Las Cruces Rancho vs The United States } No. 430

To Philip Teare Esq U. S. District Attorney for the State of California

You will please take notice that the petitioners herein will move this Honorable Court at the Court Room thereof at the Northeasterly corner of Washington and Sansome Streets in the City and County of San Francisco on Monday the 30th day of May A.D. 1881 at the opening of the Court on that day or as soon thereafter as Counsel can be heard for an order of said Court directing a survey of the claim of said petitioners, of the land embraced

their final Decree of Confirmation on file herein, as provided in Sec 3 of the Act of Congress of the United States passed June 14 1878 (Vol 20 page 172 U.S. Statutes at Large)

Said motion will be made on the records, papers, files and proceedings in said cause and on the ground that said claimants and petitioners herein alone are granted the right to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States under Sec 2 of said Act of Congress passed June 14th 1878 and that they have no ground or cause to appeal from said Decree of this Honorable Court

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D. C. Bates
Attorney for Petitioners

San Francisco
May 23rd 1881

Service and receipt of a copy of the within hereby admitted this 23rd day of May A.D. 1881

Philip Barry

U.S. District Attorney for California

No 430

In U.S. District Court

District of California

In the matter of the Petition

of

Vicente Cordero

et al

for confirmation of

Las Calaveras Ranch

vs

The United States

Notice of Motion

Filed May 23 1881

Southard Hoffman Clerk

By R.M. Symmes Deputy Clerk

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J. C. Bates

Attorney for Petitioners

In the District Court of the United States in and for the District of California.

Present: Hon Ogden Hoffman. Judge.

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Vicente Cordero Wm H Hollister Albert Dibblee
Thomas B. Dibblee, etals Petitioners
claiming under the Special Act of Congress
of the United States approved June 19th 1878
entitled "An Act to authorize the claimants
"to certain lands in Santa Barbara County, No 430
"California to submit their claim to the
"United States District Court for that State
"for adjudication"

vs

The United States.

The Motion of petitioners and claimants herein, coming on regularly to be heard this day, Hon. Wm C. Lovett appearing on behalf of the United States, and J. L. Bates for said petitioners; and it duly appearing to the Court, that under said Act of June 19th 1878 the right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States is expressly given to said

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claimants and is not conferred on behalf of the United States and that the proofs in the case would not justify the exercising an appeal by the United States, in case such right was conferred by the general laws of Congress, And all and singular the law and the premises being by the Court here understood and fully considered,

Whereupon, It is by the Court here Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed that the United States Surveyor General, for California, be and he is hereby directed, upon the filing in his office by said claimants, of a certified copy of the Decree of Confirmation made herein on the 31st day of August A.D. 1880, which said Decree is hereby Adjudged and Determined to be the Final Decree of Confirmation under the provisions of said Act of Congress, to cause said claim of petitioners to be surveyed with all convenient dispatch as other claims of like nature are now surveyed under existing laws.

Done in Open Court this 30th day of June 1881.

Ogden Hoffman
Dist Judge.

No. 430.

In U. S. District Court.

District of California

In the matter of the Petition

— of —

Vicente Cordero

W. W. Hollister et al

for confirmation of

Las Bruces Rancho

— vs —

United States

Order directing

Survey &c

Filed June 30th: A.D. 1881

Southard Hoffman Clerk

By P. D. Grimwood

Deputy Clerk

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Petition

of Land Owners in California

in the matter of

The Rancho "Las Cruces"

in Santa Barbara County

California.

Asking to be allowed to present the Claim to said Rancho for adjudication, to the United States District Court in and for the District of California.

To the Honorable

The Senate and House of Representatives

in Congress Assembled:

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The Undersigned, your Petitioners respectfully show:

That they are the present owners and holders in common of that certain tract of land situate in the County of Santa Barbara and State of California, called the Rancho Las Cruces, containing two leagues:

That their title thereto is derived from Miguel Cordero to whom was granted the said land in due form by the Mexican Government in the year 1837: that the said land was duly segregated from the Public domain and juridical posession thereof officially delivered to the said Miguel Cordero: all which and the details thereof are particularly set forth in Exhibit "A" hereunto appended and made a part of this petition, - as also in the title papers thereof duly certified by the U. S. Surveyor General for California as being true copies of the original from the Spanish archives in his custody, - and which papers are marked as Exhibits "B" and made a part of this petition.

That the said Miguel Cordero had been in occupation and posession of the same land from a previous time, namely from about the year 1833, up to the time of the said Grant when he became the lawful owner from the Mexican Government and received juridical posession as aforesaid, and continued to occupy and possess the same until

his death in 1851: that he planted a large Vineyard and Orchard, cultivated a garden and fields, enclosed the same with fences, and built a dwelling house for himself and his family on said Rancho, in which he resided for many years and in which he died; which improvements still continue in the occupation and possession of his family: which facts are more particularly set forth in depositions hereto annexed and which form part of this petition.

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That the said Miguel Cordero died in the month of March 1851 within a few days after the passage of the Act of March 3. 1851 entitled "An Act to ascertain and settle Private Land claims in the State of California", - before information of the passage of the Act was received in California, and before the said Act went into practical operation:

That he left a Widow who could not either read or write, and could not speak or understand the English Language, - and Nine Children most of whom were Minors:

That although the title of Miguel Cordero to the said land was in point of fact, perfect under the Mexican law, - yet because of the ignorance of the Widow and Children and their inexperience in business matters, - and the confused condition in which the Estate of the said Miguel Cordero was left at his death, - (he having died suddenly, having no Will) and because the said Widow understanding the title of her deceased Husband to be complete and perfect under Mexican law as aforesaid, and being uninformed of any law requiring such Land claim to be presented to an American

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tribunal for confirmation, — no petition was presented by her to the said Board of Land Commissioners; and so also the Children of the said Miguel Cordero, resting in confidence on their Father's title as complete under the law of their Country from which he derived it — and, like their Mother, never having heard of the necessity created subsequently by the Act of Congress, to present their title for adjudication and confirmation before the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners, — until a long time subsequent to the date limited by Law for presentation of such land claims, — inadvertently failed to present their claim; which facts are more particularly set forth in the annexed depositions:

That a portion of the Heirs of the said Miguel Cordero including many Minor Children and their Mothers, still reside upon, occupy use and cultivate the said lands of the said Rancho and make the same their home: that others of the said heirs, many years ago, disposed of interests in the said Rancho, which by either voluntary conveyance or Decrees of the Courts of California, have passed to present owners, innocent and bona-fide purchasers, — who, in common with the said Corderos use and occupy the said lands for the maintenance of their families or for purposes of the business in which they are engaged:

That the said title to the said lands as thus derived from the Mexican Government has ever been recognised and respected by the Courts of the County and State as well as by the people of this County; — and that both State and County taxes have been annually and regularly assessed on the said lands and paid, — from the year 1850 to the present time

like other taxes upon lands having a confirmed or perfect title; — as set forth in Exhibits hereto annexed:

That no claim is set up to any portion of the said lands, under any law either of the United States or the State of California, or in any manner whatever, — other than that of your Petitioners: and that there is no conflict whatsoever with any person for any portion of the said lands, — but that the same are now used and occupied exclusively by the Undersigned, your Petitioners and by no other person whomsoever; — and no persons have used or occupied the said lands since the death of the said Miguel Cordero in 1851 to this day, except those deriving their right, title and interest therein from the said Miguel Cordero deceased.

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——— And your Petitioners further show; ———

That the lines of the United Surveys of Public Lands have lately been run over a large part of the said Rancho Las Cruces, — whereby the title of your Petitioners as thus derived from the said Miguel Cordero and the Mexican Government, is liable to be, and is, in great and immediate danger by being disturbed by parties who may not respect the same: That the said lands rightfully belonging to the Heirs and successors of the said Miguel Cordero are necessary for the support of the several families and owners residing thereon, —— and Your Petitioners represent that unless they are allowed to present their title for examination and for confirmation if pronounced valid, the said lands will be treated as Public Lands, — whereby great injustice will be done to innocent owners of the said Rancho Las Cruces, and

embarrassments and suffering be caused to the said families thereon.

And Your Petitioners, Natives Citizens of the United States and of the State of California, contributing by their said Lands and the products thereof, to the revenues and resources of each, — being debarred from access to and a hearing in the Courts, to establish their title, — and consequently having no protection for their Lands of which they and those from whom they derive title have been the undisputed sole owners and occupants for over Forty two years consecutively, respectfully come before your honorable body for relief, — relying upon the perfect validity of their title and the strong equity of their case,

— and pray —

That they may be permitted to present their claim before the U.S. District Court for the District of California, — and if upon examination and investigation by the said Court, it be found that the title of the said Rancho Las Cruces as held by the said Miguel Cordero was good and valid under the Mexican Law, — that a Decree confirming the same may by the said Court be made and entered, — and thereupon the said Rancho may be surveyed by the U.S. Surveyor General for California and duly Patented under existing Laws, to Miguel Cordero and his Successors in interest.

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Vicente Cordero
" J. Cordero
Clovis Valenzuela for himself
and minor children of Ysabel Cordero de Valenzuela his wife, — namely
Refugia, — Felipa, — María Antonia, — Concepcion, — Micaela, —
Gertrudis, — Juan, — and Eugenio.

Witness my hand
Jan. 3rd 1876.
Justin Dornbusch

Thomas B. Dibblee for himself and his Partners { Albert Dibblee & W. W. Hollister

A. B. Williams

Jas. M. Short

O. D. Metcalf

B. F. Dinsmore Guardian of { Sarah Albert Bradbury & Fanny E Thomas Irvin } Minor Heirs of Augustus J. Dinsmore Deceased

Emily E. Dinsmore { Widow & Administratrix of Augustus J. Dinsmore Deceased

R. Gonzales

Com. Jan. 3rd 1876
Justice Commissioners

Witnesses by -

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State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: I, Charles A. Thompson of the City of Santa Barbara in the said County and State, – Searcher of Records hereby certify that I have examined the Title to the lands known as the Rancho Las Cruces situated in this county, – and have searched the Records in the County Recorders Office in the City of Santa Barbara, for all claims of title to the said lands; – – and I find – that as appears by the said records, –

The legal Title to the said lands, in undivided ownership, is now vested solely in the following persons, – the names of all of whom are subscribed to the foregoing Petition;

1 Vicente Cordero

2 Juan J. Cordero

3 Heirs of Ysabel Cordero de Valenzuela dec.ᵈ, namely
Cloris Valenzuela her Husband
Refugia
Felipa
Maria Antonia
Concepcion
Gertrudis
Juan
Eugenio
Micaela
her Children (all Minors)

4 A. B. Williams

5 Thomas B. Dibblee, Albert Dibblee & W. W. Hollister

6 Ramon Gonzales

7 J. M. Short

8 O. D. Metcalf

9 Heirs of Augustus J. Dinsmore dec.ᵈ, namely
Emily T. Dinsmore his Widow
Sarah
Albert
Bradley T.
Fanny E.
Thomas
Irvin W.
his children (all Minors)

And I further certify – that I do not find of record

any other claim to title or ownership of the said lands or any part thereof.

C. A. Thompson

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 19th day of
January A D 1876
A. S. Cooper
Notary Public

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State of California

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: I — William H. Norway, now and for nine years, the County Surveyor of Santa Barbara County, —

DO hereby certify, —

That I am well and familiarly acquainted with every part of the Rancho Las Cruces in the said County and with all the adjoining Lands, having at times spent several days in going over the said Rancho and adjoining Lands engaged in surveying, — on one occasion as Deputy U. S. Surveyor running the lines of the Rancho Najoqui, — on another occasion the lines of the Rancho Santa Rosa, — on another occasion the lines of the Ranchos San Julian and Nuestra Señora del Refugio (more particularly that part of the latter called the Gaviota Rancho which adjoins the southerly end or side of Las Cruces) — and on another occasion, by order of the U. S. Surveyor General for California, surveying as Public Land a portion of Township 6 North, Range 32 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, and subdividing the same, — and on still another occasion by similar order of the said U. S. Surveyor General, surveying as Public Land a portion of Township 5 North, Range 32 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, and subdividing the same; — the entire Rancho Las Cruces falling within the said two Townships, and the lines of the said public surveys running through the said Las Cruces.

That I have carefully examined the original deseño in the Grant of Las Cruces and now on file in the Spanish Archives in the U. S. Surveyor General's office in San Francisco, and have also had with me in the field on some of the occasions above referred to, — ~~and I find~~ a certified copy of the said Deseño, — and I find the same to correspond in all important points with the topography and natural and artificial land marks of the ground of the said Las Cruces Rancho.

That the accompanying Map of the lands claimed for the said Las Cruces Rancho is made by me from the lines of official surveys as run, and notes made by me upon the ground itself, — and that the said Map is in all respects correct and true.

That I have carefully calculated the area embraced within the lines shown on the said accompanying map as true boundaries of the said Las Cruces Rancho, according to the calls of the original Grant and Deseño, and

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that I find the total of the actual area within such boundaries to be 8.144.100 acres, being less than the two leagues stated as the quantity contained in the original Grant of the said Rancho Las Cruces.

I further certify, - as to character of the land; that except a few spots varying in extent from 5 acres to 10 acres each, the lands included within the said boundaries consist almost entirely of steep hills and narrow cañadas, and are mostly adapted to grazing but not to cultivation, though the soil is good; - and in part, (the East side of the Rancho) - of the slope of the Mountain which is exceedingly rocky and broken by ravines, - the soil of this portion being light and producing principally scrub-oak and other brush.

Wm. H. Norway
County Surveyor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of January A.D. 1876

A. S. Cooper
Notary Public

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Deposition of Vicente Cordero

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Vicente Cordero on first being duly sworn, does on his oath depose and say:

That he is a citizen of the United States, born in the State of California, aged about fifty-one years more or less, - is by occupation a Farmer, and resides with his family upon lands of the Rancho Las Cruces in the County of Santa Barbara and State of California:

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That his Father was named Miguel Cordero, and died in the year 1851 at his residence at the Ranch House on the said Rancho Las Cruces: That the said Ranch House in which his Father died was situated within a few feet of the dwelling house of this Deponent and in which he (Deponent) now resides with his family: that his Father, Miguel Cordero, was born in the State of California, - had long served there as a Soldier in the Mexican Army, - and at the date of his death was aged near or about seventy years.

That the said Miguel Cordero, at his death, left a Widow named Maria-Antonia Jimenez Cordero (mother of this Deponent) and nine Children, issue of his marriage with the said Maria-Antonia, - most of whom were Minors, and all of whom, at the date of their Father's death resided upon the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces.

That this Deponent's Father at the date of his death and for many years, to wit, about eighteen years, prior thereto, was in the actual occupation and possession of the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces and the whole thereof, - consisting of about two leagues: and for fourteen years prior to his death the said Miguel Cordero was the sole owner of the said Rancho, having

been granted the same by the Mexicand Government in the year 1837 in consideration of military services rendered by him to his said Government and for other reasons:

That as such sole owner he had continuously occupied the said Rancho Las Cruces with his livestock, until his decease, when he left on his said Rancho over one thousand head of cattle and a considerable number of horses;

That this Deponent's Father, during his possession of such Rancho, had two fields thereon under cultivation with Wheat, Barley &c., and enclosed with fences, - also a garden near his residence, - also a vineyard planted by him, Deponent's Father, containing about two thousand grapevines, - also an orchard of Pear, Apple, Peach and other kinds of fruit trees; - and to which this Deponent afterwards added another orchard of fruit trees, now in full bearing and eight or ten years old.

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That the date of the grant of title to his Father was, as aforesaid, in 1837, - but he was in the actual occupation and possession of the same lands and had his residence thereon about four years prior to the said grant, - to wit, about the year 1833, - and that from the said last mentioned date to the date of his death in 1851 he continued in the occupation and possession of all the lands of the said Rancho.

This Deponent further states that he, the Deponent, was present on the ground at the date when his Father, Miguel Cordero was officially put into the Juridical possession of the said Rancho Las Cruces in due form and by the custom of the laws then in force, by the First Alcalde of Santa Barbara, Nicholas A. Den now deceased: - that he well remembers the said Alcalde and the

occasion of his presence at the Rancho, and what took place at such juridical posession, - the ceremony being one of much moment and importance in the quietude and monotony of the family life at that time: that the boundaries of the said Rancho Las Cruces as claimed and held and occupied by the Deponent's Father, and according to which the said juridical posession was given him as aforesaid by the said Alcalde, - are as follows: on the North by the lands of the Ranchos Santa Rosa and Najoqui, - on the North East and East by the cuchilla or ridge of the Najoqui and the brushy sierras or mountains, - on the South by lands of the Rancho La Garita (which is part of the Rancho Nuestra Señora del Refugio) - and on the West by lands of the Rancho San Julian; - and that during the life time of his Father no person whomsoever ever disturbed or disputed the said boundaries of the said Rancho Las Cruces as above described, and no person except his Father ever occupied or attempted to occupy or claimed any right to occupy any part of the said lands within the said boundaries.

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That the Deponent's Father could not either write or read; that he died suddenly after less than twenty four hours' illness, and left no Will: - that from and after the date of his death, his Widow, the Mother of this Deponent and of the other children aforesaid, continued to reside with the said children, at the same Ranch House where their Father had died, - and the said Widow and children continued in the actual occupation and posession of all the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces and in the same manner as these had been occupied by the Deponent's Father prior to his death, - and also in posession of the above mentioned live stock and property left by him: - that the personal property, after the death

of the said Miguel Cordero was divided between his Widow and his said nine children, — the said live-stock except such part as was sold for payment of debts, taxes and expenses, remaining on the said Rancho and in the same manner as it had continued during the life time of the said Miguel Cordero.

That the Mother of this Deponent never again married, — and after surviving her said Husband about six years, died in or about the year 1857 and in the same house on the said Rancho Las Cruces in which her said Husband died.

That the Deponent's Mother also could not either write or read, and left no Will; That after her death the children divided the personal property, — but left the said lands of Las Cruces undivided and held in common among themselves, — each one of the children keeping thereon what live-stock he or she owned, pasturing it promiscuously with that of the other children & owners on all parts of the said Rancho Las Cruces up to the boundaries thereof above described.

That most of the said nine children of the said Miguel Cordero were born in the said Ranch House on the said Rancho Las Cruces, (though this Deponent was not born there, — but was aged about eight or ten years when he first came to the said Rancho and when his Father first entered into the possession thereof.)

This Deponent further states that of his Father's said children, six sons are now living namely, — this Deponent Vicente, Juan, Jose-Antonio, Jesus-Antonio, Jose-Jesus, and Salvador; — and that two sons and the only daughter are deceased; — of which deceased, one, (Gregorio) left a Widow and children now living; — and the daughter of the said Miguel Cordero, (Ysabel, who died in October

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1874,) left her Husband Clovis Valenzuela and eight children, all Minors still, and who with their Father the said Clovis, still own and hold the interest or share of the said Isabel in the said Rancho Las Cruces together with their home thereon; and that the names of the children of Deponents deceased Sister are as follows: Refugia, Juan, Felipa, Maria Antonia, Eugenio, Concepcion, Gertrudis and Micaela:

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That Juan Cordero, owner of one interest or share (one ninth part) in the said Rancho and of his separate dwelling house thereon, - is and for a long time has been in ill health and unable to work, and has a Wife and Eleven Children, of whom two, namely Estanislado and Francisco Cordero are married and both reside with their families on the said Rancho, the former having a Wife and two minor children, - and the latter a Wife and three minor children:

That this Deponent has a Wife and five children all minors and all residing with him in his said house on the said Rancho.

That other Co-owners, successors of undivided interests of some of the children of the said Miguel Cordero deceased, (and deriving title solely through him) reside in their separate houses on the said Rancho, and carry on their business there.

That such of the children of the Deponents Father as are now living and are not now on the said Rancho, still regard the Rancho as their Home and are in the habit of returning thereto as such from time to time each year.

This Deponent further states that during all the minority of himself and his Brothers and Sister, there was no School within many miles of their said home on Las Cruces, and none where it was practicable

or within their circumstances to attend, — and that except for Antonio and himself (who had learned a little before coming to the said Rancho) none of his Father's family could either write or read, and no member of his family could speak or understand the English language; that there were no newspapers published in English or Spanish language in Santa Barbara County until many years after his Father's death, — or until about the month of May 1855; and that neither his Father or Mother ever knew or heard of any American law which made it obligatory upon any one to present his title papers to any American Tribunal either for examination or confirmation: that his Father and Mother and also their children, understood that the title of the said Miguel Cordero was complete and perfect under the Mexican Laws, and had never been questioned or disturbed by any one, and therefore they could not understand that anything remained to be done under the American Laws: and further that this Deponent likewise had never heard of any law requiring the presentation by Land Claimants of their title papers to any American Tribunal, — until long after the expiration of the time limited for such presentation under the Laws of the United States; —

In consequence of all which, — as well as because of his Father's sudden death just at or before the time when the said Act requiring presentation of such Land claims, went into operation; — and because of the unsettled condition of his Father's Estate for several years afterwards; — and because also of the ignorance and inexperience of his Father's family and the minority of many of his children, as set forth above, — the claim to the said Rancho Las Cruces never was presented to the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners.

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This Deponent further states that he is residing with his wife and family aforesaid at the same place occupied by his Father on the said Rancho Las Cruces, in a house erected by this Deponent immediately adjoining the site of the old Ranch House after the latter had become decayed through age, and that he has there resided continuously from the death of his Father to this day. That this Deponent still has possession of the original Vineyard and Orchard of his Father and has continuously cultivated the same each year, - and has planted additional lands in vines and fruit trees, and enclosed these with fences, - and has enclosed, cultivated and planted other portions also of the said lands of Las Cruces and erected improvements thereon; and that his cultivation, occupation and possession of the said lands has never been disputed or questioned by any person; and that not only this Deponent, but the other members of the said Cordero family aforesaid, have since the death of the said Miguel Cordero, ~~have~~ continued to use and still do use the said lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces in the business of wool-growing and of breeding, raising and maintaining their live-stock consisting of sheep, cattle and horses, - and have cultivated and do still cultivate such portions of the said lands as were and as are necessary to yield a support to themselves and families; and that they and their co-owners, successors in interest of some of his Brothers' undivided portions in the said Rancho, - are the only persons now in the actual occupation or possession of the lands of the said Rancho, - and that no person whomsoever except those deriving their title through the said Miguel Cordero by virtue of the grant to him from the Mexican Government,

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now use, occupy or claim the right to occupy any portion of the said lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces.

That all the interests in the said Rancho are still undivided, and that the said lands are held and used in common by all the Owners thereof, and have been and so continued ever since the death of this Deponent's Father as aforesaid in the month of March 1851 to this day.

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This Deponent further states that he is now poor, and that he and his relatives aforesaid residing on the said lands, are entirely dependent upon the products of their manual labor on the said lands and in their said business thereon, to support themselves and Wives and Children, - and that although possessed as aforesaid of what is a perfect title under the Mexican law, - none of the said Owners have any title recognised by the Laws of the United States, to any portion of their said lands or their homes thereon; and they are in imminent danger of being deprived of their said lands, and of having their business destroyed; - and in such case, this Deponent's family and the Wives and families of all those whose homes are on the said Rancho would be left without the means of support, - thereby causing great hardship to himself and to all those owning the undivided interests as aforesaid in the said Rancho Las Cruces.

Signed by the Deponent and by him sworn to before me this 4th. day of January 1876, - after the above had been carefully and fully read to him by me in Spanish and the contents fully and correctly made known and explained to him by me

Vicente Cordero

U. Bundart.
Notary Public

Deposition of Captain Burke.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Captain James W. Burke of the said County, - aged 77 years. - formerly Master of the Merchant Ship "Joseph Porter" of Liverpool, England. - being duly sworn deposes and says:

That he first came to California in the year 1820: that after leaving and returning in the year 1824 he re-married and settled in California, - and in the year 1828 he became a Resident of the town of Santa Barbara, - and his family have ever since been Residents of what is now Santa Barbara County.

That this Deponent became a Member of the Ayuntamiento of Santa Barbara, under the Mexican Government, and held that office in the year 1837: That his first name, James, being in the Spanish language "Santiago", he was called and known as Santiago Burke by the Inhabitants of California, - and is the same person so mentioned in the official proceedings on the matter of granting title by the Government in the said year 1837 to Miguel Cordero for the Rancho Las Cruces in Santa Barbara.

That previous to the last mentioned date this Deponent had known the said Miguel Cordero and also the said Rancho, and previous to such date and many times afterwards, this Deponent has been at the said Rancho during the life time of the said Miguel Cordero: that the latter became sole owner of the said Rancho by virtue of the Mexican Grant to him, - and with his live stock occupied the lands; and had a fine vineyard and orchard thereon, fenced and cultivated, - also a house in which he lived with his family, - and in:

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which house this Deponent has slept and eaten at various times while the said Miguel was living there as aforesaid;

That at a later period, to wit, in 1854 or 1855 this Deponent stopped for a large portion of his time on the Rancho Salsipuedes then belonging to his Son-in-law Wm. John C. Kays and which is distant but a short side (about 1½ hours') from Las Cruces, and during the last mentioned two years this Deponent frequently went to Las Cruces and through the lands thereof: that the same were then occupied solely by the Widow and Children of the said Miguel Cordero, who had died some three or four years previously: that a few years after this the said Widow died, and the Children of the said Miguel continued to occupy the said Rancho as undivided, and they and their subsequent co-owners claiming through them as Successors of the said Miguel Cordero still own and occupy the said Rancho, which still remains undivided.

That this Deponent has never heard disputed or questioned the genuineness of the said Mexican Grant or the ownership thereof by Miguel Cordero, or his actual and sole possession and occupation of the whole of the said Rancho, nor does he believe that any doubt or question thereof has ever arisen

And this Deponent further says he has not and never has had any interest or ownership in the said Rancho.

James W Burtle

Sworn and subscribed before me this 18th day of January 1876

H. A. Stone, County Clerk
By John Janssens
Deputy Clerk.

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Deposition of Francisco de la Guerra.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Francisco de la Guerra aged 57 years, formerly Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara for about Six years, — being duly sworn deposes and says:

That he was born in the said County of Santa Barbara, and except about one year, has resided all his life time therein:

That his Father (El Capitan José de la Guerra y Noriega formerly Habitado General of the two Californias under the dominion of Spain, and afterwards Comandante under the Mexican Government with head quarters at Santa Barbara) was from the year 1837 to the year 1858, Owner of the Rancho San Julian which adjoins the Rancho Las Cruces in Santa Barbara County: and during all that time and also for many years afterwards, this Deponent was in the habit of passing a great part of his time on the said Rancho San Julian in looking after his Father's interests there and his large stock of Cattle, Horses and Sheep, — and became well acquainted with all the neighboring Ranchos, including Las Cruces, frequently visiting and passing over all parts of the latter.

That he well knew Miguel Cordero in his life time, — and the fact that he, the said Miguel, had received from the Mexican Government the Grant to him of the said Rancho Las Cruces;

That from the commencement of the time when this Deponent used to frequent the said Ranchos San Julian, the said Miguel Cordero was in the actual occupation of the said Las Cruces Rancho and afterwards received juridical possession thereof from the 1st. Alcalde of Santa Barbara; and of his own knowledge this Deponent knows and states that the said Miguel Cordero occupied as sole Owner, all the lands of

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the said Rancho Las Cruces, and had the same stocked with his cattle and horses, - and resided on the same with his family until his death thereon in 1851, - having on his said Rancho a dwelling house; also fields, a fruit orchard, garden, and large vineyard, all in cultivation and enclosed in fence.

That this Deponent knew the Widow and Children of the said Miguel Cordero, and that these continued to reside in the said Ranch house of the said Miguel after the death of the latter; that the said Widow died in the same house about 5 or 6 years after her said Husband's decease; that the same place continued to be occupied by the Children of the said Miguel, and is still in the occupation and possession and cultivation of some of the said children and their children.

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And this Deponent further says that the said Widow and Children (most of the latter being then Minors) were entirely ignorant and uneducated, and lived in seclusion on their said Rancho, uninformed of, and indifferent to, the transactions of the World at large, and the news thereof; that because of their want of understanding, - and because the then recent and sudden death of the said Miguel Cordero had left the Widow and Children without any person capable of managing such affairs, - their said Grant was not presented before the Board of U. S. Land Commissioners, and the time limited by law for such presentation having expired, the opportunity was lost to them, and ever since they have been helpless in the matter.

That the said Grant of Las Cruces was for two leagues

embracing the lands from the Rancho Gaviota on the South to the Ranchos Santa Rosa and Najoqui on the North, - and from the Rancho San Julian on the West to the Cuchilla of the Najoqui on the North East and the rough Mountains on the East; the whole of which lands so described were in the sole undisputed occupation and ownership of the said Miguel Cordero, and after his death to the present time have continued undivided and in the sole and undisputed ownership, possession, and occupation of the family and successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero.

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This Deponent further says that he was and is well and thoroughly acquainted with every Mexican Land Grant in the County of Santa Barbara, and the lands thereof: that this Deponent, and as well his Father and all the neighboring Rancho Owners, - and in fact the whole community of Santa Barbara, always recognized the said Mexican Grant to Miguel Cordero of the said Rancho Las Cruces, as genuine, complete and perfect, - and equal in force and validity to any Grant of lands in California ever made by the Mexican Government. And so well has this been understood and recognised, - that from the date of the said Grant to this date, it has been respected by all; - and this Deponent has never heard of any person having attempted to disturb the ownership or possession of those holding under the said Mexican Grant to Miguel Cordero, - and has never heard of any person claiming or pretending to claim any adverse title thereto.

This Deponents says he has not and never has had any interest or ownership in any part of the said Rancho Las Cruces.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of January 1876.

W. Lindsay
Notary Public

Juan Co de la Guerra

Deposition of Captain de la Guerra.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Antonio Maria de la Guerra, —
aged 50 years, - born in the State of California, and Brother
of Francisco de la Guerra last above named, - being duly sworn
deposes and says: He has held and filled, among others, the following public
offices in California since its acquisition by the United States, - namely;
Member of the Council of Santa Barbara, for two years; -
Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara for four years; -
State Senator in the Legislature of California for two years;
and was for many years Member of Board of Supervisors of this County;
and was also Captain (Company C. of 1st. Battalion Native Cavalry)
in the U.S. Federal service, stationed in Arizona in 1865-66.

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That except about four years' absence from California thirty
years ago, and also his absence as aforesaid in 1865-66, he
has all his life been a resident of Santa Barbara

That he was personally acquainted with Miguel Cordero, Resident
upon, and Owner and Occupant of, the Rancho Las Cruces adjoining
the Rancho San Julian then belonging to this Deponent's Father,
and well knew the said Las Cruces Rancho itself; and was acquaint-
-ed also with the Wife and Children of the said Miguel Cordero.

And this Deponent says that (exclusive of the period of his
absence as aforesaid and the circumstances during that time)
all the facts and circumstances particularly set forth in the
foregoing annexed Deposition of his Brother Francisco de la
Guerra concerning the said Rancho Las Cruces, its ownership,
occupation and possession by the said Miguel Cordero
and after his death, by his Family and successors in inter-
-est, to the present time, - and concerning the title to the
said Rancho Las Cruces; - and all the matters and things

in the said deposition by this Deponent said Brother set forth and mentioned, — are within the personal knowledge of this Deponent, and are by him affirmed hereby.

And this Deponent says he does not owne or claim and never has owned or claimed any part of or interest in the said Rancho Las Cruces.

Wm. de la Guerra

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Sworn to before me this
Tenth day of January 1876

W. Blendart
Notary Public

Deposition of Lewis T. Burton.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Lewis T. Burton

a Native of the State of Tennessee, aged 67 years, — and Owner of the Rancho Jesus Maria in the said county, — distant about three hours' ride from the Rancho Las Cruces below mentioned, being duly sworn deposes and says:

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That he came in the year 1831 to what is now known as Santa Barbara County, and has been a resident thereof ever since that date:

That many years before the acquisition of California by the United States and about Thirty five or Thirty six years ago, he became acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces: at that time (in the year 1840) Miguel Cordero was in the possession and occupation thereof and had it stocked with his Cattle, Horses &c., and lived there with his family: he had, immediately near his dwelling house, a Vineyard and Orchard, both in fence and under cultivation: and from the date last mentioned and during five or six years next ensuing, this Deponent was frequently at the said Rancho Las Cruces, — and slept at the said house of the said Miguel Cordero and ate there many times.

That a long time previously, and many years before the acquisition of California by the United States as aforesaid, the said Miguel Cordero had become the Owner of the said Rancho Las Cruces by Grant thereof to him from the Government of Mexico, — which fact was well known among the neighboring Ranch Owners and by the Public, — and the said Grant was universally recognized ~~and respected~~ as genuine, — and as valid as was any Mexican Grant in California, — and was always respected accordingly: which statement this Deponent is confident would willingly be corroborated by all old Residents of Santa Barbara of those times, — who may yet be living.

That this Deponent never heard of any doubt of the genuineness and

completeness of the Grant, – and in fact no one has ever questioned it. Nor has this Deponent ever heard of any claim adverse thereto.

That Miguel Cordero died in possession of his said Rancho, and his Widow and Children possessed and occupied it until the death of the Widow, – and from that time the said Children, and their Co-owners deriving their title through them as heirs of the said Miguel Cordero, have occupied and possessed the said Rancho in undivided interests.

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That since the death of the said Miguel Cordero and of his said Widow, this Deponent has continued at short intervals to go to, and to pass through, the said Rancho Las Cruces, – and that on each and every such occasion he has found the family of the said Miguel Cordero still in the occupation thereof, – and Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel, still ~~in this~~ living with his family at the site of the original Ranch House and dwelling aforesaid of his Father the said Miguel, – and still cultivating the original Vineyard and Orchard of his Father.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 18th day of January 1876

W. S. Cooper
Notary Public

And this Deponent says he has not and never has had any interest or ownership in the said Rancho.

Louis T. Burton

Deposition of Gaspar Oreña

State of California
County Santa Barbara } ss: Gaspar Oreña a Native of Santander in the Kingdom of Spain, aged 50 years, being duly sworn deposes and says: That he is and for about 33 — years has been a resident of Santa Barbara in California: That he has been the Owner of several Ranchos in that part of Santa Barbara County where is situated the Rancho Las Cruces below mentioned (and among them, the Rancho Zaca which he purchased in 1846, - the Rancho La Espada, being a subdivision of Punta de la Concepcion, - and the Rancho San Julian) and that he spent much of his time on some of the above Ranchos and in the country contiguous to the said Rancho Las Cruces; That in or about the year 1842 he became acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces and with Miguel Cordero who claimed, and was understood, to be the sole owner by virtue of a grant to him from the Mexican Government, and who occupied the said Rancho Las Cruces and resided thereon with his family: that when this Deponent first saw the said Rancho Las Cruces, the said Miguel Cordero had thereon the dwelling house wherein he resided as aforesaid, also an orchard and vineyard in bearing and fenced fields in cultivation, Corrals for stock, &c. &c., and which improvements had evidently then been made several years previously.

That the said Rancho continued to be owned and occupied by the said Miguel until his death in or about the year 1851: That from that time it remained undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of his Widow and his Children and who resided in his late dwelling house, where the said Widow died some 5 or 6 years after her husbands death: and after the

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death of his Widow, the said Rancho continued still undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of his said Children and of their Co-owners successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero, and has so continued to the present time. That the said Vineyard and Orchard are still in the possession of, and cultivation by, the said Children of the said Miguel Cordero, - particularly by his son, Vicente Cordero who with his Wife and children reside in the dwelling house of the said Vicente adjoining the original dwelling aforesaid of his Father the said Miguel: That there are five or six other houses on the said Rancho Las Cruces used as dwellings by the said Cordero family and Co-owners, - also Stables Corrals, fenced Fields, Fruit trees &c. &c.

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That ever since the death of the said Miguel Cordero to the present time this Deponent has been in the habit of frequently going to, and of passing over, the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces, in watching and looking after his Stock, and in passing back and forth to and from his Ranchos, - and has purchased cattle on the said Las Cruces from the sons of the said Miguel Cordero, - and has assisted in making a road through that part of the said Las Cruces which adjoins the Rancho San Justum, - and has had various other matters to attend to on the said Las Cruces during all the years of his acquaintance as aforesaid with that Rancho. And this Deponent knows and says that the continuous sole use and occupation of the said Las Cruces Rancho by the owners thereof aforesaid has been, and is, actual, genuine and bona fide, and for the true and legitimate purposes of their business, to-wit, raising of live stock and wool-growing, and in parts for cultivation; and that several of the owners in interest and residents and various minor

children and their Mothers are dependent upon the said lands for their support. That the said Rancho is understood to extend from the Rancho Gaviota to the Rancho Santa Rosa, and from the Rancho San Julian to the Rancho Najoqui on the North East and to and including a portion of the side of the brushy and rocky Mountains on the East, — and to include two leagues of land.

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And this Deponent states that in the district of country wherein the said Rancho Las Cruces is situated, the Ranch Owners and old residents of the times anterior to the occupation of California by the military forces of the United States have always been unanimous in regarding the said Mexican Grant to Miguel Cordero of the Rancho Las Cruces as a genuine and perfect one under the Mexican laws and have always so treated the same and the title of the said Children and their Co-owners as derived from the said Grant, which has remained undisturbed and respected to this time.

And this Deponent says he does not own and never has owned or claimed any interest in the said Rancho Las Cruces.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me
this 12th day of January 1876

W. Tindall
Notary Public

Gaspar Orena

Deposition of Augustin Janssens.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Augustin Janssens

formerly Alcalde of the said County, aged 59 years, - a Native of the City of Brussels (now in the Kingdom of Belgium) - and now a Citizen of the United States, - being duly sworn deposes and says;

That in the year 1834, he came to what is now the State of California, but was then territory of the Government of Mexico, - and ever since that time has been a resident of California; - and from the year 1841 to the present time, a resident of that portion of California now forming the County of Santa Barbara.

That in the year 1844 this Deponent became the Owner of, and commenced to reside upon, the Rancho Las Lomas de la Purificacion in this county, and continued to reside on his said Rancho with his family until about the year 1855 when he sold the said Rancho and removed to the Town of Santa Barbara. That during the whole of the period of his residence on his said Rancho, he was in the constant habit of visiting the Rancho Las Cruces which was distant from his residence only about one hour's ride; and was well acquainted with the Owner of the last named Rancho, Miguel Cordero, ~~until the death~~ from the year 1844 until the death of the said Miguel in the Spring of the year 1851.

That during all that time, the said Miguel Cordero claimed to be the sole owner of the said Rancho Las Cruces, - which was co-lindante with (bounded by) the Lands of the Ranchos Gaviota, - San Julian, - Santa Rosa, - and Najoqui, - and understood to contain two leagues; and that the said Miguel Cordero, ~~and he alone~~, used and occupied as his property all the said lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces, - and that

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no other person occupied or claimed any right to occupy any part of the said lands of Las Cruces ; — that the said Miguel Cordero had the same stocked with his cattle and horses ; the he had also on the said Rancho a dwelling house wherein he resided with his family, also an Orchard of fruit trees, a large vineyard, and fields in cultivation and fenced ; — that the said Miguel Cordero died in his said residence on Las Cruces, and that he left a Widow and nine children, many of the latter being under the age of 21 years.

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This Deponent says that he remembers that in the Autumn following the death of the said Miguel, he (Deponent) was appointed Appraiser of the personal property of the said Miguel deceased, — and went to Las Cruces and performed there his appointed duties, — and on that occasion and on many subsequent ones, he saw the Widow and Children of the said deceased, there residing in the same house where the said Miguel Cordero had died. This Deponent being well acquainted with all of the said family, knows that the said Widow and children were uneducated, — not being able to write or read, (except a Son, Vicente,) — unacquainted with any language except Spanish, — and wholly inexperienced in, and ignorant of, all business other than the raising of live stock on their Rancho ; which was the reason why their title to their said Rancho Las Cruces was not presented by them before the Board of Land Commissioners.

That the Widow of the said Miguel Cordero continued to reside with her Children, in his said dwelling house on Las Cruces until her death, which took place in the same house five or six

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years subsequent to her husband's decease, – and after the death of their Mother, the said Children still continued to reside in the same house until some years later when they built at the same place adjoining the original house, another dwelling house and in which one of the sons of the said Miguel Cordero namely, Vicente Cordero and his Wife and family still reside, and still have in possession and cultivation (besides other portions of the said lands of Las Cruces) the original Orchard, Vineyard &c of his Father Miguel Cordero.

That this Deponent has held the office of County Assessor of this County for several terms, to wit Eight years, consecutively, commencing in 1862; during all which time he annually assessed the lands of Las Cruces contained in the boundaries aforesaid, as the private property belonging to the family of Miguel Cordero, and his Successors in interest deriving title through him, and held by them in undivided interests or ownerships.

And this Deponent further says that though he has resided as aforesaid in Santa Barbara from a period long anterior to the acquisition of California by the United States, – and has known the said Rancho Las Cruces and every part thereof and all its Owners, for over Thirty one years, and to the present time, – he has never heard of any claim to any of the lands thereof adverse to that of the said Miguel Cordero and his Successors in interest deriving title only from the grant to him from the Mexican Government; – and that this Deponent has never heard of any doubt or question as to the validity and good faith of the said grant. And the sole ownership of the said lands by the family and successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero

has always been, and is, universally respected by the people of this County, and the said Rancho Las Cruces regarded as the private property of the said Cordero family and their Co-owners deriving title as aforesaid from the Mexican Grant to the said Miguel Cordero. And Deponent states that he has no interest in any part of the said Las Cruces Rancho. A Jansens

Subscribed Sworn to by Deponent and in his presence this 6th day of January 1876

H. P. Stone
County Clerk
By John Janssens
Deputy Clerk.

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Deposition of William A. Streeter.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: William A. Streeter of the said County, aged 64 years, being duly sworn, says:

That he is a native of Auburn in the County of Cayuga and State of New York: That he came to California in May 1843, and to Santa Barbara in July 1844, and that ever since the last mentioned date he has been a resident of Santa Barbara, with the exception of a few intervals of absence in Sen Luis Obispo and other parts of this State:

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That for several years from and after the year 1844 this Deponent, as Physician, was in the habit of visiting different parts of Santa Barbara County, and among other parts the district wherein is situated the Rancho Las Cruces, and he afterwards resided on the Rancho Bolsa de Chamisal in the same neighborhood:

That he personally knew Miguel Cordero from the said year 1844 until his decease in 1851, and that he became acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces in the year 1845 at which time he stopped at the said Rancho and where the said Miguel Cordero was then living with his family, - and that on various other occasions before the occupation of California by the United States, this Deponent was at the said Rancho Las Cruces, and ate meals and spent the night, at the dwelling house of the said Miguel Cordero on his said Rancho, - and since that time and during the years intervening to the present date, this Deponent has been at the said Rancho Las Cruces from time to time until within four days now last past. - And this Deponent knows

and states that the said Miguel Cordero was in the actual sole possession and occupation of the said Rancho Las Cruces from the time when this Deponent first stopped there in the year 1845 as aforesaid until the death of the said Miguel in 1851, holding it as sole Owner under a Grant thereof from the Mexican Government; and that from the death of the said Miguel, the said Rancho has remained undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of his Heirs and Successors in interest claiming and holding under the same Grant.

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That the said Miguel Cordero in his life time, had on the said Rancho, besides his said dwelling house, a Fruit Orchard, Vineyard, Gardens and Fields all in fence and cultivated, and had his entire Rancho stocked with his Horses, Cattle Sheep &c.; - and which Rancho embraced the lands which are coincidente with those of the Ranchos San Julian Santa Rosa, Najoqui and the Lecrita, - and were bounded on the East by the rough Mountains.

That many of the improvements on the said Rancho made by the said Miguel Cordero still exist, especially the Orchard and Vineyard, and are, and have continuously been, in the possession and occupation of his Family.

And this Deponent says that so plainly and unquestionably was the said Rancho Las Cruces the bona-fide property of the said Miguel Cordero in his actual possession and ownership and in that of his family and successors under his said Grant from the Mexican Government of California, - that this Deponent in common with all the old residents of the times prior to the American occupation

of this Country, cannot understand any reason why a Title so complete and perfect under the Mexican Laws as was that of Las Cruces, and its Ownership as the private property of the said original Grantee and his Heirs and Successors, — should not be acknowledged and recognised as such by the United States in accordance with their Treaty with Mexico, and in accordance at the same time with the rights of ownership in private property.

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This Deponent says that he does not own or claim and never has owned or claimed any part of, or interest in, the said Rancho Las Cruces.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of January 1876

Nelson W. Wilson
Notary Public in and for the County of Santa Barbara and State of California

Wm A. Streeter

Deposition of Doctor James L. Ord.

State of California, County of Santa Barbara } ss:

James L. Ord M. D. of Santa Barbara in the said State formerly Surgeon in the United States Army, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That in the year 1847 he came to California in the service of the United States (in company with his Brother Major General Ord and General Sherman, then Lieutenants) - That early in 1848, to wit in February, he was stationed as Surgeon at Santa Barbara, and there resided for about one year, - and after some periods of absence, became a permanent resident of Santa Barbara, - where he has resided in all about Twenty years, practising his profession of Surgery.

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That in the year 1848 he became acquainted with the Rancho Las Cruces in the said County, - and with Miguel Cordero the Owner and original Grantee thereof from the Mexican Government.

That Deponent was frequently at the said Rancho:

That at the time mentioned, the said Miguel Cordero resided with his family thereon, and was in the sole use occupation and possession of the said Rancho; - and that his improvements then comprised among others, one or two houses, corrals, an ample vineyard, orchard, garden and fields all cultivated and fenced:

That subsequently and at the time of the death of the said Miguel Cordero, this Deponent was absent from Santa Barbara, and on his return in 1857 he found the said Rancho in the possession of the family of the said Miguel Cordero:

That Deponent has continued to pay frequent visits to the said Rancho, and has attended professionally various members of the said Cordero family and others on the said Rancho:

That he knows Vicente Cordero, Son of the said Miguel Cordero dec^d., and has known him ever since 1857; that during all that time the said Vicente and his Wife and children have resided and still reside on the said Rancho:

That he knows the fact that Ysabel Cordero, daughter of the said Miguel Cordero, and Wife of Cloris Valenzuela, after residing many years on her separate residence on the said Rancho, with her family, - died there in October in the year 1874, (this Deponent being in attendance upon her at the time of her death) leaving her dwelling house and the one ninth undivided share in the said Rancho, received by her from her Father Miguel Cordero, - to her Husband and Minor children who are still the Owners thereof: - That he knows the following other members of the Cordero family also residing on the said Rancho, - namely Juan Cordero now poor and in feeble health, and his family; Estanislao Cordero and his family of Wife and minor children; Francisco Cordero and his Wife and minor children.

That there are now on the said Rancho Las Cruces, at least Seven Dwelling Houses, also Stables, out houses, fenced fields, Gardens, Vineyards and Orchards, all in the exclusive possession of the Owners of the said Rancho deriving their sole title through the Grant thereof by the Mexican Government to Miguel Cordero:

That the said Corderos have continued to occupy the said Rancho Las Cruces, and they and the other successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero, are still the sole Owners and Occupants thereof, - and that Deponent has never heard of any claim to the said Las Cruces Rancho or any part thereof except that of the said Children and Successors of said Miguel Cordero, all deriving

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title solely from the said Grant to him from the Mexican Government.

This Deponent further says that he is acquainted with the pecuniary condition and circumstances of the said Corderos residents on the said Rancho: that he knows the fact to be that they and their families derive their support and maintenance from their said lands, granted as aforesaid to their Ancestor the said Miguel Cordero, — and should their said lands be lost to them by being regarded and treated as public land and be sold or settled upon under the laws relating to public lands, — many of the said Cordero family including women and minor children would be deprived of their sole means of support.

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And this Deponent further says that he has not, and never has had any interest or ownership in the said Rancho Las Cruces or any part thereof.

Sworn before me this 30th day of December, 1875.

James L. Ord, M.D.

A Mudart

Notary Public

Deposition of Miguel F. Burke

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Miguel F. Burke being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he resides at the Rancho La Gaviota in the County of Santa Barbara aforesaid, (which adjoins the Southerly side of the Rancho Las Cruces) and has there resided for several years last past, being engaged in conducting the business of freighting and forwarding merchandize and in raising live stock:

That he has resided in the said County over thirty years:

That he is, and for twenty five years has been, thoroughly acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces and all parts thereof, having had during most of that time, a stock of Cattle and Horses on Ranchos in that vicinity, — and having very often during that time gone over and through all parts of Las Cruces, looking after his Stock and for other purposes.

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That the Las Cruces Rancho was always understood to extend from the Rancho La Gaviota (which is a subdivision of the Rancho Nuestra Señora del Refugio) on the South, — to the Rancho Santa Rosa on the North, — and from the Rancho San Julian on the West to the Cuchilla (ridge) of the Najaqui & the Sierra on the East, — and to contain two leagues.

That he knew Miguel Cordero the Grantee of said Rancho from the Mexican Government, and the house where he resided with his family on the said Rancho Las Cruces; that at the death of the said Miguel Cordero he left a Widow, who died at the same house, a few years afterwards, — and a large family of children:

That at the time when he first saw the said Rancho Las Cruces, the said Miguel Cordero had thereon, besides the said

Dwelling house, fenced fields under cultivation, Corrals for his Cattle and Horses, Vegetable Garden, Orchard and Vineyard, all enclosed in fences, - and a stock of cattle;

That though the original dwelling house has decayed the same has been replaced several years ago by another immediately adjoining its site, built by Vicente Cordero, Son of the said Miguel Cordero, and which now and still is occupied by said Vicente and his Wife and children, - and that the fields, orchard and Vineyard aforesaid still exist, and are, and have been continuously since the death of the said Miguel Cordero, in the use, cultivation and possession by and of his children and grandchildren.

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That he has never heard of any claim to any part of the said Rancho Las Cruces adverse to the title of the said Miguel Cordero and his Successors who derive title solely through him, - but that the title of said Cordero, from this Deponent's earliest acquaintance therewith, has been always recognised and respected as good and valid: - And that during the time he knew the said Miguel Cordero, the whole of the said Rancho Las Cruces was in the sole occupation and possession of the said Miguel Cordero, and has continued in the sole and uninterrupted possession of his Children and their Successors in undivided ownership from the death of said Miguel Cordero to the date hereof.

And this Deponent says that he has not and never has had any interest or ownership whatever in any part of the said Las Cruces Rancho.

Miguel F. Burke

Sworn before me this 27th day of December 1875 -

M. Yndart
Notary Public

Deposition of John C. Kays

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: John C. Kays of the said County, aged 63 years, - formerly Merchant and afterwards Farmer and Breeder of live-stock, - being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That in the year 1846 he came to the County of Santa Barbara, and with his family became a resident thereof.

That in the year 1850 he became the owner (by purchase from the original Mexican Grantee) of the Rancho Salsipuedes in the vicinity of the Rancho Las Cruces in the said County, - and immediately entered in to possession and occupation of his said Rancho Salsi-pue-des, and stocked the same with his live stock, and continues the occupation thereof from the said year 1850 for Eighteen years consecutively thereafter: That during all that time he was in the habit of frequently going over the lands of the Las Cruces Rancho (as well as of other neighboring Ranchos) looking after any of his live stock which might have strayed, and he became well acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces and with the Owner thereof, Miguel Cordero, and with his Wife and Children:

That when this Deponent first saw the said Rancho Las Cruces in the year 1848, it was owned and occupied by the said Miguel Cordero who had it stocked with his horses, cattle and sheep, and who until his death held it under a Grant to him from the Government of Mexico: That the said Rancho Las Cruces consisted of two leagues of land co-lindante with the Ranchos Najoqui, Santa Rosa, San Julian, and Lompoc, and was bounded on the East by lonely Mountains: That the said Miguel Cordero had a dwelling house about the centre of his said Ran-cho Las Cruces, and resided there in with his family; and

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had there also an orchard, a fine vineyard of many hundred grape-vines bearing abundantly (the grapes from which, this Deponent frequently ate,)- and had also a couple of fields; - all of which fields, vineyard, orchard &c. were fenced and cultivated by the said Miguel Cordero; and that after the death of the latter, the said house and improvements and also the whole Rancho continued to be occupied by his Widow and Children; and after the death of the said Widow, - by the said children who built another house adjoining the original one, - and occupied the same, with the said Vineyard and other improvements and still possess and occupy the same; and that the whole of the said Rancho has continued from the death of the said Miguel Cordero to the present time undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of the said Children of the said Miguel Cordero and their Co-owners successors in interest therein claiming title solely under the said Mexican grant to him: That this Deponent has never heard of any claim to any part of the said lands of Las Cruces in conflict with or adverse to the said Mexican grant to the said Miguel Cordero; and that the said title has been universally regarded as genuine and valid, and has been by all respected as such to the present time.

And this Deponent says that he has no interest or ownership, and never has had any, in the said Rancho Las Cruces.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me
this Eighth day of January 1876

H. Gudart
Notary Public

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Deposition of Thomas W. Moore.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Thomas W. Moore, aged 58 years and upwards, - being duly sworn deposes and says:

That he is the Owner of, and with his family resides upon, the Rancho "Las Lomas de la Purificacion" (a patented Rancho) in the vicinity of the Rancho Las Cruces, in Santa Barbara County, California, - and has resided in the said County for the last 21 years and over: That he has served two terms (6 years) as Supervisor of the said County, and has been President of the said Board.

That as Supervisor it has been his duty to take official cognizance of all lands in the said County, of the location of, and quantity in, each tract, - of the value thereof, - of the title and ownership, - of the residents and occupants and their property and improvements, and of the use of the lands: - That in the performance of such duties in relation to the said Las Cruces Rancho, as well as from his previous personal knowledge of the lands &c. thereof, he is well and thoroughly acquainted with the said Rancho: and that he has known the same ever since the year 1854;

That in the year 1855 this Deponent hired on lease another Rancho in the vicinity of Las Cruces and resided on the former and occupied it with his live stock for two years: that in the management of such stock he had frequent and constant occasion to visit Las Cruces Rancho and examine all parts of the same; - and for the last 20 years he has visited that Rancho many times in each year:

That when he first knew the said Rancho Las Cruces as aforesaid in 1854, the same was in the sole occupation and possession of the Widow and children of Miguel Cordero deceased, the original owner and grantee thereof from the Mexican Government, and was undivided; that they were living in the Ranch House which was the Dwelling House of the said Miguel Cordero and in which he had died.

That this Deponent became well acquainted with the said family and knew all the members thereof; that they were almost entirely uneducated and only one or two of them could write or read, - and even these two, very imperfectly, - and none of the family could ever speak or understand the English language;

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That the said Miguel Cordero having died suddenly without leaving any Will, and some of his children being then and for many years afterwards, Minors, the lands were held in common by them and used indiscriminately, but exclusively, among themselves, - no particular one of them having the management of the whole. That in consequence of this confused state of affairs, and through the ignorance of the said Widow and Children, their matters were much neglected, and the time for presentation of land claims before the Board of Land Commissioners as limited by the act of Congress, - was suffered to elapse without the claim of Las Cruces being presented, and the same never was presented to the said Board; and the said Rancho having descended from the said Miguel Cordero in nine undivided shares to his said children continues in the same mode of occupation by his successors to this day, in undivided ownership. Notwithstanding all which, the said Grant and the bona-fide ownership and possession by the said Miguel Cordero and his Children and Successors, being well known throughout the County, - were and ever have been respected to this time, and no attempt ever has been made as yet to settle upon or pre-empt the said lands as Public lands; and no claim whatever to the said lands has been made, in conflict with the title of the present Owners as derived through the Mexican Grant to the said Miguel Cordero. That in the discharge of his official duties as aforesaid, this Deponent has had occasion to know, and does know, the fact that the said lands have been regularly assessed each year, in the State & County Assessment Rolls as the property of the said Cordero and Co-owners, and under the name of "Las Cruces Rancho", - and in the same manner as are assessed those Mexican Land Grants which have been duly confirmed by the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners, - and that the taxes so assessed have been and are regularly paid by the said Corderos and Co-owners as Successors of the said Miguel Cordero.

That the said Rancho is entered in the said Assessment Rolls as containing two leagues, which is a little less than 9.000 acres. That it extends from the Rancho La Gaviota to the Rancho Santa Rosa, and from the Rancho San Juliano to the Ridge of the Najoqui and the Mountains

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on the East. That the said Rancho Las Cruces is considered of only moderate value; that there are only a few localities on the same where there are pieces of land (and these are very small in extent) suitable for ploughing, - the lands in general being very broken and rough, consisting mostly of steep hills good for pasture but not for cultivation, - and in part of the side of a rugged rocky Mountain broken by ravines and gulches and covered with scrub-oak and chamisal bush.

That the annual valuation of all property for State and County Assessments is fixed by law at the actual cash value of the property; that the highest valuation ever made of the lands of Las Cruces on the said official Assessment Rolls of the County, was in the Assessment of the present fiscal year, where they are rated at $2.50 (two dollars and fifty cents) per acre for the whole Rancho, - and which this Deponent considers a fair and just estimate of such cash value.

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That Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel Cordero original owner & grantee of Las Cruces, has continued for the last 20 years to the knowledge of this Deponent, and still continues, to cultivate the Vineyard, Garden, Orchard and field of his Father, - and for all that time has lived with his family on the said Rancho, and still lives there, and is owner of one ninth interest thereof.

That Ysabel Cordero, daughter of the said Miguel Cordero, married Clovis Valenzuela, and resided with her family many years and until in October 1874, in her own separate house on the said Rancho, and in which house she died, leaving surviving and inheriting her one ninth share in said Rancho, her said Husband and eight - Minor children who are still the owners thereof;

That Juan Cordero, owner of one ninth share in the said Rancho has thereon a Dwelling house for his family and his other improvements; That said Juan Cordero is and for some years past has been in ill health, and is Father of a large family of children;

That Estanislado Cordero resides upon the said Rancho, with his family of Wife and Minor children:

That Francisco Cordero also resides thereon with his Wife & Minor children.

That other owners of undivided interests also reside on the said Rancho and possess houses and improvements thereon.

That there are in the various parts of the said Rancho, in occupation

and use for residence and the purposes of their business, seven dwelling houses, also stables and corrals, also vineyards, orchards, gardens and fenced fields in cultivation.

And this Deponent knows the fact to be that such interests in the said lands as are not still held and owned by the said Corderos, were all derived solely through the said Mexican Grant to Miguel Cordero, and are held by bona fide innocent purchasers, the same having been purchased in good faith from children of the said Miguel Cordero many years ago. That this Deponent is personally well acquainted with all the members of the family of the said Miguel Cordero and with all the owners of the said Rancho, — and that to Deponent's knowledge, the said Rancho and every part thereof is in their exclusive use and occupation, — and that such occupation is genuine and in good faith, and for the true and legitimate purposes of their business, namely, the raising of live stock and such farming as is connected therewith.

That the said Corderos are dependant on their use of the said lands of Las Cruces as aforesaid, for a support for themselves and families; and from this Deponents knowledge of the circumstances and conditions of the said families, he affirms that if the said lands be lost to them for any reason, great hardships and suffering would result to the said Corderos and their Wives and Children, as well as injustice and injury to all the owners in interest in the said Rancho.

And this Deponent says that he has not now, and never has had, any ownership or interest in the said Rancho or any part thereof.

T. W. Moore

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 13th day of January 1876
Nelson H. Henton
Notary Public
In and for said County of Santa Barbara
and State of California

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Deposition of Judge Fernald.

State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss: Charles Fernald formerly County Judge and ex-officio Judge of Probate in and for the said County, being duly sworn, says;

That he is a native of the County of York in the State of Maine, and resided for many years previous to his departure for California, in the City of Boston in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

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That he arrived in the present City of San Francisco in the State of California in July A.D. 1849, and continued to reside there until July 1852, when he became and has ever since continued to be a resident of the City and County of Santa Barbara.

That on the first day of January in the year 1853 this Deponent was appointed to the office of County Judge of Santa Barbara County and ex-officio Probate Judge of the said County, and held such office continuously until the month of June 1861, at which time he resigned the said office.

This Deponent says that he knew officially from proceedings in the said Probate Court, during the time he held the said office, and from knowledge this obtained, as well as from the records of the said Court previous thereto in the matter of the estate of Miguel Cordero, deceased, that he departed this life in the said county sometime in the year 1851; that the said Cordero in his life time was in the actual occupation of the Rancho called "Las Cruces" in the said county, claiming to own and hold the same under Grant from the Mexican Authorities of Alta California; and that for several years after the death of the said Cordero his surviving Widow and Heirs continued to reside on the said tract of land:

That this Deponent in the discharge of his duties as such

Judge, and subsequently in the practice of his profession of the law in this State, and in the Courts of the United States, - became familiar with the titles to a great number of tracts of land in the State of California, and especially to those held under Mexican Grants, including that of "Las Cruces"; that he knows the fact to be that the said Mexican Grant of the Rancho called Las Cruces to the said Miguel Cordero deceased, has here, where the facts and circumstances of the case are generally known, - ever been respected as a genuine and meritorious grant and title, - as much so as any grant or title emanating from the same source; and that the title of the said Grantee thereto and his occupation and that of his heirs and successors under it, have ever been respected accordingly and undisputed so far as is known by this Deponent.

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And this Deponent says he has no interest and never has had any interest in the said Rancho Las Cruces or any part thereof.

Charles Arnold

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of January 1876

Nelson W. Winton
Notary Public

State of California
County of Santa Barbara }

I, — M. P. Stone County Clerk and ex officio, Clerk of the County Court, District Court, Probate Court, and County Recorder, — in and for the County of Santa Barbara, — and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the said County, —— Do hereby certify ——

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That I have the charge and custody of the Official Books of Records of Santa Barbara County, the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors and of the said Courts, — and of all papers and documents filed in legal proceedings therein, — the Great Register of all Citizens of this County, &c. &c.

That throughout the various books of records from the earliest date to those of the present time, — and running all through the same, — are records of numerous Acts, proceedings and transactions, including Decrees and Judgments of the Courts, Proceedings in Probate, Sheriff's Sales, State and County levies of taxes, Establishment of Election Districts, Mortgages, Deeds of Conveyance, and U. S. Patents and official Surveys of Ranchos and lands adjoining the Rancho Las Cruces below named, &c. &c., — all referring to or officially recognizing and treating the Rancho Las Cruces situated in this County, — as private property of Miguel Cordero, his family and successors in interest.

And I further certify that included in the said Records in my charge and custody are the Original Assessment Rolls of this County, made each year from and including the year 1850 to the present fiscal year, — by the official Assessors of the county

holding office for their respective terms during the said period; and that I find that in the said Assessment Rolls the said Rancho Las Cruces was assessed in the year 1850 as private property of Miguel Cordero, - and has been regularly, continuously and annually assessed as private property of his Heirs and successors in interest (in undivided ownership) for the last twenty-five years, and down to and including the present fiscal year.

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In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said County Court, this January 7th, A.D. 1876.

N. P. Stone
County Clerk.

Office of The Board of Supervisors
of the County of Santa Barbara

Present: Supervisors Ryneron & Pierce: Supervisor Jamison absent.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara in their various official relations with the lands and property in this County and with the respective Owners thereof, — having for the last 25 years regarded and treated the Rancho Las Cruces, containing two leagues of land more or less, — and situated in this County, — as the private land and property of the family of Miguel Cordero dec^d., and his Successors in interest, — bona-fide Owners and Occupants of the said Rancho, and well known Citizens of this County, — We hereby certify ——

That the circumstances and equities of the case are such as to justify its presentation to the Congress of the United States and to ask an investigation and consideration thereof.

C C Ryneron
E. C. Pierce
Forming quorum of Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County

Dated Jan. 5th. 1876.

By order of the Board
W. P. Stowe
Clerk.

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State of California
County of Santa Barbara } ss:

I, - Francis John Maguire now and for Fifteen years last past, - the County Judge and ex-officio Judge of Probate in and for the said County, - do hereby certify: -

That all the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing Depositions are personally known to me, - and that they all are, and for many years last past have been Residents and Citizens well known, of this County: that the reputation of the said persons for truth and veracity is good, - and that the testimony of each would be received in the above mentioned Courts as entitled to full faith and credit.

And as pertinent to an enquiry whether or not the case of the foregoing named Petitioners is one meriting consideration, - - and as information preliminary to an investigation thereof, I certify that for the last Twenty three years I have been personally acquainted with the lands of the above mentioned Rancho Las Cruces, and with the family of Miguel Cordero deceased, its former owner; - and with the fact of the continued ownership and occupation of the said Rancho by the said Miguel Cordero's Heirs and Successors claiming the same under the Grant thereof to him by the Mexican Government of California, - as set forth in the foregoing Petition; and that during the said period of twenty three years I have had ample opportunity of becoming acquainted, and am well acquainted, with the sentiments and opinions respecting the validity &c. of the said Grant of Las Cruces entertained by the Old Residents of Santa Barbara, who are now living or have been living

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during the said period, and who were of the times anterior to the acquisition of California by the United States, — and I certify as a fact within my own knowledge, that the Old Residents aforesaid have unanimously regarded the said Grant as genuine and valid, - and as perfect a Grant as any ever issued by the Mexican Government in California, and have respected the same and the lands thereof as the private property of the said Miguel Cordero, his Heirs and Successors claiming under the said Grant.

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And in view of the facts and circumstances of the case, — I unhesitatingly state that in my opinion the passage of an Act of Congress enabling the owners of the said Grant to present the same before a proper tribunal for investigation, and for confirmation if found valid, — would be regarded with satisfaction by the people of this county and as simply an act of justice to innocent and bona-fide owners of the said lands.

In testimony whereof I have here placed my hand and caused the seal of the said County Court to be affixed hereto this nineteenth day of January A. D. 1876, at the City of Santa Barbara in the County and State aforesaid.

J. J. Mayne
County Judge.

Attest:
H. P. Stone
Clerk
By John Janssens
Deputy Clerk.

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IN THE MATTER

OF

RANCHO LAS CRUCES,

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

PETITION TO CONGRESS

BY

CLAIMANTS,

ASKING THE PASSAGE OF AN ACT AUTHORIZING THEM TO PRESENT THEIR CLAIM TO THE U. S. DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA;

TOGETHER WITH ACCOMPANYING PAPERS IN SUPPORT OF SAID PETITION.

MULLAN & HYDE,
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,
SMITH & REDINGTON,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Of Counsel for Petitioners.

WASHINGTON:
R. O. POLKINHORN, PRINTER,
1876.

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Of Counsel for Petitioners.

WASHINGTON:
R. O. POLKINHORN, PRINTER,
1876.

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PETITION OF CLAIMANTS
To the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, *February 3d*, 1876.

HON. S. S. BURDETT,
Commissioner of the Gen'l Land Office,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: We have the honor, respectfully, to state, that the lands hereinafter described and situate in the County of Santa Barbara and State of California, are claimed as constituting the private land claim called "the Rancho Las Cruces."

That the records of your office, and that of the U. S. Surveyor General for California, show that this claim was, in all respects, valid under the Mexican laws.

That said lands are described as follows, to wit: Those situate in the U. S. San Francisco Land District S½ of S½, sec. 26; S½ of S½, sec. 27; S. E.¼, sec. 33, N. E.¼ of N. E.¼, sec 33; S.½ of N. E.¼, sec. 33. All of sections 34 and 35, in T. 6 N. R. 32,W., S. B. B. and M and those situate in the Los Angeles District as follows, to wit; S. W.¼ of S. W.¼, sec. 2; lots 1 and 2, and S. E.¼ of sec. 5; N. E.¼, E.½ of S. E.½, N. W.¼ of S. E.¼, and lot 4, ot sec. 8; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and E½ of N. E.¼, N. E.¼ of S. E.¼, sec. 17, and lots 1, 2, 3, of sec. 20; W½ of N. W.¼, S. E.¼ of N. W.¼, S. W.¼, and S. W.¼ of S. E.¼, sec. 11. All ot sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23, in T. 5. N. R., 32 W.S.B.B. and M. That each and every portion of said lands so described is free from any conflict or other claim of any kind whatsoever; that the present owners of and claimants to said lands are those who have deraigned title through and from the original Mexican grantee of said Rancho, or from his assignees.

That all of said owners and claimants have signed a petition to the Congress of the United States, asking to

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be permitted to present to and establish their claim in the U. S. District Court, in and for the District of California, and which petition and the several exhibits thereunto attached and made a part thereof, we do now file in your office, and for reasons as follows, to wit:

1st. For the purpose of laying the foundation for a motion to be hereinafter made and referred to.

2d. For the purpose of better perpetuating valuable testimony taken in reference to a claim held in high respect by every tribunal, State and Federal, in California; and which being entitled to the favorable consideration of Congress is to be presented by copy to that body at its present session for such action thereon as equity demands.

The undersigned are the attorneys for said owners of said "Rancho Las Cruces," and petitioners before the Congress of the United States, and they do therefore move you as follows, to wit:

That in view of the statement made and set forth in said petition, the original of which we do now offer to file in your office, together with the affidavits and certificates thereunto attached and made a part of same; and in view of the objects and purposes of said petitioners as set forth in their said petition, and for the further purpose of avoiding any matters of conflict that might hereafter arise in relation to any disposition of any portion of any of said lands, under any existing laws of the United States; that you will, on the receipt of said petition, cause an order to be issued to the U. S. Surveyor General for California, and to the Registers of the U. S. Land Offices for the San Francisco and Los Angeles Districts, causing to be suspended from entry or disposition, any portion of any of said lands under existing laws until the said petitioners can be heard by Congress on the merits of their said petition as herein referred to,

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and until the same can be determined by the action of Congress.

The said petition, and the papers thereunto attached, speak for themselves, and are entitled to your very high consideration, and for reasons among others as follows, to wit:

1st. The petitioners (and no one else) are in the actual and *bona fide* possession of all of said lands.

2d. As shown by Charles A. Thompson, searcher of records, in and for Santa Barbara County, no other parties appear of record in said County as claimants to any portion of any of said lands.

3d. The tract claimed has been defined on the ground by an actual survey by Wm. H. Norway, U. S. Deputy, and for nine years County Surveyor of Santa Barbara County, and a map of such survey filed with said petition.

4th. The affiant, Vicente Cordero, is the eldest son of the original grantee, and is now in the possession of the original Ranch House, place, vine-yards, &c.

5th. The affiant, Capt. James W. Burke (aged 77 years), is the identical *Santiago* Burke, who was a member of the Ayuntamiento, to whom was referred the original petition of said Mexican Grantee, Miguel Cordero, and who is referred to in said title papers.

6th. The affiant, Francisco de la Guerra (aged 57 years), was formerly Mayor of Santa Barbara, and is a man of high standing in that community.

7th. The affiant, Capt. Antonio Maria de la Guerra (aged 50 years), was formerly member of the counsel of Santa Barbara and Mayor of Santa Barbara, and State Senator for California.

8th. Affiant, Lewis T. Burton (aged 67 years), and who knew the grantee and the lands since 1831, is a man of

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the highest standing in Santa Barbara County, California.

9th. Affiant, Gasper Orena (aged 50 years), was formerly owner of the Rancho in the vicinity of Las Cruces, and of high standing.

10th. Affiant, Augustine Jansens, for many years the assessor of Santa Barbara County, and elected as such by the people, and who assessed said lands to said petitioners, and to no one else.

11th. Wm. A. Streeter, physician, who came to California in 1843, aged now 67 years, and visited quite frequently said Rancho, and found all things as stated in said affidavit.

13th. Affiant, Miguel F. Burke, who for 30 years has known the same, and is a merchant in good standing, and living near said "Rancho Las Cruces."

14th. Affiant, John C. Kays, formerly merchant and farmer, who, since 1846, knows the facts as stated.

15th. Affiant, Thomas W. Moore, formerly President of the Board of Supervisors, and of high standing.

16th. Affiant, Judge Charles Fernald, who was the Probate Judge for Santa Barbara County, and as such administered upon the estate of said Mexican Grantee, and is a member of the bar of Santa Barbara, and in high standing in this State.

17th. Affiant, H. P. Stone is the county and district court clerk and recorder of Santa Barbara county, and who states, &c., that said petitioners, since 1850 to date, have paid taxes on all of said lands, and no one else has paid any taxes thereon.

18th. Quorum of the Board of Supervisors of the county of Santa Barbara, who testify and recommend

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that favorable action in this matter may be had by the Congress of the United States.

19th. Certificate of Judge Francis John Maguire, who is now and for 15 years last past, has been the County Judge in and for Santa Barbara County, to the effect that all the petitioners and affiants herein referred to, are known personally to him, and that they all are persons of good repute and high standing, and also his own affidavit as to facts within his own personal knowledge relative to said "Rancho Las Cruces."

19½. Affiant, James L. Ord, physician (and brother of Gen'l. E. O. C. Ord, U. S. army), who knew said Mexican Grantee and his family, the Rancho Las Cruces, from 1849 to date, and who professionally attended upon the family of said grantee.

20th. The certificates of the registers of the U. S. Land Offices that the lands are free from all claims of any kind though long since surveyed by the United States.

21st. The certificate of the United States Surveyor General for California attached to full, true and correct copies of the original title papers of said Rancho, as the same are now of record, having been turned over to the American authorities by the Mexican authorities in California after the date of its acquisition.

22d. The affiant, R. C. Hopkins, who for many years was the keeper of the original Spanish Archives now on file in the office of the U. S. Surveyor Genl. for Cal. as to the correctness of the English translation of the original Spanish title papers, and that all the signatures thereto are genuine, and that the papers are the original title papers, and that the same constituted the title papers of a Mexican grant perfect under the Mexican laws, relating to lands in California, and that said grant is contained in the Jimeno Index of Spanish and Mexican grants, &c., &c.

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Therefore, in view of all the foregoing facts and for the reasons specifically set forth at large in said petition, we ask that said motion be granted, and that such suspension as asked for may continue pending the consideration of this case at the hands of Congress.

In the matter of the said motion pertaining to the said Rancho Las Cruces, in Santa Barbara County, California, we do now transmit you herewith the papers following, to wit:

1. Petition signed by owners of Las Cruces.
2. Certificate of C. A. Thompson, Searcher of Records.
3. Certificate of W. H. Norway, U. S. Deputy and County Surveyor of Santa Barbara County.
4. Map of a Survey of said Rancho by said Wm. H. Norway.
5. Deposition of Vicente Cordero.
6. " Capt. James W. Burke.
7. " Francisco de la Guerra.
8. " Capt. Antonio Maria de la Guerra.
9. " Lewis T. Burton.
10. " Gasper Oreña.
11. " Augustine Jansens.
12. " Wm. A. Streeter.
13. " James L. Ord, M. D.
14. " Miguel F. Burke.
15. " John C. Kays.
16. " Capt. Thomas W. Moore.
17. " Judge Chas. Fernald.
18. Certificate of Clerk and Recorder of Santa Barbara County.
19. " Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara.
20. " Judge F. J. Maguire, County Judge.
21. " H. G. Rollins, Register U. S. Land Office, San Fr'co.
22. " Alfred James, Register U. S. Land Office, Los Angeles.

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23. Copies in Spanish of the original title papers of said Rancho.
24. Copies in English, all certified by R. C. Hopkins Keeper of Spanish Archives in California.

We are, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servants,
MULLAN & HYDE,
Attorneys for said Petitioners, and owners of said Rancho Las Cruces.

SMITH & REDINGTON,
Of Counsel.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *Feb.* 21, 1876.

REGISTER AND RECEIVER,
San Francisco, Cal.,

GENTLEMEN: In the matter of the Rancho "Las Cruces," in Santa Barbara County, California, I have to direct that you will withhold from disposal of any kind, until further orders the following tracts in your land district, embraced in the said private claim, in view of a proposed application to Congress for legislation in behalf of the claimants, and in order to afford time for Congress to take action thereon, viz: S.^{2} of S.^{2} of section 26; S.^{2} of S.^{2} of section 27; S. E.^{4} of section 33; N. E.^{4} of N. E.^{4} of section 33; S.^{2} of N. E.^{4} of section 33; and sections 34 and 35, all in Townp. 6 North of Range 32 West, San Bernardino, Meridian.

You will make the proper notes on your books and plats to give effect to the foregoing, and acknowledge the receipt hereof.

L. K. LIPPINCOTT,
Acting Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *February* 21, 1876.

REGISTER AND RECEIVER,
Los Angeles, Cal.

GENTLEMEN: In the matter of the Rancho "Las Cruces, in Santa Barbara County, California, I have to direct that you withhold from disposal of any kind until further orders the following tracts in your land district embraced in said private claim, in view of a proposed application to Congress for legislation in behalf of the claimants, and in order to afford time for Congress to take action thereon, viz: S. W.^{4} of S. W.^{4} of section 2; lots 1 and 2 and S. E.^{4} of section 5; N. E.^{4}, E^{2} of S. E.^{4}; N. W.^{4} of S. E.^{4}, and lot 4 of section 8; lots 1, 2, 3, 4, E^{2} of N. E.^{4} and N. E.^{4} of S. E.^{4} of section 17; lots 1, 2 and 3 of section 20, W^{2} of N. W.^{4}, S. E.^{4} of N. W.^{4}, S. W.^{4} and S. W.^{4} of S. E.^{4} of section 11; and sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23, all in Township 5 N.of Range 32 W., San Bernardino, Meridian.

You will make the proper notice on your books and plats to give effect to the foregoing, and acknowledge the receipt thereof.

Very respectfully,
L. K. LIPPINCOTT,
Acting Commissioner.

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PETITION

OF

LAND OWNERS IN CALIFORNIA,

IN THE MATTER OF

THE RANCHO "LAS CRUCES,"

IN

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

ASKING TO BE ALLOWED TO PRESENT THE CLAIM TO SAID RANCHO FOR ADJUDICATION, TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

To the Honorable
Senate and House of Representatives
in Congress assembled.

The undersigned, your petitioners, respectfully show:

That they are the present owners and holders in common of that certain tract of land, situate in the County of Santa Barbara, and State of California, called the Rancho Las Cruces, containing two leagues.

That their title thereto is derived from Miguel Cordero, to whom was granted the said land in due form by the Mexican Government, in the year 1837; that the said land was duly segregated from the public domain, and juridical possession thereof officially delivered to the said Miguel Cordero; all which, and the details thereof, are particularly set forth in Exhibit A, hereunto appended, and made a part of this petition,—as also in the title papers thereof, duly certified by the U. S. Surveyor General for California as being true copies of the original

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from the Spanish archives, in his custody, and which papers are marked as Exhibit B, and made a part of this petition.

That the said Miguel Cordero had been in occupancy and possession of the same land from a previous time, namely, from about the year 1833, up to the time of the said grant, when he became the lawful owner from the Mexican Government, and received juridical possession, as aforesaid, and continued to occupy and possess the same, until his death in 1851; that he planted a large vineyard and orchard, cultivated a garden and fields; enclosed the same with fences, and built a dwelling house for himself and his family on said Rancho, in which he resided for many years, and in which he died: which improvements still continue in the occupation and possession of his family; which facts are more particularly set forth in depositions hereto annexed, and which form part of this petition.

That the said Miguel Cordero died in the month of March, 1851, within a few days after the passage of the act of March 3, 1851, entitled "An act to ascertain and settle Private Land Claims in the State of California," before information of the passage of the act was received in California, and before the said act went into practical operation.

That he left a widow who could not either read or write, and could not speak or understand the English language, and nine children, most of whom were minors.

That although the title of Miguel Cordero to the said land was, in point of fact, perfect under the Mexican law, yet, because of the ignorance of the widow and children and their inexperience in business matters, and the confused condition in which the estate of the said Miguel Cordero was left at his death (he having died suddenly,

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leaving no will), and because the said widow understanding the title of her deceased husband to be complete and perfect under Mexican law as aforesaid, and being uninformed of any law requiring such land claim to be presented to an American tribunal for confirmation, no petition was presented by her to the said Board of Land Commissioners; and so also the children of the said Miguel Cordero, resting in confidence on their father's title as complete under the law of their country from which he derived it, and like their mother, never having heard of the necessity created subsequently by the act of Congress, to present their title for adjudication and confirmation before the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners, until a long time subsequent to the date limited by law for presentation of such land claims, inadvertently failed to present their claim, which facts are more particularly set forth in the annexed depositions.

That a portion of the heirs of the said Miguel Cordero, including many minor children and their mothers, still reside upon, occupy, use and cultivate the said lands of the said Rancho and make the same their home; that others of the said heirs, many years ago, disposed of interests in the said Rancho, which, by either voluntary conveyance or decrees of the Courts of California, have passed to present owners, innocent and bona fide purchasers, who, in common with the said Corderos, use and occupy the said lands for the maintenance of their families or for purposes of the business in which they are engaged.

That the said title to the said lands as thus derived from the Mexican Government has ever been recognized and respected by the courts of the country and state, as well as by the people of this county; and that both state and county taxes have been annually and regularly assessed on the said lands and paid, from the year 1850

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to the present time, like other taxes upon lands having a confirmed or perfect title, as set forth in exhibits hereto annexed.

That no claim is set up to any portion of the said lands under any law either of the United States or the State of California, or in any manner whatever, other than that of your petitioners; and that there is no conflict whatsoever with any person for any portion of the said lands, but that the same are now used and occupied exclusively by the undersigned, your petitioners, and by no other person whomsoever; and no persons have used or occupied the said lands since the death of the said Miguel Cordero in 1851, to this day, except those deriving their right, title and interest therein from the said Miguel Cordero, deceased.

And your petitioners further show:

That the lines of the U. S. Surveys of Public Lands have lately been run over a large part of the said Rancho Las Cruces, whereby the title of your petitioners as thus derived from the said Miguel Cordero and the Mexican Government, is liable to be, and is in great and immediate danger by being disturbed by parties who may not respect the same; That the said lands rightfully belonging to the heirs and successors of the said Miguel Cordero, are necessary for the support of the several families and owners residing thereon; and your petitioners represent that unless they are allowed to present their title for examination and for confirmation, if pronounced valid, the said lands will be treated as public lands, whereby great injustice will be done to innocent owners of the said Rancho Las Cruces, and embarrassments and suffering be caused to the said families thereon.

And your petitioners, though citizens of the United States and of the State of California, contributing by their

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said lands and the products thereof, to the revenues and resources of each, being debared from access to and a hearing in the courts to establish their title, and consequently having no protection for their lands of which they and those from whom they derive title have been the undisputed sole owners and occupants for over forty-two years consecutively, respectfully come before your honorable body for relief, relying upon the perfect validity of their title and the strong equity of their case.

And pray, That they may be permitted to present their claim before the U. S. District Court for the District of California, and if, upon examination and investigation by the said court, it be found that the title of the Rancho Las Cruces, as held by the said Miguel Cordero was good and valid under the Mexican law, that a decree confirming the same may by the said court be made and entered, and thereupon the said Rancho may be surveyed by the U. S. Surveyor General for California, and duly patented under existing laws, to Miguel Cordero, and his successors in interest.

VICENTE CORDERO.
JUAN T. CORDERO.
CLOVIS VALENZUELA,
for himself and minor children of
YSABEL CORDERO DE VALENZUELA, his wife,
Namely: REFUGIA, FELIPA, MARIA ANTONIO, CONCEPCION, MICAELA, GERTRUDIS, JUAN and EUGENIO.

JAN. 3d, 1876, Witnessed by—
JOHN JANSSENS.

THOMAS B. DIBBLEE, for himself and his Partners, ALBERT DIBBLEE and W.W. HOLLISTER.
A. B. WILLIAMS.
JAS. M. SHORT.
O. D. METCALF.

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B. T. DINSMORE, Guardian of—
SARAH, ALBERT, BRADLEY T., FANNY E., THOMAS, IRVIN W. Minor heirs of AUGUSTUS I. DINSMORE, deceased.

JAN. 3d, 1876, Witnessed by—
JOHN JANSSENS.

EMILY E. DINSMORE, Widow and—
administratrix of AUGUSTUS I. DINSMORE, deceased.
R. GONZALES.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
County of Santa Barbara, } *ss.*

I, Charle A. Thompson, of the City of Santa Barbara, in the said County and State, searcher of records, hereby certify that I have examined the title to the lands known as the Rancho Las Cruces, situated in this county, and have searched the records in the County Recorder's Office, in the city of Santa Barbara, for all claims of title to the said lands; and I find that, as appears by the said records, the legal title to the said lands, in undivided ownership, is now vested solely in the following persons, the names of all of whom are subscribed to the foregoing petition:

1. VICENTE CORDERO.
2. JUAN J. CORDERO.
3. Heirs of YSABEL CORDERO VALENZUELA, deceased, namely: CLOVIS VALENZUELA, her husband, REFUGIA, FELIPA, MARIA ANTONIO, CONCEPCION, GERTRUDIS, JUAN, EUGENIO and MICAELA, her children (all minors).
4. A. B. WILLIAMS.
5. THOMAS B. DIBBLEE, ALBERT DIBBLEE, and W. W. HOLLISTER.
6. RAMON GONZALES.
7. J. M. SHORT.

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8. O. D. METCALF.

9. Heirs of AUGUSTUS J. DINSMORE, dec'd, namely: EMILY T. DINSMORE, his widow; SARAH, ALBERT, BRADLEY T., FANNY E., THOMAS and IRVIN W., his children (all minors.)

And I further certify, that I do not find of record any other claim to title or ownership of the said lands, or any part thereof.

C. A. THOMPSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 19th day of January, A. D. 1876.

A. S. COOPER,
Notary Public.

[NOTARY'S SEAL.]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
County of Santa Barbara. } *ss.*

I, William H. Norway, now and for nine years the County Survey of Santa Barbara County, do hereby certify that I am well and familiarly acquainted with every part of the Rancho Las Cruces in the said county, and with all the adjoining lands, having at times spent several days in going over the said Rancho and adjoining lands engaged in surveying—on one occasion as deputy U. S. Surveyor running the lines of the Rancho Najoqui; on another occasion the lines of the Rancho Santa Rosa; on another occasion the lines of the Ranchos San Julian and Nuestra Senora del Refugio (more particularly that part of the latter called the Gaviota Rancho which adjoins the southerly end or side of Las Cruces); and on another occasion, by order of the U. S. Surveyor General for California, surveying as public land a portion of Townships 6 North, Range 32 West, San Bernardino base and meridian, and subdividing the same; and on still another occasion by similar orders of the said U. S. Sur-

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veyor General, surveying as public land a portion of Townships 5 North, Range 32, West, San Bernardino base and meridian, and subdividing the same, the entire Rancho Las Cruces falling within the said two Townships, and the lines of the said public survey running through the said Las Cruces.

That I have carefully examined the original diseno in the grant of Las Cruces, and now on file in the Spanish archives in the U. S. Surveyor General's office in San Francisco, and have also had with me in the field on some of the occasions above referred to, a certified copy of the said diseno, and I find the same to correspond in all important points with the topography, and natural and artificial land marks of the ground of the said Las Cruces Rancho.

That the accompanying map of the lands claimed for the said Las Cruces Rancho is made by me from the lines of official surveys as run, and notes made by me upon the ground itself, and that the said map is in all respects correct and true.

That I have carefully calculated the area embraced within the lines shown on the said accompanying map as true boundaries of the said Las Cruces Rancho, according to the calls of the original grant and diseno, and that I find the total of the actual area within such boundaries to be 8,144 $\frac{86}{100}$ acres, being less than the two leagues stated as the quantity contained in the original grant of the said Rancho Las Cruces.

I further certify, as to character of the land; that except a few spots varying in extent from 5 acres to 10 acres each, the lands included within the said boundaries consist almost entirely of steep hills and narrow cañadas, and are mostly adapted to grazing but not to cultivation, though the soil is good; and in part (the east side of the Rancho) of the slope of the mountain which is ex-

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ceeding rocky, and broken by ravines, the soil of this portion being light and producing principally scrub-oak and other brush.

WM. H. NORWAY,
County Surveyor.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 19th day of January, A. D., 1876.

{ NOTARY'S SEAL. }

A. S. COOPER,
Notary Public.

Deposition of Vicente Cordero.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
County of Santa Barbara. } *ss.*

Vicente Cordero, on first being duly sworn, does on his oath depose and say: That he is a citizen of the United States, born in the State of California; aged about fifty-one years, more or less; is by occupation a farmer, and resides with his family upon lands of the Rancho Las Cruces in the County of Santa Barbara and State of California.

That his father was named Miguel Cordero, and died in the year 1851 at his residence at the Ranch House on the said Rancho Las Cruces; that the said Ranch House in which his father died was situated within a few feet of the dwelling house of this deponent and in which he (deponent) now resides with his family; that his father, Miguel Cordero was born in the State of California, had long served there as a soldier in the Mexican Army, and at the date of his death was aged near or about seventy years. That the said Miguel Cordero, at his death, left a widow named Maria Antonio Jimeney Cordero (mother of this deponent) and nine children, issue of his marriage with the said Maria Antonio, most of whom were minors,

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and all of whom, at the date of their father's death, resided upon the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces.

That this deponent's father at the date of his death and for many years, to wit: about eighteen years prior thereto, was in the actual occupation and possession of the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces and the whole thereof, consisting of about two leagues; and for fourteen years prior to his death the said Miguel Cordero was the sole owner of the said Rancho, having been granted the same by the Mexican Government in the year 1837, in consideration of military services rendered by him to his said government and for other reasons.

That as such sole owner he had continuously occupied the said Rancho Las Cruces, with his live stock, until his decease, when he left on his said Rancho over one-thousand head of cattle and a considerable number of horses.

That this deponent's father, during his possession of such Rancho had two fields thereon under cultivation with wheat, barley, &c., and enclosed with fences; also a garden near his residence; also a vineyard planted by him, deponent's father, containing about two-thousand grape vines; also an orchard of pear, apple, peach and other kinds of fruit trees; and to which this deponent afterwards added another orchard of fruit trees, now in full bearing, and eight or ten years old.

That the date of the grant of title to his father was, as aforesaid, in 1837, but he was in the actual occupation and possession of the same lands and had his residence thereon about four years prior to the said grant, to wit: about the year 1833, and that from the said last mentioned date to the date of his death in 1851, he continued in the occupation and possession of all the lands of the said Rancho.

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This deponent further states that he, the deponent, was present on the ground at the date when his father, Miguel Cordero, was officially put into the judicial possession of the said Rancho Las Cruces, in due form and by the custom of the laws then in force, by the first Alcalde of Santa Barbara, Nicholas A. Den, now deceased; that he well remembers the said Alcalde, and the occasion of his presence at the Rancho, and what took place at such juridical possession, the ceremony being one of much moment and importance in the quietude and monotony of the family life at that time; that the boundaries of the said Rancho Las Cruces, as claimed and held and occupied by the deponent's father, and according to which the said juridical possession was given him as aforesaid by the said Alcalde, are as follows: On the North by the lands of the Ranchos Santa Rosa and Najogin; on the Northeast and East by the Cuchilla or ridge of the Najoqui, and the brushy sierrras or mountains; on the South by lands of the Rancho La Gaviota (which is part of the Rancho Nuestra Señora del Refugio), and on the west by lands of the Rancho San Julian, and that during the lifetime of his father, no person whomsoever ever disturbed or disputed the said boundaries of the said Rancho Las Cruces as above described, and no person except his father ever occupied, or attempted to occupy, or claimed any right to occupy any part of the said lands within the said boundaries.

That the deponent's father could not either write or read; that he died suddenly after less than twenty-four hour's illness, and left no will; that from and after the date of his death, his widow, the mother of this deponent and of the other children aforesaid, continued to reside with the said children at the same Ranch House where their father had died, and the said widow and children continued in the actual occupation and possession of all

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the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces, and in the same manner as these had been occupied by the deponents father prior to his death, and also in possession of the above mentioned live stock and property left by him; that the personal property, after the death of the said Miguel Cordero, was divided between his widow and his said nine children,—the said live stock, except such part as was sold for payment of debts, taxes and expenses, remaining on the said Rancho, and in the same manner as it had continued during the lifetime of the said Miguel Cordero.

That the mother of this deponent never again married, and after surviving her said husband about six years, died in or about the year 1857, and in the same house on the said Rancho Las Cruces in which her said husband died.

That the deponent's mother also could not either write or read, and left no will; that after her death the children divided the personal property but left the said lands of Las Cruces undivided and held in common among themselves, each one of the children keeping thereon what live stock he or she owned, pasturing it promiscuously with that of the other children and owners on all parts of the said Rancho Las Cruces up to the boundaries thereof above described.

That most of the said nine children of the said Miguel Cordero were born in the said Ranch House on the said Rancho Los Cruces (though this deponent was not born there, but was aged about eight or ten years when he first came to the said Rancho and when his father first entered into the possession thereof).

This deponent further states that of his father's children, six sons are now living, namely: this deponent Vicente, Juan, Jose Antonio, Jesus Antonio, Jose Jesus, and Salvador, and that two sons and the only daugh-

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ter are deceased; of which deceased, one (Gregorio) left a widow and children now living, and the daughter of the said Miguel Cordero (Ysabel, who died in October, 1874,) left her husband, Clovis Valenzuela and eight children, all minors still, and who with their father, the said Clovis, still own and hold the interest or share of said Ysabel in the said Rancho Las Cruces, together with their home thereon; and that the names of the children of deponent's deceased sister are as follows: Refugia, Juan, Felipa, Maria Antonio, Eugenio, Concepcion, Gertrudis, and Micaela.

That Juan Cordero, owner of one interest or share, (one-ninth part) in the said Rancho, and of his separate dwelling house thereon, is, and for a long time has been in ill health and unable to work, and has a wife and eleven children, of whom two, namely, Estamislado and Francisco Cordero are married, and both reside with their families on the said Rancho, the former having a wife and two minor children, and the latter a wife and three minor children.

That this deponent has a wife and five children, all minors, and all residing with him in his said house on the said Rancho.

That other co-owners, successors of undivided interests of some of the children of the said Miguel Cordero deceased, (and deriving title solely through him), reside in their separate houses on the said Rancho, and carry on their business there.

That such of the children of the deponent's father as are now living and are not now on said Rancho, still regard the Rancho as their home, and are in the habit of returning thereto as such from time to time each year.

This deponent further states that during all the minority of himself and his brothers and sister, there was no

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school within many miles of their said home on Las Cruces, and none where it was practicable or within their circumstances to attend, and that except Jose Antonio and himself (who had learned a little before coming to the said Rancho), none of his father's family could either write or read, and no member of his family could speak or understand the English language; that there were no newspapers published in English or Spanish language in Santa Barbara County until many years after his father's death, or until about the month of May, 1855; and that neither his father or mother ever knew or heard of any American law which made it obligatory upon any one to present his title-papers to any American tribunal either for examination or confirmation; that his father and mother and also their children, understood that the title of the said Miguel Cordero was complete and perfect under the Mexican laws, and had never been questioned or disturbed by any one, and therefore they could not understand that anything remained to be done under the American laws; and further, that this deponent likewise had never heard of any law requiring the presentation by land claimants of their title-papers to any American tribunal, until long after the expiration of the time limited for such presentation under the laws of the United States.

In consequence of all which, as well as because of his father's sudden death just at or before the time when the said act requiring presentation of such land claims went into operation; and because of the unsettled condition of his father's estate for several years afterwards; and because also of the ignorance and inexperience of his father's family and the minority of many of his children, as set forth above, the claim to the said Rancho Las Cruces never was presented to the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners.

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This deponent further states that he is residing with his wife and family aforesaid at the same place occupied by his father on the said Rancho Las Cruces, in a house erected by this deponent immediately adjoining the site of the old Rancho House, after the latter had become decayed through age, and that he has there resided continuously from the death of his father to this day. That this deponent still has possession of the original vineyard and orchard of his father, and has continuously cultivated the same each year, and has planted additional lands in vines and fruit trees, and enclosed these with fences, and has enclosed, cultivated and planted other portions also of the said lands of Las Cruces, and erected improvements thereon; and that his cultivation, occupation and possession of the said lands have never been disputed or questioned by any person; and that not only this deponent, but the other members of the said Cordero family aforesaid, have, since the death of the said Miguel Cordero, continued to use, and still do use the said lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces in the business of wool growing, and of breeding, raising and maintaining their live stock, consisting of sheep, cattle and horses, and have cultivated, and do still cultivate such portions of the said lands as were and as are necessary to yield a support to themselves and families; and that they and their co-owners, successors in interest of some of his brother's undivided portions in the said Rancho, are the only persons now in the actual occupation or possession of the lands of the said Rancho, and that no person whomsoever, except those deriving their title through the said Miguel Cordero by virtue of the grant to him from the Mexican Government, now use, occupy or claim the right to occupy any portion of the said lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces.

That all the interests in the said Rancho are still un-

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divided, and that the said lands are held and used in common by all the owners thereof, and have been and so continued ever since the death of this deponent's father as aforesaid, in the month of March, 1851, to this day.

This deponent further states that he is now poor, and that he and his relatives aforesaid, residing on the said lands, are entirely dependent upon the products of their manual labor on the said lands and in their said business thereon, to support themselves and wives and children, and that although possessed as aforesaid of what is a perfect title under the Mexican law, none of the said owners have any title recognized by the laws of the United States, to any portion of their said lands or their homes thereon, and they are in imminent danger of being deprived of their said lands, and of having their business destroyed; and in such case, this deponent's family, and the wives and families of all those whose homes are on the said Rancho would be left without the means of support, thereby causing great hardship to himself and to all those owning the undivided interests as aforesaid in the said Rancho Las Cruces.

VICENTE CORDERO.

Signed by the deponent, and by him sworn to before me this 4thday of January, 1876, after the above had been carefully and fully read to him by me in Spanish, and the contents fully and correctly made known and explained to him by me.

U. YUDART,
Notary Public.

[NOTARY SEAL.]

Deposition of Captain Burke.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
County of Santa Barbara, } *ss.*

Captain James W. Burke of the said county, aged 77

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years, formerly Master of the Merchant Ship "Joseph Porter" of Liverpool, England, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he first came to California in the year 1820; that after leaving and returning in the year 1824, he remained and settled in California; and in the year 1828 he became a resident of the town of Santa Barbara, and his family has ever since been residents of what is now Santa Barbara County.

That this deponent became a member of the Ayuntamiento of Santa Barbara, under the Mexican Government, and held that office in the year 1837; that his first name, James, being in the Spanish language "Santiago," he was called and known as Santiago Burke by the inhabitants of California, and is the same person so mentioned in the official proceedings in the matter of granting title by the government in the said year, 1837, to Miguel Cordero for the Rancho Las Cruces, in Santa Barbara.

That previous to the last mentioned date, this deponent had known the said Miguel Cordero, and also the said Rancho, and previous to such date, and many times afterwards, this deponent has been at the said Rancho during the life time of the said Miguel Cordero; that the latter became sole owner of the said Rancho by virtue of the Mexican grant to him, and with his live stock occupied the lands, and had a fine vineyard and orchard thereon, fenced and cultivated; also a house in which he lived with his family, and in which house this deponent has slept and eaten at various times while the said Miguel was living there, as aforesaid.

That at a later period, to wit: in 1854 or 1855, this deponent stopped for a large portion of his time on the Rancho Salsipuedes, then belonging to his son-in-law, Mr. John C. Kays, and which is distant but a short ride (about

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one-and-a-half hours,) from Las Cruces, and during the last mentioned two years this deponent frequently went to Las Cruces, and through the lands thereof; that the same were then occupied solely by the widow and children of the said Miguel Cordero, who had died some three or four years previously; that a few years after this the said widow died, and the children of the said Miguel continued to occupy the said Rancho as undivided, and they and their subsequent co-owners claiming through them as successors of the said Miguel Cordero still own and occupy the said Rancho, which still remains undivided.

That this deponent has never heard disputed or questioned the genuineness of the said Mexican grant or the ownership thereof by Miguel Cordero, or his actual and sole possession and occupation of the whole of the said Rancho, nor does he believe that any doubt or question thereof has ever arisen.

And this deponent further says, that he has not and never has had any interest or ownership in the said Rancho.

JAMES W. BURKE.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 18th day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF COUNTY COURT *of Santa Barbara.* }

H. P. STONE,
County Clerk.
By JOHN JANSSENS,
Deputy Clerk.

Deposition of Francisco de la Guerra.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
County of Santa Barbara. } *ss.*

Francisco de la Guerra; aged 57 years, formerly

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Mayor of the city of Santa Barbara for about six years, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he was born in the said county of Santa Barbara, and, except about one year, has resided all his lifetime therein. That his father (El Capitan José de la Guerra y Noriega, formerly Habitado General of the two Californias under the dominion of Spain, and afterwards Commandante under the Mexican Government, with headquarters at Santa Barbara) was, from the year 1837 to the year 1858, owner of the Rancho San Julian, which adjoins the Rancho Las Cruces in Santa Barbara County; and during all that time, and also for many years afterwards, this deponent was in the habit of passing a great part of his time on the said Rancho San Julian in looking after his father's interests there, and his large stock of cattle, horses and sheep, and became well acquainted with all the neighboring Ranchos, including Las Cruces, frequently visiting and passing over all parts of the latter.

That he well knew Miguel Cordero in his lifetime, and the fact that he, the said Miguel, had received from the Mexican Government the grant to him of the said Rancho Las Cruces. That from the commencement of the time when this deponent used to frequent the said Rancho San Julian, the said Miguel Cordero was in the actual occupation of the said Las Cruces Rancho, and afterwards received juridical possession therof from the 1st Alcalde of Santa Barbara; and, of his own knowledge, this deponent knows and states that the said Miguel Cordero occupied, as sole owner, all the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces, and had the same stocked with his cattle and horses, and resided on the same with his family until his death thereon in 1851; having on his said Rancho a dwelling house; also fields, a fruit orchard, garden, and large vineyard, all in cultivation and enclosed in fence.

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That this deponent knew the widow and children of the said Miguel Cordero, and that these continued to reside in the said Ranch house of the said Miguel after the death of the latter; that the said widow died in the same house about 5 or 6 years after her said husband deceased; that the same place continued to be ocupied by the children of the said Miguel, and is still in the occupation and possession and cultivation of some of the said children and their children.

And this deponent further says that the said widow and children (most of the latter being then minors) were entirely ignorant and uneducated, and lived in seclusion in their said Rancho, uninformed of, and indifferent to the transactions of the world at large, and the news thereof; that because of their want of understanding, and because the then recent and sudden death of the said Miguel Cordero had left the widow and children without any person capable of managing such affairs, their said grant was not presented before the Board of U. S. Land Commissioners, and the time limited by law for such presentation having expired, the opportunity was lost to them, and ever since they have been helpless in the matter.

That the said grant of Las Cruces was for two leagues embracing the lands from the Rancho Gaviota on the south to the Ranchos Santa Rosa and Najoqui on the north, and from the Rancho San Julian on the west, to the Cuchilla of the Najoqui in the north-east, and the rough mountains in the east; the whole of which lands so described were in the sole undisputed occupation and ownership of the said Miguel Cordero, and after his death, to the present time, have continued undivided and in the sole and undisputed ownership, possession, and occupation of the family and successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero.

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This deponent further says that he was and is well and thoroughly acquainted with every Mexican Land Grant in the county of Santa Barbara, and the land thereof; that this deponent, and as well his father and all the neighboring Rancho owners, and in fact the whole community of Santa Barbara, always recognized the said Mexican Grant to Miguel Cordero of the said Rancho Las Cruces, as genuine, complete and perfect, and equal in force and validity to any grant of lands in California ever made by the Mexican Government. And so well has this been understood and recognized that from the date of the said grant to this date it has been respected by all. And this deponent has never heard of any person having attempted to disturb the ownership or possession of those holding under the said Mexican Grant to Miguel Cordero, and has never heard of any person claiming, or pretending to claim, any adverse title thereto.

This deponent says he has not and never has had any interest or ownership in any part of the said Rancho Las Cruces.

FRAN'CO DE LA GUERRA.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, *Santa Barbara.* }

U. YUDART,
Notary Public.

Deposition of Captain de la Guerra.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *County of Santa Barbara,* } *ss.*

Antonio Maria de la Guerra; aged 50 years; born in

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the State of California, and brother of Francisco de la Guerra, last above named—being duly sworn, deposes and says: He has held and filled, among others, the following public offices in California, since its acquisition by the United States, namely: Member of the Council of Santa Barbara, for two years; Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara for four years; State Senator in the Legislature of California, for two years; and was, for many years, member of Board of Supervisors of this County; and was also Captain (Company C, of 1st Battalion, Native Cavalry) in the U. S. Federal service, stationed in Arizona, in 1865,–66. That except about four years' absence from California, thirty years ago, and also his absence, as aforesaid, in 1865,–66, he has, all his life, been a resident of Santa Barbara.

That he was personally acquainted with Miguel Cordero, resident upon, and owner and occupant of, the Rancho Las Cruces, adjoining the Rancho San Julian, then belonging to this deponent's father, and well knew the said Las Cruces' Rancho itself; and was acquainted also with the wife and children of the said Miguel Cordero.

And this deponent says, that (exclusive of the period of his absence as aforesaid, and the circumstances during that time) all the facts and circumstances particularly set forth in the foregoing annexed deposition of his brother, Francisco de la Guerra, concerning the said Rancho Las Cruces, its ownership, occupation and possession by the said Miguel Cordero, and after his death, by his family, and successors in interest, to the present time; and concerning the title to the said Rancho Las Cruces, and all the matters and things in the said deposition by this deponent's said brother, set forth and mentioned, are within the personal knowledge of this deponent, and are by him affirmed hereby.

And this deponent says he does not own or claim, and

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never has owned or claimed, any part of, or interest in, the said Rancho Las Cruces.

ANT'O MA. DE LA GUEARRA.

Sworn to before me, this tenth day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, *Santa Barbara.* }

U. YUDART,
Notary Public.

Deposition of Lewis T. Burton.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *County of Santa Barbara.* } *ss.*

Lewis T. Burton, a native of the State of Tennessee, aged 67 years, and owner of the Rancho Jesus Maria, in the said county, distant about three hour's ride from the Rancho Las Cruces, below mentioned; being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he came, in the year 1831, to what is now known as Santa Barbara County, and has been a resident thereof ever since that date.

That many years before the acquisition of California by the United States, and about thirty-five or thirty-six years ago, he became acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces; at that time (in the year 1840), Miguel Cordero was in the possession and occupation thereof, and had it stocked with his cattle, horses, &c., and lived there with his family; he had, immediately near his dwelling house, a vineyard and orchard, both in fence and under cultivation; and from the date last mentioned, and during five or six years next ensuing, this deponent was frequently at the said Rancho Las Cruces, and slept at the said house of the said Miguel Cordero, and ate there many times.

That a long time previously, and many years before the acquisition of California by the United States, as aforesaid, the said Miguel Cordero had become the owner of the said Rancho Las Cruces by grant thereof to him

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from the government of Mexico—which fact was well known among the neighboring Ranch owners and by the public; and the said grant was universally recognized as genuine, and as valid as was any Mexican grant in California, and was always respected accordingly; which statement this deponent is confident would willingly be corroborated by all old residents of Santa Barbara, of those times, who may yet be living.

That this deponent never heard of any doubt of the genuineness and completeness of the grant, and in fact no one has ever questioned it. Nor has this deponent ever heard of any claim adverse thereto.

That Miguel Cordero died in possession of his said Rancho, and his widow and children possessed and occupied it until the death of the widow, and from that time the said children and their co-owners deriving their title through them as heirs of the said Miguel Cordero, have occupied and possessed the said Rancho in undivided interests.

That since the death of the said Miguel Cordero and of his said widow, this deponent has continued at short intervals to go to, and to pass through the said Rancho Las Cruces, and that in each and every such occasion he has found the family of the said Miguel Cordero still in the occupation thereof, and Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel, still living with his family at the site of the original Ranch house and dwelling, aforesaid, of his father, the said Miguel, and still cultivating the original vineyard and orchard of his father.

And this deponent says, he has not and never has had any interest or ownership in the said Rancho.

LEWIS T. BURTON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 18th day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC *Santa Barbara.* }

A. S. COOPER,
Notary Public.

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Deposition of Gasper Orena.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
County of Santa Barbara. } *ss.*

Gasper Oreña, a native of Santander, in the Kingdom of Spain, aged 50 years, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That he is, and for about 33 years has been, a resident of Santa Barbara, in California. That he has been the owner of several Ranchos in that part of Santa Barbara County where is situated the Rancho Las Cruces, below mentioned (and among them, the Rancho Zaca, which he purchased in 1846,—the Rancho La Espada, being a subdivision of Punta de la Concepcion, and the Rancho San Julian), and that he spent much of his time on some of the above Ranchos and in the country contiguous to the said Rancho Las Cruces; that in or about the year 1842, he became acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces and with Miguel Cordero, who claimed, and was understood, to be the sole owner by virtue of a grant of the same to him from the Mexican Government, and who occupied the said Rancho Las Cruces, and resided thereon with his family; that when this deponent first saw the said Rancho Las Cruces, the said Miguel Cordero had thereon the dwelling house wherein he resided, as aforesaid, also an orchard and vineyard in bearing, and fenced fields in cultivation, corrals for stock, &c., &c., and which improvements had evidently then been made several years previously.

That the said Rancho continued to be owned and occupied by the said Miguel until his death in or about the year 1851; that from that time it remained undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of his widow and his children, and who resided in his late dwelling house, where the said widow died some 5 or 6 years after her husband's death; and after the death of his

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widow, the said Rancho continued still undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of his said children and of their co-owners, successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero, and has so continued to the present time. That the said vineyard and orchard are still in the possession of, and cultivation by, the said children of the said Miguel Cordero, particularly by his son, Vicente Cordero, who, with his wife and children, reside in the dwelling house of the said Vicente, adjoining the original dwelling, aforesaid, of his father, the said Miguel; that there are five or six other houses on the said Rancho Las Cruces used as dwellings by the said Cordero family and co-owners, also stables, corrals, fenced fields, fruit trees, &c., &c.

That ever since the death of the said Miguel Cordero, to the present time, this deponent has been in the habit of frequently going to and of passing over the lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces, in watching and looking after his stock, and in passing back and forth to and from his Ranchos, and has purchased cattle on the said Las Cruces from the sons of the said Miguel Cordero, and has assisted in making a road through that part of the said Las Cruces which adjoines the Rancho San Julian, and has had various other matters to attend to on the said Las Cruces during all the years of his acquaintance, as aforesaid, with that Rancho. And this deponent knows and says, that the continuous sole use and occupation of the said Las Cruces Rancho by the owners thereof, aforesaid, has been, and is actual, genuine and bona fide, and for the true and legitimate purposes of their business, namely: raising of live stock and wool growing, and in parts for cultivation; and that several of the owners in interest, and residents and various minor children and their mothers are dependant upon the said lands for their support. That the said

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Rancho is understood to extend from the Rancho Gaviota to the Rancho Santa Rosa, and from the Rancho San Julian to the Rancho Najoqui on the northeast, and to and including a portion of the side of the Brushy and Rocky Mountains on the east, and to include two leagues of land.

And this deponent states that in the district of country wherein the said Rancho Las Cruces is situated, the Rancho owners and old residents of the times anterior to the occupation of California by the military forces of the United States, have always been unanimous in regarding the said Mexican grant to Miguel Cordero, of the Rancho Las Cruces, as a genuine and perfect one under the Mexican laws, and have always so treated the same; and the title of the said children and their co-owners as derived from the said grant, which has remained undisturbed and respected to this time.

And this deponent says he does not own, and never has owned or claimed, any interest in the said Rancho Las Cruces.

GASPER ORENA.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 12th day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, *Santa Barbara.* }

U. YUDART,
Notary Public.

Deposition of Augustin Janssens.

STATE OF CALIFORNA, }
County of Santa Barbara. } *ss.*

Augustin Janssens, formerly Assessor of the said county, aged 59 years; a native of the city of Brussels (now in the Kingdom of Belgium), and now a citizen of the United States, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

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That in the year 1834 he came to what is now the State of California, but was then territory of the Government of Mexico, and ever since that time has been a resident of California; and from the year 1841 to the present time, a resident of that portion of California now forming the county of Santa Barbara.

That in the year 1844, this deponent became the owner of, and commenced to reside upon the Rancho Los Lomas de la Purificacion, in this county, and continued to reside on his said Rancho with his family until about the year 1855, when he sold the said Rancho and removed to the town of Santa Barbara.

That during the whole of the period of his residence on his said Rancho, he was in the constant habit of visiting the Rancho Las Cruces, which was distant from his residence only about one hour's ride, and was well acquainted with the owner of the last named Rancho, Miguel Cordero, from the year 1844, until the death of the said Miguel in the spring of the year of 1851.

That during all that time, the said Miguel Cordero claimed to be the sole owner of the said Rancho Las Cruces, which was co-lindante with (bounded by) the lands of the Ranchos Gaviota, San Julian, Santa Rosa, and Najoqui, and understood to contain two leagues; and that the said Miguel Cordero used and occupied as his property, all the said lands of the said Rancho Las Cruces, and that no other person occupied or claimed any right to occupy any part of the said lands of Las Cruces; that the said Miguel Cordero had the same stocked with his cattle and horses; that he had also on the said Rancho a dwelling house wherein he resided with his family, also an orchard of fruit trees, a large vineyard, and fields in cultivation, and fenced; that the said Miguel Cordero died in his said residence in Las Cruces, and that he left a widow and nine children,

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many of the latter being under the age of twenty-one years.

This deponent says that he remembers that in the autumn following the death of the said Miguel, he (deponent) was appointed appraiser of the personal property of the said Miguel, deceased, and went to Las Cruces and performed there his appointed duties, and on that occasion, and on many subsequent ones, he saw the widow and children of the said deceased there residing in the same house where the said Miguel Cordero had died. This deponent being well acquainted with all of the said family, knows that the said widow and children were uneducated, not being able to write or read (except a son Vicente); unacquainted with any language except Spanish, and wholly inexperienced in, and ignorant of, all business other than the raising of live stock on their Rancho; which was the reason why their title to their said Rancho Las Cruces was not presented by them before the Board of Land Commissioners.

That the widow of the said Miguel Cordero continued to reside with his children in his said dwelling house in Las Cruces until her death, which took place in the same house five or six years subsequent to her husband's decease: and after the death of their mother, the said children still continued to reside in the same house, until some years later, when they built at the same place adjoining the original house, another dwelling house, and in which one of the sons of the said Miguel Cordero, namely, Vicente Cordero and his wife and family still reside, and still have in possession and cultivation (besides other portions of the said lands of Las Cruces), the original orchard, vineyards, &c., of his father, Miguel Cordero.

That this deponent has held the office of County Assessor of this county for several terms, to wit: eight

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years, consecutively, commencing in 1862; during all which time he annually assessed the lands of the Las Cruces, contained in the boundaries aforesaid, as the private property belonging to the family of Miguel Cordero, and his successors in interest, deriving title through him, and held by them in undivided interests or ownerships.

And this deponent further says that though he has resided as aforesaid in Santa Barbara, from a period long anterior to the acquisition of California by the United States, and has known the said Rancho Las Cruces and every part thereof, and all its owners, for over thirty-one years, and to the present time he has never heard of any claim to any of the lands thereof adverse to that of the said Miguel Cordero and his successors in interest, deriving title only from the grant to him from the Mexican Government; and that this deponent has never heard of any doubt or question as to the validity and good faith of the said grant.

And the sole ownership of the said lands by the family and successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero has always been and is universally respected by the people of this county, and the said Rancho Las Cruces regarded as the private property of the said Cordero family and their co-owners deriving title as aforesaid from the Mexican Grant to the said Miguel Cordero.

And deponent states that he has no interest in any part of the said Las Cruces Rancho.

A. JANSSENS.

Subscribed by deponent, and sworn to by him, before me this 6th day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF COUNTY COURT, SANTA BARBARA. }

H. P. STONE,
County Clerk.
By JOHN JANSSENS,
Deputy Clerk.

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Deposition of William A. Streeter.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
County of Santa Barbara. } ss.

William A. Streeter, of the said county, age 64 years, being duly sworn, says: That he is a native of Auburn, in the county of Cayuga and State of New York; that he came to California in May, 1843, and to Santa Barbara in July, 1844, and that ever since the last mentioned date he has been a resident of Santa Barbara, with the exception of a few intervals of absence in San Luis Obispo and other parts of the State.

That for several years from and after the year 1844, this deponent, as physician, was in the habit of visiting different parts of Santa Barbara County, and among other parts the district wherein is situated the Rancho Las Cruces; and he afterwards resided on the Rancho Bolsa de Chamisa in the same neighborhood.

That he personally knew Miguel Cordero from the said year 1844, until his decease in 1851, and that he became acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces in the year 1845, at which time he stopped at the said Rancho, and where the said Miguel Cordero was then living with his family; and that on various other occasions, before the occupation of California by the United States, this deponent was at the said Rancho Las Cruces, and ate meals and spent the night at the dwelling house of the said Miguel Cordero in his said Rancho; and since that time and during the years intervening to the present date, this deponent has been at the said Rancho Las Cruces from time to time until within four days now last past. And this deponent knows and states that the said Miguel Cordero was in the actual sole possession and occupation of the said Rancho Las Cruces from the time when this deponent first stopped there in the year 1845,

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as aforesaid, until the death of the said Miguel in 1851, holding it as sole owner under a grant thereof from the Mexican Government; and that from the death of the said Miguel, the said Rancho has remainded undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of his heirs and successors in interest claiming and holding under the same grant.

That the said Miguel Cordero in his life time, had on the said Rancho, besides his said dwelling house, a fruit orchard, vineyard, garden, and fields all in fence and cultivated, and had his entire Rancho stocked with his horses, cattle, sheep, &c.; and which Rancho embraced the lands which are colindante with those of the Ranchos San Julian, Santa Rosa, Najoqui and the Gaviota, and were bounded on the East by the rough mountains.

That many of the improvements on the said Rancho made by the said Miguel Cordero still exist, especially the orchard and vineyard, and are, and have continuously been, in the possession and occupation of his family.

And this deponent says, that so plainly and unquestionably was the said Rancho Las Cruces the bona fide property of the said Miguel Cordero in his actual possession and ownership, and in that of his family and successors under his said grant from the Mexican Government of California, that this deponent, in common with all the old residents of the times prior to the American occupation of this country, cannot understand any reason why a title so complete and perfect under the Mexican laws as was that of Las Cruces, and its ownership as the private property of the said original grantee and his heirs and successors, should not be acknowledged and recognized as such by the United States in accordance with their treaty with Mexico, and in accordance at the same time with the rights of ownership in private property.

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This deponent says that, he does not own or claim, and never has owned or claimed, any part of, or interest in, the said Rancho Las Cruces.

WM. A. STREETER,

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 19th day of January, 1876.

NELSON W. WENTON,

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, SANTA BARBARA. } *Notary Public in and for the County of Santa Barbara, and State of California.*

Deposition of Dr. James L. Ord.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *County of Santa Barbara.* } *ss.*

James L. Ord, M. D., of Santa Barbara, in the said State, formerly Surgeon in the United States Army, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That in the year 1847, he came to California in the service of the United States (in company with his brother, Major General Ord and General Sherman, then Lieutenants); that early in 1848, to wit, in February, he was stationed as Surgeon at Santa Barbara, and there resided for about one year, and after some periods of absence, became a permanent resident of Santa Barbara, where he has resided in all about twenty years practicing his profession of surgery.

That in the year 1848, he became acquainted with the Rancho Los Cruces in the said county, and with Miguel Cordero, the owner and original grantee thereof from the Mexican Government.

That deponent was frequently at the said Rancho.

That at the time mentioned, the said Miguel Cordero

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resided with his family thereon, and was in the sole use, occupation and possession of the said Rancho, and that his improvements then comprised among others one or two houses, corrals, an ample vineyard, orchard, garden and fields, all cultivated and fenced; that subsequently, and at the time of the death of the said Miguel Cordero, this deponent was absent from Santa Barbara, and on his return in 1857, he found the said Rancho in the possession of the family of the said Miguel Cordero.

That deponent has continued to pay frequent visits to the said Rancho, and has attended professionally various members of the said Cordero's family, and others on the said Rancho.

That he knows Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel Cordero, deceased, and has known him ever since 1857; that during all that time the said Vicente and his wife and children have resided, and still reside, on the said Rancho.

That he knows the fact that Isabel Cordero, daughter of the said Miguel Cordero, and wife of Clovis Valenzuela, after residing many years in her separate residence on the said Rancho with her family, died there in October, in the year 1874 (this deponent being in attendance upon her at the time of her death), leaving her dwelling house and the one-ninth undivided share in the said Rancho, received by her from her father, Miguel Cordero, to her husband and minor children, who are still the owners thereof. That he knows the following other members of the Cordero family also residing on the said Rancho,—namely, Juan Cordero, now poor and in feeble health, and his family; Estanislao Cordero and his family of wife and minor children; Francisco Cordero and his wife and minor children. That there are now on the said Rancho Los Cruces at least seven dwelling houses, also stables, out-houses, fenced fields, gardens,

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vineyards and orchards, all in the exclusive possession of the owners of the said Rancho, deriving their sole title through the grant thereof by the Mexican Government to Miguel Cordero. That the said Corderos have continued to occupy the said Rancho Las Cruces, and they and the other successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero are still the sole owners and occupants thereof, and that deponent has never heard of any claim to the said Las Cruces Rancho, or any part thereof, except that of the said children and successors of said Miguel Cordero, all deriving title solely from the said grant to him from the Mexican Government. This deponent says, further that he is acquainted with the pecuniary condition and circumstances of the said Corderos residents on the said Rancho; that he knows the fact to be that they and their families derive their support and maintenance from their said lands, granted as aforesaid to their ancestor, the said Miguel Cordero; and should their said lands be lost to them by being regarded and treated as public land, and be sold or settled upon under the laws relating to public lands, many of the said Cordero family, including women and minor children, would be deprived of their sole means of support.

And this deponent further says that he has not, and never has had, any interest or ownership in the said Rancho Las Cruces, or any part thereof.

JAMES L. ORD, M. D.

Sworn before me this 30th day of December, 1875.

SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC *Santa Barbara.*

U. YUDART,
Notary Public.

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Deposition of Miguel F. Burke.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, } ss.
County of Santa Barbara. }

Miguel F. Burke, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he resides at the Rancho La Gaviota in the County of Santa Barbara, aforesaid (which adjoins the southerly side of the Rancho Las Cruces) and has there resided for several years last past, being engaged in conducting the business of freighting and forwarding merchandize, and in raising live stock.

That he has resided in the said county over thirty years; that he is, and for twenty-five years has been, thoroughly acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces, and all parts thereof, having had during most of that time, a stock of cattle and horses on Ranchos in that vicinity, and having very often during that time gone over and through all parts of Las Cruces, looking after his stock, and for other purposes.

That the Las Cruces Rancho was always understood to extend from the Rancho La Gaviota (which is a subdivision of the Rancho Nuestra Señora del Refugio) on the south—to the Rancho Santa Rosa on the north, and from the Rancho San Julian on the west to the Cuchilla (ridge) of the Najoqui, and the Sierra on the east, and to contain two leagues. That he knows Miguel Cordero the grantee of said Rancho from the Mexican Government, and the house where he resided with his family on the said Rancho Las Cruces; that at the death of the said Miguel Cordero he left a widow, (who died at the same house a few years afterwards), and a large family of children.

That at the time when he first saw the said Rancho Las Cruces, the said Miguel Cordero had thereon, besides the said dwelling house, fenced fields under culti-

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vation, corrals for his cattle and horses, vegetable garden, orchard and vineyard, all enclosed in fences, and a stock of cattle. That though the original dwelling house has decayed, the same has been replaced several years ago by another immediately adjoining its site, built by Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel Cordero, and which was, and still is, occupied by said Vicente and his wife and children, and that the fields, orchard and vineyard, aforesaid, still exist, and are, and have been continuously since the death of the said Miguel Cordero, in the use, cultivation and possession by and of his children and grand children.

That he has never heard of any claim to any part of the said Rancho Las Cruces adverse to the title of the said Miguel Cordero and his successors, who derive title solely through him, but that the title of said Cordero, from this deponent's earliest acquaintance therewith, has been always recognized and respected as good and valid; and that during the time he knew the said Miguel Cordero, the whole of said Rancho Las Cruces was in the sole occupation and possession of the said Miguel Cordero, and has continued in the sole and uninterrupted possession of his children and their successors in undivided ownership, from the death of said Miguel Cordero to the date hereof.

And this deponent says that he has not, and never has had, any interest or ownership whatever in any part of the said Las Cruces Rancho.

MIGUEL F. BURKE.

Sworn before me, this 27th day of December, 1875.

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, SANTA BARBARA. }

U. YUDART,
Notary Public.

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Deposition of John C. Kays.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
County of Santa Barbara. } *ss.*

John C. Kays, of the said county, aged 63 years, formerly merchant and afterwards farmer and breeder of live-stock, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That in the year 1846 he came to the County of Santa Barbara, and with his family became a resident thereof. That in the year 1850 he became the owner (by purchase from the original Mexican grantee) of the Rancho Salsipuedes in the vicinity of the Rancho Las Cruces, in the said county, and immediately entered in possession and occupation of his said Rancho Salsipuedes, and stocked the same with his live stock, and continued the occupation thereof from the said year 1850 for eighteen years consecutively, thereafter; that during all that time he was in the habit of frequently going over the lands of the Las Cruces Rancho (as well as of other neighboring Ranchos), looking after any of his live stock which might have strayed, and became well acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces, and with the owner thereof, Miguel Cordero, and with his wife and children:

That when this deponent first saw the said Rancho Las Cruces, in the year 1848, it was owned and occupied by the said Miguel Cordero, who, had it stocked, with his horses, cattle and sheep, and who until his death held it under a grant to him from the Government of Mexico; that the said Rancho Las Cruces consisted of two leagues of land colindante with the Ranchos Najogui, Santa Rosa, San Julian and Gaviota, and was bounded on the east by Brushy Mountains; that the said Miguel Cordero had a dwelling house about the centre of his said Rancho Las Cruces, and resided therein with his family; and had there also an orchard, a fine vineyard of many

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hundred grape vines bearing abundantly (the grapes from which this deponent frequently ate), and had also a couple of fields, all of which fields, vineyard, orchard, &c., were fenced and cultivated by the said Miguel Cordero; and that after the death of the latter, the said house and improvements, and also the whole Rancho continued to be occupied by his widow and children; and after the death of the said widow,—by the said children who built another house adjoining the original one, and occupied the same, with the said vineyard and other improvements, and still possess and occupy the same; and that the whole of the said Rancho has continued from the death of the said Miguel Cordero to the present time undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of the said children of the said Miguel Cordero and their co-owners, successors in interest therein, claiming title solely under the said Mexican grant to him; that this deponent has never heard of any claim to any part of the said lands of Las Cruces in conflict with, or adverse to, the said Mexican grant to the said Miguel Cordero, and that the said title has been universally regarded as genuine and valid, and has been by all respected as such to the present time.

And this deponent says that he has no interest or ownership, and never has had any, in the said Rancho Las Cruces.

JOHN C. KAYS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this eighth day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, *Santa Barbara.* }

U. YUDART,
Notary Public.

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Deposition of Thomas W. Moore.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
County of Santa Barbara. } *ss.*

Thomas W. Moore, aged 58 years and upwards, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he is the owner of, and with his family resides upon, the Rancho "Las Lomas de la Purificacion" (a patented Rancho), in the vicinity of the Rancho Las Cruces in Santa Barbara County, California, and has resided in the said county for the last 21 years and over: that he has served two terms (6 years) as Supervisor of the said county, and has been President of the said Board.

That as Supervisor it has been his duty to take official cognizance of all lands in the said county, of the location of, and quantity in each tract; of the value thereof; of the title and ownership; of the residents and occupants, and their property and improvements, and of the use of the lands. That in the performance of such duties in relation to the said Las Cruces Rancho, as well as from his previous personal knowledge of the lands, &c., thereof, he is well and thoroughly acquainted with the said Rancho, and that he has known the same ever since the year 1854.

That in the year 1855, this deponent hired on lease another Rancho in the vicinity of Las Cruces, and resided on the former and occupied it with his live stock for two years; that in the management of such stock he had frequent and constant occasion to visit Las Cruces Rancho and examine all parts of the same; and for the last 20 years he has visited that Rancho many times in each year.

That when he first knew the said Rancho Las Cruces,

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as aforesaid, in 1854, the same was in the sole occupation and possession of the widow and children of Miguel Cordero, deceased, the original owner and grantee thereof from the Mexican Government, and was undivided; that they were living in the Ranch house, which was the dwelling house of the said Miguel Cordero, and in which he had died.

That this deponent became well acquainted with the said family and knew all the members thereof; that they were almost entirely uneducated, and only one or two of them could write or read, and even these two, very imperfectly, and none of the family could ever speak or understand the English language.

That the said Miguel Cordero, having died suddenly, without leaving any will, and some of his children being tnen and for many years afterwards, minors, the lands were held in common by them, and used indiscriminately, but exclusively, among themselves, no particular one of them having the management of the whole. That in consequence of this confused state of affairs, and through the ignorance of the said widow and children, their matters were much neglected, and the time for presentation of land claims before the Board of Land Commissioners, as limited by the act of Congress, was suffered to elapse without the claim Las Cruces being presented, and the same never was presented to the said board; and the said Rancho having descended from the said Miguel Cordero, in nine undivided shares to his said children, contines in the same mode of occupation by his successors to this day, in undivided ownership. Notwithstanding all which, the said grant and the bona fide ownership and possession by the said Miguel Cordero and his children and successors, being well known thoughout the county, were and ever have been respected to this time, and no attempt ever has been made as yet to settle upon

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or preëmpt the said lands as public lands; and no claim whatever to the said lands has been made in conflict with the title of the present owners as derived through the Mexican grant to the said Miguel Cordero. That in the discharge of his official duties, as aforesaid, this deponent has had occasion to know, and does know, the fact that the said lands have been regularly assessed each year, in the State and county assessment rolls as the property of the said Corderos and co-owners, and under the name of "Las Cruces Rancho," and in the same manner as are assessed those Mexican land grants which have been duly confirmed by the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners, and that the taxes so assessed have been and are regularly paid by the said Corderos and co-owners, as successors of the said Miguel Cordero.

That the said Rancho is entered in the said Assessment Rolls as containing two leagues, which is a little less than 9,000 acres. That it extends from the Rancho La Gaviota to the Rancho Santa Rosa, and from the Rancho San Juhan to the Ridge of the Najoqui and the mountains on the east. That the said Rancho Las Cruces is considered of only moderate value; that there are only a few localities on the same where there are pieces of land (and these are very small in extent) suitable for ploughing,—the lands in general being very broken and rough, consisting mostly of steep hills good for pasture but not for cultivation, and on part of the side of a rugged, rocky mountain, broken by ravines and gulches, and covered with scrub-oak and chamisal brush.

That the annual valuation of all property for State and county assessments is fixed by law at the actual cash value of the property; that the highest valuation ever made of the lands of Las Cruces, on the said official Assessment Rolls of the county, was, in the assessment of the present fiscal year, where they are rated at $2.50,

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(two dollars and fifty cents) per acre for the whole Rancho,—and which this deponent considers a fair and just estimate of such cash value.

That Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel Cordero, original owner and grantee of Las Cruces, has continued for the last twenty years, to the knowledge of this deponent, and still continues, to cultivate the vineyard, garden, orchard, and field, of his father, and for all that time has lived with his family on the said Rancho, and still lives there, and is owner of one-ninth intherest therein. That Ysabel Cordero, daughter of the said Miguel Cordero, married Clovis Valenzuela, and resided with her family many years and until, in October, 1874, in her own separate house on the said Rancho, and in which house she died, leaving surviving and inheriting her one-ninth share in said Rancho, her said husband and eight minor children, who are still the owners thereof.

That Juan Cordero, owner of one-ninth share in the said Rancho, has thereon a dwelling house for his family, and has other improvements; that said Juan Cordero is, and for some years past has been, in ill health, and is father of a large family of children.

That Estanislado Cordero resides upon the said Rancho, with his family of wife and minor children.

That Francisco Cordero also resides thereon with his wife and minor children. That other owners of undivided interests also reside on the said Rancho, and possess houses and improvements thereon.

That there are in the various parts of the said Rancho, in occupation and use, for residence and the purposes of their business, seven dwelling houses, also stables and corrals, also vineyards, orchards, gardens and fenced fields in cultivation.

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And this deponent knows the fact to be that such interests in the said lands, as are not still held and owned by the said Corderos, were all derived solely through the said Mexican grant to Miguel Cordero, and are held by bona fide innocent purchasers, the same having been purchased in good faith from children of the said Miguel Cordero many years ago. That this deponent is personally well acquainted with all the members of the family of the said Miguel Cordero, and with all the owners of the said Rancho,—and that to deponent's knowledge, the said Rancho and every part thereof is in their exclusive use and occupation,—and that such occupation is genuine and in good faith, and for the true and legitimate purposes of their business, namely, the raising of live stock and such farming as is connected therewith. That the said Corderos are dependent on their use of the said lands of Las Cruces, as aforesaid, for a support for themselves and families; and from this deponent's knowledge of the circumstances and condition of the said families, he affirms that if the said lands be lost to them for any reason, great hardship and suffering would result to the said Corderos and their wives and children, as well as injustice and injury to all the owners in interest in the said Rancho.

And this deponent says that he has not now, and never has had, any ownership or interest in the said Rancho or any part thereof.

THO. W. MOORE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of January, 1876.

NELSON W. WINTON,
Notary Public,
In and for the County of Santa Barbara, and State of California.

SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, *Santa Barbara.*

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Deposition of Judge Fernald.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, } ss:
County of Santa Barbara. }

Charles Fernald, formerly County Judge, and *ex officio* Judge of Probate in and for the said county, being duly sworn, says: That he is a native of the county of York, in the State of Maine, and resided for many years, previous to his departure for California, in the city of Boston, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; that he arrived in the present city of San Francisco, in the State of California, in July, A. D. 1849, and continued to reside there until July, 1852, when he became, and has ever since continued to be, a resident of the city and county of Santa Barbara.

That on the first day of January, in the year 1853, this deponent was appointed to the office of County Judge of Santa Barbara county, and *ex officio* Probate Judge of the said county, and held such office continuously until the month of June, 1861, at which time he resigned the said office.

This deponent says that he knew officially, from proceedings in the said probate court during the time he held the said office, and from knowledge thus obtained, as well as from the records of the said court previous thereto in the matter of the estate of Miguel Cordero, deceased, that he departed this life, in the said county, sometime in the year 1851; that the said Cordero, in his lifetime, was in the actual occupation of the Rancho called "Las Cruces," in the said county, claiming to own and hold the same under grant from the Mexican authorities of Alta California; and that for several years after the death of the said Cordero his surviving widow and heirs continued to reside on the said tract of land.

That this deponent, in the discharge of his duties as

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such judge, and subsequently in the practice of his profession of the law in this State, and in the courts of the United States, became familiar with the titles to a great number of tracts of land in the State of California, and especially to those held under Mexican grants, including that of "Las Cruces;" that he knows the fact to be that the said Mexican grant of the Rancho called "Las Cruces" to the said Miguel Cordero, deceased, has here, where the facts and circumstances of the case are generally known, ever been respected as a genuine and meritorious grant and title, as much so as any grant or title emanating from the same source, and that the title of the said grantee thereto, and his occupation and that of his heirs and successors under it, have ever been respected accordingly, and undisputed, so far as is known by this deponent.

And this deponent says he has no interest and never has had any interest in the said Rancho "Las Cruces," or any part thereof.

CHARLES FERNALD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, *Santa Barbara.* }

NELSON W. WINTON,
Notary Public.

Certificate of County Clerk.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
County of Santa Barbara. }

I, H. P. Stone, county clerk and ex-officio clerk of the County Court, District Court, Probate Court, and County Recorder, in and for the county of Santa Barbara, and clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the said county, do

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hereby certify, that I have the charge and custody of the official books and records of Santa Barbara County, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors, and of the said courts, and of all papers and documents filed in legal proceedings therein, the great register of all citizens of this county, &c., &c.

That throughout the various books of records from the earliest date to those of the present time, and running all through the same—are records of numerous acts, proceedings and transactions, including decrees and judgments of the courts, proceedings in probate, sheriff's sales, State and County levies of taxes, establishment of election districts, mortgages, deeds of conveyance, and U. S. patents and official surveys of Ranchos and lands adjoining the Rancho Las Cruces, below named, &c., &c., all referring to, or officially recognizing and treating, the Rancho Las Cruces, situated in this county, as private property of Miguel Cordero, his family and successors in interest.

And I further certify, that included in the said records in my charge and custody are the original assessment rolls of this county, made each year from and including the year 1850 to the present fiscal year—by the official assessors of the county, holding office for their respective terms during the said period; and that I find that in the said assessment rolls the said Rancho Las Cruces was assessed in the year 1850, as private property of Miguel Cordero, and has been regularly, continously and annually assessed as private property of his heirs and successors in interest (in undivided ownership) for the last twenty-five years, and down to and including the present fiscal year.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said county court, this January 7th, A. D., 1876.

{ SEAL OF COUNTY COURT. }

H. P. STONE,
County Clerk.

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Certificate of Board of Supervisors.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA.

Present: Supervisors Rynerson and Pierce; Supervisor Jamison absent.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, in their various official relations with the lands and property in this county, and with the respective owners thereof, having for the last 25 years regarded and treated the Rancho Las Cruces, containing two leagues of land, more or less, and situated in this county, as the private land and property of the family of Miguel Cordero, deceased, and his successors in interest, *bona fide* owners and occupants of the said Rancho, and well-known citizens of this county: We hereby certify—

That the circumstances and equities of the case are such as to justify its presentation to the Congress of the United States, and to ask an investigation and consideration thereof.

C. C. RYNERSON,
E. H. PIERCE,
Forming quorum of Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, January 5, 1876.

Dated January 5th, 1876.

By order of the Board.

{ SEAL OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. }

H. P. STONE,
Clerk.

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Certificate of County Judge.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, } ss:
County of Santa Barbara. }

I, Francis John Maguire, now and for fifteen years last past the county judge and *ex officio* judge of probate in and for the said county, do hereby certify: That all the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing depositions are personally known to me, and that they all are, and for many years last past have been, residents and citizens, well known, of this county; that the reputation of the said persons for truth and veracity is good, and that the testimony of each would be received in the above-mentioned courts as entitled to full faith and credit.

And as pertinent to an inquiry whether or not the case of the foregoing-named petitioners is one meriting consideration, and as information preliminary to an investigation thereof, I certify that for the last twenty-three years I have been personally acquainted with the lands of the above-mentioned Rancho Las Cruces, and with the family of Miguel Cordero, deceased, its former owner, and with the fact of the continued ownership and occupation of the said Rancho by the said Miguel Cordero's heirs and successors, claiming the same under the grant thereof to him by the Mexican government of California, as set forth in the foregoing petition, and that during the said period of twenty-three years I have had ample opportunity of becoming acquainted, and am well acquainted, with the sentiments and opinions respecting the validity, &c., of the said grant of Las Cruces entertained by the old residents of Santa Barbara, who are now living or have been living during the said period, and who were of the times anterior to the acquisition of California by the United States; and I certify, as a fact

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within my own knowledge, that the old residents aforesaid have unanimously regarded the said grant as genuine and valid, and as perfect a grant as any ever issued by the Mexican government in California, and have respected the same and the lands thereof as the private property of the said Miguel Cordero, his heirs and successors, claiming under the said grant.

And, in view of the facts and circumstances of the case, I unhesitatingly state that, in my opinion, the passage of an act of Congress enabling the owners of the said grant to present the same before a proper tribunal, for investigation, and for confirmation, if found valid, would be regarded with satisfaction by the people of this county, and as simply an act of justice to innocent and *bona fide* owners of the said lands.

In testimony whereof, I have here placed my hand and caused the seal of the said county court to be affixed hereto, this nineteenth day of January, A. D. 1876, at the city of Santa Barbara, in the county and State aforesaid.

F. J. MAGUIRE,
County Judge.

Attest:

{ SEAL OF THE COUNTY COURT. }

H. P. STONE, *Clerk*,
By JOHN JANSSENS, *Deputy Clerk.*

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EXHIBITS.

No. 1.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE.

ALFRED JAMES, *Register.* J. W. HAVERSTICK, *Receiver.*

LOS ANGELES, CAL., *January 11th*, 1876.

MESSRS. MULLAN AND HYDE,

No. 504 Jackson St., San Francisco.

GENTLEMEN: I hereby certify that the following described land is free from any claim, as shown by the records of this office, to wit:

S. W.^{4} of S. W.^{4} sec. 2	Tp. 5	N.	R. 32	W.;	S. B. M.
Lots 1 and 2, and S. E.^{4} sec. 5	"	"	"		"
N. E.^{4}, and E^2 of S. E.^{4} " 8	"	"	"		"
N. W.^{4} of S. E.^{4} and lot 4, sec. 8	"	"	"		"
Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, sec. 17	"	"	"		"
E.^{2} of N. E.^{4}, and N. E.^{4} of S. E.^{4}, sec. 17.	"	"	"		"
Lots 1, 2 and 3, sec. 20	"	"	"		"
W.^{2}, N. W.^{4} and S. E.^{4} of N. W.^{4}, sec. 11	"	"	"		"
S. W.^{4} and S. W.^{4} of S. E.^{4}, sec. 11	"	"	"		"
All of secs. 3, 4, 9 and 10	"	"	"		"
" " 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23	"	"	"		"
Sections 14, 15, 22, 23	"	"	"	}	Unsurveyed.
E$\frac{1}{2}$ and S. W.$\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 16.	"	"	"	}	
And N$\frac{1}{2}$ and S. E.$\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 21	"	"	"	}	

And that the Plat of said Township was filed in this office June 28th, 1873, and March 2d, 1874.

Respectfully,

ALFRED JAMES,
Register.

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No. 2.

H. G. ROLLINS, DUNCAN MCNEE, CHAS. H. CHAMBERLAIN,
Register. *Clerk.* *Receiver.*

All letters, etc., pertaining to the business of the office should be addressed to the "U. S. Land Office, Post Office Box No. 2223." Be particular to describe the land you write about, by Section or parts of Section, Township and Range.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,

506 Jackson Street, (up stairs,)

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *January 26th*, 1876.

I hereby certify that there is no claim of any kind to any portion of the public land described as the S½ of S½, sec. 27; N E¼ of N E¼, S½ of N E¼ and S E¼, sec. 33; all of sec. 34, and all of sec. 35, lot 4, S½ of S W¼ and S W¼ of S E¼, of sec. 26, T. 6 N. R., 32 W., S. B. M.; and I further certify that the township plat was filed in this office August 8th, 1872.

H. G. ROLLINS,
Register.

[Exhibit "A."]

ESPEDENTE.

Promondo por et Crudadana Miguel Cordero en pretencion del parage nambrado las Cruces.

137.

SOR GAHERNADOR

Miguel Cordero de este vecuredad ante V. S. con el respeto devido y conferme à omi dro, combengo, digo; que con el abjeto de dedicarme al inter esante ramo de la agricultura pr. hallarne poseedor de algim numero de vienes de campo tengo presente qe. para este fin conforme à las leyes de colonizacion debo de denjir me à V. S. como lo hago en solicitud del paraje nombrado las

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Cruces; este terreno avunque ha pertinacido a la exmission de Sta. Ines, se halla a la pha, desocupado, y el cetado establecimiento no lo necesita, por tal motero lo creo colonizable y sin atro impedi ruto à impediera su adjudicacion elli edad abanzada mis mentos contracdos à el Sero, de las Amas y oteos muy notorios sou las que mi impelsu dirijir esta representacion acompenada con el correspondunte diseño.

Portanto, A. V. S. Suplico se siena acceder como pido su que receivre gracea admitendo esta en papel conecur pt. mo haber del Sello correspondente.

Jurando lo necessario.

Sta. Barbary, Mayo 2 de 1837.

A ruego del interesado.

JOSÉ DE LA GUERRA Y CARRILLO.

Sta Barbara, Mayo 7, de 1837.

Ynforme el Y.

Ayuntamiento de esta Municipalidad si el interesado en esta instancea abteeve todos los requisitos legales pa. ser atendidado en su solicitud; si el terreno ql. pretende prude adjudicarse en colonizacion conforme a la ley.

Evacuadas estas informes voluera el espedente al Gobero, pa. su resolucion.

Alvarado.

Y. A.

La Comision a quieu V. S. se ha serudo confiar pa. que dectanione sobre el Espedente que forma la solicitud del Cno. Miguel Cordero en pretencion del parage nombrado las Cruces en obserbancia del deereto del Gdno. de pha. 10 de Mayo expone ql. el interesado obtiene todos los requisitos legales para ser atendido en la solicitud; que el terreno que pretende se halla cuveerto de Cruces del mesmo solicitantes y en estado de adjudicarse

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en colonizacion conforme a la ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824 y reglamento de Nobiember de 1828, pbes anque se ha conocido por de la pertinacia de la ex-mision de Sta. Ynes se halla a la vez sin la occupacion necessaria de dha Mision, y por consiquente en estado de adjudicarse conforme a las Leyes citadas.

El que representa es Crudno. Mexicano amestado, tiene buena conducta y bienes con que poblarlo. Por lo que se hace acreedor a ser amparado por la ley, y por las consideraciones del goberno à quien representa. Por tanto ofrece la comision à la deliveracion de V. S. la segurente proposicion.

Puede el goberno adjudicar al Cno. Miguel Cordero el perage nombrado ias Cruces. Santa Barbara, Mayo 10, de 1837.

PABLO VANEGAS.
SANTIAGO BURKE.

En sesion de hoy aprobò el Y. A. la proposicion del dutamen antecedente cuelva el expediente al gob'no pa. sa resolucion. Ut supra.

Diego Alvera.

A. FALDA DEL SEAETANO,
RAMON VALDEZ.

SANTA BARBARA, *Mayo* 11, *de* 1837.

Vista la peticion con que da principio este espediento, el informe del Y. A. y todo lo que ver connemo, de conformidad con lo despuesto pt. las leyes y reglanentos de la materia, se declara al Cno. Miguel Cordero dueno su propiedad del terreno conocedo con el nomlose de las Cruces, demarcado en el diseno que acompano a su sotiated, y hajo los linderos que sue el espeesan, sùjetandose

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a las condiciones que prerrene la ley de 18 de Agosto, de 1824, y reglamento de 21st de Noviembre de 1828. Librese el despacho correspondiente, tomase razon ser el libro respectuo, y dùàgase este esp'dte a la ex'ma deputacion p'r su debroa apobacion en cuyo caso el interesado a quien se harà saber este decreto presentarà nuevamente su titulo p'a que se le nevalide. Asi el Sōr D. Juan B. Alvarado, gobernador int'o del estado presidente de la exma deputacione del mismo lo decretò, mandó y firmò de que voy fé.

JUAN B. ALVERADO,
VICTOR PRUDON,
Sno. Int'o.

La comision de terrenos validos impuesta del espediente pumonido por el cuidadano Miguel Cordero en sotiutud del parage nombrado las cruces mo encuentia inconnemente alguna para que se conceda consecunte a su pretencion, por lo que la concluga, pomendo a la deleveracion de V. E. los siguantes proposisiones :

1*a.* Se consede al ciudadano Miguel Cordero el parage nombrado las Cruces por obtener los requesetos que perrene la ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824, y el art'o del reglamento de 21 de Nov'bre, de 1828.

Santa Barbara, *May* 18, 1837.

JOSÈ R. ESTRADA,
FRAN'CO J. ALVARAO.

Santa Barbara, *May* 18*th*, 1837.

En sesion de hoy se le dispensaron los tramdes de la proposicion del dictamen que antecede y fui aprobada por magoria absoluta de votas.

ANTONIO BUELNA, *Prest.*
JOSÈ MA. COVARRUBEAS, *Srio.*

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1845.—*Posesion Judicial en favor de Don Miguel Cordero del parage Nombrado las Cruces.*

Sr. alcalde 1° de Sta. Barbara, Miguel Cordero, Veceno de este Punto ante la justificacion de V. comparesco y digo, qe habiendo obtenedo la concesion en propriedad del terreno conocedo con el nombre de las Cruces por justo titulo espedido su mi favor por el Sup'or Gob'no Departmental, A. V. suplico se surba darme la posesion juridica de estelo con arreglo a otro titulo y diseño respectiva cugos documentos acompaño surrendose admitir esta instancia en papel coman por no haber del sello que corresponde. Juro no proceder de malecia.

Santa Barbara, *Octu're* 30, *de* 1845.

MIGUEL CORDERO.

Santa Barbara, *Octu're* 31, *de* 1845.

En virtud del antecedente sotiutud procedase por mi el presente Alcalde a la medecion senalamiente de linderas y posesion juridical del terreno de las Cruces que soliceta el interesado en este espediente con arreglo a los documentos que acompanid senalando para efectuarlo el dia dos del proc'mo Notre para lo que se sitiran con votelas de comparendo a los colendantes asi yo el Alcalde 1° lo mande decrete y firmé actuando por receptoria cue testigos de asistencia por falta de escribando nacional y publico de que doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.
Asist'a JOSÈ MA. ORTEGA.

En la fhta, presente D, Miguel Cordero se le notifico

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el anto que antecede y de el enterado dejo que hoye y se du por citada y lo fermo y los de mi asist'a doy fe.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Ast'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.
Asis'ta JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

En la misma fha, se libraron los volelos que nuanda el proner proveido y para que coreste por delegencia lo rubrique.

[RUBRICA.]

En el Rancho de las Cruces a los dos dias del mes de Nobre de mil ochocientos cuarenta y cuico en conplem'to de la cita librada a los colendantes del espresado Rancho, Concurrio D. Raym'do Carrillo, el Mayor domo de S. Julianr Gegorio Lopez, por Don José Norrega, y D. Fran'co Cota, y entendidas de que se habia a proseder a la medicion señalam'to de linderos y posesion en favor de Mig'l Correro, dejeron que das entendidos y para constancia lo fermaron conmego y los de mi asst'ta de que doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Asst'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.
Asist'a JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.
FRAN'CO COTA.
GREGORIO LOPEZ.

En sequeda you el Inez de estos Autos nombro por medidor en la presente posesion a los cuedadano Manuel Dominguez y el Neofito Venedito quienes pebia la asceptacion y juramento, prosederan el desempeno de su eneergo y para constancia lo pongo por diligencia, q'e ferino con los de mi asist'a de que doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.
Asist'a JOSÉ M. ORTEGA.

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En la fecha y en el espresado rancho se los notifico el anto q'e antecede al cuedadano Manuel Dominguez y neofite Venedito y entendidos de el dejeron q'e asehtan y aseptaban d'ho, eneergo de medidores y peraron por dios Atro S'r, y una senal de cruz de usarlo fielmente y leqalmente a todo su bar saber y entender sin dolo ni frande contra persona alquna y lo signaron con una cruz por no saber escribir ante me y los de mi asist'a de que doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Asist'a JOSÉ M. ORTEGA.
Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.
MAN'L DOMINGUEZ. X.
VENDITO. X.

Yucontmente yo el referido Alcalde miandé traet a mi presencia un cordel de mecate y reata con que se an de medir las tierras de d'ho rancho y q'e los medidores eo midan de a cencuenta reras, lo que firmo cen los de mi asistencia, doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.
Asist'a JOSÉ MA. ORTEGA.

En sequeda y en presencia de mi el expresado Alcalde, los medidores mencunados tomame un cordel compresto de reata y mecate y con una nera de medir usual mejecana medieron crucuenta veras para bacet la repetida medicion y para que conste lo rubrique.

[Rubric.]

En la mesma fha, siendo como las muelee de la manana, en el espresado Rancho yon dtio, Alcalde para proseder a la medicion de tierra que se hau de haser a

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D. Miguel Cordero, maude a los mie dedores nombrados se pongau detias de su casa, y puestos en decho lugar se cornenso la medida tendiendo el cordel nimbo al *oesta* ha sta el lindero de D. Francisco Cota, y se medieron dos cruntos cordeles de à concuenta veras; en segruda se prosegnio la mededa descle el Portesulo de San Julian, hasta la Cuchilla de Nojoqui, y de esta Rembo al sur a la Puerta de la Gabiota y Se medicron sien cordeles de à concuenta varas por lo que declaron dhos medidores tener el espresado rancho de la Cruz dos lequas de largo y un de ancho accempenado a este Espediente el diseño que figura el terneno memacunado y para constancea lo forme por auto con los testigos de mi asesta. de ql. doy fé.

NICHOLAS A. DEN,
Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO,
Asist'a JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

En el refendo rancho de las Cruces y su el mesmo dia, mes y año D. Miguel Cordero reesino del Puerto de Sta Barbara, acompanado del Alcalde y testigos de Asist'a. de estos antos, dijo; que habiendose medido las tierras de este rancho segron consta su el anto anterior, tomaba y toma la herdadera y corporal posecion de dtias tierras medidas pues le pertenesen por justo titulo que obtiene de la concesion ql. de ellas le hiso el Sup'or. Gob'no del Departamento entrò y pasò por ellas arrancò Urbac esparciò punados de tierra rompio ramas de los arboles e hiso otras danostracunes y actos de posesion en señal q'l. la q'l dejo tomada de dicha tierras y yo dicho Alcalde mandé que de sole entouces lo tubieran y reconocieran por Cordadero Señor y posedor de ella.

De todo lo espaesto pedio decho D. Miguel Cordero que para memoria en lo handero y conserbacion de sus

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directros le fuese estendido por mi el repetido Alcalde una constancea, y lo ferino y los de mi asst'a. de que doy fe.

NICHOLAS A. DEN,
Asst'a RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,
Asst'a JOSE M'A. ORTEGA.

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL,
Of the United States, for California.

I, JAS T. STRATTON, Surveyor General of the United States for the State of California, and as such, having in my office, and in my charge and custody, a portion of the *Archives* of the former *Spanish* and *Mexican* Territory, or Department of *Upper California*, as also the papers of the late Board of Commissioners to ascertain and settle the private land claims in California; by virtue of the power vested in me by law, *do hereby certify*, that the 12 preceeding and hereunto annexed pages, numbered from one to twelve, inclusive, exhibit a true, full and correct copy of the original Espediente of the grant to Miguel Cordero of the Rancho of Las Cruces, together with the record of juridical possession thereof, and that expediente is numbered and entered on Jiminos Index, "No. 137," and now on file in this office, and in my custody; that I have carefully compared the same with said original, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and caused my seal of office to be affixed, at the city of San Francisco, this 7th day of January, 1875.

JAMES T. STRATTON, [SEAL.]
U. S. Surveyor General, for California.

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Exhibit "B."

TRANSLATION OF ESPEDIENTE.

PROCEEDINGS

Instituted by the citizen Miguel Cordero, petitioning for the place named Las Cruces.

137.

To His Excellency, the Governor:

I, Miguel Cordero, of this vicinity, before your excellency, with due respect, appear and say: That, being desirous of devoting myself to agriculture, since I am the owner of a considerable amount of stock, and being aware that, under the laws of colonization, I must apply to your honor, as I do, asking for a grant of the place named "Las Cruces." This tract of land, although it has belonged to the ex-mission of Santa Ines, is at present unoccupied, and the said mission does not need the same. Wherefore I think that the same is in a condition to be colonized, and I think there is nothing to prevent the said place from being granted.

My old age, and the military services I have given to the country, impel me to make this petition to your honor.

Wherefore I pray your honor to be pleased to grant my petition, admitting this on common paper, for want of sealed paper.

Santa Barbara, *May 2d*, 1837.

At the request of the petitioner.

JOSÉ DE LA GUERRA Y CARRILLO.

Santa Barbara, *May 7th*, 1837.

Let the Illustrious Ayuntamiento of this municipality report if the petitioner herein possesses such as entitles

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him to be heard on his petition, if the land he petitions for can be granted in colonization.

And when these proceedings shall have been taken, let this espediente be returned to the Governor for his determination.

ALVARADO.

To the Illustrious Ayuntamiento:

The committee to which was referred the petition of Miguel Cordero for the place of Las Cruces, in obedience to the decree of the 10th of May, have the honor to report: That the petitioner possesses such requisites as entitle him to be heard on his petition; that the land for which he petitions is occupied by the stock that he owns, and that the same is in a condition to be granted in colonization, under the law of the 18th of August, 1824, and the regulations of the 21st of November, 1828; for although this place has been considered as belonging to the mission of Santa Ines, this mission does not now occupy the same, wherefore it is in a condition to be granted under said laws; that the petitioner is a Mexican citizen, a man of good character, and has the means necessary to stock said place. Wherefore the committee offer, for the consideration of your Honor, the following proposition:

That the Government can adjudicate to the citizen, Miguel Cordero, the place named "Las Cruces."

Santa Barbara, *May* 10, 1837.

PABLO VORREGAS,
SANTIAGO BURK.

In the session of to-day, the Illustrious Ayuntamiente approved the foregoing report and ordered the Expedi-

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ente to be returned to the Governor for its determination.

Date as above.

DIEGO OLIVERA,
In the absence of
the Secretary, RAMON VALDES.

SANTA BARBARA, *May* 11, 1837.

In view of the petition with which this espediente commences; the report of the Illustrious Ayuntamiente, with all other matters necessary to be considered, in accordance with the laws and regulations on the subject, the citizen, Miguel Cordero, is declared owner in property of the tract of land known by the name of Las Cruces, as the same is shown by the accompanying map (diseño), and with the boundaries set forth; subject to the conditions of the law of the 18th of August, 1824, and the regulations of the 21st of November, 1828. Let the corresponding title issue; let registry be made thereof in the corresponding book, and let this Espediente be directed to the Most Excellent Deputation for its approval, and in case the same be approved, the interested party, who shall be notified of the same, shall present his title anew, that the same may be revalidated.

Thus I, the Senor Don Juan B. Alvarado, Governor ad interim of the State, and President of the Most Excellent Deputation, thus ordered, decreed, and signed, to which I certify.

JUAN B. ALVARADO,
VICTOR PRADON,
Sec'y ad interim.

The committee on vacant lands, having examined the expediente instituted by the citizen Miguel Cordero, pe-

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titioning for the place named "Las Cruces," find no objection to the making of said concession, wherefor, the committee by submitting for the consideration of your excellency the following proposition:

1st. There is conceded to the citizen, Miguel Cordero, the place named "Las Cruces," since he possesses such requisites as are demanded by the law of the 18th of August, 1824, and October 5th, of the regulations of the 21st of November, 1828.

SANTA BARBARA, *May* 18*th*, 1837.

JOSÈ R. ESTRADA,
FRANCISCO I. ALVARADO.

SANTA BARBARA, *May* 18*th*, 1837.

In the session of to-day the foregoing report was approved:

ANTERNO BUELNA,
JOSÈ MA COVORRUBIAS.

1845.

Juridical possession in favor of Don Miguel Cordero of the place named "Las Cruces."

TO THE 1ST ALCALDE OF SANTA BARBARA:

I, Miguel Cordero, a resident of this place, before your Honor, respectfully represent, that having obtained the concession of the place known by the name of Las Cruces by a just title issued to me by the Departmental Government, I pray your Honor to give me juridical possession of said place in accordance with the respective title and diseño; being pleased to admit this petition on common paper, for want of the corresponding sealed paper, making the necessary oath.

SANTA BABARA, *October* 30*th*, 1845.

MIGUEL CORDERO.

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SANTA BARBARA, *October* 31*st*, 1845.

In compliance with the foregoing petition, I, the present Alcalde, shall proceed to the measurement, and giving juridical possession of the land of Las Cruces as asked for by the petitioner in this expediente, in accordance with the documents accompanying the same, appointing for this purpose the 2d day of November next, that the adjoining land owners may be summoned to appear and be present on that occasion. Thus, I, the 1st Alcalde, ordered, decreed and signed, with the assisting witnesses, with whom I act, in the absence of a notary public, to which I attest.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Ass't REYMONDO CORRILLO.
Ass't JOSÈ M'A ORTEGA.

At the same date, Don Miguel Cordero being present, he was notified of the foregoing order; which he said he heard and admitted citation, signing with me and the assisting witnesses, to which I certify.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Ass't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,
Ass't JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

At the same date the citations were issued as directed in the foregoing order, in witness whereof, I sign with my rubric.

[RUBRIC.]

On the Rancho of Las "Cruces," on the 2d day of the month of November, 1845, in compliance with the citations issued, appeared the citizens Colindantes, of this Rancho, Don Raymundo Carrillo, the Magordomo of San Julian, Gregorio Lopex, for Don José Noriega, and

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Don Francisco Cota; and being informed that I was going to measure the Rancho of Miguel Cordero, they said that they understood the same, signing with me and the assisting witnesses, to which I certify.

NICOLAS A. DEN,
Assis't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,
Assis't JOSÉ M. ORTEGA.

Whereupon, I, the judge, appointed as measurers, the citizen Manuel Domingues and the Neophyte Venedito, who, after having accepted said appointment and made the necessary oath, shall proceed to the discharge of their duty; in witness whereof, I sign with the assisting witnesses.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Ass't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,
Ass't JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

At the same date and on the said Rancho, the citizen, Manuel Dominguez, and the Neophyte Venedito, were notified of their appointment as measurers; whereupon, they said that they accepted said appointment, making the necessary oath that they would discharge their duty as such measurers, legally and faithfully, according to the best of their understanding and ability, without fraud or deceit against any one whatever, making the sign of the cross, because they could not write, to which I attest.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Ass't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,
Ass't JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

MAN'L DOMINGUES, X. VENIDITO, X.

Whereupon, I, the said Alcalde, ordered a cord to be brought into my presence with which to measure said

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lands, and that the measurers should measure the same to the length of fifty varas; signing with the assisting witnessses, to which I attest.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Ass't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,
Asst JOSÈ MA. ORTEGA.

Whereupon, in my presence, the said measurers took a cord, and with a vara of the usual Mexican measure, they measured off fifty varas for the purpose of making the said measurements.

In witness whereof, I sign with my rubric.

[RUBRIC.]

At the same date, it being about nine o'clock in the morning, on the said Rancho, I, the said Alcalde, for the purpose of proceeding to the measurement of the lands of Miguel Cordero, ordered the measurers to place themselves to the back of the house (of Cordero); and, being at that place, the measurements were commenced by running the line to the west as far as the boundaries of Francisco Cota, to which point were measured two hundred cords of fifty varas; whereupon the measurements were continued from the portesuela of San Julian as far as the cuechilla of Nojoqui, and from this point to the south as far as the puerta of Gabiota, to which point were measured one hundred cords of fifty varas. Whereupon the said measurers said that the said Rancho was two leagues in length and one league in width, as shown by the diseno in the espediente.

In witness whereof, I sign with the assisting witnesses.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Ass't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO.
Ass't JOSÉ M. ORTEGA.

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On the said Rancho of Las Cruces, and on the same day, month, and year, Don Miguel Cordero, a resident of the port of Santa Barbara, in company with the Alcalde and the assisting witnesses; he said, that the lands of this Rancho, having been measured, as shown by the foregoing proceedings, he took the true and corporal possession of the said lands, since they belonged to him by the just title, which was issued to him by the superior government of the department. He entered upon and passed over said lands, pulling up herbage and scattering handfuls of earth, breaking branches of trees, and making other demonstrations, as a sign of the possession, which he said he took, of said land. Whereupon I, the said Alcalde, ordered that, from that time forth, he should be considered as the owner and possessor of the same.

Of all of which the said Miguel Cordero asked a testimony, for the future security of his rights, which I, the said Alcalde, gave, signing the same with the assisting witnesses.

NICOLAS A. DEN.
Assist. RAYMUNDO CARRILLO.
Assist. JOSÉ MA. ORTEGA.

Affidavit of R. C. Hopkins.

I, R. C. Hopkins, being duly sworn, depose and say: That I am familiar with the Spanish language, and with the laws, usages, and customs of the governments of Spain and Mexico in making grants of land in California, which familiarity has been acquired by many years of experience as keeper of the Spanish archives in the office of the U. S. Surveyor General for California, which archives contain the original records of grants of land made by the said Spanish and Mexican governments of California.

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I further certify, that the foregoing is a correct translation of an original record of a grant of land made by the Governor of California to one Miguel Cordero of a place or Rancho called "*Las Cruces.*"

I further certify, that I am familiar with the handwritings and signatures found in the original document, of which the foregoing is a translation; that I have carefully examined said handwritings and signatures, and that the same are genuine, and that the said record of grant and of juridical possession, accompanying the same, are in every respect genuine documents, and that said documents constitute what would have been considered a perfect grant under the Mexican government of California.

And I further certify, that I am familiar with the section of country in which said tract of land is located, and that the boundaries of the same can without difficulty be ascertained from the calls of the title papers, and the diseno, or map, accompanying the same.

R. C. HOPKINS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2d day of February, A. D. 1876.

[SEAL.] J. A. ROBINSON,
U. S. Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 1st*, 1876.

I, L. K. LIPPINCOTT, Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, do hereby certify that the annexed from page one to one hundred and twenty-five, inclusive,

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is a true and literal exemplication of certain papers on file in this office, in the matter of the alleged private land claim in the State of California known as the Rancho Las Cruces.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of this office to be affixed at the city of Washington, on the day and year above written.

[SEAL.] L. K. LIPPINCOTT,
Acting Commissioner of General Land Office.