Guide to the José Yves Limantour papers, 1842-1885

Processed by The Bancroft Library staff
The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu
© 1997
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Note
This finding aid has been filmed for the National Inventory of Documentary Sources of the United States (Chadwyck-Healey Inc.)

Note
History --History, California --History, Bay Area
Guide to the José Yves Limantour papers, 1842-1885

Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 460

The Bancroft Library

Collection Summary
Collection Title: José Yves Limantour papers,
Date (inclusive): 1842-1885
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 460
Creator: Limantour, José Yves, d. 1885
Extent: Number of containers: 2 boxes and 2 oversize folders
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: Correspondence, documents (originals, copies and photocopies) and clippings, relating mainly to Limantour's land claims and subsequent litigation. A few papers, 1885-1888, of his son, José Yves, are also included.
Languages Represented: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
Copyright has not been assigned to The Bancroft Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services. Permission for publication is given on behalf of The Bancroft Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.
**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], José Yves Limantour papers, BANC MSS C-B 460, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

**Scope and Content**

José Yves Limantour, a French trader, first came to California in 1841. Governor Micheltorena, in return for services offered, gave Limantour various grants of land, including almost half of San Francisco. When Limantour presented his claims before the land commission, they were at first confirmed. Later, however, in 1858, the claims were rejected, being proven a forgery supported by false testimony.

These papers were acquired from various sources: purchased from Gelber Lilienthal, Oct. 1939, and from Valton, in 1940?, and some were formerly cataloged as fm F 862.1 C3. They include photocopies of some documents from the National Archives and from the Henry E. Huntington Library. The documents relate mainly to requests for land, and to the subsequent litigation. There are a few papers also concerning Limantour's efforts to supply the Mexican government with weapons from Europe. Also included are a few papers of his son, José Yves.

The papers have been arranged chronologically and the folders numbered consecutively. A partial list of correspondents follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Correspondent</th>
<th>Date/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Ahumada, José María</td>
<td>Letter, Feb. 19, 1857.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Arce, Francisco Casimiro, 1821-1878</td>
<td>Signature, as witness, on document of José Antonio Chávez, Feb. 1, 1844.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Arista, Mariano, 1802-1855</td>
<td>Letter of introduction for Limantour, Nov. 2, 1852.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Folder 123 Letter to Pablo Della Torre, Nov. 2, 1857. Photocopy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Letter to the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Apr. 22, 1858. Photocopy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bocanegra, José María, 1787-1862</td>
<td>Marginal reply to document of Micheltorena of Feb. 27, 1843.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166</td>
<td>Letter, Feb. 14, 1862.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Castañares, José María, 1807-1865</td>
<td>Letter, July 10, 1848, including letters for José Abrego and others. (4 items).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23a</td>
<td>Letter to James Watson, July 10, 1848, re power of attorney to Limantour.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166</td>
<td>Letter, Feb. 14, 1862.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Castañares, Manuel</td>
<td>Letter, Jan. 19, 1857.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Castro, Manuel de Jesús, 1821-1885</td>
<td>Signature, as witness, on document of José Antonio Chávez, Feb. 1, 1844.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Letter, Mar. 5, 1857.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Letter, Mar. 20, 1857.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Letter, Mar. 5, 1858.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Letter, Feb. 5, 1859.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chávez, José Antonio</td>
<td>Agreement with Limantour re sale of Cienega del Gavilan, Feb. 1, 1844, with signatures of Chávez and Limantour, and as witnesses, Manuel Castro, Francisco Rico and Francisco Arce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Receipt re purchase of the Cienega del Gavilan, June 2, 1853.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Letter, July 26, 1856.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crockett, Joseph Bryant, 1808-1884

Davidson, Lemuel

Folders 16-22
Letters, Mar. 9-June 14, 1848.

Derbec, Étienne

Folder 111
Letter, Nov. 28, 1857.
Folder 135
Letter, Dec. 19, 1858.
Folder 158
Folder 165
Letter, Feb. 1, 1862.

(oversize portfolio)

Folder 167
Letter to S. Roullié de Chinol, June 12, 1862.
Folder 168
Letter, June 23, 1862.

Felton, John Brooks, 1827-1877
Folder 71
Folder 75
Letter, Mar. 20, 1857.
Folder 77
Letter, Apr. 5, 1857, with letter at end from James Wilson.
Folder 78
Letter, May 1, 1857.

Frisbie, John B., 1824-
Folder 196
Letter, Jan. 9, 1880.
Folder 200

Gómez, Vicente Perfecto, d. 1884
Folder 65
Greenhow, Rose (O’Neal) ca. 1815-1864 (Mrs. Robert Greenhow)
Folder 124
Letter, May 17, [1857].
Folder 134
Letter, Dec. 4, [1857].
Folder 140
Letter, Jan. 25, 1859.

Grellier, S.
Folder 67
Letter, Feb. 17, 1857. Contains information re Letanneur,
Folder 77a.
Letter, April 5, 1857.
Folder 77b.
Letter, April 20, 1857. Comments on Sutter.

Gutiérrez, Bonifacio
Folder 27
Certified copy of an order relating to a claim of Limantour’s, July 16, 1849.

Hittell, John Shertzer, 1825-1901
Folder 117
Letter, Feb. 3, 1858.

Inge, Samuel W., d. 1867
Folder 60

Jecker, Jean Baptiste, 1810-1871
See also Folders 192 and 199 re the Jecker estate.

Folder 171
Bill from the company, Oct. 16, 1865. Letterpress copy.
Folder 176
Letter, Apr. 15, 1869.
Folder 178
Letter, Sept. 1, 1869.
Folder 180
Letter, Oct. 1, 1869.
Folder 182
Folder 183
Letter, Feb. 27, 1870.
Folder 185
Letter, Mar. 15, 1870.
Folder 187
Letter, June 1, 1870.
Folder 189.
Letter, Feb. 23, 1871.

Jouan, Agustin
See also Folders 49, 50, 179 and 184, concerning Limantour's suit against Jouan, and
folder 85.
Folder 39
Statement, Nov. 24, 1853. Translation.

Jourdain, Étienne
Folder 26
Letter, June 28, 1849, concerning purchase of Segura’s house and other business
matters.
Folder 28
Letter, Sept. 25, 1849.
Folder 30  Letter, June 15, 1850, concerning business with M. G. Vallejo, and relating to Segura's house and other matters.
Folder 152.  Letter, Nov. 18, 1865.

La Reintrie, Henry

Le Vasseur, André Nicolas
Folder 54  Power of attorney, Oct. 28, 1856.
Folder 55  Letter, Oct. 30, 1856, re establishment of textile industry in Mexico.

Limantour, José Yves, d. 1885
Folder 2  Petition, requesting islands in the Pacific, Jan. 20, 1843. With marginal reply by Micheltorena.
Folder 3  Request for land near Todos Los Santos, Jan. 20, 1843. With marginal reply by Micheltorena.
Folder 7  Account with Vallejo, Dec. 29, 1844. Photocopy.
Folder 8  Signature on agreement with José Antonio Chávez concerning sale of Cienega del Gavilan, Feb. 1, 1844.
Folder 9  Petition for land, Mar. 2, 1844. With marginal reply by Micheltorena.
Folder 11  Copy of request for Rancho de Cahuenga, Feb. 4, 1845, with marginal reply by Micheltorena.
Folder 13  Letter to Capt. Lizvoffe?, June 18, 1847. Photocopy.
Folder 24  Copies of letters, Jan. 13, 1849.
Folder 31  Drafts of letters of introduction for Father Dufour, July 21, 1851.
Folder 37  Letter to James Wilson, Aug. 27, 1853. Draft.
Folder 41  Draft of an agreement concerning the exploitation and the sale of the Islas de Cerros, [1853].
Folder 43  Account, entitled "Affaire Delessert," [June 10, 1854?].
Folders 49-50  Copies of documents in suit against Agustín Jouan, 1855-June 13, 1856.
Folder 52  Draft of statement concerning weapons he has purchased in Europe and wishes to sell to the Mexican government, Sept. 5, 1856.
Folder 58  Letter, Nov. 19, 1856, to E. Dupré.
Folder 59  Receipt, Dec. 9, 1856.
Folder 61  Indenture, Dec. 22, 1856. Copy of deed to James Wilson for land in and around San Francisco.
Folder 62  Copy of an agreement with N. W. Chittenden, Jan. 5, 1857, with signatures of Chittenden, Limantour and Victor Prudon.
Folder 66  Drafts of two letters, [Feb. 1857?].
Folder 81  Agreement for Teofilo Carrasquedo to testify to Limantour's signature in San Francisco, June 6, 1857.
Folder 89  Promissory note, Aug. 1857.
Folder 90  Draft of power of attorney, Aug. 1857.
Folder 93  Indenture, Sept. 1857. Deed to Thomas Oliver Larkin for property in San Francisco, with notation that Mr. Limantour will not sign this deed. 2 copies.
Folder 95  Draft of letter, Oct. 4, 1857, to A. M. Chittenden.
Folder 98  Four documents, relating to power of attorney to dispose of San Francisco property, [Oct. 1857].
Folder 104  Power of attorney to Étienne Derbec, Nov. 16, 1857.
Folder 106  Draft of petition concerning the entry of 2,000 rifles, destined for the Mexican army, Nov. 2, 1857.
Folder 107  Draft of letter to James Wilson, Nov. 25, [1857].
Folder 110  Draft of letter to Adolphe Moreau, Nov. 25, 1857.
Folder 113  Draft of letter to James Wilson, [1857?].
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Form for a power of attorney, in English and French, 1857.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Drafts of proposed contract with the Mexican government, Feb. 5-12, 1858.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Drafts of power of attorney to Étienne Derbec, June 1858.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Draft of letter, [June 1858].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Draft of letter, [June?, 1858].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Drafts of power of attorney, July 10, 1858.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Drafts of power of attorney, Nov. 27, 1858, in French and English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>Draft of power of attorney to Manuel Castro, 1858.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>Draft of letter, [1858?].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>Petition requesting an extension of three years to exploit the Island of San Juan Nepomuceno, Apr. 27, 1864.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>Incomplete drafts concerning his claims for payment by the Mexican government, [1864 ?].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>173</td>
<td>Draft and clean copy of letter explaining his claims to lands in California, with copies of documents cited, 1866.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Drafts of letters, Nov. 28-Dec. 9, 1868.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td>Letter to J. B. Jecker, Feb. 28, 1869.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177</td>
<td>Letter to J. B. Jecker, May 9, 1869.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179</td>
<td>Drafts and copies of documents in his lawsuit against A. Jouan, 1867-Sept. 1869.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>186</td>
<td>Drafts of two letters to J. B. Jecker, Apr. 10 and 29, 1870.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188</td>
<td>Letter to J B. Jecker, June 29, 1870.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>194</td>
<td>Letter to Miss Cantau, May 16, 1877.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203</td>
<td>Undated letter to Olaguibel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204</td>
<td>Draft of undated petition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206</td>
<td>Miscellaneous undated accounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164</td>
<td>Circulars, Aug. 21, 1861 (6 items), signed by Núñez.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Marginal reply to Limantour's request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Marginal reply to Limantour's request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Grant, Feb. 27, 1843.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Marginal reply to Limantour's request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Marginal reply to Limantour's request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Copy of document confirming Limantour's title to land sold him by Father Quijas, Dec. 20, 1844.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Marginal reply to Limantour's request. Copy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Copy of document granting Cahuenga to Limantour. Also photocopy of a transcript of the same document, Feb. 7, 1845.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Documents in suit against Jouan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50a</td>
<td>Letter, Jan. 5, 1856.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Letter, Nov. 5, 1856.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Letter, Mar. 5, 1857.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Letter, Jan. 4, 1858.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Letter, Feb. 4, 1858, concerning depositions in the Limantour case.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Núñez, José M.
See Mexico. Ministerio de Hacienda y Crédito Público
Ord, Angustias (de la Guerra), 1815- (Mrs. James L. Ord)
Folder 121
   Letter to José Puig y Monmany, Oct. 20, 1856.
Folder 122
   Letter, Apr. 23, 1858.
Ord, James L., 1820-1898
Folder 131
   Letter, Sept. 10, 1858.
Perricaudet, Jean Baptiste
Folder 130
   Letter, with variant, Aug. 4, 1858.
Folder 139
   Letter, Jan. 19, 1859.
Perricaudet, Julie
Folder 141
Quijas, José Lorenzo de la Concepción
Folder 1
   Copy of document stating that he has sold a vineyard east of the San Francisco Solano Mission to José Limantour, May 10, 1842.
Renard, Auguste
Folder 148
   Letter, June 6, 1859.
Renard, Julie
Folder 144
   Letter to Adela Marquet, Mar. 4, 1859.
Folder 147
   Letter to her aunt, May 21, 1859.
Folder 151
   Letter to her aunt, Oct. 5, 1859.
Folder 153
   Letter to her aunt, Nov. 20, [1859].
Folder 155
   Letter to her aunt, Dec. 5, 1859.
Folder 156
   Letter to her aunt, Dec. 18, [1859].
Renard, Ysabelle
Folder 162
   Letter to her godmother, Feb. 4, 1861.
Rico, Francisco, ca. 1820-
Folder 8
   Signature as witness to agreement between Chávez and Limantour.
Rivera, M.
Folder 29
   Plan of the mine of San Nicolas, Apr. 17, 1850.
Rosny, Léon Ouis Lucien Pruno de, 1837-1914
Folder 197
   Letter, Jan. 11, 1880.
Segura, José María
Folder 14
   Certified copy of agreement of sale of his house in Los Angeles to Limantour.
Suñol, Antonio Maria, 1800-1865
Folder 35
   Letter, May 2, 1853.
Folder 94
Thornton, William
Folder 70
Folder 80
Tibbitts, J. D.
Folder 88
   Letter, Aug. 28, 1857, relating to property in San Francisco.
Torre, Pablo della
Folder 83
Folder 85
Folder 91
Folder 96
Folder 112
Folder 129
   Letter to J. S. Black, July 19, 1858. Photocopy.
U.S. Land Commissioners
Folder 47
   Translation into French of confirmation of Limantour’s claims to land in San Francisco, Jan. 22, 1856.
Whitcomb, Pringle & Felton
Folder 145
   Letter, Apr. 4, 1859.
Wilson, James
Folder 72 (in oversize portfolio)
   Letter, Mar. 4, 1857.
Partial List of Correspondents and Authors of Documents

Folder 100  Letter, Oct. 5, 1857.
Folder 105  Letter, Nov. 19, 1857.

Diseños and maps
folder Folder 29  Plan of San Nicolas mine.
folder Folder 42  Diseño of Limantour’s claim to Yerba Buena and Tiburon. Photocopy.
folder Folder 207  See also variant of this diseno, also photocopy, in oversize portfolio.
folder Folder 42  Map of El Socorro by G. Henrique Ney, n.d.

Clippings and newspapers
folder Folder 45  Courrier des États Unis, Nov. 18, 1854.
folder Folder 208  Clippings re Limantour litigation.
folder Folder 209  Clippings re Mr. Nolf.
folder Folder 210  Clippings re Sherreback claim.
folder Folder 211  Misc. clippings.
folder Folders 32, 136 and 170  Material concerning the supplying of ships and weapons to Mexico
folder Folders 49, 50, 179 and 184  Material relating to Jouan litigation
folder Folder 115  Material relating to Letanneur
folder Folder 157  List of questions to be asked of Letanneur.
folder Folder 115  Judgment on Letanneur testimony.