

---

## **Finding Aid to the Documentos para la historia de California, 1827-1873**

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](mailto:bancref@library.berkeley.edu)

URL: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu>

© 1996

The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

---

## Finding Aid to the Documentos para la historia de California, 1827-1873

**Collection number: BANC MSS C-B 67**

The Bancroft Library



University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California

**Contact Information:**

The Bancroft Library.  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000  
Phone: (510) 642-6481  
Fax: (510) 642-7589  
Email: [bancref@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:bancref@library.berkeley.edu)  
URL: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu>

Processed by:

The Bancroft Library staff

Encoded by:

Padma Rubiales

© 1996 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

---

### Collection Summary

**Collection Title:** Documentos para la historia de California

**Date (inclusive):** 1827-1873

**Collection Number:** BANC MSS C-B 67

**Creator:** Avila, Miguel

**Extent:** Number of containers: 1 box

**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:** Letters, legal documents, land papers, accounts, proclamations, etc., relating primarily to Avila's position as alcalde and as juez at San Luis Obispo and to his claims for extensions to his grant of Rancho San Miguelito.

**Languages Represented:** Collection materials are in Spanish

### Access

Collection is open for research. The original documents have been withdrawn from use and may be consulted only by permission of the Director. Either microfilm or photocopy may be used instead.

### 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], Documentos para la historia de California, BANC MSS C-B 67, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

**Acquisition Information**

The collection was given to H. H. Bancroft by Miguel Avila's widow.

**Biography**

Miguel Avila, born at Santa Barbara, in 1796, son of José de Santa Ana Avila, was educated in San Francisco. He later served as a copyist at Monterey. Enlisting in the army, in the Monterey Company in 1816, by 1824 he was corporal of the troops at San Luis Obispo. He was alcalde at San Luis Obispo in 1849, and was a grantee of Rancho San Miguelito. He died in 1874.

**Scope and Content**

This small collection of documents, given to H. H. Bancroft by Avila's widow, deals mainly with Avila's position as alcalde and justice at San Luis Obispo, and relates also to his claim for extensions to his grant of Rancho San Miguelito.

H. H. Bancroft's arrangement and numbering of the documents (which were originally bound) have been retained. The calendar, which follows, describes each item in the collection. Following that is a list of correspondents and/or signers of documents, which serves as a name index.

---

folder 1-2.	<b>Bonilla, José Mariano, 1807-1878:</b> <b>Additional Note</b> Letter to Miguel Avila, Apr. 29, 1842, concerning land claim by José Ortega.
folder 3-4. folder 5-14.	<b>Blank pages</b> <b>Halleck, Henry Wager, 1815-1872:</b> <b>Additional Note</b> Circular, Mar. 31, 1849, and 3 letters to Avila, May 15-23, 1849. Translations into Spanish by W. E. P. Hartnell.
folder 15. folder 16. folder 17-20.	<b>Number gap.</b> <b>Printed document removed for separate cataloging.</b> <b>Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:</b> <b>Additional Note</b> Draft of complaint against John Price for theft of a calf, and request for justice. [ 1850] See also <a href="#">125-128</a> .
folder 21-24.	<b>Pico, José de Jesús, 1807- :</b> <b>Additional Note</b> Letter to Miguel Avila, Oct. 18, 1846, requesting Avila to turn over to José García hide and tallow belonging to William Dana and William Howard.
folder 25-28.	<b>Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:</b> <b>Additional Note</b> Statement, May 12-18, 1849 re Mariano Bonilla's conduct towards him and action taken.
folder 29-32.	<b>Price, John Miguel:</b> <b>Additional Note</b> Letter to Miguel Avila, n. d., requesting accounts and ordering him to pay a fine of fifty pesos.
folder 33-34.	<b>Bonilla, José Mariano, 1807-1878:</b> <b>Additional Note</b> Letter to Miguel Avila, Nov. 16, 1849, requesting vouchers to document accounts.

folder 35-36.  
folder 37-38.

**Blank pages**  
**Bonilla, José Mariano, 1807-1878:**

**Additional Note**

Letter to Miguel Avila, Jan. 3, 1850, requesting Avila to turn documents over to the ayuntamiento.

folder 39-40.  
folder 41-44.

**Blank pages**  
**Price, John Miguel:**

**Additional Note**

Letter to Miguel Avila, Feb. 8, 1850, requesting that order of February 7, 1850, be complied with by February 15.

folder 45-46.

**Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**

**Additional Note**

Sentence, May 1, 1849, a fine of 100 pesos imposed on Mariano Bonilla, and a note stating that on the 17th of the month, Bonilla left for Monterey without permission of the juzgado and without having paid the fine. See also [no. 25-38.](#)

folder 47-48.  
folder 49-50.

**Blank pages**  
**Accounts, 1844-1845:**

**Additional Note**

Mutilated and incomplete.

folder 51-52.

**Accounts, n. d.**

**Additional Note**

Mutilated and incomplete.

folder 53-54.

**Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**

**Additional Note**

Draft of document, n. d. Mutilated.

folder 55-56.

**Castro, Manuel de Jesús, 1821- :**

**Additional Note**

Proclamation, Sept. 29, 1849. Incomplete and damaged.

folder 57-60.

**Castro, José, 1810-1860:**

**Additional Note**

Letter to Manuel Castro, Sept. 30, 1845, commenting on Manuel Castro's proclamation of Sept. 29, 1845. Copy. Damaged.

folder 61-62.

**Alvarado, Juan Bautista, 1809-1882:**

**Additional Note**

Order, Sept. 30, [1845], stating that proclamation published on this date has not been recognised by the comandante general. Copy. Damaged.

folder 63-68.

**Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**

**Additional Note**

Expediente, concerning request for some land in extension of Rancho San Miguelito, with annotations by José de Jesús Pico and Anastasio Carrillo. Copy in Avila's hand.

folder 69-70.

**Blank pages**

folder 71-72.	<p><b>Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Unsigned draft of letter to William Dana, n. d. Complete?</p>
folder 73-76.	<p><b>Pico, Pío, 1801-1894:</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Letter to Miguel Avila, May 7, 1846, stating that Avila's request for land seems to be going well.</p>
folder 77-80.	<p><b>Obligaciones de los alcaldes, n. d.</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Statement of duties of alcaldes.</p>
folder 81-84.	<p><b>[Obligaciones] de los ayuntamientos, n. d.</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Statement of duties of ayuntamientos.</p>
folder 85-86.	<p><b>Halleck, Henry Wager, 1815-1872:</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Letter to Miguel Avila, May 19, 1849, concerning legislation re land titles. Translation into Spanish, with certification of copy by José Maria Villavicencio.</p>
folder 87-88. folder 89-90.	<p><b>Blank pages</b>  <b>Mesa, Francisco:</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Account with José Maria Avila, Aug. 3, 1827: Copy. With this, copy of José Maria Avila's power of attorney to Nicolás Alvisu, Aug. 6, 1827, and note, Oct. 28, 1827, that account has been settled.</p>
folder 91-98.	<p><b>Accounts for income and expenditures of the Juzgado of San Luis Obispo for the year 1849.</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Draft and fair copy (2 items).</p>
folder 99-102.	<p><b>Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Protest, Feb. 21, 1850, against John Price and Mariano Bonilla in the matter of his position as Juez de la Instancia.</p>
folder 103-106.	<p><b>Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Deposition, Dec. 31, 1849, of Isidoro Villavicencio in his case against Luciano Félix re the sale of a house and a lot.</p>
folder 107-108.	<p><b>Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Draft of a notice, n. d., stating he wishes his records to be made public.</p>
folder 109-110.	<p><b>Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:</b>  <b>Additional Note</b>                  Receipt, May 14, 1853, for 25 heads of cattle and a promise to pay Joaquin Estrada. Draft.</p>
folder 111-112.	<p><b>Blank pages</b></p>

- folder 113-116. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Drafts of documents as alcalde and Juez de la Instancia of San Luis Obispo, Dec. 23 and 31, 1849, concerning José María Quintana's request for land.
- folder 117-120. **Sepúlveda, José L. de:**  
**Additional Note**  
Letter to Miguel Avila, July 4, 1852, concerning horses and livestock.
- folder 121-124. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Letter to the Juez of the district, Apr. 2, 1851, concerning litigation with John Wilson over land.
- folder 125-128. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Drafts relating to his complaint against John Price, Jan. -Feb. 1850. See also [no. 17-20](#).
- folder 129-130. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Draft of letter to William Dana, 1850?
- folder 131-132. **Blank pages**  
folder 133-134. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Incomplete draft of petition, n. d.
- folder 135-136. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Draft of complaint against John Price who has been persecuting him about the payment of some fines, n. d.
- folder 137-138. **Blank pages**  
folder 139-140. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Draft of document, July 1, 1849, concerning a dispute between Father Gómez, Vicente Félix and Mariano Bonilla re some mill wheels.
- folder 141-142. **Blank pages**  
folder 143-148. **Pico, Pío, 1801-1894:**  
**Additional Note**  
Letter, June 12, 1849, transmitting copy of a communication from the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations re Michel-torena's rule in Alta California. Copy of a copy.
- folder 149-152. **Sepúlveda, José L. de:**  
**Additional Note**  
Letter to Miguel Avila, Aug. 2, 1852.
- folder 153-154. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Copy of document, Jan. 12, 1854, stating that his daughter Rafaela has permission to build a house on his property. Original also signed by María Inocenta Pico Avila, and witnessed by William Bollard and Bartólo Zúñiga.
-

- folder 155-156. **Jimeno Casarín, Manuel, d. 1853:**  
**Additional Note**  
Letter, June 12, 1844, stating that by decree of the governor, Miguel Avila has been granted the land he requested.
- folder 157-158  
folder 159-160 **Blank pages**  
**San Luis Obispo Co., Calif. County Clerk:**  
**Additional Note**  
Certificate, Sept. 16, 1854, stating that Mariano Bonilla received the highest number of votes for the office of supervisor. Signed by D. F. Newsom.
- folder 161-164. **Decree of confirmation for Rancho San Miguelito, Dec. 1853:**  
**Additional Note**  
Translation into Spanish, in Avila's hand.
- folder 165-168. **Norton & Olvera:**  
**Additional Note**  
Letter to J. R. Hardenberg, Sept. 18, 1873, re Avila's claim for San Miguelito. Copy. Also included, copy of J. R. Hardenberg's reply.
- folder 169-170. **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Claim, Apr. 14, 1844, re his property, with annotations by Manuel Jimeno Casarín and M. Micheltorena. Copy, certified by R. de Zaldo.
- folder 171-172.  
folder 173-174. **Blank pages**  
**Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Land grant of a lot in San Luis Obispo, Dec. 5, 1849, to José María Covarrubias.
- folder 175-176.  
folder 177-178. **Blank pages**  
**Pico, Pío, 1801-1894:**  
**Additional Note**  
Grant of extension of San Miguelito Ranch to Miguel Avila, Mar. 17, 1846. See [no. 213-216 for another copy.](#)
- folder 179-180.  
folder 181-182. **Blank pages**  
**Printed document.**  
**Additional Note**  
Removed for separate cataloging.
- folder 183-184. **Quintana, José María:**  
**Additional Note**  
Petition for a lot in San Luis Obispo, Dec. 22, 1849Also signed by Jesús Luna.
- folder 185-186.  
folder 187-188. **Blank pages**  
**Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
**Additional Note**  
Document, May 12, 1849, concerning title of certain buildings to Father Miguel Gómez, also signed by Diego Quintana, Juan Matias Sánchez, José Manuel Muñoz and Ignacio Atencio.
- folder 189-190. **Blank pages**
-

- folder 191-192.      **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Letter to Father Miguel Gómez, June 5, 1849, concerning clarification of title to property.  
                                  Copy.
- folder 193-196.      **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Letter to Mariano Bonilla, Nov. 23, 1849, concerning Bonilla's quarrel with him.
- folder 197-200.      **Halleck, Henry Wager, 1815-1872:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Letter to Miguel Avila, May 15, 1849, translated into Spanish, concerning the powers of the  
                                  alcalde and the governor's choice of Avila as alcalde of San Luis Obispo. Certified by Tomás  
                                  de Herrera.
- folder 201-202.      **Villavicencio, José María, 1800- :**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Statement, Mar. 22, 1844, concerning a horse.
- folder 203-204.      **Blank pages**  
 folder 205-206.      **Halleck, Henry Wager, 1815-1872:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Letter to Miguel Avila, May 23, 1849, translated into Spanish, requesting Avila to suspend  
                                  the sentence against Mariano Bonilla until further investigation has taken place. Certified by  
                                  José María Villavicencio.
- folder 207-208.      **Blank pages**  
 folder 209-212.      **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Request for an extension to his ranch, Sept. 14, 1845.
- folder 213-216.      **Pico, Pío, 1801-1894:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Grant of extension of Rancho San Miguelito to Miguel Avila, Mar. 17, 1846 (Another copy.  
                                  See also [no. 177-178.](#))
- folder 217-218.      **Clarke, Jeremiah:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Letter to Miguel Avila, Dec. 9, 1853, stating that two of Avila's titles have been confirmed,  
                                  but the third granted by Pío Pico is still before the commissioners. He suggests that Avila  
                                  come to San Francisco.
- folder 219-220.      **Blank pages**  
 folder 221-224.      **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Letter to William Dana, Jan. 30, 1845, stating he regrets not being able to see Dana because  
                                  of his illness.
- folder 225-226.      **Printed document removed for separate cataloging.**  
 folder 227-230.      **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
                                  **Additional Note**  
                                  Document, Nov. 28, 1851, in which he yields to his wife and children all his property. Also  
                                  signed by Bartólo Zúñiga as witness.



- folder 231-234.      **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
                         **Additional Note**  
                         Request for extension of property, n. d.
- folder 235-238.      **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874:**  
                         **Additional Note**  
                         Grant of a lot in San Luis Obispo to José Antonio de la Guerra, Dec. 23, 1849.
- folder 239-240.      **Quintana, José María:**  
                         **Additional Note**  
                         Request for a lot in San Luis Obispo, Dec. 26, 1849
- folder 241-242.      **Blank pages**  
folder 243-246.      **Jimeno Casarín, Manuel, d. 1853:**  
                         **Additional Note**  
                         Letter to Miguel Avila, July 13, 1849, concerning the house granted to Father Gómez.
- folder 247-248.      **Bonilla, José Mariano, 1807-1878:**  
                         **Additional Note**  
                         Order, Jan. 6, 1848, to appear before John Price in action concerning a calf belonging to Miguel Avila.
- folder 249-252.      **Hartnell, William Edward Petty, 1798-1854:**  
                         **Additional Note**  
                         Letter to Miguel Avila, Dec. 12, 1849, concerning accounts.
- folder 253.            **Printed document removed for separate cataloging.**  
                         **Alvarado, Juan Bautista, 1809-1882**  
                         **Nos. 61-62**  
                         **Atencio, Ignacio**  
                         **No. 187**  
                         **Avila, José Maria**  
                         **Nos. 89-90**  
                         **Avila, María Inocenta (Pico)**  
                         **No. 153**  
                         **Avila, Miguel, 1796-1874**  
                         **Nos. 17-20**  
                         **Nos. 25-28**  
                         **Nos. 45-46**  
                         **Nos. 53-54**  
                         **Nos. 63-68**  
                         **Nos. 71-72**  
                         **Nos. 99-102**  
                         **Nos. 103-106**  
                         **Nos. 107-108**  
                         **Nos. 113-116**  
                         **Nos. 121-124**  
                         **Nos. 125-128**  
                         **Nos. 129-130**  
                         **Nos. 133-134**  
                         **Nos. 135-136**  
                         **Nos. 139-140**  
                         **Nos. 153-154**  
                         **Nos. 169-170**

**Nos. 173-174**  
**Nos. 187-188**  
**Nos. 191-192**  
**Nos. 193-196**  
**Nos. 209-212**  
**Nos. 221-224**  
**Nos. 227-230**  
**Nos. 231-234**  
**Nos. 235-238**  
**Bonilla, José Mariano, 1807-1878**  
**Nos. 1**  
**Nos. 33-34**  
**Nos. 37-38**  
**Nos. 247-248**  
**Carrillo, Anastasio**  
**Nos. 63-68**  
**Castro, José, 1810-1860**  
**Nos. 57-60**  
**Castro, Manuel de Jesús, 1821-**  
**Nos. 55-56**  
**Clarke, Jeremiah**  
**No. 217**  
**Estrada, Joaquín, 1817-**  
**No. 109**  
**Halleck, Henry Wager, 1815-1872**  
**Nos. 5-14**  
**No. 85**  
**Nos. 197-200**  
**No. 205**  
**Hardenberg, James Richmond, 1814-**  
**No. 167**  
**Hartnell, William Edward Petty, 1798-1854**  
**Nos. 5-14**  
**Nos. 249-252**  
**Herrera, Tomás de**  
**Nos. 197-200**  
**Jimeno Casarín, Manuel, d. 1853**  
**Nos. 155-156**  
**Nos. 169-170**  
**Nos. 243-246**  
**Luna, Jesús**  
**Nos. 183-184**  
**Mesa, Francisco**  
**No. 89**  
**Micheltorena, Manuel, d. 1853**  
**Nos. 169-170**  
**Muñoz, José Manuel**  
**Nos. 187-188**  
**Newsom, D. F.**  
**Nos. 159-160**  
**Norton & Olvera**  
**Nos. 165-166**  
**Pico, José de Jesús, 1807-**  
**Nos. 21-24**  
**Nos. 63-68**  
**Pico, Pío, 1801-1894**  
**Nos. 73-76**

**Nos. 143-148**  
**Nos. 177-178**  
**Nos. 213-216**  
**Price, John Miguel**  
**Nos. 29-32**  
**Nos. 41-44**  
**Quintana, Diego**  
**Nos. 187-188**  
**Quintana, José María**  
**Nos. 183-184**  
**Nos. 239-240**  
**Sánchez, Juan Matías**  
**Nos. 187-188**  
**Sepúlveda, José L.**  
**Nos. 117-120**  
**Nos. 149-152**  
**Villavicencio, José María, 1800-**  
**Nos. 86**  
**Nos. 201-202**  
**Nos. 205-206**  
**Zaldo, Ramón de, d. 1878**  
**Nos. 169-170**  
**Zúñiga, Bartólo**  
**Nos. 153-154**  
**Nos. 227-230**