Pablo de la Portilla Journal

1824 June 27
Descriptive Summary
Title: Pablo de la Portilla Journal
Dates: 1824 June 27
Collection Number: MS-11
Creator/Collector: Pablo de la Portilla
Extent: 1 folder (8 leaves bound)
Repository: Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Presidio Research Center
Abstract: Handwritten pages dated June 27, 1824 from a journal created by Captain Don Pablo de la Portilla, describing an expedition that left the Santa Barbara Presidio on June 4, 1824 to find and return neophyte Indians who had left Mission Santa Barbara earlier that year.
Language of Material: Spanish; Castilian
Access
Collection is open to qualified researchers. For information regarding the use of these materials, please contact the Associate Director for Historical Resources.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Pablo de la Portilla Journal. Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Presidio Research Center
Acquisition Information
Purchase at auction, 5/14/1987
Biography/Administrative History
Pablo de la Portilla was captain of the Mazatlan cavalry from 1819 to 1838 and was stationed for most of those years in San Diego, becoming comandante of the San Diego Presidio in 1831. In May 1824, Portilla was ordered by Governor Luis Antonio Argüello to lead a group of soldiers from the Mazatlan squadron along with soldiers from both presidios from Santa Barbara to the Tulares. In 1833 he was appointed administrator of Mission San Luis Rey after it became secularized. After serving briefly under Carlos Carrillo in his attempt to take the governorship from Governor Alvarado in 1837, Portilla returned to Sonora where he became captain of the post at Guaymas in 1846. He returned to California once more in 1849 with a group of gold seekers.
Scope and Content of Collection
The journal entries, dated June 4 - June 22, 1824, describe the expedition led by Captain Pablo de la Portilla. The expedition left the Santa Barbara Presidio on June 4, 1824 for the Central Valley in the Tulare region to find and return neophyte Indians who had left Mission Santa Barbara earlier that year. The reason for their running away was the February 21 Chumash revolt at Mission La Purisima Concepcion after one of the neophytes was flogged by a soldier. (The Chumash revolt has been documented in many other sources. Accompanying Portilla were Fathers Vicente de Sarria and Antonio Ripoll and 63 soldiers. On June 10, the Indians were found at a place called Mitochea. After several days of discussions and pardon by the government, the Indians agreed to go back home. The document is signed by Pablo de la Portilla and dated June 27, 1824.
Indexing Terms
Portilla, Pablo de la
Argüello, Luis Antonio, 1784-1830
Santa Barbara Presidio (Santa Barbara, Calif.)
Santa Barbara Mission
Diaries