Rosario Curletti Collection of Ortega Family Papers MS-04

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Presidio Research Center
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Title: Rosario Curletti Collection of Ortega Family Papers  
Identifier/Call Number: MS-04  
Contributing Institution: Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Presidio Research Center  
Language of Material: Spanish; Castilian  
Physical Description: 11.0 folders  
Date: 1796-1855  
Abstract: This collection of historic documents dating between 1796 and 1855 relates primarily to the Ortega family of Santa Barbara. The documents include legal and financial letters and notices, title documents, and receipts relating to the property and finances of Jose Francisco Ortega and his heirs.  
creator: Curletti, Rosario Andrea  
creator: Ortega, Jose Francisco de, 1734-1798  
creator: Pico, Pio, 1801-1894  
Immediate Source of Acquisition note  
Gift, Jean Menzies 1992; purchased at auction May 12, 1987, Rosario Curletti estate. Rosario Andrea Curletti, who died in 1986, was a respected Southern California anthropologist, genealogist, historian and book collector. Her main specialties were Santa Barbara history and the Chumash Indians.  
Conditions Governing Access note  
Collection is open to researchers.  
Conditions Governing Use note  
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Associate Director for Historical Resources. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation Research Center 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.  
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note  
Photocopies of the original documents are available to researchers.  
Scope and Contents note  
This collection of historic documents dating between 1796 and 1855 relates primarily to the Ortega family of Santa Barbara. The documents include legal and financial letters and notices, title documents, and receipts relating to the property and finances of Jose Francisco Ortega and his heirs. Also included is a baptismal certificate for Maria Magdalena Josefa Cota. Especially noteworthy are the itemized list of all cattle, horses, and mules from Rancho del Refugio and the land grant title for the rancho with conditions of use, as established by the Mexican government.  
Transcriptions and translations of all the documents were made by Ruth Adams, Elaine Miller, and Amelia Acosta.  
Biographical/Historical note  
Jose Francisco Ortega was on Gaspar de Portolà's 2nd land expedition to Alta California in 1769. He was the chief scout on this expedition, which discovered San Francisco Bay. In 1773 Ortega became Lieutenant and Commandant of the Presidio of San Diego, a post he held until 1781. In the spring of 1782, Ortega was on the expedition that founded Mission San Buenaventura and he became Commandant in charge of the military guard chosen to construct the temporary Santa Barbara Presidio in 1782, a post he held for two years. After that, he commanded the presidio in Monterey. He ended his career in 1795 in Loreto, Mexico where he was transferred. According to historian Walker Tompkins, Ortega owed a large debt to the Mexican army, due to bad bookkeeping, and asked Governor Borica for land north of Santa Barbara in Refugio Canyon to raise cattle on to pay off his debts. Several of Ortega's sons also moved up to Refugio and claimed land for themselves, although they did not yet own the title. Eventually the Ortega family was one of the first families to receive titles to land grants distributed by the Mexican government in 1834.  
References  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Cota, Maria Magdalena Josefa  
Goicoechea, Felipe Antonio de, 1747-1814  
Ortega Family  
Ortega, Jose Francisco de, 1734-1798  
Hollister Ranch (Calif.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 1</th>
<th><strong>Ortega, Jose Francisco de. Legal contract to Phelipe de Goycoechoa 13 December 1796</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 2 p. legal size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document states that Ortega and his family will pay back an outstanding debt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>through revenue and products from their ranch. Signed by Ortega and his three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sons, Ignacio Maria de Ortega, Visente Maria de Ortega, and Francisco Maria de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ortega.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 2</th>
<th><strong>List of all cattle and horses on Refugio Ranch 3 December 1796</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 2 p. legal size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document not signed but it is related to document in Folder 1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 3</th>
<th><strong>Fray Pedro de San Josef Estevan. Certificate of baptism 8 April 1800</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 1 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document certifies the baptism of Maria Magdalena Josefa, daughter of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guillermo Cota Cabo of the Royal Presidio of Santa Barbara and his wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manuela Lizaldi, in Mission San Gabriel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 4</th>
<th><strong>Mata, Jose Maria. Statement of paymaster, account of Jose Francisco Ortega 11 July 1815</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 1 p. legal size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statement of payments and debts of deceased Ortega and the amounts left for his heirs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 5</th>
<th><strong>Arguello, Gervasio. Document 6 October 1817</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 1 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note written to Jose de la Guerra, stating that Arguello will pay the draft handled by the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>paymaster of the Presidio of Loreto for Jose Maria Ortega.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 6</th>
<th><strong>Mata, Jose Maria. Warrant for payment 3 June 1823</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 2 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Copy of draft dated 26 April 1817 for money owed to Jose Maria Ortega, son of Jose Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ortega.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 7</th>
<th><strong>Mata, Jose Maria. Request for payment 3 June 1823</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 1 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duplicate request as in Folder 6 of payment owed Jose Maria Ortega.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 8</th>
<th><strong>Ruiz, Jose Manuel. Letter to Antonio Maria de Ortega 3 June 1823</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 1 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruiz tells Ortega that the draft for money owed is no longer valid and he has done what he</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>was asked to do. He also sends greetings to Ortega's family.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Herrera, Jose Maria. Legal document certifying draft 10 August 1827

General Physical Description note: 1 p. legal size
General note
Document, signed and sealed, certifying that money was paid out of the account of Jose Francisco Ortega to his son Jose Maria Ortega.

Folder 10

Ayala, Juan P. Document of land grant title 3 April 1846

General Physical Description note: 3 p. legal size
General note
Copy of original document which certifies granting of land at Refugio to Don Antonio Maria Ortega and Dona Magdalena Cota de Ortega and explains the conditions of its use. Original, dated 1 August 1834 and recorded in land grant title book in Monterey, signed by Jose Figueroa and Agustin Vicente Zamorano Serio. Copy signed by Ayala, Juan Camarillo and Joaquin de la Guerra.

Folder 11

Ortega, Francisco. Notice of sale of land 10 July 1852

General Physical Description note: 2 p. legal size
General note
Notarized document that states that Ortega has transferred all property and land of Rancho del Refugio and Las Carzas to his mother-in-law, Dona Magdelena Cota de Ortega, in exchange for 640 pesos. Notarized by Raymundo Carrillo.

Folder 12

Pico, Pio. Letter to Miguel Noriega 4 February 1855

General Physical Description note: 1 p.
General note
Pico writes to his godson asking him to send the black horse to him care of Pico's brother in law, Don Joaquin Ortega.