Guide to the Flores Family Papers MS-03

Revised by Chris S. Ervin
Presidio Research Center

2019-03-03
215 East Canon Perdido St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
chris@sbthp.org
URL: http://sbthp.org/research.htm
Guide to the Flores Family Papers

Language of Material: Spanish; Castilian
Contributing Institution: Presidio Research Center
Title: Flores Family Papers
source: Platz, Edward H., Dr.
source: Platz, Helen (Hartnett)
creator: Vallejo, Mariano Guadalupe, 1808-1890
creator: Flores, Jose Ignacio
creator: Guerra, Pablo de la, 1819-1874
creator: Crespo, Angel
creator: Quintero, Regina
Identifier/Call Number: MS-03
Physical Description: 0.25 Linear Feet61 items
Date (inclusive): 1840-1921
Abstract: This collection consists of twenty handwritten documents, twenty-five newspaper clippings, ten photographs, and three miscellaneous publications concerning Santa Barbara Presidio Commandant Gumesindo Flores and his wife Cipriana Llano Flores.
Storage Unit: SB-01
Scope and Contents
This collection consists of twenty handwritten documents, twenty-five newspaper clippings, ten photographs, and three miscellaneous publications. Among the holographs are several poignant letters to Cipriana Flores from her mother in Mexico during the mid 19th century and copies of legal documents employed by Cipriana to justify her claim to the Presidio comandancia to U.S. authorities. The certificates or testimonials by many of the men who knew Flores provide information on his military career in California, as well as the careers of the men who are testifying. There are also several pages from an early Spanish cookbook and a prayer. Photographs are of Cipriana Flores and various family members, many of them taken at the Presidio. A scattering of genealogical notes accompany the photographs. Clippings include obituary notices of Flores family members and articles about Cipriana Flores and the Presidio dating from the early 20th century.
Biographical / Historical
Gumesindo Flores (d.1860) was Santa Barbara Presidio's last comandante, arriving in Santa Barbara from Monterey in 1842 where he had been in command since 1839. He married Cipriana Llanos Quintero in 1835 and they had ten children. They lived in a wooden house on the 900 block of Santa Barbara Street, built in 1818. The house was destroyed in the 1925 earthquake. Flores was murdered July 16, 1860 by an assassin and is buried at Mission Santa Barbara. Cipriana Flores was born in Mexico on September 27, 1818 and came to California in 1833 when she was 15 years old. She died at the age of 103 on November 23, 1921. The collection was compiled and preserved by Helen "Nellie" Hartnett Platz, who was given many of the documents by her mother Rose Noe Hartnett, the granddaughter of Cipriana and Gumesindo Flores.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Edward Platz, 1991
General
The documents were transcribed and translated by Ruth C. Adams, Maria Powell, and John C. MacGregor from 1989-1990.
Preferred Citation
Flores Family Papers, MS-03, Presidio Research Center, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.
Conditions Governing Access
Collection is open to researchers.
Conditions Governing Use
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Archivist-Librarian. 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.
Existence and Location of Copies
Copies of original documents are available for use by researchers.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Holographic Letters and Documents 1840-1921

folder 1  Arias en honor de Nuestra Senora de los Dolores

Physical Description: 2 pages, no date

General
Airs in Honor of Our Lady of Sorrows

folder 2  Copies of certifications for Gumesindo Flores 1858-1885

Physical Description: 13 leaves, legal size

General
Copies of certifications of testimony about Gumesindo Flores, taken, by order of Senora Dona Cipriana Flores, from originals she provided for this purpose. Certifications are from M.G. Vallejo, Pablo de la Guerra, Raymundo Carrillo, Ignacio del Valle, A. F. Coronel, Anastasio Carrillo, Andres Pico, Juan Camarillo, Agustin V. E. Jamsens, Manual Diaz, and D. Spence taken in 1858 and 1859 and copied by a public scribe on June 19, 1885.

folder 3  Maria de Santiago, Jose. Copy of Baptismal Certificate for Cipriana Llanos 1921-04-18

Physical Description: 1 p.

General
Certificate taken from Baptismal Book of Spaniards, Holy Metropolitan Church of Mexico City, dated 4 April 1826. Copied by F. N. Gutierrez in Santa Barbara on 18, April 1921.

folder 4  My Great, Great, Great Grandmother's Cook Book

Physical Description: 8 p. folded

General
Note, written in English, accompanying the cook book is dated June 8, 1[7]13, i.e. 1913

folder 5  Flores, Gumesindo. Copy of petition regarding ownership of his house on Canon Perdido Street 1858-02-27

Physical Description: 3 pages, legal sized

General
Petition written by Flores' power of attorney, Antonio de la Palma y Mesa, 1 April 1858.

folder 6  Coney, A. K. Letter to Cipriana de Flores 1885-06-01

Physical Description: 2 p. legal size

General
Concerning her deceased husband's pension, which she believes she should receive.
folder 7  Notes when my mother came to California
  Physical Description: 2 p.
  General
  According to the donor, these notes were probably dictated by Rose Noe Hartnett and
  written down by Helen "Nellie" Hartnett Platz.

folder 8  Clipping of notice of Cipriana Flores' divorce published in the Santa Barbara Gazette.
  1885-08-08
  Physical Description: 1 p.

folder 9  Crespo, Angel and Regina Quintero. Letter to Cipriana Flores 1842-04-04
  Physical Description: 2 p.
  General
  Letter written by Cipriana Flores' godfather for her mother Regina Quintero. The letter
  mentions that Don Manuel Micheltorena will relieve her husband and take over as
  Governor and Commandant of the Californias. Several family members send along their
  greetings and hope that she and her family will return to Mexico soon.

folder 10  Document about Gumesindo Flores' property circa 1858
  Physical Description: 1 p.
  General
  Document not translated. Part of document may have been signed by Antonio Maria de la
  Guerra.

folder 11  Crespo, Angel. Letter to Gumesindo Flores 1842-02-02
  Physical Description: 1 p.
  General
  Letter discusses military activities surrounding Governor Micheltorena--his attempt to
  form an army of 50,000 men in Mexico, his upcoming trip to Alta California with 1,000
  men, and his intent to relieve Gumesindo Flores of his post at the Presidio in Santa
  Barbara.

folder 11  Crespo, Angel. Letter to Cipriana Flores 1842-02-02
  Physical Description: 2 p.
  General
  Letter written by Cipriana Flores' godfather. The letter mentions that Don Manuel
  Micheltorena will relieve her husband and take over as Governor and Commandant of the
  Californias. He says her mother may travel north with Micheltorena to see Cipriana, which
  Crespo does not advise. Several family members send along their greetings and all hope
  that she and her family will return to Mexico soon.

folder 12  Quintero, Regina. Letter to Cipriana Flores 1841-02-15
  Physical Description: 3 p.
  General
  Letter from Cipriana's mother, written by Angel Crespo, giving news of her family in
  Mexico and asking for news from Cipriana in Alta California. She mentions that she has
  just received a letter from Cipriana, the first one in five years and discusses the problems
  with delivering mail back and forth.
folder 13  **Crespo, Angel and Regina Quintera. Letter to Gumersindo and Cipriana Flores**  **1843-02-15**

  **Physical Description:** 2 p.
  **General**
  Letter, written by Angel Crespo for Regina Quintero, sends family greetings and mentions family members back in Mexico. Mentions that Gumersindo Flores will come to Mexico to take people back to Alta California.

folder 14  **Crespo, Angel. Letter to Gumersindo Flores**  **1844-02-01**

  **Physical Description:** 2 p.
  **General**
  Acknowledges receipt of Gumersindo’s and Cipriana's letters. Discusses the problem of Gumersindo finding relief for his post so that he can return to Mexico. Mentions news from several friends and family.

folder 15  **Moreno, Jose Maria. Letter to Gumersindo Flores**  **1840-05-27**

  **Physical Description:** 1 p.
  **General**
  Letter not translated.

**Photographs**

folder 16  **Cipriana Flores**

  **Physical Description:** 3 3/8 x 4 7/8 in., oval sepia

folder 16  **Cipriana Flores in room with 4-poster bed in background**

  **Physical Description:** 3 3/4 x 5 in. black/white

folder 16  **Jose Ignacio Flores and Cipriana Flores in room with 4-poster bed in background**

  **Physical Description:** 4 15/16 x 3 11/16 in. black/white

folder 16  **Group photo in front of comandancia**

  **Physical Description:** 3 3/8 x 4 3/8 in. black/white
  **General**
  Cipriana Flores seated (Lolita Sangster standing beside her) in front of (from left to right) Alwin Hartnett, Nellie Platz, Ignacio Flores, Rose Noe Hartnett and John Hartnett standing behind.

folder 16  **Cipriana Flores seated in chair on porch**

  **Physical Description:** 4 11/16 x 6 5/8 black/white
folder 17-18  **Newspaper Clippings and Miscellaneous Publications**  
  
  **General**  
  Includes a history of Santa Barbara during the time of Gumesindo Flores, written by his son, Jose Ignacio Flores.

folder 19  **Flores Documents: General Acquisition and Other Information**  
  
  **Physical Description:** 1 Folder  
  General  
  2019-03-03 - During the course of fulfilling a reference request, an extra unnumbered folder titled "Flores Papers: General Information" was found mixed in with the documented MS-03 folders 1 through 18 of the Flores Family Papers. The contents are primarily the acquisition documents such as the Deed of Gift, Receipt, correspondence and other Flores-related documents received after the initial gift. The Archivist numbered the new folder as "19" and added this Archival Object to the collection.

folder 20  **Cipriana Justina de Llanos Flores records**  
  
  **source:** Grzywacki, Alex F.  
  **Physical Description:** 4 Leaves  
  **Material Specific Details:** Find A Grave Memorial 64566192; Calvary Cemetery Interment record; Familysearch.org search results; Mexico church record; 1850, 1860, 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 U.S. Federal census records; Ancestry family tree.  
  **Subjects and Indexing Terms**  
  Flores, Cipriana Justina de Llanos, 1818-1921  
  Grzywacki, Alex F.