



General Land Office

State of Texas

Austin

BASCOM GILES, COMMISSIONER

JOHN W. HAWKINS, CHIEF CLERK

November 22, 1939

Williams, Lee, Sears & Kennerly
Attention: Alan B. Cameron, esq.
Orange, Texas

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge your favor of the 17th inst., in which you order a translation of the four-league grant to Vicente Micheli in Angelina County, dated May 15, 1810, "including a copy of the grant from the Indian known as the son of the deaf Indian, Surdo, of the Bidaiz natives to Don Micheli."

Since the description that you have given pertains to two different Spanish grants in Angelina County, I believe it advisable to write you something of the land office records on these grants, before proceeding to furnish you with copies.

The Angelina County map of this office shows a grant to Vicente Micheli on the Angelina River, with the date May 15, 1810, noted. This grant is shown to adjoin a similar grant to Stephen Goguet and to be in conflict with numerous subsequent titles, the largest being the Antonio Flores Mexican grant of October 16, 1834. The muniments of title for said Micheli grant on the south side of the Angelina appear to be an expediente (file of documents) existing as pages 385 through 397 of volume 37 of the Spanish Archives of this office.

Said expediente grants to Vicente Micheli on June 9, 1810, a tract of "four leagues" described thus:

. . . I found an area of four leagues for large stock, containing 4,000 varas on this [Nacogdoches] side of the Angelina River, running north to Palisada Creek, and 3/4 of a league from west to east from La Nana Creek to the Moral, both of which enter the Angelina River on the south; [this is] the half on the east side of this portion [of land granted to Micheli] . . . And on the other side, the boundary on the south is at a place known as Las Lagunitas [Little Lakes], on the east at a creek called Parisagua, and on the west at a placeta, [clearing], where the old bounds are . . .

Thus the so-called "four-league" grant to Vicente Micheli lies in both Nacogdoches and Angelina Counties. On the Nacogdoches County map of this office, the portion of the grant north of the Angelina River is labeled "Vicente Michelli/ Pedro de Lara / T[itled] Dec. 20, 1805." Both maps, it appears, are erroneously dated with respect to the Micheli title, whose date is June 9, 1810.

The expediente of the Vicente Micheli title, Vol. 37, pages 385-397, contains: (a) Pedro de Lara Pozo's petition Dec. 13, 1805, predicated on a previous grant May 16, 1792, for aforesaid "four leagues" and the Placeta, which seems to be the area shown on the Angelina County map in the name of Stephen Goguet, (b) Pedro de Lara's deed to his son-in-law Estevan [Stephen] Goget, Dec. 20, 1805, of his aforesaid grant, reserving for himself the Placeta "on the camino real, west adjoining land now possessed by Tomás Monsolo." (This placeta tract was eventually granted to Barr & Davinport, through same hands conveying other portion to Micheli). (c) Estevan Goget's deed of "four-league" tract to Vicente Micheli, Dec. 21, 1805. (Foregoing part of the expediente is a copy made May 14, 1810). (d) Vicente Micheli's petition to be repossessed by a new title, May 15, 1810. (e) vista de ojos, June 9, 1810, quoted in fourth paragraph of this letter.

This concludes discussion of Micheli's land on the Angelina.

With respect to the Indian Surdo [Zurdo: the left-handed one], it appears by an expediente of title to Vicente Micheli for "two leagues" on the Neches, existing as pages 258 through 272 of volume 37 of the Spanish Archives of this office, that on October 21, 1797, the son of el Surdo of the Bidais tribe in consideration of a white shirt, eight brass bracelets, and other artefacts conveyed to Vicente Micheli "the land situated on the Neches from the creek of the Bidais to the place where said Surdo lives."

Micheli made petition to be repossessed by a new title on May 15, 1810, for said Neches tract, and for some reason two vistas de ojos were made: the first May 27, 1810, by Mariano Mora, describes the tract as lying 8 leagues south of Nacogdoches, with 7,500 varas from north to south, from neighbor Estevan Goguete's boundary to the Neches River, and with 27,500 varas from west to east, from the Arroyo del Indio Surdo to Bidais Creek; the second vista de ojos made June 12, 1810, merely calls for 2 leagues on the east side of the Neches with landmarks at the termination of said leagues [Goguete's landmarks?], bounded by vacant land.

In addition to these two expedientes of the year 1810, there is considerable information on the Micheli and Goguet grants on the Angelina in the Drafting Department of this office, Angelina County Sketch File No. 15. This file contains:

File 15. Field notes of Vicente Micheli's grant in Angelina County (1) filed March 9, 1863, with sketch and (2) those filed Aug. 31, 1863, dated June 1, 1848.

File 15a. Field notes of Stephen Goguet's grant, Barr & Davinport, assignees, in Angelina County, dated May 1, 1857, recorded May 19, 1857.

File 15b. Draftsman's statement concerning Stephen Goguet (Pedro de Lara) and adjacent grants, dated March 18, 1863.

File 15c. Copy of Barr & Davinport grant of May 28, 1810 as assignees of Stephen Goguet with attached land office translation. Said copy was made Aug. 14, 1863, by co. clk. of Nacogdoches Co. from a copy made by José Antonio Saucedo at Bexar, March 20, 1824, and contains certificate by Juan Antonio Padilla, March 14, 1838, to authenticity of Saucedo's copy.

File 15d. Translated extracts from titles: 2 leagues on Neches to Micheli, assignee of Surdo; and 1½ leas. on Angelina to Tomás Mansolo.

File 15e. Translated extracts from titles: José Lucubichí, June 20, 1802, vol. 37, pages 377-379, 1 lea. on south side of Angelina at the place called Durazno adjoining Estevan Goget; and Vicente Micheli, June 9, 1810, four leagues on both sides the Angelina (see 4th paragraph of this letter).

File 15f. Computations: meanders of King's Highway, i Camino Real.

File 15g. Statement of Spanish translator concerning Tomás Mansolo grant, dated Feb. 28, 1882.

File 15h. Field notes of meanders of King's Highway, dated Jan. 1, 1889.

Yours truly,

BASCOM GILES, COMMISSIONER
GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Sutherland

IN RE: VICENTE MICHELI GRANTS

OLSONE, TEXAS

COPY OF LETTER TO WILLIAMS ETC

2008 # 13002
COUNTER # 13002

Angelina Co.
Sketch File 1542

Copy of letter to Williams et al
Orange, Texas

In Re: Vicente Michelli Grants

BASCOM GILES, COMMISSIONER
GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Yours truly,

In addition to these two expedients of the year 1810, there is considerable information on the Michelli and Gonet grants on the Angelina in the Drafting Department of this office, Angelina County Sketch File No. 15. This file contains:

File 15. Field notes of Vicente Michelli's grant in Angelina County (1) filed March 9, 1863, with sketch and (2) those filed Aug. 31, 1863, dated June 1, 1848.

File 15a. Field notes of Stephen Gonet's grant, Barr & Davinport, assignees, in Angelina County, dated May 1, 1857, recorded May 19, 1857.

File 15b. Draftsman's statement concerning Stephen Gonet (Pedro de Lara) and adjacent grants, dated March 18, 1863.

File 15c. Copy of Barr & Davinport grant of May 28, 1810 as assignees of Stephen Gonet with attached land office translation. Said copy was made Aug. 14, 1863, by co. clk. of Nacogdoches Co. from a copy made by Jose Antonio Sucedo at Bexar, March 20, 1824, and contains certificate by Juan Antonio Padilla, March 14, 1838, to authenticity of Sucedo's copy.

File 15d. Translated extracts from titles: 2 leagues on Heches to Michelli, assignee of Sardo; and 1 1/2 leagues on Angelina to Tomas Mansolo.

File 15e. Translated extracts from titles: Jose Luch- dicit, June 20, 1802, vol. 37, pages 377-379, 1 league on south side of Angelina at the place called Durazzo adjoining Estevan Gonet; and Vicente Michelli, June 9, 1810, four leagues on both sides the Angelina (see 4th paragraph of this letter).

File 15f. Computations: meanders of King's Highway, Camino Real.

File 15g. Statement of Spanish translator concerning Tomas Mansolo grant, dated Feb. 28, 1882.

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Sutherland