

TEXAS LANDS.

THE CITIES---OF SOCORRO, AND SAN ELISARIO.

La Prieta Land Grant.

This grant contained 1,844,000 acres and is located in El Paso County, the description of which is found in the accompanying sheet. Generally described the grant is in the shape of a rectangle with longest axis East and West. The Western boundary is the Rio Grande and the grant runs within 15 or 20 miles of El Paso, thence East and includes the Devil Mountain.

These two cities occupied and possessed this land undisturbed until 1878. The treaties between Spain and Mexico and the treaty between Mexico and the U.S. both recognized those grants and confirmed them.

In the year of 1907 the two cities entered into an agreement with J.T.Solman and W.H.Marsh to have said parties clear up the title to this for them. The cities have agreed to give the private parties one half of the land for said services. The cities agree to take care of all squatter lands as were sold before. The lands are undivided of course, and when the case is settled they will have to appoint a commission to divide the land.

Not a word re the title and why the state took the step they did in declaring this land public land. Some of those old documents have been lost and hence the state decided to declare it open. The defense has searched El Paso County over and old Mexico and has now every document completing the chain beyond any doubt.

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The cities have been in undisputed possession from 1751 to 1878 and in disputed possession from that time until now.

Every facility will be given for a private search and examination here to any one who wishes to examine these old papers if interested.

Number 184

TESTIMONIO) OF THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS FOR THE ADJUDICATION OF THE LANDS CALLED:- LA PRIETA.

On the left margin of the Rio Bravo del Norte to the Pueblo Socorro and San Elizario in the year 1832.

TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL ALCALDE OF THE TOWN OF EL PASO:

In consequence of the serious disputes that have arisen between the citizens of the Pueblo of Ysleta, and those of Socorro and San Elizario for such lands as were granted by the King of Spain, by Royal Decrees, dated March 13th, 1751, and with the view of dispelling the doubts that exist with respect to their rights respectively, His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Chihuahua, has seen to decree as follows;

First: The grant of lands made to the citizens of the Pueblo of Ysleta by Don Jose Antonio Arce. Gov. of the St. of Chihuahua, on the 13th day of Aug. 1828, being in strict accordance with the Royal Decree of March 13th, 1751, the boundaries of same must be recognized as herein obtained.

Second: In conformity with their petition this decree grants to the citizens of the Pueblo of Socorro and San Elizario, jointly, three hundred and twenty-five leagues of the unoccupied lands lying South and East of them. So their boundaries on the North shall extend from the hill of San Juan de la Cruz toward the East

a distance of thirty leagues to yhe mountain, "Capitan de Guadalupe." The boundaries on the East shall extend from the mountain "El Capitan de Guadalupe", toward the South, a distance of twenty leagues to the mountain "La Mesa". The boundaries on the South towards the West shall extend thirteen leagues from the mountain "La Mesa" to the top of the "Sierra Blanca" and eight leagues along the lands of Don José Lerma to the "Rio Bravo del Norte", and the limits of the West shall be formed by the Rio del Norte.

All of the above unẏer the following stipulations contained in the Royal Decree of March the 15th, 1751.

Said lands are to be possessed and used jointly by the citizens of the Pueblos of Socorro and San Elizario, for a period of 50 years, during which time they shall not be dēvided, sold or transferred in any manner. After the lapse of 50 years said lands should be divided between the pueblos of Socorro and San Elizario, when they will be at liberty to dispepe of them as they see fit. When the division is made the pueblo Socorro shall receive a league of land for each and every one of the 108 families now residing therein, and the pueblo of San Elizario shall receive a league of land for each and every one of the 217 families that now reside there.

Let the above be complied with and take note that you are to notify the interested parties and issue to them, for their protection, all necessary documents in the usual form.

Done at the palace of the Government of the State of Chihuahua, on the 18th day of May, 1832.

(Signed) J.Y.Madero, (Rubio)
Governor,
Vicente de Palacios, (Rubric)
Secretary.

SURVEY AND POSSESSION.

At the pueblo Socorro on the 25th day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, I, the Alcade Constitutional of the town of El Paso, having been joined by several citizens of the pueblo of San Elizario, with the object of making the necessary demarkations and measuring such lands as has been granted to them, in obeyance to the decree of his Excellency, the Gov. of the State of Chihuahua, transcribed to me on the 18th day of May, 1832, we commenced and took as a point of departure the hill called "Loma de San Juan de la Cruz" and extending the line of the north in the Easterly direction measured thirty leagues to the mountain "El Capitan de Guadalupe" and erected on the highest point of same a monument of stone and wood. The measurement of this line occupied six days, by reason of the scarcity of water and the roughness of the ground.

On the morning of the 28th of June, we preceeded to the measure of the second line, which has length of 20 leagues and extends from North to South, ending on a table called "Corro de la Mesa" where we erected another monument of stone. This measurement occupied four days, having used the water of the salt lakes that are situated in this grant.

On the morning of the 3rd day of July after having rested a and after having supplied ourselves with water from the springs called "Carrizo" which lie by the North West of this place near the Diablo Mountains we preceeded to measure the third line,

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and facing towards the highest peak of the 2 "Sierra Blanca" we measured 13 leagues, which terminated at the top of the mountain where a monument had already been erected belonging to Don Jose Lerma. This measure was completed on the 7th day of July.

On the following day we continued the demarkation toward the West, measuring eight leagues and terminating at the Rio Bravo Del Norte, at the commencement of the lands of Jose Lerma and inasmuch as His Excellency, the Gov. of this State, designated the Rio Bravo del Norte as the last and perpetual boundary, the demarkation is hereby declared to have been completed and possession of the land measured as above is hereby given to them in the name of the Supreme Government who granted them.

All of which the above performed by me, the "Alcalde" signs this testimony with the attendant witnesses and those seven pages of ordinary paper for want of stamped paper, of which there is none obtainable at the office of this administration, and thereupon delivers the same for their protection.

Paso del Norte, the 27th July, 1832.

(Signed) Julian Bernal, Rubric.

Attest; (Signed) Jose Francisco del Barries, Rubric.

Attest; " Juan Bustillos, Rubric.

TO THE JEFE POLITICO DEL BRAVO.

In answer to the official communication dated the 27th instant, addressed to us, appointing us as experts for the comparison of hands regards the signatures which appear at the foot of the Expedient (official proceedings) sent to that "Jefatura" and those on the document in the Archives in its keepings, we

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have the honor to report that we have made such comparisons of hands and find that the signatures are identical in all their parts, except in that the witness Juan Bustillos, which did not appear in any document extant in the Archives, but the two others being alike it is to be presumed that it is the one that was used by said gentlemen.

Juarez City, March 28th, 1890.

Signed--L. Del Paso .

(Signed) N.G.Vnigo.

I, Mauro Candano, Jefe Politico of Bravos, do hereby certify that the signatures of Citizens, N.G.Vnigo and L.del Paso, which appear at the foot of the foregoing official communication are those used by them in all their acts, public and private.

Juarez City, the 28th march, 1890.

(Signed) M. Candano.

A seal of the Jefetura of the District and Internal Revenue Stamp of the value of ten cents cancelled by foregoing seal.

The Cities of Socorro and San Elizario sold to W.H.Marsh and John T. Selman a onehalf interest in the La Prieta Land Grant, consisting of 1,844,000 acres; later on John T. Selman sold his one-fourth interest, consisting of 461,000 acres. to James O. Wiley; and in March, 1911, James O. Wiley sold his interest to W.H.Yoakum; an the same day W.H.Yoakum sold the 461,000 acres to C.T.Gregory.

File number of Deed from Wiley to Yoakum is 36238. and from Yoakum to gregory 36239.

Filled and recorded at El Paso. in El Paso County, Texas,

in March 1911.

Parties who have examined the title and location of this La Prieta Land Grant say it is worth from \$3.00 to \$50.00 per acre, and will average \$10.00 per acre at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,

San Antonio, Texas,

January 30, 1912.

La Prieta Land Grant -
of Socorro and San Elizario -
part of the town of Ciudad
Calderon Co. at File 137 -

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El Paso Co.

in March 1871.

Parties who have examined the title and location of this
the Prieta Land Grant say it is worth from \$3.00 to \$20.00
per acre, and will average \$10.00 per acre at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,

San Antonio, Texas,

January 30, 1878.

Culberson Co. SK File 13 -
In re to the towns or cities
of Socorro and San Elisario -
La Pireta Land Grant -

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