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San Patricio And  
Bexar Counties

Translation of testimony  
relative to road causing con-  
tention between S. P. & Bexar  
Counties. (2)

Testimony of sundry  
individuals as to boundary  
between S. P. & Bexar  
Counties. (2A)

Republic of Texas  
County of Bexar

In the city of San Fernando de Bexar on the sixth day of the month of November, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, before me Erasmo Seguin, Chief Justice of said County, came Alexandre Gortari, who took the oath in due form of law under which he promised to speak the truth so far as he might know or be questioned, and being asked his name, condition, and residence, said that his name was as above stated, that he is a widower, and a resident and native of this city.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road known as the middle road, which goes from this city to the said point, to state what is its course, and what other marks or signs he can produce to give a correct designation of it, and if he remembers about what time it was in use, stated that the said road respecting which he was questioned leaves this city in a South direction by the road which goes to Saredo, and that at a distance of about one mile from the Mina it leaves the said road and takes a different route to the Medina and thence goes on to the Atascoso, afterwards to the San Miguel, and from the San Miguel to the Parita, and from the Parita to the Rio Frio, and from the Rio Frio to the Palo Alto, and from the Palo Alto to the Nueces, and from the Nueces in a West course to the Cochina, and from the Cochina to the Santa Catarina, and from the Santa Catarina to the Savana grande, and from the Savana grande to the San Pedro, and from San Pedro to San Ambrosio, and from San Ambrosio to San Lorenzo, and from San Lorenzo to Rio Grande and thence to the presidio of the same name, which are the day's journeys generally made when this road was travelled: — that he remembers this road from the time that D. Domingo Cavello was Governor of the Province of Texas, which is about fifty years; that it the same at present called the middle road (de en medio), because that now travelled which is called the New or Pita road is higher up, and leaving this place takes a West course till it reaches the Rio Grande; that he has travelled it various times and knows it well, and also knew the individual who first travelled it, Don Joachin Manchaca; that afterwards about the year 1806 or 1807, the Governor D. Antonio Cordero ordered this road to be opened as being more direct, which was done by Corporal Tobar of the Rio Grande Company, and from that time to the present, it is the one travelled as follows: Leaving this city in a West course goes to the River Medina; thence to the Chacon Creek; thence to the Honda; thence to Tahua-lano Creek; thence to the Rio Frio; thence to the Leona; thence to the Tortuga; thence to the Nueces; thence to the Peña; thence to the Rio Grande

Republic of Texas  
County of Bexar

In the city of San Fernando de Bexar on the sixth day of the month of November, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, before me Erasmo Seguin, Chief Justice of said County, came Alejandro Gortari, who took the oath in due form of law under which he promised to speak the truth so far as he might know or be questioned, and being asked his name, condition, and residence, said that his name was as above stated, that he is a widower, and a resident and native of this city.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road known as the middle road, which goes from this city to the said point, to state what is its course, and what other marks or signs he can produce to give a correct designation of it, and if he remembers about what time it was in use, stated that the said road respecting which he was questioned leaves this city in a South direction by the road which goes to Laredo, and that at a distance of about one mile from the Minita it leaves the said road and takes a different route to the Medina and thence goes on to the Atascoso, afterwards to the San Miguel, and from the San Miguel to the Parita, and from the Parita to the Rio Frio, and from the Rio Frio to the Palo Alto, and from the Palo Alto to the Success, and from the Success in a West course to the Cochina, and from the Cochina to the Santa Catarina, and from the Santa Catarina to the Sabana grande, and from the Sabana grande to the San Pedro, and from San Pedro to San Ambrosio, and from San Ambrosio to San Lorenzo, and from San Lorenzo to Rio Grande and thence to the presidio of the same name, which are the day's journeys generally made when this road was travelled: — that he remembers this road from the time that D. Domingo Cavello was Governor of the Province of Texas, which is about fifty years; that it the same at present called the middle road (de en medio), because that now travelled which is called the New or Pita road is higher up, and leaving this place takes a West course till it reaches the Rio Grande; that he has travelled it various times and knows it well, and also knew the individual who first travelled it, Don Joachim Manchaca; that afterwards about the year 1806 or 1807, the Governor D. Antonio Cordova ordered this road to be opened as being more direct, which was done by Corporal Tobar of the Rio Grande Company, and from that time to the present, it is the one travelled as follows: Leaving this city in a West course goes to the River Medina; thence to the Chacon Creek; thence to the Hondo; thence to Tachucano Creek; thence to the Rio Frio; thence to the Leona; thence to the Tortuga; thence to the Success; thence to the Peña; thence to the Rio Grande

to be laid out as being straighter and it is the one at present travelled; and that it leaves this city in a West course, which is all he knows on the subject, and this his declaration having been read he affirms it to be true under the oath he has taken: he declared his age to be sixty three years - and signed this before me the aforesaid Judge, which I certify

Erasmus Seguin, C. J.

Jose Flores

I, Erasmus Seguin, Chief Justice of the County of Bexar, certify that the individuals, deponents in the foregoing affidavits are old residents of this City, and well known for their probity and [end of page 5] and good morals: that full faith has be alwa[y]s been given to their statements in or out of court; and that whatever they have stated in present case is true, and is the general opinion which exists in relation to the road which leads from this city to Rio Grande known by the name of the oldest or middle road (el de en medio) in testimony of all of which I give the present, in Bexar on the eleventh of November A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight.

Erasmus Seguin, C. J.

[here ends page 6 and the document]

at which place it inclines a little to the West until it reaches the Nueces, and thence West to the Presidio of Rio Grande: that the intermediate places between Bexar and said point are known by the following names, to wit; Medina, Las Gallinas, Atascoso, La Parita, Guijolote, Lagunillas, San Miguel, Las Esperanzas, Rio Frio, Los Encinos, Las Nueces, Santa Catarina, San Rogue, Sabana grande, San Ambrosio, San Pedro y Rio Grande; - that he knows that this road was travelled at least from the year 1798, and at that time it was travelled as the only road from this city to the Rio Grande; that afterwards Don Antonio Cordero being Governor of this Province, he does not recollect in what year, he caused the new road to be opened now known as the Pita road above that already spoken of and which is called the middle road (el de en media), and he recollects the commissioners for that purpose were Coporal Tobar, Juan Jose Martinez and Anselmo Bergava, and that he is certain that this road does [the word "not," which was inadvertently omitted in the original, has been penciled in at a subsequent time] unite with the other at any point, but that they go different routes from this City to the Presidio of Rio Grande: that he has not travelled the middle road for many years and has heard it said that it is to be seen only in a few places for which reason he thinks he could not now point it out except in those parts where it shows - but he is certain that the names of the principal creeks as already given are correct; which is all he has to say on the subject, the truth of which he affirms under the oath he has taken, this his declaration having been read, and he declared his age to be seventy eight years, and he signed before me the said Judge, which I certify

Erasmus Seguin, C. J.

Vincente Duran

[end of page 4]

In the aforesaid City on the eleventh day of the month of November one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight - before me Erasmo Seguin, Chief Justice of said County, came Don Jose Flores to whom I administered the oath in due form of law under which he promised to speak the truth so far as may come within his knowledge, and so far as he may be questioned, And being asked his name, condition and place of residence, said that his name is as above stated, that he is a married man and a resident of this City.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road known as the middle road which leads from this city to said point, to state what is its course, and whatever other marks (senales) he can point out in order to designate properly, and if he recollects about what time it was used, declared that he knows the road in question, that it leaves this city in a South course with the Laredo road, which it leaves by turning to the right after crossing the Minita Creek opposite the Mission de Espada, and takes a course between South and West passing the Medina at Fernando Rodriguez's Rancho, and Felipe Musquiz's Rancho being on the other side of the river, continuing the same course to by the Atascoso, Las Lagunillas, San Miguel, Rio Frio to the Nueces, and thence taking a West course to the Rio Grande: that this is the old [the word "road" has been penciled in at a subsequent time, but omitted in the original] from this City to Rio Grande and the one which was travelled, as he has heard said, from the first settlement of Bexar, and the deponent has known it as such from his earliest recollection: that the upper road which is known as the new or Pita road was first travelled discovered by Capt. Don Jose Menchaca a long time ago, but it was not travelled until the time of Governor D. Antonio Cordero who ordered it

In the said city and county on the seventh day of the aforesaid month and year, before me Erasmo Seguin Chief Justice of said County, came Anselmo Bergava a native and old resident of this city to whom I administered the oath in due form of law, by which he promised to speak the truth so far he might know and might be questioned, and being asked his name, condition and residence, said that his name was as above stated that he is a widower and a resident of this city aforesaid;

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road known as the middle road which leads from this city to that point, to state what is its course, and what marks he can point out by which it can be distinctly designated, and if he recollects about what time it was used, declared; that he knows the said old or middle Rio Grande road which leaves this city with the road which goes to Laredo, and turns off from the said Laredo road on the upper side this side of the Medina and crosses said stream in a course West of South and continues the same course to the Rio Frio, when it inclines a little farther to the West till it reaches the Nueces, and from this point runs West to the Rio Grande; that the intermediates between Bexar and the said point are known by the following names; Medina, Las Gallinas, Atascoso, La Parita, Guijolote, Lagunillas, San Miguel, Las Esperanzas, Rio Frio, Los Encinos, Las Nueces, Santa Catarina, San Rogue, Savana grande, San Ambrosio San Pedro y Rio Grande: that he knows this road and has travelled it himself from the year 1798 when he was a soldier in the Bexar Company; that at that time no other road from this City to Rio Grande was known, that afterwards, Don Antonio Cordero being Governor of this Province, by his order, the deponent, corporal Tobar and Juan Jose Martinez went to mark out that known as the Pita or new road, above the old one, which it does not touch at any point, but goes a different route the whole distance; that the middle road spoken of has been so long discontinued that it is not known or is to be seen in very few places; but the deponent states that he can point out its course accurately; the truth of which he affirms under the oath which he has taken: and declared his age to be sixty years; signing or making a sign of the cross, not knowing how to write, before me the aforesaid Judge, which I certify

	his
Erasmo Seguin, C. J.	Anselmo + Bergava
	cross

Immediately appeared before me Erasmo Seguin Chief Justice of this County, Vicente Duran, an old resident of this city to whom I administered the oath according to law, under which he promised to speak the truth so far as he might be questioned, and being [end of page 3] asked his name, condition and place of residence, declared his name to be as above stated, that he is a married man and resident of this city.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road, known as the middle road which leads from this city to that point; to state what is its course and what other marks or signs he can give by which it can be correctly known, and if he recollects about what time it was used, declared that he knows the road in question, which leaves this city with the Laredo road from which it separates before crossing the Medina at a point called the Cross (de la Cruz) turning up and taking a course a little West of South, to the Medina and on the same course to the Rio Frio,

the Rio Grande; that he has travelled it various times and knows it well, and also knew the individual who first travelled it, Don Joachim Menchaca; that afterwards about the year 1806 or 1807, the Governor D. Antonio Cordero ordered this road to be opened as being more direct, which was done by Corporal Tobar of the Rio Grande company, and from that time to the present, it is the one travelled as follows: Leaving this City in a West course goes to the River Medina; thence to the Chacon Creek; thence to the Hondo; thence to Tahuacano Creek; thence to the Rio Frio; thence to the Leona; thence to the Tortuga; thence to the Nueces; thence to the Pena; thence to the Riogrande [end page 1] and thence to the Presidio of the same name; which is all he knows upon the subject; the truth of which he affirms under the oath which he has taken; and this his declaration having been read he declared his age to be seventy five years, and signed before me Erasmo Seguin Chief Justice of the aforesaid county which I certify.

Erasmo Seguin  
C. J.

Alexandro Gortari

On the same day, in the same month and year, before me the aforesaid Judge, came Francisco Rivas an old resident of this City, whom I certify that I know; and having taken the oath in due form of law, promised to speak the truth so far as he might know and might be questioned; and being asked his name, condition and residence, said that his name was as above stated, that he is a married man and a resident of this City.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road known as the middle road which leads from this city to that point, (Rio Grande) to state what is its course, and what marks he can produce by which it may be identified, and if he remembers about the time it was used, declared that the old or middle Rio Grande road leaves this city in a South course and separates from the Laredo Road a little beyond Minita, taking a course between South and West when it crosses the Medina, and thence continuing nearly the same course to the Atascoso, Lagunillas, San Miguel, Rio Frio to the Nueces, and thence in a West course to the San Rogue, San Pedro, San Ambrosio to the Rio Grande, and thence to the Presidio of the same name; that between these permanent watering places there are other places which being well known he omits to mention, but those he has named are the same by which the road called the old Rio Grande road passes, which road ~~according to his information~~ he knows to have been travelled many years ago until by order of the Governor of the Province of Texas D. Antonio Cordero, that which is now known as the new or Pita road was opened in 1806 o 1807, which is used to the present time as the most direct; which road leaves this city in a West course for the Rio Grande; that the two roads are separate the whole distance and strike the Rio Grande at different points; which is all he has to say upon the subject, the truth of which he affirms on the oath he has taken - this his declaration having been read, and he declared his age to be sixty one years. And not knowing how to sign his name he made a sign of the cross before Erasmo Seguin Chief Justice of this county, which I certify

Erasmo Seguin  
C. J.

his  
Francisco + Rivas  
mark

[end of page 2]

**Texas General Land Office**  
**Surveying Division Records**  
**Bexar County Boundary Line - File 2**

*transcribed by*  
Bob D. Skiles and Joan Kilpatrick  
18 February 1997

[Transcribers' note: all data in brackets are either explanatory notes added by transcribers, or are unclear passages subject to interpretation - there are two slightly differing titles or endorsements written on the back of the folded handwritten document, both of which follow] "File 2. 3 County Boundaries S. P. & Bexar Cos. Translation of Testimony taken by Erasmo Seguin relative to the Old Presidio Rio Grande road which road causes much contention between San Patricio & Bexar Counties. translated by Joseph Baker" [and] "Translation of testimony taken by Erasmo Seguin relative to the Old Presidio Rio Grande road which road causes much contention between San Patricio & Bexar Cos. Translation by Joseph Baker. Bexar & San Patricio"

[here begins page 1 of 6 numbered pages]

Republic of Texas}  
County of Bexar}

In the city of San Fernando de Bexar on the sixth day of the month of November, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, before me Erasmo Seguin, Chief Justice of said County, came Alexandro Gortari, who took the oath in the due form of law under which he promised to speak the truth so far as he might know or be questioned, and being asked his name, condition, and residence, said that his name was as above stated, that he is a widower, and a resident and native of this city.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road known as the middle road, which goes from this city to the said point, to state what is its course, and what other marks or signs he can produce to give a correct designation of it, and if he remembers about what time it was in use, stated that the said road respecting which he was questioned leaves this city in a South direction by the road which goes to Laredo, and that at a distance of about one mile from the Minita it leaves the said road and takes a different route to the Medina and thence goes on to the Atascoso, afterwards to the San Miguel, and from the San Miguel to the Parita, and from the Parita to the Rio Frio, and from the Rio Frio to the Palo Alto, and from the Palo Alto to the Nueces, and from the Nueces in a West course to the Cochina, and from the Cochina to the Santa Catarina, and from Santa Catarina to the Savana grande, and from the Savana grande to the San Pedro, and from San Pedro to San Ambrosio, and from San Ambrosio to San Lorenzo, and from San Lorenzo to Riogrande and thence to the presidio of the same Name, which are the day's journeys generally made when this road was travelled: - that he remembers this road from the time that D. Domingo Cavello was Governor of the Province of Texas, which is about fifty years: this is the same at present called the middle road (de en medio), because that now travelled which is called the New or Pita road is higher up, and leaving this place takes a West course till it reaches



Translation of  
Testimony taken by  
Erasmus Seguin relative  
to the Old Precinct  
Rio Grande road  
which road causes  
much contention  
between San Patricio  
& Bexar Co

Translation by  
Joseph Baker.

Bexar  
&  
San Patricio

File 2. ~~3~~  
County Boundaries

S. P. Co. Bexar Co.

Translation of  
Testimony taken by Erasmus  
Seguin relative to the Old Precinct  
Rio Grande road which road causes  
much contention between San Patricio  
& Bexar Counties.  
translated by Joseph Baker

Bexar Co Bdry Line 2

and good morals; that full faith has ~~be~~ always been given to their statements in or out of court; and that whatever they have stated in the present case is true, and is the <sup>general</sup> opinion which exists in relation to the road which leads from this city to Rio Grande known by the name of the oldest or middle road (el de en medio) in testimony of all of which I give the present, in Bexar on the eleventh of November A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight.

Erasmus Seguin, C.J.

*[Faint mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

*[Faint mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

In the aforesaid City on the eleventh day of the Month of November One thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, before me Erasmo Seguin, Chief Justice of said County, came Don Jose Flores to whom I administered the oath in due form of law under which he promised to speak the truth so far as may come within his knowledge, and so far as he may be questioned, And being asked his name, condition and place of residence, said that his name is as above stated, that he is a married man and a resident of this City.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road known as the middle road which leads from this city to said point, to state what is its course, and whatever other marks (signals) he can point out in order to designate properly, and if he recollects about what time it was used, declares that he knows the road in question, that it leaves this city in a South course with the Laredo road, which it leaves by turning to the right after crossing the Minita Creek opposite the Mission de Espada, and takes a course between South and West passing <sup>the Medina at</sup> Fernando Rodriguez's Rancho, and Felipe Masquiza's Rancho being on the other side of the river, continuing the same course to by the Atascoso, Las Lagunillas, San Miguel, Rio Frio to the Nueces, and thence taking a West course to the Rio Grande; that this is the old <sup>road</sup> from this city to Rio Grande and the one which was travelled, as he has hence said, from the first settlement of Bexar, and the deponent has known it as such from his earliest recollection; that the upper road which is known as the new or Pito road was first <sup>discovered</sup> ~~travelled~~ by Capt. Don Jose Alencaca a long time ago, but it was not travelled until the time of Governor D. Antonio Cordero who ordered it to be laid out as being straighter and it is the one at present travelled; and that it leaves this city in a West course, which is all he knows on the subject. and this his declaration having been read he affirms it to be true under the oath he has taken: he declares his age to be sixty three years - and signed this before me the aforesaid Judge, which I certify

Erasmo Seguin, C. J.

Jose Flores

I, Erasmo Seguin, Chief Justice of the County of Bexar, certify that the individuals, Deponents in the foregoing affidavits are old residents of this city, and well known for their probity and

asked his name, condition and place of residence, declared his name to be as above stated, that he is a married man and resident of this city.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road, known as the middle road which leads from this city to that point; to state what is its course, and what other marks or signs he can give by which it can be correctly known, and if he recollects about what time it was used, declared that he knows the road, in question, which leaves this city with the Laredo road, from which it separates before crossing the Medina at a point called the Cross (de la Cruz) turning up and taking a course a little West of South, to the Medina and on the same course to the Rio Frio, at which place it inclines a little to the West until it reaches the Nueces, and thence West to the Presidio of Rio Grande; that the intermediate places between Bexar and said point are known by the following names, to wit; Medina, Las Gallinas, Atascoso, La Parita, Guifotote, Lagunillas, San Miguel, Las Esperanzas, Rio Frio, Los Encinos, Las Nueces, Santa Catarina, San Roque, Sabana grande, San Ambrosio, San Pedro y Rio Grande;— that he knows that this road was travelled at least from the year 1798, and at that time it was travelled as the only road from this city to the Rio Grande; that afterwards Don Antonio Cordero being Governor of this Province, he does not recollect in what year, he caused the <sup>new</sup> road to be opened now known as the Pita road above that already spoken of and which is called the Middle road (el de en medio), and he recollects the commissioners for that purpose were Corporal Tobar, Juan Josè Martinez and Anselmo Bergara, and that he is certain that this road does <sup>not</sup> unite with the other at any point, but that they go different routes from this city to the Presidio of Rio Grande: that he has not travelled the Middle road for many years, and has heard it said that it is to be seen only in a few places, for which reason he thinks he could not now point it out except in those parts where it shows. but he is certain that the names of the principal Creeks as already given are correct: which is all he has to say on the subject, the truth of which he affirms under the oath he has taken, this his declaration having been read, and he declared his age to be seventy eight years, and he signed before me the said Judge, which I certify

Erasmio Seguin, G. J.

Vicente Duran

and thence to the Presidio of the same name: which is all he knows upon the subject, the truth of which he affirms under the oath which he has taken; and this his declaration having been read he declared his age to be seventy five years, and signed before me Erasmo Seguin Chief Justice of the aforesaid County, which, I certify—

Erasmo Seguin  
C. J.

Alexandro Gortari

On the same day, in the same month and year, before me the aforesaid Judge, came Francisco Rivas, an old resident of this City, whom I certify that I know; and having taken the oath in due form of law, promised to speak the truth so far as he might know and might be questioned; and being asked his name, condition and residence, said that his name was as above stated, that he is a married man and a resident of this City.

Being asked if he knows which is the old Rio Grande road known as the middle road which leads from this City to that point, (Rio Grande) to state what is its course, and what marks he can produce by which it may be identified, and if he remembers about the time it was used, declared that the old or middle Rio Grande road leaves this City in a South course and separates from the Lavado Road a little beyond Minita, taking a course between South and West when it crosses the Medina, and thence continuing nearly the same course to the Utascos, Lagunillas, San Miguel, Rio Prieto to the Nueces, and thence in a West course to the San Roque, San Pedro, San Ambrosio to the Rio Grande, and thence to the Presidio of the same name;—that between these <sup>permanent</sup> watering places there are other places which being well known he omits to mention, but those he has named are the same by which the road called the old Rio Grande road passes, which road ~~according to his information~~ he knows to have been travelled many years ago until by order of the Governor of the Province of Texas D. Antonio Cordero, that which is now known as the new or Pita road was opened in 1806 or 1807, which is used to the present time as the most direct; which road leaves this City in a West course for the Rio Grande; that the two roads are separate the whole distance and strike the Rio Grande at different points; which is all he has to say upon the subject, the truth of which he affirms on the oath he has taken—and this his declaration having been read, and he declared his age to be sixty one years. And not knowing how to sign his name he made a sign of the cross before Erasmo Seguin Chief Justice of this County, which I certify

Erasmo Seguin  
C. J.

Francisco Rivas  
Mark