

**Deposition of William A. Streeter.**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
 County of Santa Barbara. } ss.

William A. Streeter, of the said county, age 64 years, being duly sworn, says: That he is a native of Auburn, in the county of Cayuga and State of New York; that he came to California in May, 1843, and to Santa Barbara in July, 1844, and that ever since the last mentioned date he has been a resident of Santa Barbara, with the exception of a few intervals of absence in San Luis Obispo and other parts of the State.

That for several years from and after the year 1844, this deponent, as physician, was in the habit of visiting different parts of Santa Barbara County, and among other parts the district wherein is situated the Rancho Las Cruces; and he afterwards resided on the Rancho Bolsa de Chamisa in the same neighborhood.

That he personally knew Miguel Cordero from the said year 1844, until his decease in 1851, and that he became acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces in the year 1845, at which time he stopped at the said Rancho, and where the said Miguel Cordero was then living with his family; and that on various other occasions, before the occupation of California by the United States, this deponent was at the said Rancho Las Cruces, and ate meals and spent the night at the dwelling house of the said Miguel Cordero in his said Rancho; and since that time and during the years intervening to the present date, this deponent has been at the said Rancho Las Cruces from time to time until within four days now last past. And this deponent knows and states that the said Miguel Cordero was in the actual sole possession and occupation of the said Rancho Las Cruces from the time when this deponent first stopped there in the year 1845,

as aforesaid, until the death of the said Miguel in 1851, holding it as sole owner under a grant thereof from the Mexican Government; and that from the death of the said Miguel, the said Rancho has remained undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of his heirs and successors in interest claiming and holding under the same grant.

That the said Miguel Cordero in his life time, had on the said Rancho, besides his said dwelling house, a fruit orchard, vineyard, garden, and fields all in fence and cultivated, and had his entire Rancho stocked with his horses, cattle, sheep, &c.; and which Rancho embraced the lands which are colindante with those of the Ranchos San Julian, Santa Rosa, Najoqui and the Gaviota, and were bounded on the East by the rough mountains.

That many of the improvements on the said Rancho made by the said Miguel Cordero still exist, especially the orchard and vineyard, and are, and have continuously been, in the possession and occupation of his family.

And this deponent says, that so plainly and unquestionably was the said Rancho Las Cruces the bona fide property of the said Miguel Cordero in his actual possession and ownership, and in that of his family and successors under his said grant from the Mexican Government of California, that this deponent, in common with all the old residents of the times prior to the American occupation of this country, cannot understand any reason why a title so complete and perfect under the Mexican laws as was that of Las Cruces, and its ownership as the private property of the said original grantee and his heirs and successors, should not be acknowledged and recognized as such by the United States in accordance with their treaty with Mexico, and in accordance at the same time with the rights of ownership in private property.

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This deponent says that, he does not own or claim, and never has owned or claimed, any part of, or interest in, the said Rancho Las Cruces.

WM. A. STREETER,

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 19th day of January, 1876.

NELSON W. WENTON,

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, } *Notary Public in and for*  
 { SANTA BARBARA. } *the County of Santa Barbara,*  
*and State of California.*

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**Deposition of Dr. James L. Ord.**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
 County of Santa Barbara. } ss.

James L. Ord, M. D., of Santa Barbara, in the said State, formerly Surgeon in the United States Army, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That in the year 1847, he came to California in the service of the United States (in company with his brother, Major General Ord and General Sherman, then Lieutenants); that early in 1848, to wit, in February, he was stationed as Surgeon at Santa Barbara, and there resided for about one year, and after some periods of absence, became a permanent resident of Santa Barbara, where he has resided in all about twenty years practicing his profession of surgery.

That in the year 1848, he became acquainted with the Rancho Los Cruces in the said county, and with Miguel Cordero, the owner and original grantee thereof from the Mexican Government.

That deponent was frequently at the said Rancho.

That at the time mentioned, the said Miguel Cordero

resided with his family thereon, and was in the sole use, occupation and possession of the said Rancho, and that his improvements then comprised among others one or two houses, corrals, an ample vineyard, orchard, garden and fields, all cultivated and fenced; that subsequently, and at the time of the death of the said Miguel Cordero, this deponent was absent from Santa Barbara, and on his return in 1857, he found the said Rancho in the possession of the family of the said Miguel Cordero.

That deponent has continued to pay frequent visits to the said Rancho, and has attended professionally various members of the said Cordero's family, and others on the said Rancho.

That he knows Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel Cordero, deceased, and has known him ever since 1857; that during all that time the said Vicente and his wife and children have resided, and still reside, on the said Rancho.

That he knows the fact that Isabel Cordero, daughter of the said Miguel Cordero, and wife of Clovis Valenzuela, after residing many years in her separate residence on the said Rancho with her family, died there in October, in the year 1874 (this deponent being in attendance upon her at the time of her death), leaving her dwelling house and the one-ninth undivided share in the said Rancho, received by her from her father, Miguel Cordero, to her husband and minor children, who are still the owners thereof. That he knows the following other members of the Cordero family also residing on the said Rancho,—namely, Juan Cordero, now poor and in feeble health, and his family; Estanislao Cordero and his family of wife and minor children; Francisco Cordero and his wife and minor children. That there are now on the said Rancho Los Cruces at least seven dwelling houses, also stables, out-houses, fenced fields, gardens,

vineyards and orchards, all in the exclusive possession of the owners of the said Rancho, deriving their sole title through the grant thereof by the Mexican Government to Miguel Cordero. That the said Corderos have continued to occupy the said Rancho Las Cruces, and they and the other successors in interest of the said Miguel Cordero are still the sole owners and occupants thereof, and that deponent has never heard of any claim to the said Las Cruces Rancho, or any part thereof, except that of the said children and successors of said Miguel Cordero, all deriving title solely from the said grant to him from the Mexican Government. This deponent says, further that he is acquainted with the pecuniary condition and circumstances of the said Corderos residents on the said Rancho; that he knows the fact to be that they and their families derive their support and maintenance from their said lands, granted as aforesaid to their ancestor, the said Miguel Cordero; and should their said lands be lost to them by being regarded and treated as public land, and be sold or settled upon under the laws relating to public lands, many of the said Cordero family, including women and minor children, would be deprived of their sole means of support.

And this deponent further says that he has not, and never has had, any interest or ownership in the said Rancho Las Cruces, or any part thereof.

JAMES L. ORD, M. D.

Sworn before me this 30th day of December, 1875.

{ SEAL OF  
NOTARY PUBLIC }  
{ Santa Barbara. }

U. YUDART,  
*Notary Public.*

### Deposition of Miguel F. Burke.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
 County of Santa Barbara. } ss.

Miguel F. Burke, being duly sworn, deposes and says :

That he resides at the Rancho La Gaviota in the County of Santa Barbara, aforesaid (which adjoins the southerly side of the Rancho Las Cruces) and has there resided for several years last past, being engaged in conducting the business of freighting and forwarding merchandize, and in raising live stock.

That he has resided in the said county over thirty years; that he is, and for twenty-five years has been, thoroughly acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces, and all parts thereof, having had during most of that time, a stock of cattle and horses on Ranchos in that vicinity, and having very often during that time gone over and through all parts of Las Cruces, looking after his stock, and for other purposes.

That the Las Cruces Rancho was always understood to extend from the Rancho La Gaviota (which is a subdivision of the Rancho Nuestra Señora del Refugio) on the south—to the Rancho Santa Rosa on the north, and from the Rancho San Julian on the west to the Cuchilla (ridge) of the Najoqui, and the Sierra on the east, and to contain two leagues. That he knows Miguel Cordero the grantee of said Rancho from the Mexican Government, and the house where he resided with his family on the said Rancho Las Cruces; that at the death of the said Miguel Cordero he left a widow, (who died at the same house a few years afterwards), and a large family of children.

That at the time when he first saw the said Rancho Las Cruces, the said Miguel Cordero had thereon, besides the said dwelling house, fenced fields under culti-

• vation, corrals for his cattle and horses, vegetable garden, orchard and vineyard, all enclosed in fences, and a stock of cattle. That though the original dwelling house has decayed; the same has been replaced several years ago by another immediately adjoining its site, built by Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel Cordero, and which was, and still is, occupied by said Vicente and his wife and children, and that the fields, orchard and vineyard, aforesaid, still exist, and are, and have been continuously since the death of the said Miguel Cordero, in the use, cultivation and possession by and of his children and grand children.

That he has never heard of any claim to any part of the said Rancho Las Cruces adverse to the title of the said Miguel Cordero and his successors, who derive title solely through him, but that the title of said Cordero, from this deponent's earliest acquaintance therewith, has been always recognized and respected as good and valid; and that during the time he knew the said Miguel Cordero, the whole of said Rancho Las Cruces was in the sole occupation and possession of the said Miguel Cordero, and has continued in the sole and uninterrupted possession of his children and their successors in undivided ownership, from the death of said Miguel Cordero to the date hereof.

And this deponent says that he has not, and never has had, any interest or ownership whatever in any part of the said Las Cruces Rancho.

MIGUEL F. BURKE.

Sworn before me, this 27th day of December, 1875.

{ SEAL OF NOTARY PUBLIC, }  
 { SANTA BARBARA. }

U. YUDART,  
*Notary Public.*

### Deposition of John C. Kays.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
 County of Santa Barbara. } ss.

John C. Kays, of the said county, aged 63 years, formerly merchant and afterwards farmer and breeder of live-stock, being duly sworn, deposes and says :

That in the year 1846 he came to the County of Santa Barbara, and with his family became a resident thereof. That in the year 1850 he became the owner (by purchase from the original Mexican grantee) of the Rancho Salsipuedes in the vicinity of the Rancho Las Cruces, in the said county, and immediately entered in possession and occupation of his said Rancho Salsipuedes, and stocked the same with his live stock, and continued the occupation thereof from the said year 1850 for eighteen years consecutively, thereafter; that during all that time he was in the habit of frequently going over the lands of the Las Cruces Rancho (as well as of other neighboring Ranchos), looking after any of his live stock which might have strayed, and became well acquainted with the said Rancho Las Cruces, and with the owner thereof, Miguel Cordero, and with his wife and children :

That when this deponent first saw the said Rancho Las Cruces, in the year 1848, it was owned and occupied by the said Miguel Cordero, who, had it stocked, with his horses, cattle and sheep, and who until his death held it under a grant to him from the Government of Mexico; that the said Rancho Las Cruces consisted of two leagues of land colindante with the Ranchos Najogui, Santa Rosa, San Julian and Gaviota, and was bounded on the east by Brushy Mountains; that the said Miguel Cordero had a dwelling house about the centre of his said Rancho Las Cruces, and resided therein with his family; and had there also an orchard, a fine vineyard of many

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hundred grape vines bearing abundantly (the grapes from which this deponent frequently ate), and had also a couple of fields, all of which fields, vineyard, orchard, &c., were fenced and cultivated by the said Miguel Cordero; and that after the death of the latter, the said house and improvements, and also the whole Rancho continued to be occupied by his widow and children; and after the death of the said widow,—by the said children who built another house adjoining the original one, and occupied the same, with the said vineyard and other improvements, and still possess and occupy the same; and that the whole of the said Rancho has continued from the death of the said Miguel Cordero to the present time undivided and in the sole occupation and possession of the said children of the said Miguel Cordero and their co-owners, successors in interest therein, claiming title solely under the said Mexican grant to him; that this deponent has never heard of any claim to any part of the said lands of Las Cruces in conflict with, or adverse to, the said Mexican grant to the said Miguel Cordero, and that the said title has been universally regarded as genuine and valid, and has been by all respected as such to the present time.

And this deponent says that he has no interest or ownership, and never has had any, in the said Rancho Las Cruces.

JOHN C. KAYS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this eighth day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF  
NOTARY PUBLIC,  
Santa Barbara. }

U. YUDART.  
*Notary Public.*

### Deposition of Thomas W. Moore.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
 County of Santa Barbara. } ss.

Thomas W. Moore, aged 58 years and upwards, being duly sworn, deposes and says :

That he is the owner of, and with his family resides upon, the Rancho "Las Lomas de la Purificacion" (a patented Rancho), in the vicinity of the Rancho Las Cruces in Santa Barbara County, California, and has resided in the said county for the last 21 years and over: that he has served two terms (6 years) as Supervisor of the said county, and has been President of the said Board.

That as Supervisor it has been his duty to take official cognizance of all lands in the said county, of the location of, and quantity in each tract; of the value thereof; of the title and ownership; of the residents and occupants, and their property and improvements, and of the use of the lands. That in the performance of such duties in relation to the said Las Cruces Rancho, as well as from his previous personal knowledge of the lands, &c., thereof, he is well and thoroughly acquainted with the said Rancho, and that he has known the same ever since the year 1854.

That in the year 1855, this deponent hired on lease another Rancho in the vicinity of Las Cruces, and resided on the former and occupied it with his live stock for two years; that in the management of such stock he had frequent and constant occasion to visit Las Cruces Rancho and examine all parts of the same; and for the last 20 years he has visited that Rancho many times in each year.

That when he first knew the said Rancho Las Cruces,

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as aforesaid, in 1854, the same was in the sole occupation and possession of the widow and children of Miguel Cordero, deceased, the original owner and grantee thereof from the Mexican Government, and was undivided; that they were living in the Ranch house, which was the dwelling house of the said Miguel Cordero, and in which he had died.

That this deponent became well acquainted with the said family and knew all the members thereof; that they were almost entirely uneducated, and only one or two of them could write or read, and even these two, very imperfectly, and none of the family could ever speak or understand the English language.

That the said Miguel Cordero, having died suddenly, without leaving any will, and some of his children being then and for many years afterwards, minors, the lands were held in common by them, and used indiscriminately, but exclusively, among themselves, no particular one of them having the management of the whole. That in consequence of this confused state of affairs, and through the ignorance of the said widow and children, their matters were much neglected, and the time for presentation of land claims before the Board of Land Commissioners, as limited by the act of Congress, was suffered to elapse without the claim Las Cruces being presented, and the same never was presented to the said board; and the said Rancho having descended from the said Miguel Cordero, in nine undivided shares to his said children, continues in the same mode of occupation by his successors to this day, in undivided ownership. Notwithstanding all which, the said grant and the bona fide ownership and possession by the said Miguel Cordero and his children and successors, being well known throughout the county, were and ever have been respected to this time, and no attempt ever has been made as yet to settle upon

or preëempt the said lands as public lands; and no claim whatever to the said lands has been made in conflict with the title of the present owners as derived through the Mexican grant to the said Miguel Cordero. That in the discharge of his official duties, as aforesaid, this deponent has had occasion to know, and does know, the fact that the said lands have been regularly assessed each year, in the State and county assessment rolls as the property of the said Corderos and co-owners, and under the name of "Las Cruces Rancho," and in the same manner as are assessed those Mexican land grants which have been duly confirmed by the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners, and that the taxes so assessed have been and are regularly paid by the said Corderos and co-owners, as successors of the said Miguel Cordero.

That the said Rancho is entered in the said Assessment Rolls as containing two leagues, which is a little less than 9,000 acres. That it extends from the Rancho La Gaviota to the Rancho Santa Rosa, and from the Rancho San Julian to the Ridge of the Najoqui and the mountains on the east. That the said Rancho Las Cruces is considered of only moderate value; that there are only a few localities on the same where there are pieces of land (and these are very small in extent) suitable for ploughing,—the lands in general being very broken and rough, consisting mostly of steep hills good for pasture but not for cultivation, and on part of the side of a rugged, rocky mountain, broken by ravines and gulches, and covered with scrub-oak and chamisal brush.

That the annual valuation of all property for State and county assessments is fixed by law at the actual cash value of the property; that the highest valuation ever made of the lands of Las Cruces, on the said official Assessment Rolls of the county, was, in the assessment of the present fiscal year, where they are rated at \$2.50,

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(two dollars and fifty cents) per acre for the whole Rancho,—and which this deponent considers a fair and just estimate of such cash value.

That Vicente Cordero, son of the said Miguel Cordero, original owner and grantee of Las Cruces, has continued for the last twenty years, to the knowledge of this deponent, and still continues, to cultivate the vineyard, garden, orchard, and field, of his father, and for all that time has lived with his family on the said Rancho, and still lives there, and is owner of one-ninth interest therein. That Ysabel Cordero, daughter of the said Miguel Cordero, married Clovis Valenzuela, and resided with her family many years and until, in October, 1874, in her own separate house on the said Rancho, and in which house she died, leaving surviving and inheriting her one-ninth share in said Rancho, her said husband and eight minor children, who are still the owners thereof.

That Juan Cordero, owner of one-ninth share in the said Rancho, has thereon a dwelling house for his family, and has other improvements; that said Juan Cordero is, and for some years past has been, in ill health, and is father of a large family of children.

That Estanislado Cordero resides upon the said Rancho, with his family of wife and minor children.

That Francisco Cordero also resides thereon with his wife and minor children. That other owners of undivided interests also reside on the said Rancho, and possess houses and improvements thereon.

That there are in the various parts of the said Rancho, in occupation and use, for residence and the purposes of their business, seven dwelling houses, also stables and corrals, also vineyards, orchards, gardens and fenced fields in cultivation.

And this deponent knows the fact to be that such interests in the said lands, as are not still held and owned by the said Corderos, were all derived solely through the said Mexican grant to Miguel Cordero, and are held by bona fide innocent purchasers, the same having been purchased in good faith from children of the said Miguel Cordero many years ago. That this deponent is personally well acquainted with all the members of the family of the said Miguel Cordero, and with all the owners of the said Rancho,—and that to deponent's knowledge, the said Rancho and every part thereof is in their exclusive use and occupation,—and that such occupation is genuine and in good faith, and for the true and legitimate purposes of their business, namely, the raising of live stock and such farming as is connected therewith. That the said Corderos are dependent on their use of the said lands of Las Cruces, as aforesaid, for a support for themselves and families; and from this deponent's knowledge of the circumstances and condition of the said families, he affirms that if the said lands be lost to them for any reason, great hardship and suffering would result to the said Corderos and their wives and children, as well as injustice and injury to all the owners in interest in the said Rancho.

And this deponent says that he has not now, and never has had, any ownership or interest in the said Rancho or any part thereof.

THO. W. MOORE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of January, 1876.

NELSON W. WINTON,

*Notary Public,*

{ SEAL OF  
NOTARY PUBLIC,  
Santa Barbara. } *In and for the County of Santa  
Barbara, and State of California.*

### Deposition of Judge Fernald.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
 County of Santa Barbara. } ss:

Charles Fernald, formerly County Judge, and *ex officio* Judge of Probate in and for the said county, being duly sworn, says: That he is a native of the county of York, in the State of Maine, and resided for many years, previous to his departure for California, in the city of Boston, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; that he arrived in the present city of San Francisco, in the State of California, in July, A. D. 1849, and continued to reside there until July, 1852, when he became, and has ever since continued to be, a resident of the city and county of Santa Barbara.

That on the first day of January, in the year 1853, this deponent was appointed to the office of County Judge of Santa Barbara county, and *ex officio* Probate Judge of the said county, and held such office continuously until the month of June, 1861, at which time he resigned the said office.

This deponent says that he knew officially, from proceedings in the said probate court during the time he held the said office, and from knowledge thus obtained, as well as from the records of the said court previous thereto in the matter of the estate of Miguel Cordero, deceased, that he departed this life, in the said county, sometime in the year 1851; that the said Cordero, in his lifetime, was in the actual occupation of the Rancho called "Las Cruces," in the said county, claiming to own and hold the same under grant from the Mexican authorities of Alta California; and that for several years after the death of the said Cordero his surviving widow and heirs continued to reside on the said tract of land.

That this deponent, in the discharge of his duties as

such judge, and subsequently in the practice of his profession of the law in this State, and in the courts of the United States, became familiar with the titles to a great number of tracts of land in the State of California, and especially to those held under Mexican grants, including that of "Las Cruces;" that he knows the fact to be that the said Mexican grant of the Rancho called "Las Cruces" to the said Miguel Cordero, deceased, has here, where the facts and circumstances of the case are generally known, ever been respected as a genuine and meritorious grant and title, as much so as any grant or title emanating from the same source, and that the title of the said grantee thereto, and his occupation and that of his heirs and successors under it, have ever been respected accordingly, and undisputed, so far as is known by this deponent.

And this deponent says he has no interest and never has had any interest in the said Rancho "Las Cruces," or any part thereof.

CHARLES FERNALD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of January, 1876.

{ SEAL OF  
NOTARY PUBLIC,  
Santa Barbara. }

NELSON W. WINTON,  
*Notary Public.*

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**Certificate of County Clerk.**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
County of Santa Barbara. }

I, H. P. Stone, county clerk and ex-officio clerk of the County Court, District Court, Probate Court, and County Recorder, in and for the county of Santa Barbara, and clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the said county, do

hereby certify, that I have the charge and custody of the official books and records of Santa Barbara County, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors, and of the said courts, and of all papers and documents filed in legal proceedings therein, the great register of all citizens of this county, &c., &c.

That throughout the various books of records from the earliest date to those of the present time, and running all through the same—are records of numerous acts, proceedings and transactions, including decrees and judgments of the courts, proceedings in probate, sheriff's sales, State and County levies of taxes, establishment of election districts, mortgages, deeds of conveyance, and U. S. patents and official surveys of Ranchos and lands adjoining the Rancho Las Cruces, below named, &c., &c., all referring to, or officially recognizing and treating, the Rancho Las Cruces, situated in this county, as private property of Miguel Cordero, his family and successors in interest.

And I further certify, that included in the said records in my charge and custody are the original assessment rolls of this county, made each year from and including the year 1850 to the present fiscal year—by the official assessors of the county, holding office for their respective terms during the said period; and that I find that in the said assessment rolls the said Rancho Las Cruces was assessed in the year 1850, as private property of Miguel Cordero, and has been regularly, continuously and annually assessed as private property of his heirs and successors in interest (in undivided ownership) for the last twenty-five years, and down to and including the present fiscal year.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said county court, this January 7th, A. D., 1876.

{ SEAL OF  
COUNTY COURT. }

H. P. STONE,  
*County Clerk.*

## Certificate of Board of Supervisors.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA.

Present: Supervisors Rynerson and Pierce; Supervisor Jamison absent.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, in their various official relations with the lands and property in this county, and with the respective owners thereof, having for the last 25 years regarded and treated the Rancho Las Cruces, containing two leagues of land, more or less, and situated in this county, as the private land and property of the family of Miguel Cordero, deceased, and his successors in interest, *bona fide* owners and occupants of the said Rancho, and well-known citizens of this county: We hereby certify—

That the circumstances and equities of the case are such as to justify its presentation to the Congress of the United States, and to ask an investigation and consideration thereof.

C. C. RYNERSON,  
E. H. PIERCE,

*Forming quorum of Board of Supervisors  
of Santa Barbara County, January 5, 1876.*

Dated January 5th, 1876.

By order of the Board.

{ SEAL OF THE BOARD }  
{ OF SUPERVISORS. }

H. P. STONE,  
*Clerk.*

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### Certificate of County Judge.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
 County of Santa Barbara. } ss:

I, Francis John Maguire, now and for fifteen years last past the county judge and *ex officio* judge of probate in and for the said county, do hereby certify: That all the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing depositions are personally known to me, and that they all are, and for many years last past have been, residents and citizens, well known, of this county; that the reputation of the said persons for truth and veracity is good, and that the testimony of each would be received in the above-mentioned courts as entitled to full faith and credit.

And as pertinent to an inquiry whether or not the case of the foregoing-named petitioners is one meriting consideration, and as information preliminary to an investigation thereof, I certify that for the last twenty-three years I have been personally acquainted with the lands of the above-mentioned Rancho Las Cruces, and with the family of Miguel Cordero, deceased, its former owner, and with the fact of the continued ownership and occupation of the said Rancho by the said Miguel Cordero's heirs and successors, claiming the same under the grant thereof to him by the Mexican government of California, as set forth in the foregoing petition, and that during the said period of twenty-three years I have had ample opportunity of becoming acquainted, and am well acquainted, with the sentiments and opinions respecting the validity, &c., of the said grant of Las Cruces entertained by the old residents of Santa Barbara, who are now living or have been living during the said period, and who were of the times anterior to the acquisition of California by the United States; and I certify, as a fact

within my own knowledge, that the old residents aforesaid have unanimously regarded the said grant as genuine and valid, and as perfect a grant as any ever issued by the Mexican government in California, and have respected the same and the lands thereof as the private property of the said Miguel Cordero, his heirs and successors, claiming under the said grant.

And, in view of the facts and circumstances of the case, I unhesitatingly state that, in my opinion, the passage of an act of Congress enabling the owners of the said grant to present the same before a proper tribunal, for investigation, and for confirmation, if found valid, would be regarded with satisfaction by the people of this county, and as simply an act of justice to innocent and *bona fide* owners of the said lands.

In testimony whereof, I have here placed my hand and caused the seal of the said county court to be affixed hereto, this nineteenth day of January, A. D. 1876, at the city of Santa Barbara, in the county and State aforesaid.

F. J. MAGUIRE,  
*County Judge.*

Attest:

{ SEAL OF THE }  
{ COUNTY COURT. }

H. P. STONE, *Clerk,*  
By JOHN JANSSENS, *Deputy Clerk.*

---

# EXHIBITS.

No. 1.

## UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE.

ALFRED JAMES,  
*Register.*

J. W. HAVERSTICK,  
*Receiver.*

LOS ANGELES, CAL., *January 11th, 1876.*

MESSRS. MULLAN AND HYDE,

No. 504 Jackson St., San Francisco.

GENTLEMEN: I hereby certify that the following described land is free from any claim, as shown by the records of this office, to wit:

S. W. <sup>4</sup> of S. W. <sup>4</sup> sec. 2.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Tp. 5 N. R. 32 W.; S. B. M.
Lots 1 and 2, and S. E. <sup>4</sup> sec. 5.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
N. E. <sup>4</sup> , and E <sup>2</sup> of S. E. <sup>4</sup> “ 8.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
N. W. <sup>4</sup> of S. E. <sup>4</sup> and lot 4, sec. 8.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, sec. 17.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
E. <sup>2</sup> of N. E. <sup>4</sup> , and N. E. <sup>4</sup> of S. E. <sup>4</sup> , sec. 17.	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
Lots 1, 2 and 3, sec. 20.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
W. <sup>2</sup> , N. W. <sup>4</sup> and S. E. <sup>4</sup> of N. W. <sup>4</sup> , sec. 11..	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
S. W. <sup>4</sup> and S. W. <sup>4</sup> of S. E. <sup>4</sup> , sec. 11.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
All of secs. 3, 4, 9 and 10.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
“ “ 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “
Sections 14, 15, 22, 23.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “ } Unsurveyed.
E <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> and S. W. <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , sec. 16. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “ }
And N <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> and S. E. <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , sec. 21 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	“ “ “ “ }

And that the Plat of said Township was filed in this office June 28th, 1873, and March 2d, 1874.

Respectfully,

ALFRED JAMES,  
*Register.*

## No. 2.

H. G. ROLLINS, DUNCAN MCNEE, CHAS. H. CHAMBERLAIN,  
*Register. Clerk. Receiver.*

All letters, etc., pertaining to the business of the office should be addressed to the "U. S. Land Office, Post Office Box No. 2223."  
 Be particular to describe the land you write about, by Section or parts of Section, Township and Range.

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 UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,

506 Jackson Street, (up stairs,)

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *January 26th, 1876.*

I hereby certify that there is no claim of any kind to any portion of the public land described as the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of S $\frac{1}{2}$ , sec. 27; NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 33; all of sec. 34, and all of sec. 35, lot 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , of sec. 26, T. 6 N. R., 32 W., S. B. M.; and I further certify that the township plat was filed in this office August 8th, 1872.

H. G. ROLLINS,  
*Register.*

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 [Exhibit "A." ]

## ESPEDENTE.

*Promondo por et Crudadana Miguel Cordero en pretencion del parage nambrado las Cruces.*

137.

SOR GAHERNADOR

Miguel Cordero de este vecuredad ante V. S. con el respeto devido y conferme à omi dro, combengo, digo; que con el abjeto de dedicarme al inter esante ramo de la agricultura pr. hallarne poseedor de algim numero de vienes de campo tengo presente qe. para este fin conforme à las leyes de colonizacion debo de denjir me à V. S. como lo hago en solicitud del paraje nombrado las

Cruces; este terreno avunque ha pertinacido a la ex-  
mission de Sta. Ines, se halla a la pha, desocupado, y el  
cetado establecimiento no lo necesita, por tal motero lo  
creo colonizable y sin atro impedi ruto à impediara su  
adjudicacion elli edad abanzada mis mentos contracdos  
à el Sero, de las Amas y oteos muy notorios sou las que  
mi impelsu dirijir esta representacion acompenada con  
el correspondunte diseño.

Portanto, A. V. S. Suplico se siena acceder como  
pido su que receivre gracea admitendo esta en papel  
conecur pt. mo haber del Sello correspondente.

Jurando lo necessario.

Sta. Barbary, Mayo 2 de 1837.

A ruego del interesado.

JOSÉ DE LA GUERRA Y CARRILLO.

Sta Barbara, Mayo 7, de 1837.

Ynforme el Y.

Ayuntamiento de esta Municipalidad si el interesado  
en esta instancia abteeve todos los requisitos legales pa.  
ser atendido en su solicitud; si el terreno ql. pretende  
prude adjudicarse en colonizacion conforme a la ley.

Evacuadas estas informes voluera el espedente al Go-  
bero, pa. su resolucion.

Alvarado.

Y. A.

La Comision a quieu V. S. se ha serudo confiar pa.  
que dectanione sobre el Espedente que forma la solicitud  
del Cno. Miguel Cordero en pretencion del parage nom-  
brado las Cruces en obserbancia del deereto del Gdno.  
de pha. 10 de Mayo expone ql. el interesado obtiene  
todos los requisitos legales para ser atendido en la solici-  
tud; que el terreno que pretende se halla cuveerto de  
Cruces del mesmo solicitantes y en estado de adjudicarse

en colonizacion conforme a la ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824 y reglamento de Noviembre de 1828, pbes aunque se ha conocido por de la pertinacia de la ex-mision de Sta. Ynes se halla a la vez sin la ocupacion necessaria de dha Mision, y por consiguiente en estado de adjudicarse conforme a las Leyes citadas.

El que representa es Crudno. Mexicano amestado, tiene buena conducta y bienes con que poblarlo. Por lo que se hace acreedor a ser amparado por la ley, y por las consideraciones del gobierno à quien representa. Por tanto ofrece la comision à la deliveracion de V. S. la segurente proposicion.

Puede el gobierno adjudicar al Cno. Miguel Cordero el perage nombrado las Cruces. Santa Barbara, Mayo 10, de 1837.

PABLO VANEGAS.  
SANTIAGO BURKE.

En sesion de hoy aprobò el Y. A. la proposicion del dutamen antecedente cueva el expediente al gob'no pa. sa resolucion. Ut supra.

Diego Alvera.

A. FALDA DEL SEAETANO,  
RAMON VALDEZ.

SANTA BARBARA, *Mayo 11, de 1837.*

Vista la peticion con que da principio este espediento, el informe del Y. A. y todo lo que ver connemo, de conformidad con lo despuesto pt. las leyes y reglanentos de la materia, se declara al Cno. Miguel Cordero dueno su propiedad del terreno conecdo con el nomlose de las Cruces, demarcado en el diseno que acompaño a su sotiated, y hajo los linderos que sue el espeesan, sùjetandose

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a las condiciones que prerrene la ley de 18 de Agosto, de 1824, y reglamento de 21st de Noviembre de 1828. Librese el despacho correspondiente, tomase razon ser el libro respectuo, y duàgase este esp'dte a la ex'ma deputacion p'r su debroa apobacion en cuyo caso el interesado a quien se harà saber este decreto presentará nuevamente su titulo p'a que se le nevalide. Asi el Sör D. Juan B. Alvarado, gobernador int'o del estado presidente de la exma deputacione del mismo lo decretò, mandó y firmò de que voy fé.

JUAN B. ALVERADO,  
VICTOR PRUDON,  
*Sno. Int'o.*

La comision de terrenos validos impuesta del espediente pumonido por el ciudadano Miguel Cordero en sotiutud del parage nombrado las cruces mo encuentra inconnemente alguna para que se conceda consecunte a su pretencion, por lo que la concluga, pomendo a la deleveracion de V. E. los siguantes proposiciones :

1a. Se consede al ciudadano Miguel Cordero el parage nombrado las Cruces por obtener los requesetos que prerrene la ley de 18 de Agosto de 1824, y el art'o del reglamento de 21 de Nov'bre, de 1828.

SANTA BARBARA, *May* 18, 1837.

JOSÈ R. ESTRADA,  
FRAN'CO J. ALVARAO.

SANTA BARBARA, *May* 18th, 1837.

En sesion de hoy se le dispensaron los tramdes de la proposicion del dictamen que antecede y fui aprobada por magoria absoluta de votas.

ANTONIO BUELNA, *Prest.*  
JOSÈ MA. COVARRUBEAS, *Srio.*

1845.—*Posesion Judicial en favor de Don Miguel Cordero del parage Nombrado las Cruces.*

Sr. alcalde 1° de Sta. Barbara, Miguel Cordero, Veceno de este Punto ante la justificacion de V. compar-  
esco y digo, qe habiendo obtenido la concesion en pro-  
priedad del terreno conecdo con el nombre de las Cruces  
por justo titulo espedido su mi favor por el Sup'or Gob'no  
Departmental, A. V. suplico se surba darme la posesion  
juridica de estelo con arreglo a otro titulo y diseño res-  
pectiva cugos documentos acompaño surrendose admitir  
esta instancia en papel coman por no haber del sello que  
corresponde. Juro no proceder de malecia.

SANTA BARBARA, *Octu're 30, de 1845.*

MIGUEL CORDERO.

---

SANTA BARBARA, *Octu're 31, de 1845.*

En virtud del antecedente sotiutud procedase por mi  
el presente Alcalde a la medecion senalamiente de lin-  
deras y posesion juridical del terreno de las Cruces que  
soliceta el interesado en este espediente con arreglo a los  
documentos que acompanid senalando para efectuarlo el  
dia dos del proc'mo Notre para lo que se sitiran con  
votelas de comparendo a los colendantes asi yo el Alcalde  
1° lo mande decrete y firmé actuando por receptoria cue  
testigos de asistencia por falta de escribando nacional y  
publico de que doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.

Asist'a JOSÈ MA. ORTEGA.

---

En la fhta, presente D, Miguel Cordero se le notifico

el anto que antecede y de el enterado de jo que hoye y se  
du por citada y lo fermo y los de mi asist'a doy fe.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Ast'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.

Asis'ta JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

---

En la misma fha, se libraron los volelos que nuanda  
el proner proveido y para que coreste por delegencia lo  
rubrique.

[RUBRICA.]

En el Rancho de las Cruces a los dos dias del mes de  
Nobre de mil ochocientos cuarenta y cuico en conplem'to  
de la cita librada a los colendantes del espresado Rancho,  
Concurrio D. Raym'do Carrillo, el Mayor domo de S. Ju-  
lianr Gegorio Lopez, por Don José Norrega, y D. Fran'co  
Cota, y entendidas de que se habia a proseder a la medicion  
señalam'to de linderos y posesion en favor de Mig'l Cor-  
eero, dejeron que das entendidos y para constancia lo  
fermaron conme go y los de mi asst'ta de que doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Asst'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.

Asist'a JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

FRAN'CO COTA.

GREGORIO LOPEZ.

---

En se queda you el Inez de estos Autos nombro por  
medidor en la presente posesion a los cuedadano Man-  
uel Dominguez y el Neofito Venedito quienes pebia la  
asceptacion y juramento, prosederan el desempeno de su  
eneergo y para constancia lo pongo por diligencia, q' e  
ferino con los de mi asist'a de que doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.

Asist'a JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

En la fecha y en el espresado rancho se los notifico el anto q' e antecede al cuedadano Manuel Dominguez y neofite Venedito y entendidos de el dejeron q' e asehtan y aseptaban d'ho, eneergo de medidores y peraron por dios Atro S'r, y una senal de cruz de usarlo fielmente y leqalmente a todo su bar saber y entender sin dolo ni frande contra persona alguna y lo signaron con una cruz por no saber escribir ante me y los de mi asist'a de que doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Asist'a JOSÉ M. ORTEGA.

Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.

MAN'L DOMINGUEZ. X.

VENDITO. X.

---

Yucontmente yo el referido Alcalde miandé traet a mi presencia un cordel de mecate y reata con que se an de medir las tierras de d'ho rancho y q' e los medidores eo midan de a cencuenta reras, lo que firmo cen los de mi asistencia, doy fé.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO.

Asist'a JOSÉ MA. ORTEGA.

---

En sequeda y en presencia de mi el expresado Alcalde, los medidores mencunados tomame un cordel compresto de reata y mecate y con una nera de medir usual meje-cana medieron crucuenta veras para bacet la repetida medicion y para que conste lo rubrique.

[RUBRIC.]

En la mesma fha, siendo como las muelee de la mañana, en el espresado Rancho yon dtio, Alcalde para proseder a la medicion de tierra que se hau de haser a

D. Miguel Cordero, maude a los mie dedores nombrados se pongau detias de su casa, y puestos en decho lugar se cornenso la medida tendiendo el cordel nimbo al *oesta* ha sta el lindero de D. Francisco Cota, y se medieron dos cruntos cordeles de à concuenta veras; en segruda se prosegnio la mededa descle el Portesulo de San Julian, hasta la Cuchilla de Nojoqui, y de esta Rembo al sur a la Puerta de la Gabiota y Se medicron sien cordeles de à concuenta varas por lo que declaron dho's medidores tener el espresado rancho de la Cruz dos lequas de largo y un de ancho accempenado a este Espediente el diseño que figura el terneno memacunado y para constancea lo forme por auto con los testigos de mi asesta. de ql. doy fé.

NICHOLAS A. DEN,  
Asist'a RAYM'DO CARRILLO,  
Asist'a JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

En el refendo rancho de las Cruces y su el mesmo dia, mes y año D. Miguel Cordero reesino del Puerto de Sta Barbara, acompanado del Alcalde y testigos de Asist'a. de estos antos, dijo; que habiendose medido las tierras de este rancho segron consta su el anto anterior, tomaba y toma la herdadera y corporal pösecion de dtias tierras medidas pues le pertenesen por justo titulo que obtiene de la concesion ql. de ellas le hiso el Sup'or. Gob'no del Departamento entrò y pasò por ellas arrancò Urbac esparciò punados de tierra rompio ramas de los arboles e hisò otras danostracunes y actos de posesion en señal q'l. la q'l de jo tomada de dicha tierras y yo dicho Alcalde mandé que de sole entouces lo tubieran y reconocieran por Cordadero Señor y poseedor de ella.

De todo lo espaesto pedio decho D. Miguel Cordero que para memoria en lo handero y conserbacion de sus

directros le fuese estendido por mi el repetido Alcalde una constancia, y lo ferino y los de mi asst'a. de que doy fe.

NICHOLAS A. DEN,  
Asst'a RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,  
Asst'a JOSE M'A. ORTEGA.

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL,  
*Of the United States, for California.*

I, JAS T. STRATTON, Surveyor General of the United States for the State of California, and as such, having in my office, and in my charge and custody, a portion of the *Archives* of the former *Spanish* and *Mexican* Territory, or Department of *Upper California*, as also the papers of the late Board of Commissioners to ascertain and settle the private land claims in California; by virtue of the power vested in me by law, *do hereby certify*, that the 12 preceeding and hereunto annexed pages, numbered from one to twelve, inclusive, exhibit a true, full and correct copy of the original Expediente of the grant to Miguel Cordero of the Rancho of Las Cruces, together with the record of juridical possession thereof, and that expediente is numbered and entered on Jiminos Index, "No. 137," and now on file in this office, and in my custody; that I have carefully compared the same with said original, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of such original.

*In testimony whereof*, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and caused my seal of office to be affixed, at the city of San Francisco, this 7th day of January, 1875.

JAMES T. STRATTON, [SEAL.]

*U. S. Surveyor General, for California.*

Exhibit "B."

## TRANSLATION OF ESPEDIENTE.

## PROCEEDINGS

*Instituted by the citizen Miguel Cordero, petitioning for the place named Las Cruces.*

137.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR :

I, Miguel Cordero, of this vicinity, before your excellency; with due respect, appear and say : That, being desirous of devoting myself to agriculture, since I am the owner of a considerable amount of stock, and being aware that, under the laws of colonization, I must apply to your honor, as I do, asking for a grant of the place named "Las Cruces." This tract of land, although it has belonged to the ex-mission of Santa Ines, is at present unoccupied, and the said mission does not need the same. Wherefore I think that the same is in a condition to be colonized, and I think there is nothing to prevent the said place from being granted.

My old age, and the military services I have given to the country, impel me to make this petition to your honor.

Wherefore I pray your honor to be pleased to grant my petition, admitting this on common paper, for want of sealed paper.

SANTA BARBARA, *May 2d*, 1837.

At the request of the petitioner.

JOSÉ DE LA GUERRA Y CARRILLO.

---

SANTA BARBARA, *May 7th*, 1837.

Let the Illustrious Ayuntamiento of this municipality report if the petitioner herein possesses such as entitles

him to be heard on his petition, if the land he petitions for can be granted in colonization.

And when these proceedings shall have been taken, let this espediente be returned to the Governor for his determination.

ALVARADO.

---

TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS AYUNTAMIENTO :

The committee to which was referred the petition of Miguel Cordero for the place of Las Cruces, in obedience to the decree of the 10th of May, have the honor to report: That the petitioner possesses such requisites as entitle him to be heard on his petition; that the land for which he petitions is occupied by the stock that he owns, and that the same is in a condition to be granted in colonization, under the law of the 18th of August, 1824, and the regulations of the 21st of November, 1828; for although this place has been considered as belonging to the mission of Santa Ines, this mission does not now occupy the same, wherefore it is in a condition to be granted under said laws; that the petitioner is a Mexican citizen, a man of good character, and has the means necessary to stock said place. Wherefore the committee offer, for the consideration of your Honor, the following proposition:

That the Government can adjudicate to the citizen, Miguel Cordero, the place named "Las Cruces."

SANTA BARBARA, *May* 10, 1837.

PABLO VORREGAS,  
SANTIAGO BURK.

---

In the session of to-day, the Illustrious Ayuntamiento approved the foregoing report and ordered the Expedi-

ente to be returned to the Governor for its determination.

Date as above.

DIEGO OLIVERA,  
*In the absence of*  
*the Secretary,* RAMON VALDES.

SANTA BARBARA, *May* 11, 1837.

In view of the petition with which this expediente commences; the report of the Illustrious Ayuntamiento, with all other matters necessary to be considered, in accordance with the laws and regulations on the subject, the citizen, Miguel Cordero, is declared owner in property of the tract of land known by the name of Las Cruces, as the same is shown by the accompanying map (*diseño*), and with the boundaries set forth; subject to the conditions of the law of the 18th of August, 1824, and the regulations of the 21st of November, 1828. Let the corresponding title issue; let registry be made thereof in the corresponding book, and let this Expediente be directed to the Most Excellent Deputation for its approval, and in case the same be approved, the interested party, who shall be notified of the same, shall present his title anew, that the same may be revalidated.

Thus I, the Senor Don Juan B. Alvarado, Governor ad interim of the State, and President of the Most Excellent Deputation,\*thus ordered, decreed, and signed, to which I certify.

JUAN B. ALVARADO,  
 VICTOR PRADON,  
*Sec'y ad interim.*

The committee on vacant lands, having examined the expediente instituted by the citizen Miguel Cordero, pe-

titioning for the place named "Las Cruces," find no objection to the making of said concession, wherefor, the committee by submitting for the consideration of your excellency the following proposition :

1st. There is conceded to the citizen, Miguel Cordero, the place named "Las Cruces," since he possesses such requisites as are demanded by the law of the 18th of August, 1824, and October 5th, of the regulations of the 21st of November, 1828.

SANTA BARBARA, *May 18th, 1837.*

JOSE R. ESTRADA,  
FRANCISCO I. ALVARADO.

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SANTA BARBARA, *May 18th, 1837.*

In the session of to-day the foregoing report was approved :

ANTERNO BUELNA,  
JOSE MA COVORRUBIAS.

---

1845.

*Juridical possession in favor of Don Miguel Cordero of the place named "Las Cruces."*

TO THE 1ST ALCALDE OF SANTA BARBARA :

I, Miguel Cordero, a resident of this place, before your Honor, respectfully represent, that having obtained the concession of the place known by the name of Las Cruces by a just title issued to me by the Departmental Government, I pray your Honor to give me juridical possession of said place in accordance with the respective title and diseño ; being pleased to admit this petition on common paper, for want of the corresponding sealed paper, making the necessary oath.

SANTA BARBARA, *October 30th, 1845.*

MIGUEL CORDERO.

SANTA BARBARA, *October 31st, 1845.*

In compliance with the foregoing petition, I, the present Alcalde, shall proceed to the measurement, and giving juridical possession of the land of Las Cruces as asked for by the petitioner in this expediente, in accordance with the documents accompanying the same, appointing for this purpose the 2d day of November next, that the adjoining land owners may be summoned to appear and be present on that occasion. Thus, I, the 1st Alcalde, ordered, decreed and signed, with the assisting witnesses, with whom I act, in the absence of a notary public, to which I attest.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Ass't REYMONDO CORRILLO.

Ass't JOSÈ M'A ORTEGA.

At the same date, Don Miguel Cordero being present, he was notified of the foregoing order; which he said he heard and admitted citation, signing with me and the assisting witnesses, to which I certify.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Ass't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,

Ass't JOSÈ M. ORTEGA.

At the same date the citations were issued as directed in the foregoing order, in witness whereof, I sign with my rubric.

[RUBRIC.]

On the Rancho of Las "Cruces," on the 2d day of the month of November, 1845, in compliance with the citations issued, appeared the citizens Colindantes, of this Rancho, Don Raymundo Carrillo, the Magordomo of San Julian, Gregorio Lopex, for Don José Noriega, and



lands, and that the measurers should measure the same to the length of fifty varas; signing with the assisting witnesses, to which I attest.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Ass't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO,

Asst JOSÉ MA. ORTEGA.

Whereupon, in my presence, the said measurers took a cord, and with a vara of the usual Mexican measure, they measured off fifty varas for the purpose of making the said measurements.

In witness whereof, I sign with my rubric.

[RUBRIC.]

At the same date, it being about nine o'clock in the morning, on the said Rancho, I, the said Alcalde, for the purpose of proceeding to the measurement of the lands of Miguel Cordero, ordered the measurers to place themselves to the back of the house (of Cordero); and, being at that place, the measurements were commenced by running the line to the west as far as the boundaries of Francisco Cota, to which point were measured two hundred cords of fifty varas; whereupon the measurements were continued from the portesuela of San Julian as far as the cuechilla of Nojoqui, and from this point to the south as far as the puerta of Gabiota, to which point were measured one hundred cords of fifty varas. Whereupon the said measurers said that the said Rancho was two leagues in length and one league in width, as shown by the diseno in the espediente.

In witness whereof, I sign with the assisting witnesses.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Ass't RAYMUNDO CARRILLO.

Ass't JOSÉ M. ORTEGA.

On the said Rancho of Las Cruces, and on the same day, month, and year, Don Miguel Cordero, a resident of the port of Santa Barbara, in company with the Alcalde and the assisting witnesses; he said, that the lands of this Rancho, having been measured, as shown by the foregoing proceedings, he took the true and corporal possession of the said lands, since they belonged to him by the just title, which was issued to him by the superior government of the department. He entered upon and passed over said lands, pulling up herbage and scattering handfuls of earth, breaking branches of trees, and making other demonstrations, as a sign of the possession, which he said he took, of said land. Whereupon I, the said Alcalde, ordered that, from that time forth, he should be considered as the owner and possessor of the same.

Of all of which the said Miguel Cordero asked a testimony, for the future security of his rights, which I, the said Alcalde, gave, signing the same with the assisting witnesses.

NICOLAS A. DEN.

Assist. RAYMUNDO CARRILLO.

Assist. JOSÉ MA. ORTEGA.

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**Affidavit of R. C. Hopkins.**

I, R. C. Hopkins, being duly sworn, depose and say: That I am familiar with the Spanish language, and with the laws, usages, and customs of the governments of Spain and Mexico in making grants of land in California, which familiarity has been acquired by many years of experience as keeper of the Spanish archives in the office of the U. S. Surveyor General for California, which archives contain the original records of grants of land made by the said Spanish and Mexican governments of California.

I further certify, that the foregoing is a correct translation of an original record of a grant of land made by the Governor of California to one Miguel Cordero of a place or Rancho called "*Las Cruces*."

I further certify, that I am familiar with the handwritings and signatures found in the original document, of which the foregoing is a translation; that I have carefully examined said handwritings and signatures, and that the same are genuine, and that the said record of grant and of juridical possession, accompanying the same, are in every respect genuine documents, and that said documents constitute what would have been considered a perfect grant under the Mexican government of California.

And I further certify, that I am familiar with the section of country in which said tract of land is located, and that the boundaries of the same can without difficulty be ascertained from the calls of the title papers, and the diseno, or map, accompanying the same.

R. C. HOPKINS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2d day of February, A. D. 1876.

[SEAL.]

J. A. ROBINSON,  
*U. S. Commissioner.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 1st, 1876.*

I, L. K. LIPPINCOTT, Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, do hereby certify that the annexed from page one to one hundred and twenty-five, inclusive,

is a true and literal exemplification of certain papers on file in this office, in the matter of the alleged private land claim in the State of California known as the Rancho Las Cruces.

*In testimony whereof*, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of this office to be affixed at the city of Washington, on the day and year above written.

[SEAL.]

L. K. LIPPINCOTT,  
*Acting Commissioner of General Land Office.*