

I, Lisa Rowilson de Ortiz, state as follows:

I am the Head of the Catalog Department of the Library at the University of California Berkeley and have been since 2010.

During the course of my employment with the Library, I have become familiar with the Library's collections and the Library's methods and procedures of storing and maintaining its collections.

One of the Bancroft Library's collections is titled Documents pertaining to the adjudication of private land claims in California. This is Collection Number BANC MSS Land Case Files 1852-1892. The materials in this collection were deposited by the United States District Court (California). The Bancroft Library maintains a Finding Aid to the Documents Pertaining to the Adjudication of Private Land Claims in California, circa 1852-1892. This Finding Aid (available online at: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/data/13030/22/hb109nb422/files/hb109nb422.pdf>) is a document created by Bancroft Library personnel familiar with the collection. The Finding Aid includes an abstract of the collection which states:

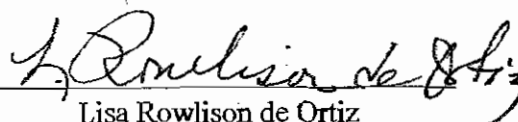
In 1851 the U.S. Congress passed "An Act to Ascertain and Settle Private Land Claims in the State of California" which required all holders of Spanish and Mexican land grants to present their title for confirmation before the Board of California Land Commissioners. Land from titles not confirmed became part of the public domain. This Act placed the burden of proof of title on landholders and initiated a lengthy process of litigation that resulted in most Mexican Californians, or Californios, losing their titles. While 604 of the 813 claims brought before the Board were confirmed, most decisions were appealed to U.S. District Court and some on to U.S. Circuit Court and the Supreme Court. The confirmation process required lawyers, translators, and surveyors, and took an average of 17 years to resolve. The records of the District Court cases, the Land Case Files, were deposited on permanent loan in The Bancroft Library by the U.S. District Court in 1961. There are 857 total cases: Northern District Cases 1-458 and Southern District Cases 1-399 (see "Additional Notes on the Collection" for a note on case number discrepancies). Materials include transcripts, witness depositions, materials presented as evidence, and other legal documents. Most maps were transferred to the Map Collection of The Bancroft Library for separate cataloging (see: Maps of private land grant cases of California).

The Bancroft Library received a written request from Bernard C. Barmann, Jr. of Kuhs & Parker for a microfilm copy of the following materials from this collection:

BANC MSS Land Case Files, Documents Pertaining to the Adjudication of Private Land Claims in California, BANC MSS Land Case-Files 170 SD (La Liebre Grant), The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Pursuant to the request, The Bancroft Library staff retrieved the requested materials from the collection and had them microfilmed. The microfilm roll containing a true and correct copy of the requested materials bears the following identifying information on the third microfilm frame:
Negative Number:3601.

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