

longed to Simón and Juan de Arocha, descendants of Francisco de Arocha, a Canary Islander. It encompassed the present site of Floresville. In 1776 Simón de Arocha was the lieutenant governor of Texas.

Rancho del Paistle. "Moss Ranch" probably was named for the ball moss that clings to live oaks in the vicinity. Situated on the west bank of the Cíbolo near present Sutherland Springs, it became the property of José María Balmaceda in 1834.

Rancho de las Mulas. This was the upper league of the Andrés Hernández grant on the west bank of the Cíbolo. Subject of much litigation, Las Mulas is said to have been sold by Jacobo Hernández, Andrés's brother, to Tomás Travieso in 1755 "for the price and amount of two good horses he needs for the Royal service." Other accounts indicate Vicente Travieso, Tomás's father and a Canary Islander, as the rightful owner from the beginning. Morfi shows five persons living there in 1778. It is listed as having belonged to "the Traviesos and other assigns" in 1782.

On October 5, 1778, twenty-six ranchers of the Cíbolo area signed a petition to the council of the Presidio de Béjar asking for the right to gather and brand cattle found in the vicinity of Cleto Creek. Apparently the ranchers were in dispute with the missions of Espíritu Santo and Concepción, for they asked that the boundaries of the mission lands be defined, the Cleto area designated as neutral ground wherein the private ranchers should have the right to maintain corrals and work cattle. Names signed to the document in the General Land Office (with some correction of spelling) are Joseph Félix Menchaca, Jacinto Delgado, Joaquín Menchaca, Juan Ignacio Pérez, Joseph Antonio Curbelo, Joseph de Sosa, Joseph Martín de la Garza, Manuel Delgado, Miguel de Gortari, Ignacio Calvillo, Sebastián Mongaras, Leonardo de la Garza, Carlos Martínez, Francisco Xavier Rodríguez, Joseph Mecerio Zambrano, Vicente Alvarez Travieso, Francisco Flores de Abrego, Marcos de Castro, Joaquín de la Garza, Joseph Pérez Casanova, Juan Andrés Travieso, Joaquín Leal, Joseph Ignacio de la Peña, Joseph Joaquín Flores, and Plácido Hernández.

Several of the signatories evidently were unable to sign their names, or were absent, and Curbelo affixed their names *a ruego* ("by request").

A list of populated cattle ranches in the Béjar vicinity, compiled in 1791, contains many of those in existence in that area in 1776, though the operator may have been one generation removed and the ranch name may have been altered.

San Vicente de las Mulas, for example, was owned by Tomás Travieso, who apparently had added his father's name to that of the ranch. Across the Cíbolo, on the east bank, was Rancho de San Lorenzo de

Mulas, owned and operated by Doña Antonia de Armas, who also had included the name of her father, Lorenzo de Armas, like Vicente Travieso a Canary Islander, in the ranch name.

San Bartolomé, having become San Bartolo del Cerrito, was owned by José Plácido Hernández, son of Don Andrés. On a 1780 branding list San Bartolo is shown as belonging to Juana de Ollas, her sons, and Joaquín Flores. "Cerrito" probably derives from the small, steep hill near the ranch headquarters on the Cíbolo's west bank near present Pawelekville, Karnes County.

Also listed are Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de las Mujeres. San Ildefonso de Chayopín, operated by Ignacio de la Peña, was different from the Chayopín Ranch owned by Francisco Flores de Abrego. It probably was on the San Antonio River near the Bexar-Wilson county line.

Opposite the Flores Chayopín Ranch was another called Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe del Chayopín, operated in 1791 by Doña Manuela Montes de Oca, widow of Juan de Arocha. This probably was the northern division of the Arocha ranch on the east bank of the San Antonio, called San Rafael.

Simón de Arocha still operated San Rafael, though he now called it San Rafael de Pataguiya. His grant from Governor Domingo Cabello, dated June 20, 1782, was for eight sitios. It lay between Pajarito and Aguilar creeks in Wilson County.

Luis Antonio Menchaca's son, Luis Mariano, owned Rancho de San Rafael de los Varais in 1791, probably a division by inheritance of the one called San Francisco.

Manuel Delgado's San Cristóbal de Espanta Perros probably was along the stream known today as Sacred Dog Creek, in Karnes and Wilson counties. It is shown on the 1781 branding list as belonging to the "Delgado brothers," to "the Delgados" in 1782.

Other ranches on the 1791 list were:

—San José de los Álamos, operated by Doña Leonor Delgado, widow of Juan José Flores de Abrego, on Cíbolo Creek near present Sutherland Springs, founded in 1756; listed as "Rancho de Juan Flores" in 1780.

—Nuestra Señora de Candelaria, owned by Salvador Rodríguez, probably in the San Antonio-Cíbolo valleys.

—Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria de las Calaveras, owned by Macario Zambrano (branding commissioner in 1782), on present Calaveras Creek in southern Bexar and northern Wilson counties.

—Santa Cruz de la Laja, operated by Diego Yrineo Rodríguez on the east bank of Cíbolo Creek near the Wilson County ford called Paso de la Laja, now known as Rocky or Nogal crossing.

Devamos pido que en cõ xacavamos justicia y juramos
en forma de
Otro si Suplicamos nos admira este en el presente papel por
no haverlo. E ningun Celio en esta Llov.

Jp^m Mel^m Menchaca^m B^{te} M^{te} M^{te}
D^{te} Delgado
J^{te} Machin

Menchaca Franco J^{te} de A^{te}
J^{te} de A^{te} J^{te} de A^{te} J^{te} de A^{te}
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Drama & Conflict *the Texas Saga of 1776*