

[Clara Coleman]

c.18- 6/[?]/71 [? ?] Page 6

Marie Carter

Anthony,

New Mexico

370 words

La Union

OLD TIMERS STORIES

Clara Coleman (Mrs. Pat Coleman)

"Where," I asked Mrs, Coleman, "Did the Refugio Grant Colony originate?"

"In the pueblo, or Mission of La Union," she replied.

"In-1852, Ramon Ortez, who was the curate and general Commissioner of El Paso Del Norte, now Juarez, Mexico, was appointed by the high government mission La Union to found and establish Civil Colonies of one thousand people or more in the State of Chihuahua, now New Mexico."

"Was the Refugio Colony already established?" I asked.

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"Yes, but Ortez had no power to distribute the land until the Federal Government of Chihuahua gave him permission, which they finally did, and a grant of fifteen thousand acres for the settlers. This was a reward for the work they had already accomplished. They called it Refugio in honor of their patron saint. [Nuestra?] Senora del Refugio, or Our Lady of Refuge."

"How much land did each settler receive?" I inquired.

"A very old Mexican once told me that each one received a little over fifty acres for a ranch, and enough ground to build a residence in town. After the Commissioner had designated a certain amount of land for towns, houses and churches, he gave the colony enough for an edigo, or commons, the land lying on the suburbs of cities, towns and places; not cultivated nor planted.

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"At the time the Rufugio Colony Grant was made, the settlers were given to understand that it was against the law to transfer their land to anyone else. The Refugio Colony Grant, which had its beginning at the pueblo of La Union, is a strip of land that runs through Anthony but on the west side of the Rio Grande. The Grant is a thing of the past, but in making out deeds and abstracts, the title is still used to locate certain ranches and places of present day owners," Mrs. Coleman Said.

It is claimed by some of the old timers that the Chihuahua Santa Fe Trail runs over the same route followed by State Highway 28, known also as Westside Highway. It runs on to La Union, past the Post Office, thence it turns west to the old La Union Pueblo, and thence south over the La Union Anapra Highway along the foothills past the Anapra bridge across the Rio Grande to connect with U.S. Highway 85.

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Mrs. Clara Coleman, wife of Pat Coleman, was born: 1864 in Uvalde, Texas; came to Anthony, New Mexico in 1900 lived on old business street west of the Santa Fe tracks, where she kept boarders; moved from old business street to the town of Chamberino, where she and her husband went into the sheep raising business; moved from Chamberino to Anthony and bought a ranch two miles west of town where she has lived ever since. Mrs. Coleman is proud of the fact that she nursed and paid for the ranch herself. Mr. Coleman was a helpless cripple. Mrs. Coleman is a grand old lady, who is dearly loved by all of her friends, and whom they consider one of the most courageous women of our community.

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Marie Carter

Anthony,

New Mexico

(Translation from Spanish)

1000 words

Petition

of

Refugio Colony Grant

Petition. Ramon Ortiz, Mexican Commissioner, Refugio Colony Grant. (Translation from Spanish)

Filed: December 17th, 1867. Recorded in Deed book 4, Government of State of Chihuahua, Office of State

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"Upon the petition which you have directed to this government as being that the lands therein indicated be distributed to you, the following decree has this day been made.

"This petition will be referred to Senate Ramon Ortez, Commissioner for the new settlement of the District Bravos, to the end that be realized the laudable purposes of those who signed the same and equitably reward the labors they have commenced, according to the regulations of the 24th of May last, published in No. 51 El Carreo as far as it is permitted by the law enacted by the Hon. Congress of the State on the 13th of March last, that on the same subject of the 11th April 1850 and the provision dictated to provide provisionally commons for the town of El Paso and adjoining towns.

"Let this decree be communicated to the parties interested and I communicate the same to you for your information. God and Liberty, Chihuahua, June 4th, 1851.-- Amada de la Bega Jose Maria Garcia, and other citizens who signed the said petition.

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"In the Civil Colony of Refugio on the 20th day of the month of February 1852, I, Citizen Ramon Ortez permanent Curate of Paso del Norte, appertaining to the Republic of Mexico, general Commissioner appointed by the high government of the Mission Union to found and establish Civil Colonies in the State of Chihuahua according to legal regulations issued for that purpose and those in force in our legislative codes; in view of the powers with which I am vested in premises by the general organic law dated Aug. 19th 1848, and the derivative regulation of May 22, 1851 this colony being already established and greatly increased and also the distributions of suertes of land and residence lots among the settlers.

"Having been affected after the designation of localities for towns, houses, churches, etc., and the granting of eight suertes of land for corporation funds should proceed and did

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proceed in fact to execute the assignment of commons to which said settlement is entitled, and as according as to what is set forth in the 24th and 25th articles of the decree of Nov. 16, 1786, the egido (commons) is the ground lying on the suburbs of cities, towns, and places, which is not cultivated nor planted.

"I therefore, designate to the aforesaid Colony Refugio, one league and a quarter for its commons, the measurement of which being that perscribed by the 23rd article of the State law of December 23rd 1851, for the benefit of settlements containing over 1000 souls was then commenced 3 and assigned from the exterior of the outer limits of the property or possessions already distributed observing the character and the quadrilateral configurations of the lands distributed in as much as could be mad into a perfect square, it must be borne in mind that the arable land of the said colony of Refuguo has in length [6200?] varas from north to south and 2475 varas east to west, and consequently an area 17087500 square varas (yards).

The figure and the limits of the track being known and taking into consideration that towards the river side, there is not sufficient public land to mark out the commons on that side, the 3125 varas that ought to have been measured on that side, are added to a like number on the northern side.

"That is to say, measuring 6250 varas from the lands of Jose de la Luz Jacques, or more plainly from the point corresponding on a direct line of this land running from east to west, thence following the side of the river, will make the 6250 varas, at which final point the proper land marks will be raised, after which from the limits of Jose [?] which is situated at the edge of the hills toward the west there will be measured 3125 varas and as many more on the south side from the limits of the land of Jose Maria Garcia where the said land marks will also be raised.

"Lastly for woodland and common pasturage, of which mention is made in the decree of the 14th of May 1804, and the regulation hereinbefore cited of the 22 of May 1851, I

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designate the entire 4 bosque and strips of land lying between the arable land and the river from the commencement and end of the arable land embracing the whole length, I, likewise designate for public pasture and grounds the adjacent brows and slopes of the hills situated on the west in a longitudinal extension following the course of the summit equal to the commons pasture grounds designated on the side of the river, the right of pasture and other concessions which I hereby stipulate in favor of the new settlement.

"In the name of the Federal Government of the State of Chihuahua is perpetual and imprescriptible founded upon the consent of the supreme authorities and on the letter of ancient and modern legislation. In view of all which from this day forward the aforesaid settlement of Refugio remains in the most ample possession of the tract to which it is entitled by law, under the restriction that it cannot alienate the same in any manner, to any church, monastery, ecclesiastical person, community, or into any other mortmain so called, as this is prohibited by law.

"And for due testimony and validity and authenticity I issue this title which remains recorded in the book of records of the municipality authorizing the free use and benefit of the lands which have been granted to it. In testimony of which I sign the same at the town and on the date aforesaid.

Ramon Ortez

"A faithful and gegitimate copy, taken from its original, to which I refer, Colony of Refugio, August 19, 1852

Ramon Ortez

Research copy for reference.

M.C.

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Refugio Civil Colony of the Mission Union, Dona Ana County, was granted 15,000 acres 1852. The grant was confirmed by the Congress of the United States, 1901.

Mexico adopted the metric system in measuring the land for her colonies, a system used by pain, and which varies more or less in the different provinces of the Kingdom. It is a measure the Spanish have used since 1871.

[Suertes?] referred to a measure but in what respect is hard to determine. For suerte means, good luck, chance, lot, kind, fortune; hap-hazard, sort, species and manner; de suerte means the game of bullfight, and la suerte means the trick practiced by the matador, or bullfighter with his mantle to tantalize the bull. La suerte also means stroke.

Vara is also a measure. Primarily it means pole, but then, a pole, or square pole, is 30 square yards. One acre is 160 square poles. Hence, vara, also has many meanings; it means yard, rod, sway, high-hand person, and shafts of a coach. Vara, however, is a square measure. Vara means go a different way too, and change. Pie means foot; also 1/3 vara which is one third of a yard. And pie, which means one foot, also means: leg, basis, fondation, occasion and trunk of trees. Pulgada means inch.