

**BANCROFT LIBRARY TRANSCRIPTS OF
DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE
FOUNDING OF LOS ANGELES¹**

NEVE TO THE COMANDANTE-GENERAL

May 16, 1781 San Gabriel

Departure of families with soldier escort.

TO the effect that on the twelfth of March seventeen families under command of the Alferez Ramon Laso [de la Vega] left Loreto for the bay of San Luis [Gonzaga] where they arrived April 24, and that they continue their march to this place, and that José Zúñiga follows with the rest of the families. That Sergeant Juan José Robles will set out with twelve soldiers for the Colorado to meet Captain Fernando de Rivera whom he asks, if assured of the safe conduct of his entire expedition, to send them back.

pp. 286-8.

NEVE TO THE COMANDANTE GENERAL

1781 San Gabriel

July 13—in which he reports on smallpox contracted in Loreto.

p. 310.

July 14—

TO the effect that the Lieutenant Diego Gonzalez and the Alfezes José Arguello and Cayetano Limon with thirty-five recruits and thirty of their families, arrived today at this Mission. That in the short interval which will remain from the time the mules will regain their strength until the beginning of the rainy season, which in this country starts in November, it will not be possible to transport with the sixty-two pack mules brought by the expedition the families and 750 fanegas of grain and baggage of the troops in seven months or more. And anticipating that the rains will cease in February, the roads will be impassable for pack animals for more than a month thereafter; and as it is not possible to build warehouses for storage of everything where for lack of wood they have to be built of adobe, therefore the founding of the Presidio of the Channel will not commence until next year as soon as the rains terminate.

That the decision of Fernando Rivera to remain on the Colorado prevents auditing the accounts of recruits and settlers.

pp. 311-314.

¹ Translated by Marion Parks.

DISPATCH OF DOCUMENTS

August 29 (two documents) Military register. Dispatch of documents.

September 1

TO the effect that the Alferes Cayetano Limon returned to this Mission [San Gabriel] with all speed from the Colorado where he went to join Fernando Rivera, discovering there that the Gentiles had killed the Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada with all his troops, and even also the religious, the troops and settlers of those Establishments. And that at a short distance from them death had been dealt the Corporal Pascual Bailon, nine soldiers, one poblador and a muleteer who transported supplies and livestock for the said establishments. That Limon examined the corpses both in the pueblo and nearby on the banks of the river, and from the state of destruction and the dryness of them inferred that the deed had been perpetrated some forty days before his arrival on the twenty-first of this month [August] at the Colorado, and that he himself was attacked by a considerable force of Indians who fired on him for more than four leagues, killing two of his soldiers, and wounding him with a ball which pierced his side under the left arm.

That he [Neve] has taken the necessary steps to prevent transmission of this news to the natives of these establishments [in California].

pp. 315-7,
pp. 318-9.

October 28 (6 documents)

HE remits fifty-two accounts which because of loss of the original records have been made up for fifty-two recruits enlisted by Fernando Rivera, according to their own statements and to information from other sources. He knows that some through malice or forgetfulness have not declared some of the supplies of clothes or money which they received, and it being not easy to ferret out these last, as far as the clothes are concerned the records can be cleared up if the merchants of Los Alamos have retained their memoranda of what they severally distributed.

October 29

THAT for the basis of the Santa Barbara Company one corporal and seven soldiers have been withdrawn from the Companies of Monterey and San Diego. This leaving them ten, which he considers a sufficient number so that the Company will soon be in condition for service. That it has been necessary to construct forty small houses of palisades and mud so that these troops and their families may pass the rainy season in comfort.

pp. 320-2.

That having arrived at this Mission on August 18, the Lieutenant José Zúñiga provided that the recruits, pobladores and families which he brought, under his charge, should camp at a distance of one league [from the Mission] because of the fact that some children among the party had but recently recovered from the small-pox. From [their camp] they went to establish themselves on the ground where they are founding the pueblo of Los Angeles, and now having finished the *zanja madre* they are continuing with building their houses and also the corrals for the stock. The latter has not as yet been distributed because they are concentrating their efforts on finishing the pueblo and when it is completed, they begin to plow the fields for the sowing of the wheat.

That to this pueblo there arrived but eleven pobladores, and of these eight alone are of any use.