

Benson Latin American Collection

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Inventory

Records of the Presidio de San Felipe y Santiago de Janos

Prepared by the Mexican Archives Project

April 1995

Introduction

The Janos Presidio records were donated to the Benson Latin American Collection in the 1940s by J. Evetts Haley, who had received them from an unknown Mexican general. They were described by the Benson's Mexican Archives Project in April 1995.

The physical extent of the records is nine linear feet. The materials are in Spanish; their bulk dates are 1706-1858. The records have been partially microfilmed. A partial calendar of documents dated 1707-1828 is available in Rare Books Reference.

The suggested citation for the Janos Presidio records is "Records of the Presidio de San Felipe y Santiago de Janos, 1706-1858, Benson Latin American Collection, General Libraries, University of Texas at Austin."

Biographical Sketch

Circa 1580 the town of Janos, Chihuahua, was founded by Franciscan missionaries. In 1680 its mission was destroyed in raids by Apaches and other Indians. As a consequence, a presidio, or military outpost, was established at Janos in 1686; the mission was repopulated in 1717 with Janos and Jocomes Indians. A "peace establishment" was formed to integrate Apaches into the settlement. From Janos Presidio and other presidios in the area, the Spanish military continued intermittently to make peace and do battle with the Apaches.

In 1771 Hugo Oconor (Hugh O'Connor) took over command of the northern frontier and conducted large campaigns against the Apaches. Other military personnel involved in the war with the Apaches included Teodoro de Croix, Diego Borica, Juan Bautista Perú, Narciso de Tapia, Joseph Antonio Rengel, Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola, Roque de Medina, and Antonio Cordero y Bustamente. Apache leaders included Chafalote, El Zurdo (Inclan), Pachatijú, Natanijú, El Compá, and Squielnoctero.

From 1790 to 1831 a relative degree of peace was attained. In 1791 Pedro de Nava was appointed Commandant General of Janos. As Spain's influence in Mexico waned, the administration of presidios weakened, and Mexico's relations with Indian tribes deteriorated. In 1831 an Apache uprising began, and Apaches within the peace establishment abandoned Janos. Many returned in the 1840s. By 1854 the United States had appropriated a large portion of the territory that had been under the jurisdiction of the Janos Presidio. In 1858 the last of the peaceful Apaches at Janos left, and the presidio was closed.

- 1540 first encounter of Apaches and Spaniards during the Francisco Vázquez de Coronado expedition
- 1580 town of Janos founded by Franciscan missionaries. They were killed soon afterwards.
- 1680 the Great Pueblo Revolt. Apaches destroyed the mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Janos.

- 1686 establishment of Janos Presidio under the orders of Juan Fernández de la Fuente
- ca. 1704 peace treaty between Spaniards and Janos and Jocomes Indians
- 1717 The mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Janos was re-established and populated with Janos and Jocomes Indians.
- 1750s Janos records of encounters with Apaches became more detailed.
- 1760 Manuel de la Torre's military campaign against the Apaches. Chief Chafalote was killed.
- 1762 Two of Chief Chafalote's sons were killed.
- 176- investigative visit of Visitador José de Gálvez, minister of the Indies
- 176- investigative visit of Marqués de Rub', inspector of presidios
- 1768 Rub's Dictámenes on development of policy toward hostile Indians was issued.
- 1768 Gileños Chafalotes band made peace in Albuquerque.
- 1769 Lope de Cuéllar launched expedition against the Apaches.
- 1770 Bernardo de Gálvez arrived in Chihuahua and tried to drive out the Apaches, causing serious retaliatory attacks.
- 1771 Companies from Janos and San Buenaventura fought Apaches for six days at Sierra de la Boca.
- 1772 The Reglamento de 1772 was issued. Hugo Oconor took over command of the northern frontier.
- 1772 About 200 Apaches attacked Janos Presidio.
- Dec. 1772 Apaches leaders went to Janos and San Buenaventura to petition for peace.
- April 1773 Oconor led expedition into Lipan country.
- ?, 1773 Janos was surrounded by Apaches.
- Fall, 1773 Oconor led expedition against Mescaleros and Natajés.
- Jan. 10, 1774 Oconor inspected the troops in Janos and sent commander Juan Perú on an expedition to Sierra del Hacha.
- Jan. 1774- Oconor waged war against the Apaches, causing Apache retaliatory attacks to increase.
- Nov. 1775
- Jan. 27, 1774 Apaches attacked Janos.
- Sept. 1774 Apaches battled the Third Flying Company in Janos jurisdiction. Commander Manuel Esteban Alegre was one of the fatalities.
- Spring, 1776 Captain Antonio Esparza was among those killed in Apache retaliatory attacks.
- 1776 creation of the Comandancia General. Teodoro de Croix was selected as the first commandant general, replacing commandant inspector Hugo Oconor's command of the northern frontier.
- 1777 Apache leaders El Zurdo (Inclan), Pachatijú, and Natanijú attempted to negotiate peace with Narciso de Tapia and other Janos officials.
- 1786 Bernardo de Gálvez issued his Instrucción.
- end of 1786 Antonio Cordero assumed command of Janos from Juan Perú.
- 1787 El Zurdo (Inclan) left the Janos area.
- Spring 1787 Manuel Antonio Flores became viceroy of New Spain.
- 1788 Pachatijú was captured and removed from the Janos area.

- 1788 Chiricagui chief El Compá aligned with the Spaniards.
- Oct. Flores retired as viceroy.
- 1789
- Dec. Chief Squielnoctero and his family sought peace at Janos.
- 1789
- 1790 Ojos Colorados made peace with the Spaniards.
- 1791 Pedro de Nava became commandant general.
- 1792 Manta Negra the Elder made peace with the Spaniards and lived at Janos for nine months.
- 1794 death of El Compá
- 1795 Janos administration tried to get Apaches at Janos to return to the hinterlands.
- 1803 or 4 Spaniards founded Santa Rita del Cobre in Apache territory.
- 1821 Mexican independence
- 1821-1831 continuation of the administration of the peace establishment at Janos
- 1830 Apache leaders Juan Diego, Pisago Cabezón, Chirimi, Feroz, and Costilla de Hueso requested the Janos commander to increase their rations.
- 1831 The Mexican system of distributing rations was ended.
- 1831 The Apaches left Janos and other peace establishments.
- 1831-1834 Apache uprising and collapse of peace establishments in Chihuahua and Sonora
- Oct. Chihuahua Commandant General José Joaquín Calvo declared war on Apaches.
- 1831
- Aug. Twenty-nine Apache leaders concluded a treaty with Captain José Ignacio Ronquillo. Juan José Compá was made paramount chief of the Apaches and set up his headquarters in Janos.
- 1832
- Jan. Hostilities resumed.
- 1833
- July Captain José María Zuloaga battled Apaches at Laguna de la Ascensión.
- 1833
- Oct. Apache leader Tutije was captured by Mexicans.
- 1834
- Nov. Twenty Apache leaders, including Juan José Compá, proposed peace.
- 1834
- April A peace treaty was ratified and signed by Juan José Compá and 16 other Apache leaders. Soon hostilities resumed.
- 1835
- June- Oct. Sonorans waged campaigns against Apaches.
- 1836
- 1836 The garrison at Janos was moved to Santa Rita del Cobre, and the Galeana garrison moved to Janos.
- Sept. Pisago Cabezón tried to make peace with Commander Mariano Ponce de León at Santa Rita del Cobre.
- 1836
- Oct. Residents of Santa Rita assaulted 5 Apache women and two men who went to the town to trade. One woman and the two men were killed.
- 1836
- Dec. The Santa Rita mine was shut down.
- 1836
- April North American John Johnson's expedition massacred Apache leaders Juan José Compá, Juan Diego, Marcelo, and others. Mangas Coloradas retaliated against North Americans. Sonorans under Lieutenant Sebastián Reyes ambushed Apaches in Chihuahua.
- 1837

- Oct. 1837 Apaches increased their raids around Janos.
- Dec. 1839 Chihuahua governor Irigoyen de la O contracted Santiago (James) Kirker to fight Apaches.
- Jan. 1840 Kirker attacked an encampment of Apaches involved in peace negotiations.
- March 1840 Kirker attacked an Apache camp at Laguna de Santa Mar'a.
- 1840 Kirker illegally abducted Pisago Cabezón's son Marcelo during peace negotiations. Attempts to negotiate peace between Janos and Apache leader Pisago Cabezón failed.
- 1841 Pisago Cabezón's son Marcelo was released and sent to Janos.
- 1842 Apaches again took up residence in Janos. A peace treaty was concluded with Gileño Apaches at Janos. Manuel was chosen as new Apache "general" to take Pisago Cabezón's place.
- 1844-1845 Apaches left the peace establishments in part due to smallpox outbreaks.
- 1846-1848 Mexican war with the United States
- 1849 Chihuahua state legislature approved bounty hunting for Apache scalps or captives.
- 1851 invasion of Janos by Sonoran troops under José Mar'a Carrasco looking for Apache refugees and stolen livestock
- 1854 Gadsen purchase
- April 1856 The Commandancy General issued instructions for the consolidation of frontier military installations.
- Jan. 1857 Láceres, Poncito, Felipe, and Pascolo and their people solicited peace at Janos.
- Nov. 1857 Michael Steck, United States Indian agent at Fort Thorn, reported that Mimbrenño Apaches were returning from Janos poor, starving, grieving from the loss of many relatives, and showing symptoms of having been poisoned with arsenic.
- 1858 Apaches abandoned Janos. The Janos Presidio was closed down. The Janos garrison joined the garrison at San Elizario.

Sources for Biographical Sketch and Chronology:

Enciclopedia de México. México: Compañ'a Editora de Enciclopedia de México, 1987.

Griffen, William, B. Apaches at War and Peace : The Janos Presidio, 1750-1858. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 1988.

Chronology

Scope and Contents Note

Correspondence, reports, financial documents, records of marriages and baptisms, decrees and other official documents, and assorted materials pertaining to the history of Janos and the military and civilian persons within its jurisdiction, including the Apaches and other Indians; and to administration of the presidio.

Correspondence includes letters of Juan Gutiérrez de la Cueva, José Antonio Rengel, Pedro de Nava, Diego de Borica, Teodoro Caballero de Croix, Antonio Bonilla, Juan Bautista Perú, Narciso de Tapia, Hugo Oconor, Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola, Antonio Cordero y Bustamente, Pedro de Mata Biñolas, Antonio Narbona, Nicolás de Almanza, Nemesio Salcedo, Simón El'as González, José Mar'a de Tovar, José Ronquillo, Cristóbal Dom'nguez, Francisco Garc'a Conde, and Roque de Medina. Also included are official circular letters.

Reports pertain to reviews of the troops, equipment, and supplies; issuance of rations; Indians living in the peace

establishment; criminals imprisoned at the presidio; and military encounters and other events. Financial documents include both presidio and individual accounts of income and expenses. Among the assorted documents are instructions and orders, regulations, inventories of military and church properties, diaries, records of military service, censuses, and lists of school students.

Arrangement Note

The Janos Presidio records were arranged in chronological order and divided into folders and sections of folders by earlier library staff. In July 1954 Frederick M. Woods completed a partial calendar of the documents. The Mexican Archives Project staff completed the processing of the collection in April 1995.

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