

TITLE: Soza family collection

DATE RANGE: 1649-1990

CALL NUMBER: MS 0750

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear ft. (3 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Edward Soza in 1985.

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CREDIT LINE: Soza family collection, MS 0750, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

PROCESSED BY: Betty Holmstrom under the supervision of Rose Byrne, August 1992.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: The first family member to live in Arizona was Jose Maria Sosa I, a second Ensign in the Spanish Army. He came in 1776 to serve in the presidio when it was moved from Tubac to Tucson. He married Rita Espinosa and was father to a son and two daughters. He was a sergeant at the time of his death in 1811.

His son, Jose Maria Sosa II, was the Civil Administrator of the Tumacacori Mission in 1834-1836. He married Gregoria Nunes and had eight children: Ramon, Rita, Maria Guadalupe, Ygnacio, Calistro, Maria Tomasa, Manuel, and Jose Maria III.

His son, Jose Maria Sosa III, was born in 1819 according to the U.S. Census for 1870. There is some uncertainty about the early history of the Sosa family home. According to Edward Soza, Jose Maria Sosa III built the Soza family home in the early 1850s for his wife Solana Mendoza. Leopoldo Carrillo rented the home in 1880 from Jose Maria Sosa III. Sosa's daughter, Manuela Mendoza Soza, married Civil War veteran, Michael McKenna. The home was known as the Casa del Governador or Fremont House until 1992 when the name was changed to the Soza Carrillo Fremont House. One of the rooms in the house has been designated the Jose Maria Sosa room.

Jose Maria Sosa III's brother, Manuel Soza, had five sons. Sons, Juan and Placido Soza, were early settlers of Tempe and are associated with the Hayden family. Juan Soza married Jesus Sotelo and had three sons and three daughters. He worked with Charles Trumbull Hayden in building the first ferry across the Salt River and in digging the Hayden Canal. He was also a deputy sheriff under Carl Hayden, who became a U.S. senator. One daughter, Helen, married Julian R. Rodriguez.

Another son of Manuel, Anotnio Campas Soza, changed the spelling of the family name to Soza. Family members use both spellings of the name. Antonio was born on August 16, 1845 in Tubac, Arizona. He married three times: in 1864 to Francisca Gastelum, in 1869 to Mercedes Federico, and in 1879 to Maria Jesus Moreno. All the weddings took place at San Agustin church in Tucson. His family in the San Pedro River Valley on a homestead near Reddington. He established a school and a chapel at the ranch. Eight cattle brands are recorded to the name Soza.

In the Reddington area, there are geographical features named after the Sozas: Soza Wash, Mesa and Canyon. He died June 13, 1915 in Tucson, Arizona.

Antonio's third wife, Maria Jesus Moreno de Soza, was the daughter of Jose Benito Moreno and Maria del Refugio Villalobos. She was born in Los Angeles, California on December 24, 1855 and died January 6, 1939 in Tucson, Arizona. Antonio and Maria Jesus had 14 children.

Two of their sons are Benito and Albert. Benito was born on March 6, 1893 at the Reddington Ranch and Albert was born in 1900. Benito married Armida Elias in 1923. Antonio and Maria Jesus Soza's grandson, Edward, gathered the majority of the genealogical materials in this collection. He is a businessman in California.

Ezekiel R. Soza is the son of Jose Soza and Anna Rodriguez Soza and the grandson of Juan Soza and Jesus Maria Sotelo Soza. He was born September 23, 1915 in Tempe, Arizona and died January 21, 1983 in Evanston, Wyoming. Ezekiel was a geographical surveyor who mapped nearly 15,000 square miles of Antarctica. Mount Soza is named in his honor there.

The Sozas or Sosas have been soldiers, farmers, ranchers, civil servants, and business persons.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The majority of the collection consists of genealogical correspondence and other materials on the Soza family and their land ownership. The materials are arranged in seven series:

Series I: Correspondence, 1880-1985 consists of requests for genealogical information and the replies to these inquiries. There are two original letters written in 1880 and 1887 by Nicolas Soza and Marcial Moreno, respectively.

Series II: Printed Material, 1864-1990 consists of newspaper and magazine clippings on family members and important related events. Also included are baptism, marriage, death, and brand certificates. There are two separate proclamations for Soza Family Reunion Day.

Series III: Legal Documents, 1649-1728; 1862-1972 consists of Jose Maria Sosa's photocopied military service records from Sinaloa, Mexico. Also included are Soza family homestead applications, land claims and deeds, grazing and water rights, and probate records.

Series IV: Literary Productions, 1939-1981 consists of reminiscences by Senora Dona Jesus Moreno de Soza, Helen Soza Rodriguez, and a 1940 (?) handwritten reminiscence on the Soza family. Also included are family trees, a historical paper submitted to the Arizona Historical Society convention, "Paradise," a poem by J. Soza, and a drawing of the Capella de San Antonio de Padua de Lisboa on the Soza ranch.

Series V: Financial Documents, 1973-1982 consists of receipts and ledger pages concerning the Soza Trust Fund and family reunions.

Series VI: Maps, 1880-1971 consists of topological and municipal maps of Soza family property in Tucson and Reddington, Arizona.

Series VII: Photographic Material, 1950-1961 consists of six photographs of the Antarctica terrain.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
		Series I: Correspondence	1880-1985
1	1	General correspondence - Nicolas Soza and Marcial Moreno (in Spanish)	1880, 1887
	2	General correspondence - Antonio & Benito Soza, Maria Soza de Gonzales, and Fred Saenz (in English and Spanish)	1938-1948
	3	Genealogical information - Antonio Soza and Manuela Sotelo	1958
	4	Genealogical information - Placido Soza and Juan Soza	1965-1969
	5	Genealogical information - Moreno family	1971
	6	Genealogical information - Soza, Rodriguez, Farnsworth, Morgan and McKenna families	1971-1972
	7	Genealogical information - Soza, Morgan, Mungia and Villalobos families (in English and Spanish)	1973-1974
	8	Genealogical information - Soza, Sotelo and McKenna families	1975-1985
	9	Land records - ownership, water rights, grazing permits and brands	1971-1972
	10	Land records - ownership, water rights and grazing permits	1973-1978
	11	Casa del Gobernador, Fremont House - dedication and Soza Room preparation/funding	1971-1976, 1980
	12	Soza Ranch State Park (proposed)	1972-1974
2	13	Miscellaneous correspondence	1972-1977; 1982-1985
	14	Soza Family Bicentennial Reunion	1975-1976
	15	Soza Family Reunion	1982
	16	Plaza of the Pioneers	1981-1982
	17	Antarctica - Ezekiel "Zeke" R. Soza	1970-1973, 1983
		Series II: Printed Material	1864-1990
	18	Newspaper and magazine articles - family history and obituaries	1864-1984
	19	Certificates and remembrances - marriage, baptism and death	1864-1892; 1942-1984
	20	Certificates - brands and miscellaneous	1884-1903; 1952-1977
	21	Census reports and affidavit - Pool School District	1910-1915, 1942
	22	Book excerpts	1860-1898; 1964-1971
	23	Reunion brochures and itinerary	1975-1990
	24	Proclamations of Soza Family Reunion Day	1975, 1982
	25	Miscellaneous - family history and the Fremont House	1969-1976

	26	Antarctica	1963-1970
		Series III: Legal Documents	1649-1728; 1862-1972
	27	Military service records (in Spanish)	1649-1728
	28	Land claims and deeds	1862-1908; 1939-1967
3	29	Miscellaneous - census, stock, probate, water, and grazing rights	1870-1972
	30	Soza homestead applications	1875-1889
	31	Soza homestead applications	1890-1928
		Series IV: Literary Productions	1939-1981
	32	Reminiscences - Dona Jesus Moreno de Soza and Helen Soza Rodriguez	1939-1940, 1977
	33	Genealogical information - biographical and family trees (Genealogical chart in Broadside Collection MS 970)	undated, 1981
	34	Miscellaneous - speech, historical paper, poem and drawings	1975-1978
		Series V: Financial Documents	1973-1982
	35	Receipts and ledger pages - Soza Trust Fund and family reunion	1973-1982
		Series VI: Maps	1880-1971
	36	Topological and municipal - Soza family property	undated, 1889, 1957, 1971
	37	Antarctica - topological	1969
		Series VII: Photographic Material	1950-1961
	38	Antarctica - six photographs of land	1950, 1961